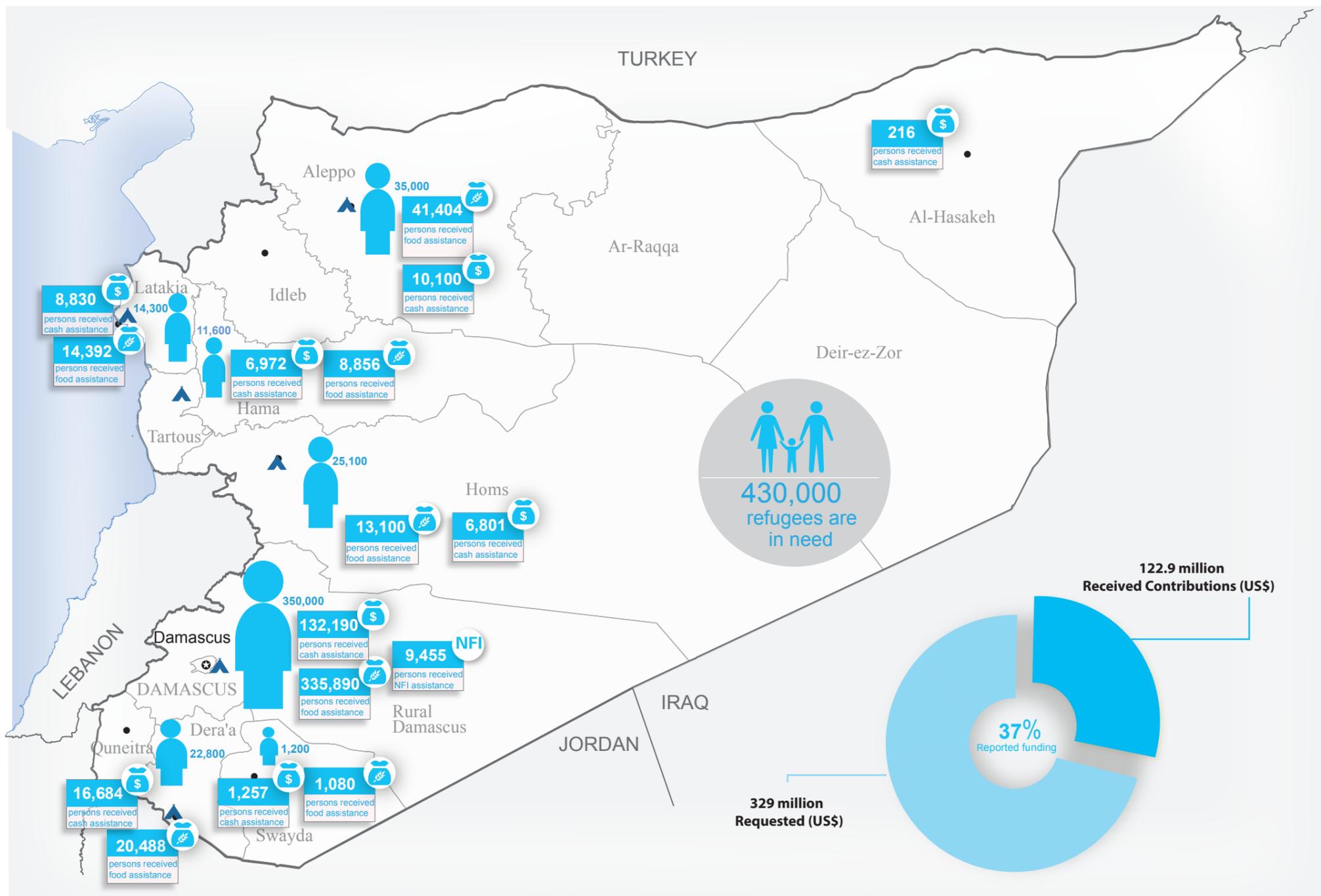


**Focus on Education:** The new school year began on 13 September 2015 in Syria. UNRWA has opened 99 schools throughout the country to provide primary education to approximately 43,000 Palestine refugee children. Out of 99 schools, 44 are UNRWA facilities and 55 are hosted in schools provided by the Ministry of Education. Two UNRWA schools were recently reopened in Husseiniyeh, following the return of refugees to the area, after remaining closed for over two years, as the neighbourhood was deserted. To date, 3,085 students (1,489 boys and 1,596 girls) have been able to return to their school in Husseiniyeh, some of them for the first time in years. Textbooks were distributed to all students, and teachers received toolkits to help them identify vulnerable students. Teachers also received additional training to help them use the Agency's human rights toolkit. Building on the successful first phase of the roll-out of self-learning materials for over 11,300 students in conflict-affected areas of Syria, UNRWA is working with UNICEF to expand the outreach and impact of this innovation throughout the country for Syrian and Palestinian students alike.



