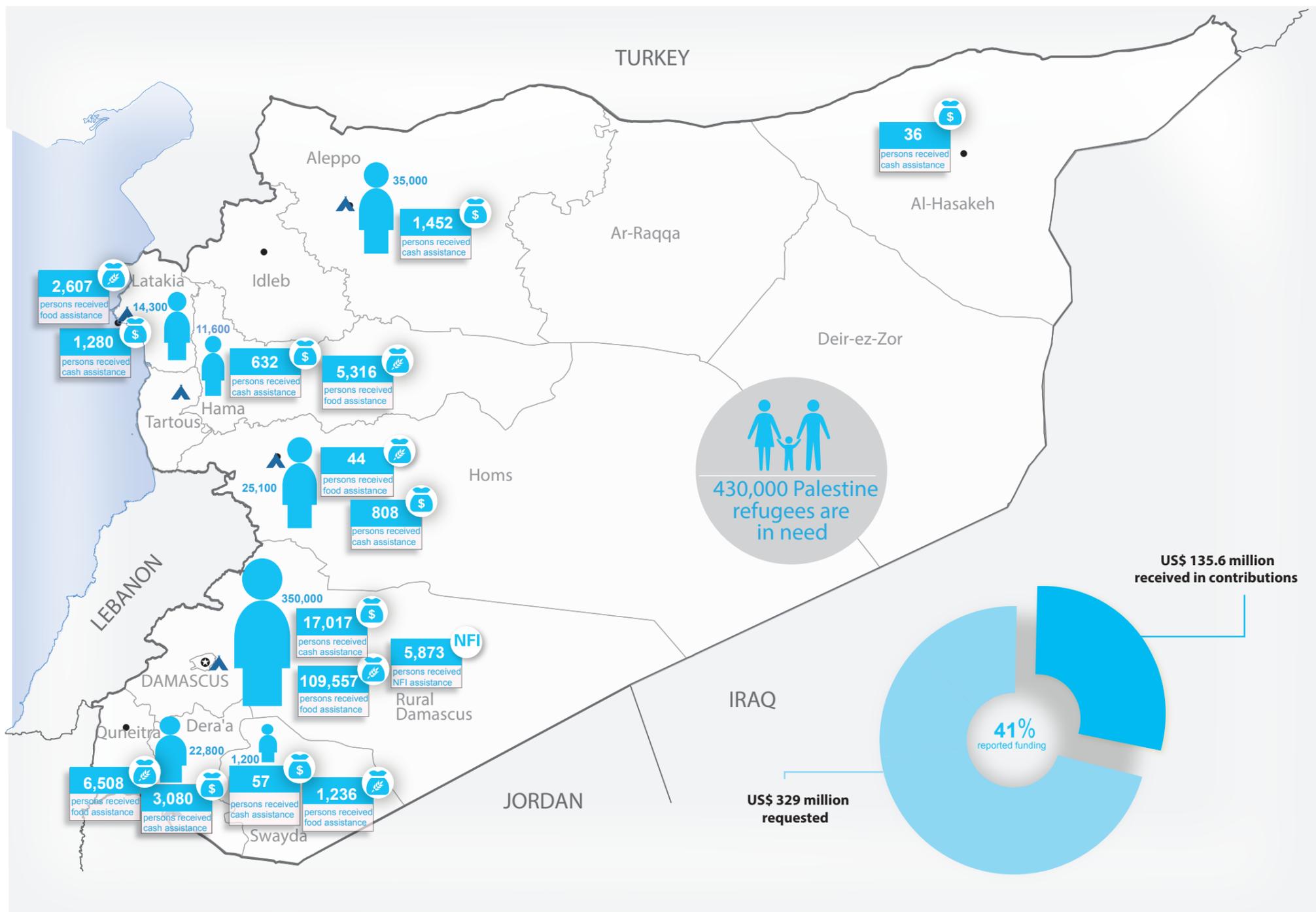


UNRWA provides humanitarian assistance to up to 430,000 refugees and regular services such as primary health care and education for up to 450,000 refugees in Syria. The majority of refugees currently live in accessible areas, while approximately 47,000 reside in areas such as Yarmouk, Qudsaya, Khan Eshieh, Ramadan camp, Muzeireb, Jillin, and other areas around Dera'a City, where humanitarian access remains extremely constrained.

