

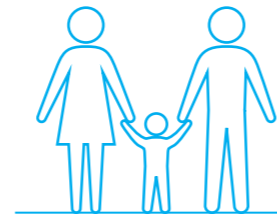
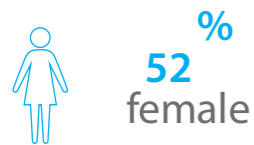
UNRWA conducts a humanitarian mission to Yarmouk camp

On 1 April 2021, food baskets and non-food items were distributed to Palestine refugees living in Yarmouk. A total of 827 persons (about 243 households) benefited from the intervention, which was conducted while maintaining the necessary mitigation measures (physical distancing and healthy hygiene practices) to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In addition, the Agency is providing primary health care through mobile clinic and transportation to students to go to UNRWA schools outside Yarmouk camp.

UNRWA Deputy Commissioner-General visits Syria

During her first visit to Syria from 24 to 28 April 2021, newly appointed UNRWA Deputy Commissioner-General, Ms. Leni Stenseth met Palestine refugees and visited UNRWA installations in Syria. She briefed them on UNRWA operations and the Agency's efforts to modernize and be more efficient. During her visits to the Sbeineh and Yarmouk camps in Rif Damascus, Ms. Stenseth witnessed the extreme hardship and was told of the increasing needs of Palestine refugees. In Sbeineh, she spoke to staff who briefed her about how UNRWA quickly adjusted its services at the beginning of the pandemic, including changing to remote learning for students, telemedicine and home delivery of medicine to non-communicable disease (NCD). Palestine refugee women at the food distribution point shared the multiple challenges as a result of compounded crises and how they are becoming increasingly dependent on UNRWA assistance.

438,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria



140,000 Palestine refugees in most vulnerable category

91% of Palestine refugee in need of cash and in-kind food assistance

40% of Palestine refugees remain in protracted displacement

104 Palestine refugees returned from Lebanon, Jordan and Gaza in March and April 2021

36 Palestine refugees returned from other countries in March and April 2021



Emergency Appeal Requirements in Syria for 2021



As of 30 April 2021, a total of US\$ 43.1 million were pledged or received from donors and partners, representing 22.48 per cent of total requirements.

Evaluation of Family Health Team (FHT)

UNRWA is conducting a central Evaluation on the UNRWA Family Health Team (FHT) strategy in each of its five fields of operation including the Syria field. The aim of the evaluation is to understand the results and improvements that the FHT approach has achieved and will inform the Agency's health programming and the development of its next Medium-Term Strategy. FHT aims to modernize UNRWA primary health services, making them more person-centered and more efficient, and focuses not only on quality curative care but also on household-based health education and promotion interventions, protection and prevention to treatment and disease management to psychosocial well-being.

The first cash assistance round for 2021 was launched on 25 March, covering three months' worth of assistance.



The first round of food distribution of 2021 was launched in April, using a blanket approach in order to mitigate the impact of deteriorating socioeconomic conditions and food security situation.



4,514 individuals benefited from 1,327 microfinance loans



41% female
13% youth

Consultations were provided by UNRWA mobile clinics



1,234 **383**

Yalda and Yarmouk Ein el-Tal camp

123,002 Primary health consultations



74,577 48,425

female male

856 individuals benefited from legal consulting services provided by six Family Support Offices.



560 296

female male

1,250 hygiene kits

16,918 diapers

486 jerrycans

24 baby kits



In celebration of International Women's Day, UNRWA organized a session for ten UNRWA women leaders, who shared their experiences and how they were able to continue to sustain delivery of operations despite the challenges during the pandemic.



18 Relief workers were trained on data collection for the Survey of Social Conditions of Refugees in Syria, to measure key indicators related to the household economy in particular employment, poverty and food security.



COVID-19 Response and Impact on UNRWA Operations in Syria

- 251 Palestine refugees have tested positive to COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, and eight refugees have died after contracting the virus.
- 18,301 telemedicine calls were received by UNRWA health facilities in March and April 2021, bringing the total to 87,675 calls since the service became available in April 2020.
- 160 home deliveries of medicine undertaken were in March and April for older NCD patients, bringing the total number of deliveries since March 2020 to 3,063.
- 175,657 patients have reported respiratory complaints since reporting began in March 2020.
- 35 UNRWA staff have received training for COVID-19 vaccination, in cooperation with UN partners and the Ministry of Health as part of the preparation for the upcoming COVID-19 vaccination campaign.
- 102 UNRWA-run schools across Syria are closed on 5th of April to minimize the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19.
- UNRWA honored 180 mothers of persons with disabilities who were supporting their children in seeking remote rehabilitation services during the pandemic.

UNRWA Emergency Response in Syria

- 30,154 Palestine refugees received food assistance as part of the first round of distribution of 2021, including 827 individuals in Yarmouk.
- Partnership was established between Banque Bemo Saudi Fransi and UNRWA to deliver banking diplomas and internships for banking and insurance courses for 24 TVET students (4 male, 20 female).
- Ten short-term courses were completed in STEM specializations such as accounting, autoCAD, web design and photoshop benefiting 182 female students.
- The 9th grade support classes are launched to provide the needed support to students and ensure their preparedness for the national exam.

Food & NFI distribution in Yarmouk camp in April © 2021 UNRWA Photo