**FOOD ASSISTANCE:** UNRWA distributed food parcels to **106,575** families via 16 distribution centres in Damascus, Neirab, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Aleppo and Dera'a. UNRWA also distributed **1,001** food baskets to refugee families residing in 19 collective shelters, as well as daily hot meals prepared through central kitchens. The **fifth** round of food distribution will continue throughout October and November. Access to Yarmouk and Yalda remains restricted, while refugees from **Khan Eshieh** in Rif Damascus and the countryside around **Dera'a** must travel to other areas to collect humanitarian assistance.

**Cash Assistance:** A **third** round of cash assistance commenced on 18 October 2015. Following the completion of the verification exercise, UNRWA is targeting **430,000** refugees who depend on cash to meet their essential food, shelter and household needs. UNRWA has so far distributed a total of US\$ 11,601,718 to **183,050** Palestine refugees (48,407 families) in this round of cash assistance.

**Health:** UNRWA provides health care for up to 450,000 refugees in Syria through 15 health centres and 11 health points. In October **76,615** curative consultations were provided across Syria, in addition to **6,828** consultations in UNRWA dental clinics. The UNRWA vaccination programme continues, administering the BCG vaccine to **413** infants and MMR vaccine to 356 1-year-olds. The latest round of the country-wide polio campaign began in October, with **12,619** Palestine refugee children receiving immunization vaccinations.

**NFI NON-FOOD ITEM ASSISTANCE:** UNRWA distributed **1,969** packs of infant diapers, **90** hygiene kits, **36** blankets, **70** mattresses, **20** floor mats, **10** tarpaulins and **6,094** packs of sanitary towels for female beneficiaries living in UNRWA-managed collective shelters.

**Education:** UNRWA operates **99** schools, 44 of which are hosted in UNRWA facilities and 55 in non-UNRWA schools provided by the Ministry of Education. UNRWA has so far distributed **textbooks** to all students and cleaning supplies and other items used to operate and maintain the schools. Each student will also receive a **back-to-school kit** over the coming month.

**Collective centres:** The return to **Husseiniyeh** constitutes the first large-scale return of over **6,000** Palestine refugees families within Syria. As a result, there has been a **28** per cent reduction in the collective shelter population over the second half of 2015, from 10,927 to 8,710 Palestine refugees (2,253 families). This is also reflected in the closure of **10** shelters: seven in Qudsaya, where access remains extremely constrained; two in Jaramana and one in Khan Eshieh. Currently there are a total of **26** shelters located in various UNRWA installations as well as other facilities – including schools, community centres mosques – in Damascus, Aleppo, Hama and Latakia.

**Water, sanitation & Hygiene:** To mitigate the risk of epidemics, UNRWA continues to provide regular **maintenance**, garbage collection, plumbing and sanitation works in all accessible facilities, collective shelters, camps and gatherings. UNRWA distributed 361 brooms, 1,124 bottles of disinfectant, 1,440 bottles of liquid detergent and 364 mops to the shelters this month. The Agency also distributed family hygiene kits to **724** families returning to Husseiniyeh.

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING:** UNRWA provides short- and long-term vocational training courses to **1,130** students, 58 per cent of whom are female, through **12** training centres in Aleppo, Damascus, Latakia and Hama. UNRWA continues to monitor feedback from the employers of graduates and conducts regular market research to refine the courses on offer. Ninety-three per cent of recruited graduates were rated excellent (51 per cent) or very good '42 per cent' in their knowledge of the specialization, while 47 per cent were rated 'excellent' in their mastery of skills and 47 per cent 'very good'. At present, the most popular courses include **hairdressing** and **electrical installation**. UNRWA will provide courses on electrical engineering, carpentry and metal pressing in Husseiniyeh to support ongoing rehabilitation works since the area reopened. UNRWA also provides career guidance to approximately 3,900 grade 9 students in its schools and to older students who attend vocational courses or register as jobseekers. UNRWA has helped place 35 per cent of jobseekers in employment so far this year.