On 1 December, UNRWA launched the #shareyourwarmth winterization campaign, with a target of raising US\$ 2 million to ensure that the most vulnerable Palestine refugees have the food and shelter they need to prepare for and cope during the winter months. The campaign has gained widespread media coverage and reached close to 6.2 million people on social media.



**CASH ASSISTANCE:** UNRWA distributed the equivalent of US\$ **1,279,596** to 23,525 vulnerable Palestine refugees in Syria (or 7,130 families) as part of the **third round** of cash assistance throughout December, in addition to cash for **837** Special Hardship Cases (or 323 families). Cash assistance is a critical lifeline for Palestine refugees in Syria, often meaning the difference between meeting their food and non-food item (NFI) needs or going hungry and cold through the harsh winter months. Thanks to donor funding, UNRWA will also undertake a winter round of cash assistance starting in **January 2016**.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE:** The Agency distributed food parcels to approximately **30,597** families via 11 distribution centres in the Damascus area, Hama, Homs, Latakia and Dera'a. UNRWA also provided **867** food parcels and regular meals to 2,880 residents (679 families) in collective shelters in Damascus, Rif Damascus and Latakia.

**NFI SHELTER/NFI ASSISTANCE:** UNRWA currently hosts **3,709** Palestine refugees (1,072 families) in 13 collective shelters, located in various UNRWA installations, schools, and training centres in Damascus and Latakia, and two non-UNRWA facilities in Khan Dunoun camp. The Agency provided **2,427** non-food items including 1,919 blankets, 365 mattresses, tarpaulins, clothing sets and kitchen sets to refugees at the Alliance distribution centre and to refugees living in 12 shelters in the Damascus area in December. The number of shelters has continued to decline over the month, allowing facilities to be returned to their previous functions. Two shelters in **Jaramana** were recently renovated and reopened as schools in December.

**HEALTH:** UNRWA continues to provide health care to up to **450,000** refugees in Syria through **15** health centres and **11** health points. The Agency has also conducted **78,361** patient consultations this month, of which 57.2 per cent were female. The Alliance Health Centre in Damascus received the highest number of consultations with 7,383, and a total of 62,761 beneficiaries received essential medicines and supplies in December.

**EDUCATION:** In December, **45,380** students were enrolled in **99** schools across Syria, 44 of which are hosted in UNRWA facilities and 55 in non-UNRWA schools provided by the Ministry of Education. UNRWA distributed **10,480** back-to-schools kits to students from grades 1 to 4 in Husseiniyeh, Khan Dunoun, Qabr Essit, Khan Eshieh, Sasa', Maloul, Qudsaya and Jaramana. The conflict in Syria has further increased the number of out-of-school children, especially in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. In order to continue providing quality education to Palestine refugee students, the Agency rolled out a self-learning material (SLM) programme. So far, UNRWA has provided over **11,500** sets of SLM to students unable to attend regular classes for English and Arabic.

**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:** In the effort to mitigate the risk of disease, UNRWA provides regular garbage collection, rehabilitation of sewage systems infrastructure, supply of chemicals for treatment, equipment, spare parts, and fuel to camps and host communities. UNRWA continues to provide water to **Khan Dunoun, Khan Eshieh, Artouz** and **Swayda** in response to water shortages and supplies aqua tablets and filters to ensure safe drinking water.

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING:** In December, a total of **159** students successfully graduated from vocational training courses. The average duration of courses is 3-4 months, with many courses due to conclude in January. UNRWA currently offers **66** short- and long-term vocational training courses in 25 subjects, with two new classes in hairdressing and beauty care starting in December. The **seventh round** of vocational courses currently has 1,364 trainees enrolled, of which 843 are female.