Rapid Increase in Number of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

As of 30 November, 7,797 COVID-19 cases (413 fatalities and 3,500 recoveries) were reported in Syria. Amongst those cases, 239 health workers were confirmed by the Ministry of Health (MoH). The testing remains low – 64,000 tests were performed in laboratories across Syria as of 30 November, with a current average of 550 tests per day.

Fifty-five Palestine refugees have tested positive and six have died from COVID-19 since mid-March. Seventy-two UNRWA staff have tested positive for COVID-19 since mid-March and 37 staff remain in quarantine at the end of the reporting period.

Yarmouk camp return process

On November 8, the Governor of Damascus visited Yarmouk and officially announced the launch of the return process that has started on November 10. Prior to this date, 430 families had received approval from the security forces to return to Yarmouk and more than 60 per cent of those families were physically present in the camp. People registering to return should present an ownership deed; their home will then be checked by Yarmouk Services Office.

As of 30 November 2020, 26,735 families received food assistance as part of the second round of food distribution of 2020, which was launched on 7 October 2020.

Sustainable Support in the Context of COVID-19

- 25 UNRWA health facilities are operating a triage system for people with respiratory symptoms, through a dedicated team of health staff.
- 239 health workers were confirmed by the MoH to be infected with COVID-19 since mid-March.
- 7,797 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Syria as of 30 November, with a current average of 550 tests per day.
- As of 30 November 2020, 2,509 individuals benefited from microfinance loans.

Emergency Appeal Requirements in Syria for 2020

UNRWA requires US$ 212.8 million to sustain the delivery of humanitarian assistance, basic services and protection interventions to the 438,000 Palestine refugees estimated to remain in Syria.

As of 30 November 2020, a total of US$ 56.9 million were pledged or received from donors and partners, representing 26.74 per cent of total requirements.

Palestine refugee students in graphic design celebrate their graduation for the 2019-2020 academic year. © 2020 UNRWA photo by Taghrid Mohammad