



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي 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



"Situation of Palestinians of Syria Made Worse by Coronavirus Pandemic"

- Lebanese President Urges UNRWA to Facilitate Return of Syria Refugees
- UNRWA Syria Chief Pays Visit to Damascus School for Palestinian Refugees
- Food Items Distributed to Displaced Palestinian Families in Northern Syria

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Latest developments

As the coronavirus pandemic has rebounded around the MENA region and the globe, Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria continue to struggle with growing poverty and economic hardship.

Hundreds of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have lost their jobs in the warfare and hundreds more have been wondering in the streets as they rummage around for livelihoods to feed their starved families.

Most of Palestinian families in Syria depend on UNRWA's aid as they struggle for survival in the embattled Syrian territories.

However, the refugees' needs far outlive the cash/in-kind aids sporadically handed over to them by UNRWA, among a handful of other relief institutions operating in the Syrian territories.

The crisis in Syria has been one of the gravest and most demanding emergencies faced in the modern era. The vast majority of the 540,000 PRS are unable to meet their basic needs.

Many PRS lost their sources of income; refugee camps have seen unprecedented levels of destruction; rental prices have dramatically gone up; undernourishment and poverty have been a daily nightmare.

Due to the serious protection gaps, children have been forced to drop out of school and join armed groups to help feed their starving families.



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Hundreds of families have had women as their sole breadwinners; and in several other cases boys and girls are spotted begging in the street for a few pounds.

UNRWA said in its 2020 Syria regional crisis emergency appeal that 126,000 PRS are identified as extremely vulnerable; 89% live in poverty; 91% live in extreme poverty; and 80% rely on UNRWA cash assistance as their main source of income.

UNRWA also said that 55% of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents and 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

Hundreds of PRS also have risked their lives onboard “death-boats” bound for Europe, fleeing prosecution and economic hardship.

Along similar lines, Lebanese President Michel Aoun urged on Wednesday donor countries to secure money for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to continue offering its services to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and other countries, said a statement by Lebanon's presidency.

Aoun's remarks came during his meeting with UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini.

Aoun told Lazzarini that Lebanon is still waiting for a positive move to facilitate the return of Syrian refugees to their homeland in addition to securing the return of Palestinian refugees who



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moved to Lebanon from Syria following the eruption of the civil war in the neighboring country.

Meanwhile, Lazzarini said that UNRWA will continue to support Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, hoping that the agency's financial capabilities will improve in the near future.



Along similar lines, Director of UNRWA affairs in Syria, Prafulla Mishra, showed up at the UNRWA-run Palestine School for girls, in Damascus, to inspect anti-coronavirus measures.

The UN official called on pupils and teaching staff to respect social distancing rules and follow hygiene tips in order to prevent COVID-19 contaminations at school.

Earlier this year, UNRWA launched an urgent appeal for 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.



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In the meantime, the Palestinians of Syria Commission for Relief and Development distributed meat portions to Palestinian and Syrian families sheltered in Deir Ballout and AlMohammadiya refugee camps in Gindires, in Efrin.

Hundreds of Palestinian and Syrian families who have been forcibly deported to northern Syria have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation as most of them have been taking cover in underequipped tents.

The families continue to appeal to the concerned human rights institutions to take urgent measures so as to supply them with much-needed items and hygiene kit, at a time when coronavirus cases have increasingly been confirmed in the war-torn country.

Families who were forcibly deported to northern Syria are also crammed into over-crowded camps where neither power nor water supplies are available. High rates of unemployment and lack of relief assistance have made the situation far worse for the displaced families.