

Syria: Palestine Refugees - Humanitarian Snapshot, October 2014



More than **half a million Palestine refugees** continue to be affected by the conflict in Syria, with more than **280,000** displaced within Syria. With the impending onset of winter, UNRWA is positioning **winterization** items, including blankets, mattresses, food and other essential **NFI**s. Following improvements in the security situation in **Qabr Essit** Camp, UNRWA was able to re-open two schools damaged by conflict, benefitting **1,200** refugee students in two shifts. The Agency continued to encounter difficulties in accessing Palestine refugees in **Yarmouk**, **Khan Eshieh**, areas of Rif Damascus, and villages to the west of **Dera'a**. UNRWA remains deeply concerned about refugees' limited access to humanitarian assistance in the besieged area of **Yarmouk**.

Humanitarian Response

CASH ASSISTANCE

The third round of cash distribution started in September and will continue until mid-December. So far, over the course of this round, over **381,000** beneficiaries have received cash assistance in a period of six weeks. Forty-three distribution points are operational across the country, enabling refugees in hard to reach areas to receive vital assistance. A recent evaluation of the cash assistance programme found that refugees spend a combined total of **75%** of their cash assistance on rent and food alone.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

The fourth round of food distribution continued into October, targeting more than **440,000** refugees. In total, **79,070** food parcels were distributed in October, which includes the delivery of **2,030** food parcels to families in Yarmouk. Despite UNRWA's efforts to regularly distribute food parcels to more than **440,000** conflict-affected Palestine refugees in 2014, food insecurity remains one of the most critical humanitarian concerns for Palestine refugees in Syria, aggravated by a context of protracted conflict, inflation, collapsed agricultural production and prevalent drought-like conditions throughout the country.

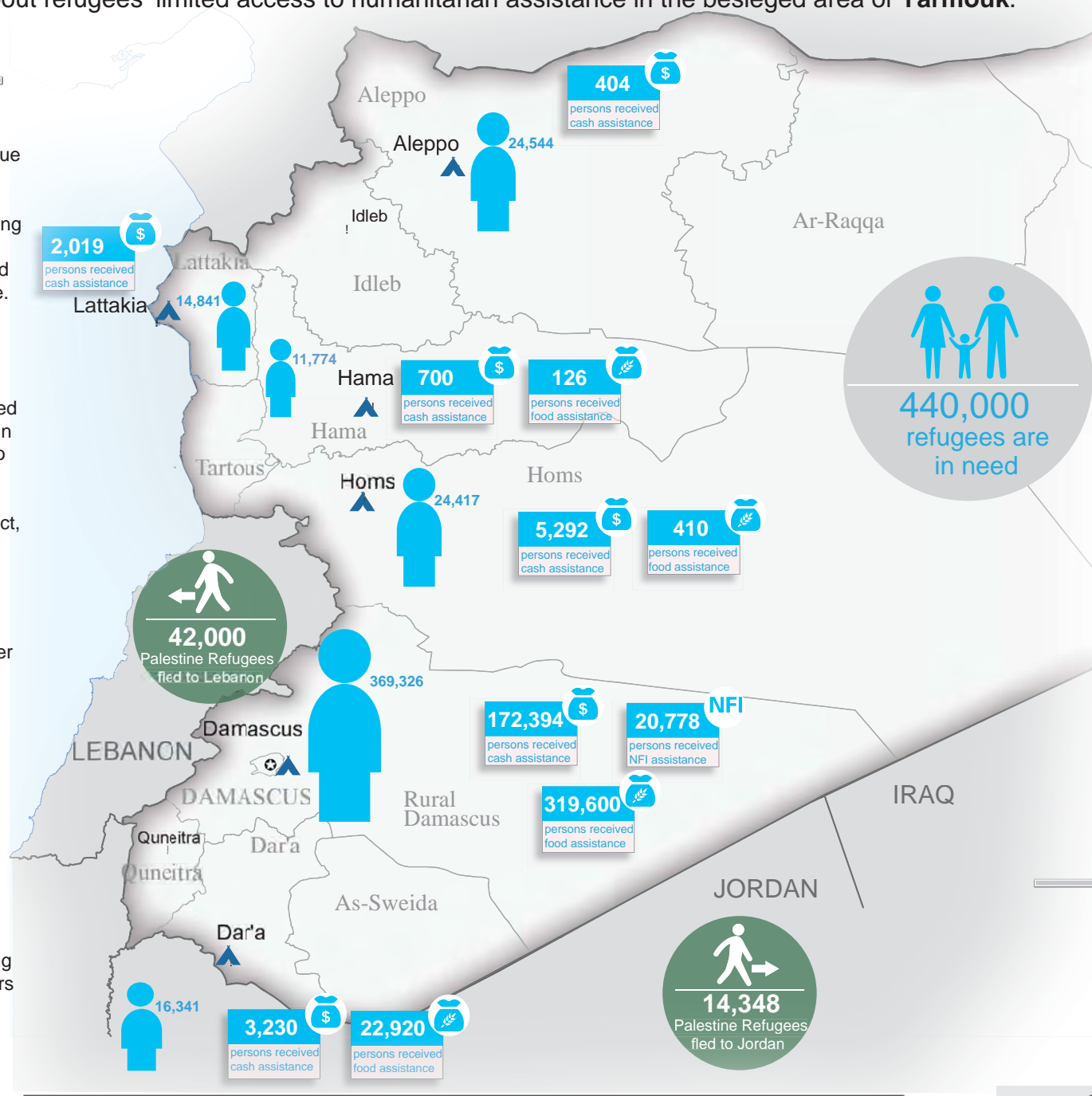
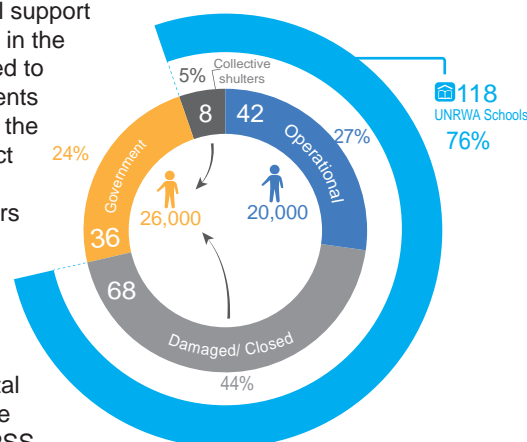
SHELTER ASSISTANCE

