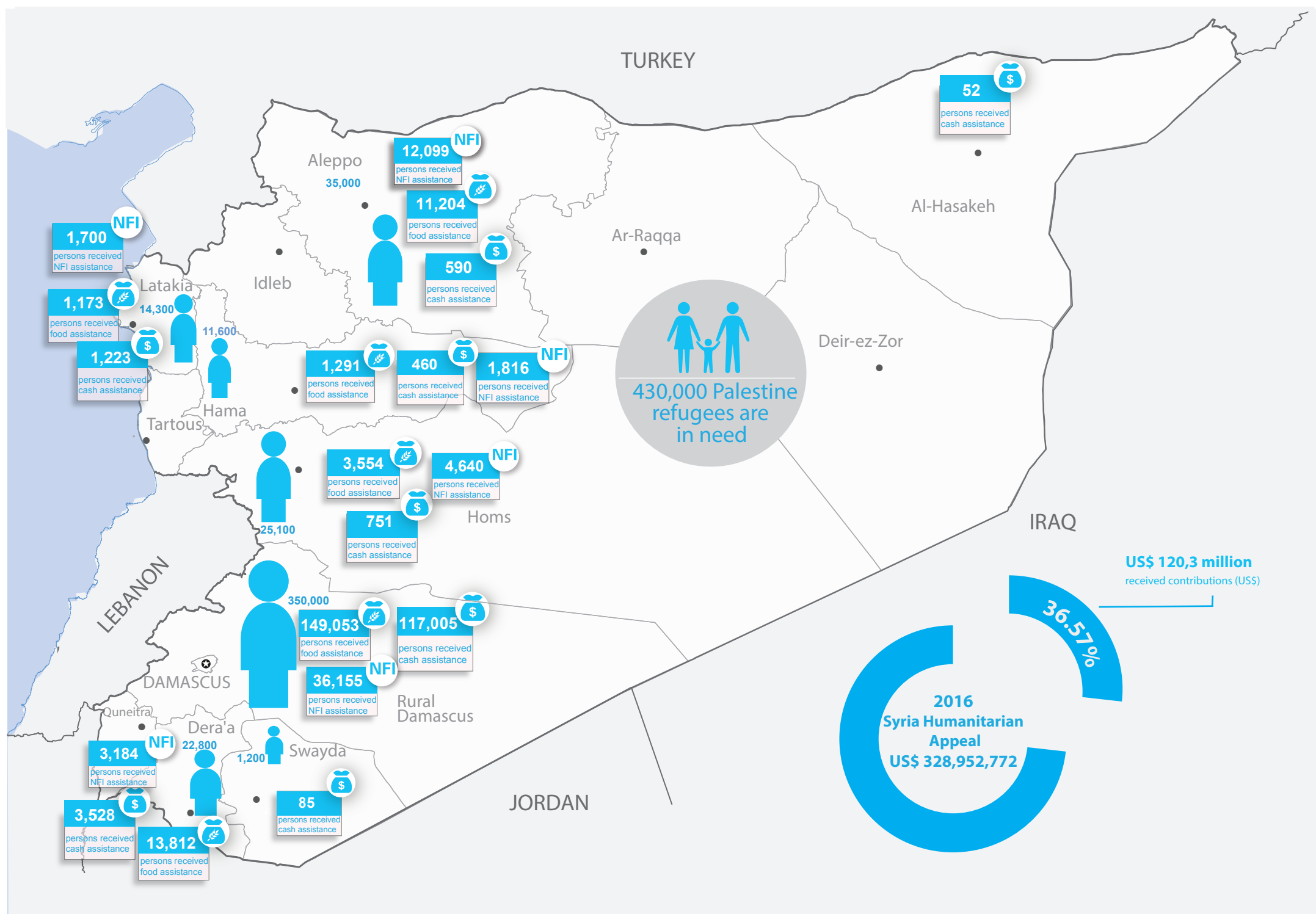


# Syria: UNRWA - Humanitarian Snapshot, October 2016



October 2016 was marked by a severe deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Khan Eshieh camp, south of Damascus. Increasing levels of armed conflict, including shelling on the camp and its vicinity, continue to put the lives of approximately 8,000 Palestine refugees and 4,000 Syrians who have been internally displaced at grave risk of death and injuries. With all access roads closed, food is getting scarce, forcing civilians to drastically reduce their daily consumption to preserve the little stock they may have. Access to the most basic health-care services has also been severely curtailed following the destruction of the only functional hospital in the area. Patients with non-communicable diseases cannot renew their prescriptions and could face severe complications if UNRWA has no access to the area. The Agency has not been able to resupply the camp with any assistance, including life-saving medicines, since August 2013. UNRWA calls for unimpeded, safe and continuous access to the Palestine refugees from Khan Eshieh camp and all other besieged and hard-to-reach areas.



**CASH ASSISTANCE:**  
The third round of cash assistance continued throughout October. In total, 123,694 Palestine refugees (34,392 families) received the equivalent of US\$ 74 in Syrian Pounds, covering two months' worth of assistance. To ensure maximum reach to beneficiaries, the cash distributions are now taking place through 45 banks and money transfer company outlets in Aleppo, Damascus, Dera'a, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Qamishli, Rif Damascus and Swayda.

**FOOD AND NFI ASSISTANCE:**  
UNRWA launched its fourth food assistance round for 2016, running until 30 November. Throughout the month, 66,603 food parcels were distributed to a total of 179,283 Palestine refugees (47,241 families) in 17 distribution centres in Aleppo, Damascus, Dera'a, Hama, Homs, Latakia and Rif Damascus. Beneficiaries also received 12,686 blankets and 579 mattresses. The residents of the 10 UNRWA-run collective shelters received 201 food parcels, 25,691 cans of food, 15,707 kilograms of dry food, 84 blankets, 20 mattresses and 1,905 baby kits in October.

**SHELTER:**  
The number of residents in collective shelters continued to decrease in October, with a total of 2,520 Palestine refugees (815 families) in comparison to 2,571 individuals (818 families) in September. Shelter residents, accommodated in nine UNRWA and one non-UNRWA facilities in Damascus, also receive food, non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance on a regular basis.

**HEALTH:**  
UNRWA medical teams distributed 63,983 medicines and performed 80,574 health consultations through 15 health centres and 11 health points. To ensure access to subsidized secondary health care to Palestine refugees in Syria, the Agency has maintained agreements with 23 hospitals across the country.

**EDUCATION:**  
To provide primary education for 46,019 grade 1 to 9 students, UNRWA runs 101 schools across Syria. Of the 46 UNRWA schools and 55 UNRWA-managed schools in government buildings, 95 per cent operate on double-shift curriculums and 3 per cent are on triple-shift.

**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:**  
In October, UNRWA distributed 10,452 hygiene kits to Palestine refugees across Syria. It also delivered 900 hygiene kits, 314 packs of baby diapers, 3,939 packs of adult diapers and 1,687 sanitary napkins to those residing in collective shelters. Provision of regular garbage collection, rehabilitation of sewage systems infrastructure, equipment, spare parts, fuel to camps and host communities continued throughout the month. The Agency also ensured the delivery of safe drinking water to areas where access to water remains particularly difficult.