



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"UN Palestine Refugee Agency Still in Need of US\$ 60 Million for Its 2021 Budget"

- Lebanon Tightens Grip on Travelers to Belarus
- GAPAR in Syria Appoints New Chief
- UNRWA to Deliver Cash Aid to Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon

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Latest Developments

Additional end-of-year contributions amounting to US\$38 million leave UNRWA still in need of US\$ 60 million for 2021, said the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees.

UNRWA said that it operates critical health services for Palestinian refugees in its five fields of operations at an annual budget of around US\$ 800 million.

At the annual pledging conference, eight Member States announced a cumulative/total of over US\$ 614 million in new or renewed multi-year agreements with durations from two to five years. The combination of these and existing multi-year pledges, if all fully realized at expected levels, would equate to 40 per cent of the Agency's core budget needs for 2022.

The gathering was co-chaired by Jordanian Foreign Minister H.E Ayman Safadi and Swedish Foreign Minister Anne Linde who shared in a joint statement, "UNRWA continues to face repeated, catastrophic funding shortfalls that leave its staff and the millions of people it serves highly vulnerable to losing their basic necessities. We call on the international community to reform the structural funding model that has so often failed this vital UN Agency by committing to multi-year financing, expanding the donor base, and developing innovative financing mechanisms."



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UN Secretary-General António Guterres also spoke at this year's conference. "We need to collectively find a path towards more predictable, sufficient and sustainable funding for the Agency, including through multi-year commitments. We need urgent and decisive support to maintain UNRWA's ability to operate this year. I also urge Member States to step up longer-term commitments and solidarity and match the generosity of the countries that host Palestine refugees"

During the conference, UNRWA leadership discussed their plans for modernizing the Agency, as well as measures that will be adopted to maintain the commitment of UNRWA to UN humanitarian principles, with a focus on neutrality. But repeated funding cuts from donor nations and slow delivery on financial promises over the past few years have left the Agency on the brink of collapse, risking the health and educational services offered to Palestine refugees across all five of its geographic fields of operation.

In another development, Lebanon instructed airlines to limit passengers traveling to Belarus to those having visas, residency permits or Belarusian citizenship, according to a statement by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

European countries accuse Minsk of flying in thousands of migrants, mainly from the Middle East, and pushing them to cross the border illegally, as a tactic to punish Europe for sanctions imposed over a Belarusian crackdown on pro-democracy protesters.



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Belarus has become a transit point for millions of migrants and asylum seekers fleeing conflict zones, political persecution, and financial deprivation, including Palestinian refugees from Syria.

In another development, Kasem Mohamed Husain was appointed as the new Director-General of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR), replacing Ali Mustafa.

This came following instructions by the Syrian Prime Minister, Husain Arnous, to the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs.

The General Authority for Palestine Refugees (GAPAR) was founded in the Syrian Arab Republic under Law No. 450 dating 25/1/1949.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian people have been forced out of their homes and sought shelter in many Arab countries due to Israeli occupation of their land. As of the end of 1948, as many as 94,856 thousand Palestinian refugees were welcomed in Syria.

Meanwhile, UNRWA said it will be delivering cash grants to Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon as of November 23, 2021. The sum covers October and November.

The grants will be transferred to the concerned refugees through Lebanon Post and in batches. Families will receive text messages specifying the delivery day.

With the current financial crisis rocking Lebanon, most Palestine refugees have found themselves slipping further into destitution. The “dollar crisis” in Lebanon, where the official exchange rate of



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the US dollar against the Lebanese pound is nearly ten times lower than the black-market rate, has seen the purchasing power of the refugees slashed tenfold.

Even before the pandemic and the financial meltdown of Lebanon, Palestine refugees lived in poverty and faced systemic restrictions that limited their employment, property ownership and, at times, movement. Joblessness has been high in Palestine refugee camps for many years, but the collapse of the Lebanese economy in the last few months has left many of them feeling desperate, especially as UNRWA has been struggling with an acute financial crisis itself. COVID-19 has been the latest in a series of recent devastating blows to a community that has suffered marginalization and uncertainty for decades.