13,033 displaced Palestine refugees and Syrians currently receive shelter in **37** UNRWA and UNRWA-managed collective shelters in Damascus, Aleppo, Latakia and Hama. **139** newborn infants many of whom were born in the shelters currently live in the shelters, in addition to **154** persons with disabilities and **7** unaccompanied children. Many refugees have been compelled to live in collective shelters since December 2012 when Yarmouk and other areas of Damascus were overwhelmed by fighting. UNRWA provides regular health and social services in the collective shelters, in addition to regular maintenance and upgrading of WASH facilities. Displaced refugees also receive two meals per day and basic hygiene items from UNRWA.

EDUCATION

Despite the ongoing challenges in Yarmouk, **1,512** students are attending temporary teaching points, where they are taught by **11** UNRWA teachers and **50** volunteers from the local community. Throughout Syria, approximately **40,000** students currently attend **83** UNRWA and UNRWA-run schools.

This year, psychosocial support is an integrated feature in the school services provided to Palestine refugee students curriculum. To address the effect of years of conflict and violence, **55** psychosocial counsellors have been trained to provide children with basic classroom based psychosocial support, including recreational activities.. To date a total of **39,233** students have benefitted from these PSS interventions. **1,737** teachers have now been trained on the human rights education toolkit.



PROTECTION

The Gender Task Force operates two 'Family Support Offices' (FSOs) in Damascus and Dera'a which provide legal, social and psychological support to Palestine refugee men and women. Through gender focal points in Relief, Education and Health programmes and the FSOs, UNRWA staff have detected and referred more than **340** cases of GBV this year. In the past month more than **40** survivors (31 women, 13 men) accessed family support services through the FSOs.

