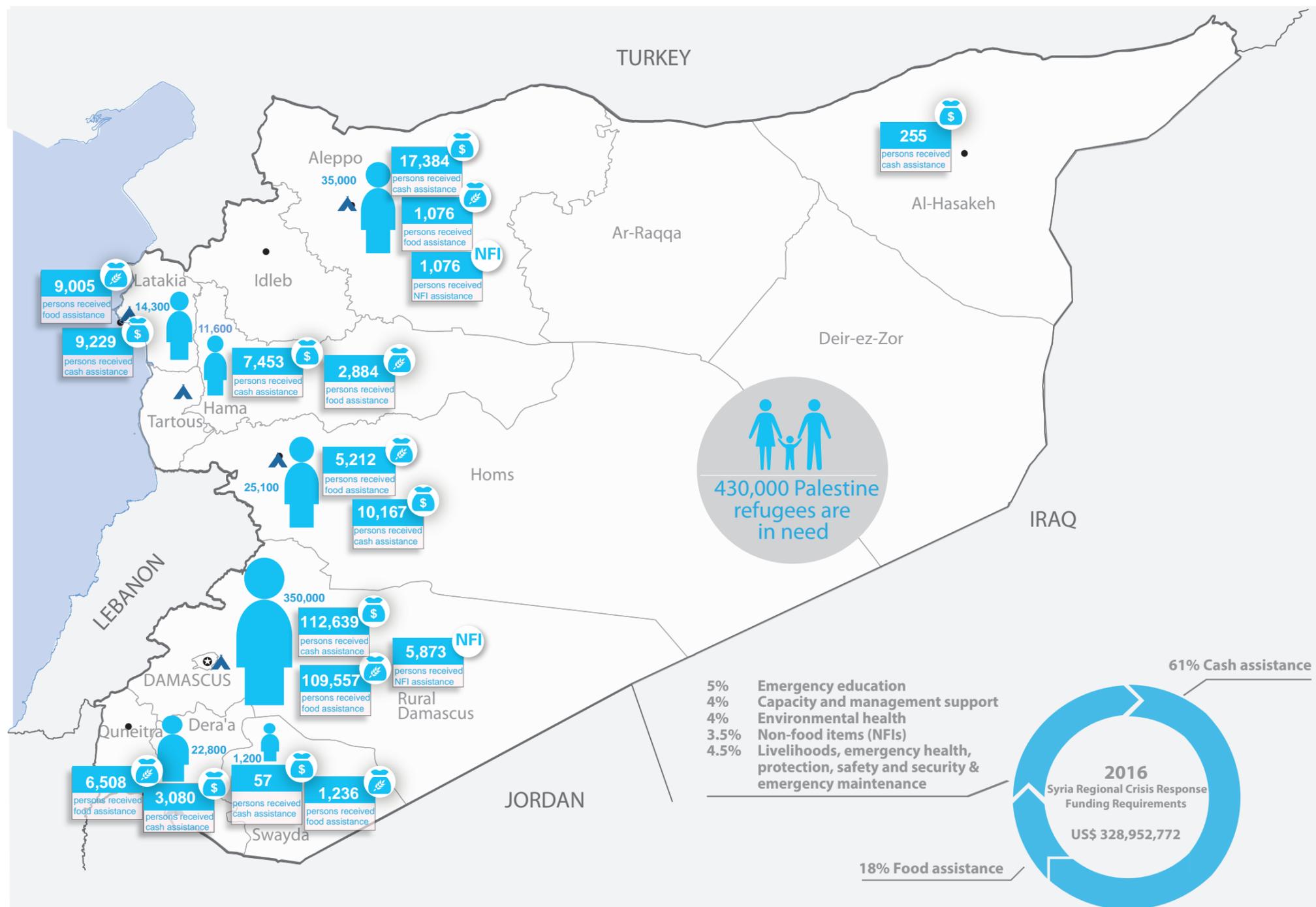


**2016 Emergency Appeal for the Syria Regional Crisis:** UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl launched the Emergency Appeal on 2 February in Amman. Together with the Lebanon, Jordan and Syria Field Directors, the plight of Palestine refugees in Syria and the impact the crisis has had over the past five years was reaffirmed to over 50 diplomatic, Jordanian government and other UN representatives. UNRWA appealed to donors for US\$ 329 million to meet the critical humanitarian assistance needs required to support 450,000 Palestine refugees inside Syria throughout 2016. This was further stressed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, whose opening remarks to the London pledging conference stated, “[W]e are here to find ways to protect civilians. Palestinian refugees, already vulnerable, are doubly dispossessed and in a desperate position.”



**CASH ASSISTANCE:** The cash assistance programme is vital in providing critical support to the **430,000** conflict-affected Palestine refugees in Syria that rely on UNRWA assistance to meet their essential food and livelihood needs. The provision of cash promotes beneficiaries' dignity, allowing them to make their own purchasing decisions and manage their expenditures. On **17 January**, UNRWA commenced the first round of cash assistance for 2016, which will continue through to March. UNRWA has so far distributed **US\$11,411,093** to a total of **173,186** refugees (46,951 families) in Damascus, Aleppo, Qamishli, Dera'a, Swayda, Homs, Latakia and Hama.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE:** While food remains available in most markets, inflation and restricted access means food assistance from UNRWA continues to be a **vital intervention** for many Palestine refugees. UNRWA distributed **45,149** family food parcels in January, benefiting up to **180,596** individuals, via 15 distribution centres in the Damascus area, Hama, Latakia and Dera'a. Khan Eshieh and Ramadan continue to experience access difficulties. The Agency's fifth round of food assistance, which commenced in October, was completed in January; the **first round** for 2016 will begin in February.

**NFI SHELTER/NFI ASSISTANCE:** The number of residents in shelters continued to decline in January 2016. UNRWA currently hosts **3,687** Palestine refugees (1,067 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. In order to help meet families' needs, the Agency provided **1,395** blankets, **7,994** mattresses, 100 baby kits, and 118 heater fans, as well as **2,406** food parcels and **57,280** additional food items. UNRWA also provided **2,384** food parcels to residents in Husseiniyeh, where 8,000 families have been able to return so far.

**HEALTH:** UNRWA continues to provide health care to up to **450,000** refugees in Syria through **15** health centres and **11** health points and provides subsidized care at **14** hospitals across Syria. The Agency conducted **81,384** curative patient consultations this month, as well as **2,333** dental consultations. Twenty-three UNRWA health staff participated in training sessions in January on the launch of the **e-Health programme**, which has been introduced to transfer all hard-copy records and documentation to electronic versions.

**EDUCATION:** In January **45,627** students attended 99 schools, of which 44 are UNRWA schools and 55 are hosted in government schools. **Seventy** per cent of children are in elementary classes (grades 1 to 6) and 30 per cent are in preparatory classes (grades 7 to 9). A survey recently conducted by the UNRWA Education Department found that **6.7** per cent of enrolled students have some form of physical or learning impairment. The Education Department also maintains a referral system, which teachers and school principals are encouraged to make use of to help ensure equal access to education for children with disabilities.

**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:** The Agency distributed a total of **287** jerry cans, **5,418** hygiene kits, **1,100** brooms and mops, **21** packs of baby diapers and **10,036** packs of sanitary towels to displaced refugees in collective shelters. UNRWA also provides regular garbage collection, rehabilitation of sewage systems infrastructure, supply of chemicals for treatment, equipment, spare parts, and fuel to **camps** and **host communities**.