

Syria: Palestine Refugees - Humanitarian Snapshot, December 2014



Throughout December 2014, **Yarmouk** and its surrounding areas have seen a serious escalation in armed conflict, with frequent exchanges of fire and use of heavy weapons including by groups inside **Yarmouk**. The risks faced by UNRWA distribution staff and refugees attempting to collect assistance have increased considerably. As a result, UNRWA was only able to provide successful distribution and health provision on **three days between 1 and 31 December**. Approximately **400 food parcels** are required each day to meet the minimum food needs of this extremely vulnerable population. In December, only **636 food parcels**, **635 hygiene kits**, **629 jerry cans (plus water)**, and **4,000 polio vaccines** have been distributed in total. A total of **280 patients** have been treated at Yarmouk's temporary health point, compared to many thousands in previous months.

Humanitarian Response

CASH ASSISTANCE

The third round of cash assistance commenced in September 2014 was finalized in early December. From September to December, cash assistance was provided to **470,382 persons (118,775 families)**. Thirty distribution points are operational across the country, including hard to reach locations, enabling refugees to access humanitarian assistance even in locations where physical access is not possible. A recent evaluation of the cash assistance programme found that refugees spend a combined total of **71%** of their cash assistance on rent and food alone, emphasising the utmost criticality of this type of assistance.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

The fourth round of food distribution, which started in September, continued throughout December, Reaching more than **217,296 persons** (58,604 families) in the Damascus area alone. Outside Damascus, food assistance was provided to **1,326 persons (663 families)** in Homs and to **4,568 persons (1,386 families)** in Dera'a. Despite the regular distribution of food and cash assistance to over **470,000** 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.

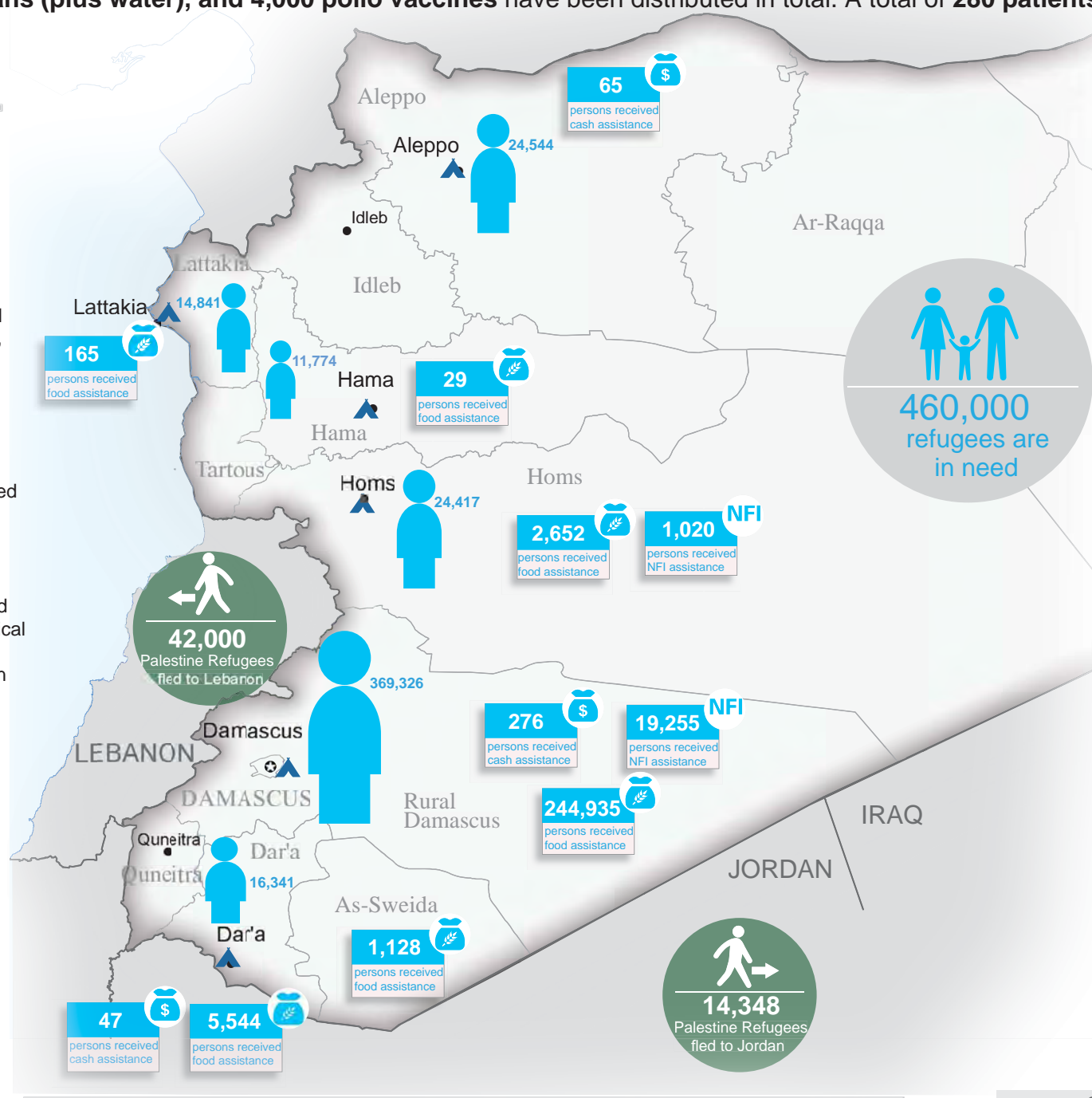
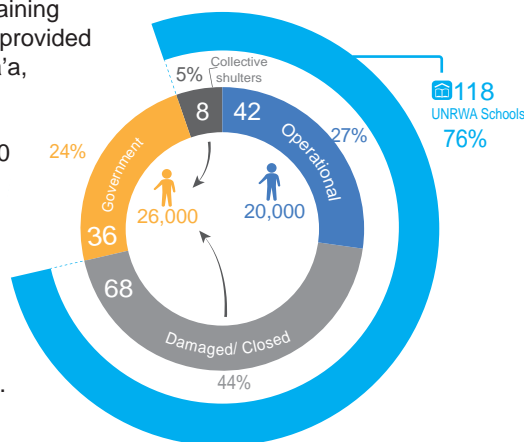
NFI NON FOOD ITEM ASSISTANCE

