



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

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## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



**"UNRWA Launches New Coronavirus US\$ 93.4 Million Emergency Appeal for Palestine Refugees"**

- Number of Displaced Palestinian Children Taking Up Smoking in Syria Goes Up
- Civilian Homes South of Damascus Damaged by Stagnant Water
- Palestinian Woman Fatally Shot by Her Husband in Syria

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## Latest Developments

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is urgently seeking US\$ 93.4 million for its response to COVID-19 in the areas of health care, sanitation and hygiene and education over the next three months.

UNRWA said in a statement that the required amount is an update from the Agency's earlier appeal, with a large portion of the funding aimed at covering cash and food assistance to this particularly vulnerable population, as the socio-economic consequences of the public health crisis continue to weigh heavily on households.

Since the start of the crisis, the Agency has worked diligently to deliver essential, lifesaving services to Palestine refugees throughout the Middle East. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been distributed to thousands of front line health staff; Triage systems have been introduced in all health centres to screen patients with respiratory symptoms and minimize contact with other patients; Non-critical health services have been suspended and telemedicine and door-to-door delivery of medicine and food were introduced to reduce foot traffic at health clinics and food distribution centres.

In order to ensure the continuity of education to over 530,000 students enrolled in UNRWA schools and 8,270 young people in vocational centres, the Agency Education in Emergencies (EiE) approach, developed in response to conflicts in Syria and Gaza, has been adjusted to the COVID-19 crisis and implemented.



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“We have seen how the crisis is disproportionately hitting the poorest and most destitute communities around the world. This is sadly also true for Palestine refugees who are amongst the most vulnerable populations in the Middle East,” said UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini. “Most refugees UNRWA serves live under the poverty line and lack the safety net needed to absorb the financial and medical shocks created by the COVID-19 pandemic. They are now facing devastating consequences to their physical, social and economic wellbeing.”

The UNRWA emergency appeal will work to prevent a disastrous situation that could leave thousands of lives in the balance and will protect against the most severe impacts of the pandemic by providing basic needs such as food, water and lifesaving health care and preventing against further deterioration to refugees’ health and socio-economic safety.

“As long as the global crisis persists, UNRWA will continue to adapt the way it works so that it responds to the needs and expectations of Palestine refugees. I count on the solidarity of the international community to help us ensure Palestine refugees remain safe and able to weather the economic storm that could push this vulnerable community to the brink of disaster. This could trigger more instability in an already volatile region,” said Lazzarini.

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.6 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA across its five fields of operation.



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Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight.

In another development, scores of Palestinian children have been spotted taking up cigarettes and hookah in AlSabina camp, in Rif Dimashq, as a means to escape the scenes of violence, bloodshed, and dislocation. Many Palestinian children have dropped out of school as a result of the violent warfare.

In live photos circulated on social media networks, Palestinian children appear to be sitting in cafés while taking up cigarettes and hookah.

The bloody warfare in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside the Syrian territories.

Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness, nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been among the symptoms with which Palestinian children have been diagnosed after they lost their homes, have had their parents killed in the war, underwent limb amputation, and witnessed daily scenes of death and destruction.

AGPS calls on all international institutions and NGOs, namely UNICEF and UNRWA, to take serious measures in order to provide Palestinian children with the physical and moral protection quite urgently needed at such turbulent times.



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Palestinian children from Syria who fled with their parents to neighboring countries have also faced severe psychological breakdowns owing to the perpetual state of dislodgement, dispossession, and homelessness they have been facing.

Meanwhile, Palestinian activists and residents of AlThawrah neighborhood, in AlHajar AlAswad, south of Damascus, said civilian homes have been severely damaged by the stagnant water sitting in place for weeks.

The residents attributed water stagnation to the damaged sewerage network in the area, saying urgent action should be made to repair the network.

Sometime earlier, Palestinian families displaced from AlHajar AlAswad neighborhood, south of Damascus, called on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

Civilians said their economic situation has dramatically gone down amid a full lockdown imposed on the country to rein in coronavirus propagation.

The residents have also called on local authorities to remove rubble from the streets and repair the sewerage and power networks.

Thousands of Palestinian refugees took shelter in AlHajar AlAswad, which came under heavy shelling since 2013 and a crippling siege after ISIS crept into the area. Offensives launched by the Syrian and Russian forces resulted in heavy material damage and took away the lives of dozens of civilians.



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In the meantime, a Palestinian refugee, born in 1974, opened gunfire at his Palestinian wife, born in 1994, at their house near Damascus International Airport.

Local sources attributed the crime to marital problems. The wife was transferred to a hospital in Damascus, where she breathed her last shortly after.

A relative of the victim said the expectant wife was arbitrarily killed by her husband, who fled the scene right away.

The war in Syria has wrought severe psychological disorders on the Palestinian refugee community taking shelter in the ravaged country. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness, nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been among the symptoms with which Palestinian refugees, particularly children, have been diagnosed after they lost their homes, have had their parents/relatives killed in the war, underwent limb amputation, and witnessed daily scenes of death, dispossession, and destruction.