

Palestine refugee students return to school across Syria

On 2 September 2018, UNRWA opened its schools to students across Syria for the academic year 2018/2019 despite a major financial crisis that continues to threaten the Agency's ability to sustain its operations. A total of 50,548 students from grades 1 to 9 enrolled in 103 UNRWA-run schools in Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Latakia, and Dera'a governorates. Some schools are undergoing rehabilitation to receive students again after extended periods of closure, having served as shelters for internally displaced persons at the peak of the war. On 25 September, UNRWA also received approval to re-open a school in Yalda, allowing 1,200 students displaced from Yarmouk to kick start the new academic year. Al-Jarmaq school, formally operated in Yarmouk camp, was moved to the neighbouring area of Yalda due to the deteriorating security situation in September 2016, when the school continued to serve students with the help of volunteers throughout the conflict.

FOOD, NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI) & SHELTER:

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A total of 94,763 Palestine refugees received food parcels through a planned round of assistance; in addition 26,377 refugees displaced from and/or affected by conflict in Yarmouk, and Dera'a were provided with ready-to-eat food baskets during the same period.

15 distribution centres
26,377 refugees in Dera'a and Yalda received emergency ready-to-eat food baskets

CASH ASSISTANCE:

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No cash distribution took place in September 2018. The number of rounds of emergency cash assistance has decreased to three over 2018 as opposed to the six rounds planned in the UNRWA Emergency Appeal. This follows the unexpected decision in January of a key donor to reduce funding to the EA by more than US\$ 100 million.

6 rounds of cash planned in the UNRWA Emergency Appeal
↓
3 rounds implemented

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

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UNRWA provided Palestine refugees displaced and/or affected by the conflict in Southern Damascus and South-West Syria with 23,601 items of WASH assistance (diapers and hygiene kits).

7,486 hygiene kits
15,575 baby and adult diapers

PROTECTION:

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49 Palestine refugees facing GBV have continued to be provided with legal assistance in September, including cases with birth and marriage registration issues. The lack of civil documentation is an increasing protection concern, particularly in recently reopened areas.

49 protection cases provided with legal assistance

EDUCATION:

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A total of 50,548 students from grades 1 to 9 have gone back to 103 UNRWA-run schools across Syria on 2 September, for the start of the academic year 2018/2019. Back to School kits were distributed to all students.

103 schools | 50,548 students
24,961 girls | 25,587 boys

HEALTH:

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70,803 health consultations were provided to Palestine refugee patients in 22 UNRWA health facilities across Syria, in addition to two mobile clinics, which were deployed to Yalda three times per week and to Ein El-Tal camp in Aleppo. UNRWA has also resumed full operation of the Muzeirib clinic by resupplying the drug stock, severely disrupted since 2014.

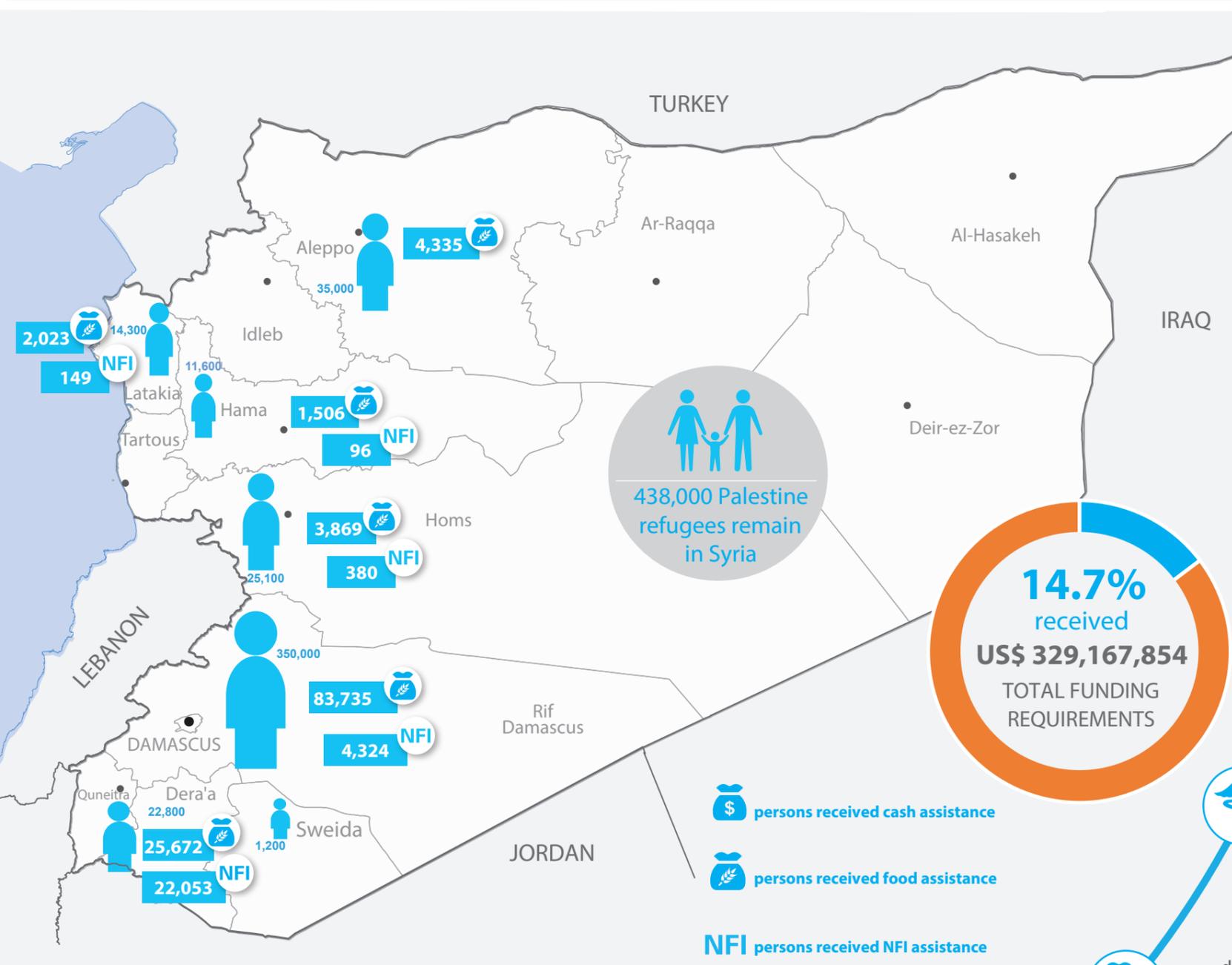
40,793 female consultations | 30,010 male consultations

LIVELIHOODS (MICROFINANCE):

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1,035 loans (389 females and 646 males) were provided by the UNRWA microfinance department benefiting some 3,519 Palestine refugees and Syrians. A total of 509 students (230 males and 279 females) enrolled in 31 short-term vocational training courses launched in Damascus, Homs and Lattakia.

1,035 microfinance loans
37.5% women
509 students enrolled in TEVT
55% women



- 58%** of refugees are internally displaced
- 95%** of refugees are in need of sustained humanitarian assistance
- 13%** of refugees are trapped in hard-to-reach and besieged areas