NFI NON FOOD ITEM ASSISTANCE

6,566 packets of diapers, **243** packs of sanitary towels, **345** mattresses and **390** blankets were distributed in October to displaced refugees through collective shelters and distribution points across Syria. UNRWA is preparing for its winterisation campaign by positioning all available mattresses and blankets at distribution centres, to be distributed in the coming months.

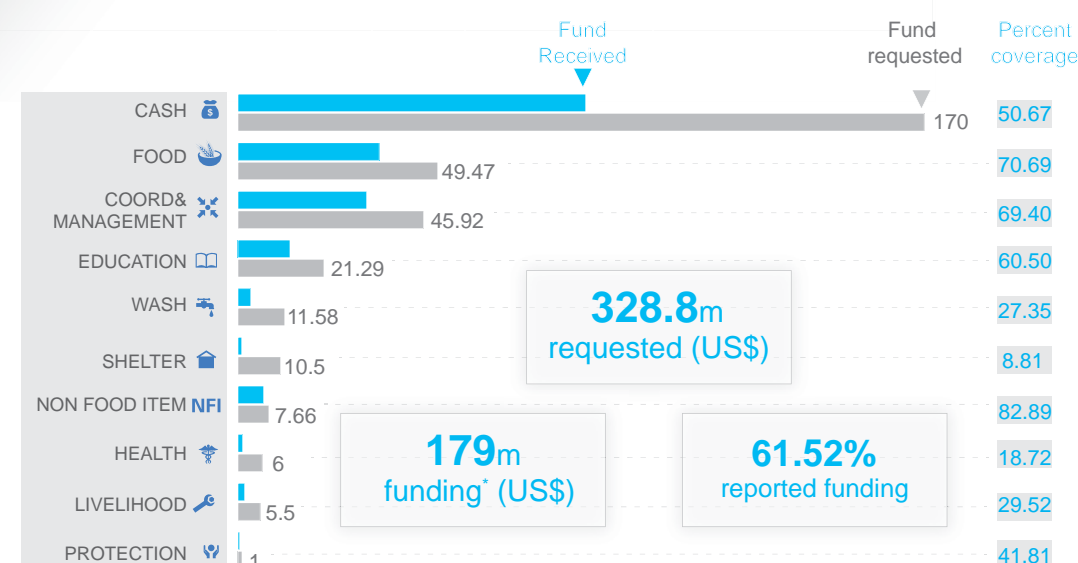
WATER SANITATION & HYGIENE

UNRWA provides hygiene kits to collective shelters and the besieged area of Yarmouk. In the last month the Agency distributed a total of **4,251** hygiene kits, including **1,735** kits inside Yarmouk and **2,516** kits inside collective shelters in Damascus. Each hygiene kit provides enough soap, shampoo, disinfectant, washing detergent and other sanitary items to last a family of four for one month. UNRWA also conducts regular maintenance, garbage collection, plumbing and sanitation for all **37** collective shelters, **42** operational UNRWA schools, **14** health centres and **12** health points through its Engineering Department.

HEALTH

In October, UNRWA's Health programme provided **10,023** vaccinations against polio to children aged 0 to 5. Polio vaccinations were also provided to **623** children living in the besieged Yarmouk camp. Before the start of the conflict, Syria had not recorded any cases of **polio** for over a decade. The first suspected polio cases in Syria were reported in October 2013, resulting in at least **13** confirmed cases by the end of the year. In October, **14** primary health centres and **12** health points were operational in Damascus, Aleppo, Dera'a, Hama, Homs and Latakia, providing over **633,000** consultations since the beginning of the year. This exceeds the total number of consultations provided for the whole of 2013, indicating improved levels of access to UNRWA health services. One health point in Rukn Eddin is currently being converted into a health centre to provide additional services to the displaced population there. In Yarmouk, **1,741** patients received primary health care through the camp's temporary health point, despite the health point only being operational during 12 days.

2014 SECTOR REQUIREMENTS (USD MILLIONS)



Date: 09 Oct 2014

Sources: Palestine refugees [UNRWA]

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Refugee camps

Est. pop in need (2014)

*Funding= received contribution+carry over+in pipeline