UNRWA resumed its winterisation campaign in December by distributing **2,155** mattresses and **41,681** blankets through distribution centres in Damascus and Sweida in addition to the collective shelters. In collective shelters, **938** diaper packs and **2,564** sanitary towel packs were distributed to displaced refugees through collective shelters and distribution points across Syria.

EDUCATION

UNRWA continues to operate 42 of its own schools and has established 43 additional schools in Ministry of Education facilities, mitigating the closure of UNRWA schools due to damage or insecurity. An average of **40,000** students have been attending regular classes since the new academic year began in September.

UNRWA's vocational training courses continue to be provided in Damascus and Dera'a, with more than 1,100 graduates over the course of 2014. 250 students are currently taking courses through an e-learning portal, and courses have been adapted to meet new needs and a shrinking jobs market due to the crisis.



2014 FUND STATUS (USD MILLIONS)

328.9m requested (US\$)

216m funding* (US\$)

65.7% reported funding

SHELTER ASSISTANCE

In the Damascus area, temporary collective centres are hosting over **6,600** persons in UNRWA installations and **5,460** persons in non-UNRWA installations. 1,806 persons (452 families) are staying in **UNRWA** and non-UNRWA installations in **Aleppo, Latakia and Hama**. 139 newborn infants – many of whom were born in the collective centres – currently live in the centres, in addition to **158** persons with disabilities and **7** unaccompanied children. UNRWA provides regular health and social services, maintenance and upgrading of WASH facilities, two meals per day and basic hygiene items to refugees in collective centres. In December, over **26,000** hot meals were provided..

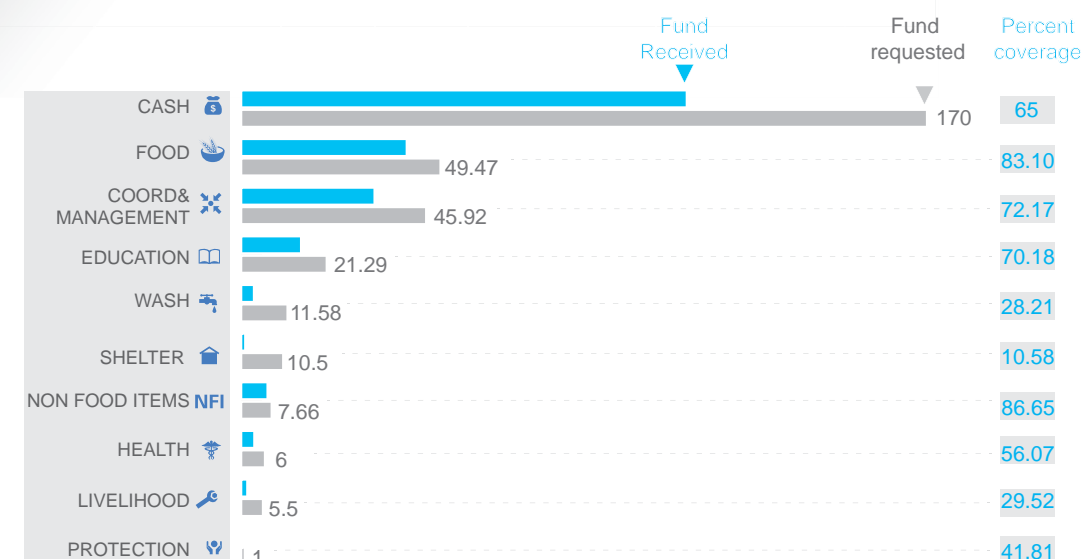
WATER SANITATION & HYGIENE

UNRWA provides hygiene kits to collective shelters and the besieged area of **Yarmouk**. In December, the Agency distributed a total of **3,401** hygiene kits, including 635 kits inside **Yarmouk** and **2,766** 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 works, including rehabilitation and upgrades, for all 37 collective shelters, 42 operational UNRWA schools, 14 health centres and 11 health points.

HEALTH

UNRWA continued to provide health services to **480,000** Palestine refugees Damascus, Aleppo, Dera'a, Homs, Hama and Latakia in December, with approximately **650,000** individual consultations in the month. The emergency health point in Yarmouk was able to receive patients on three days only during December, serving only 280 patients. During this period, 4,000 polio vaccines were provided to the Palestine Red Crescent Society to vaccinate children remaining in Yarmouk. The Agency currently operates **14** health centers and **12** health points across Syria.

2014 SECTOR REQUIREMENTS (USD MILLIONS)



*Funding= received contribution+carry over+in pipeline

Date: 25 Jan 2015

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)