

# COVID-19 in refugee camps

## *UNRWA's success & challenges*



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**Gaza 2014**



**Syria 2018**



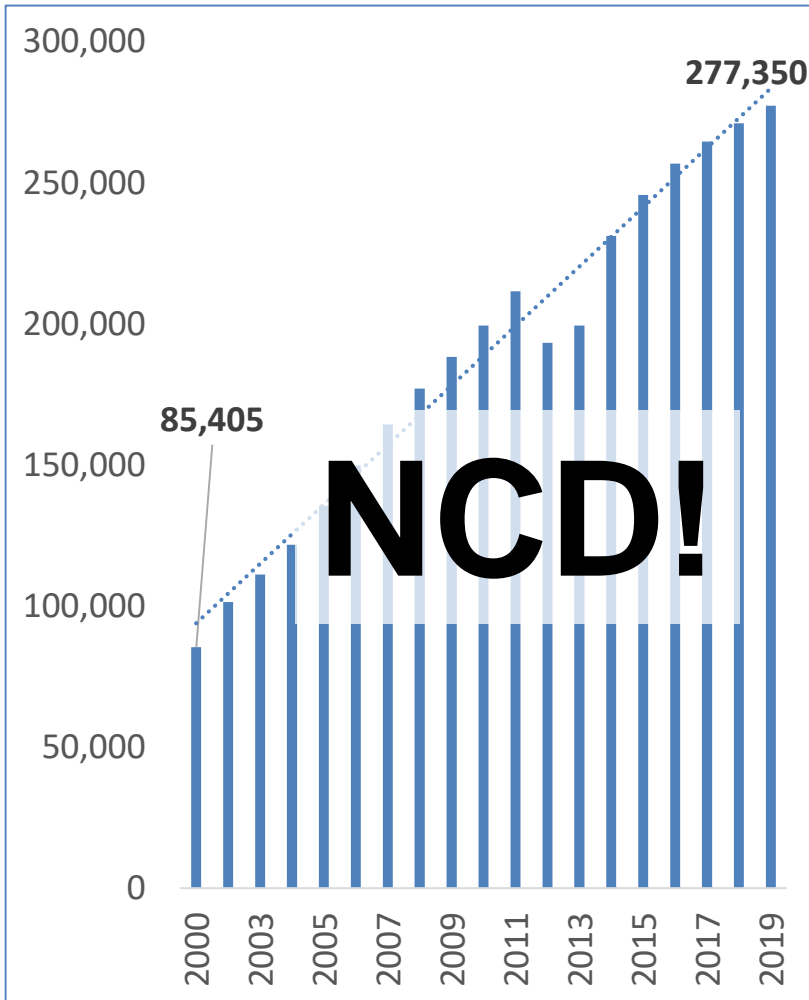
**Lebanon 2019**

# Before COVID-19



# Before COVID: Palestine refugees' "health"

## diabetes & hypertension



Ref: UNRWA health annual reports

## Why NCD?

### Lebanon: poverty

- 74% adults in poverty
- 5% adults in extreme poverty
- 5.5% has health insurance

### Gaza: unemployment

- 40% in adults
- 70% in youth

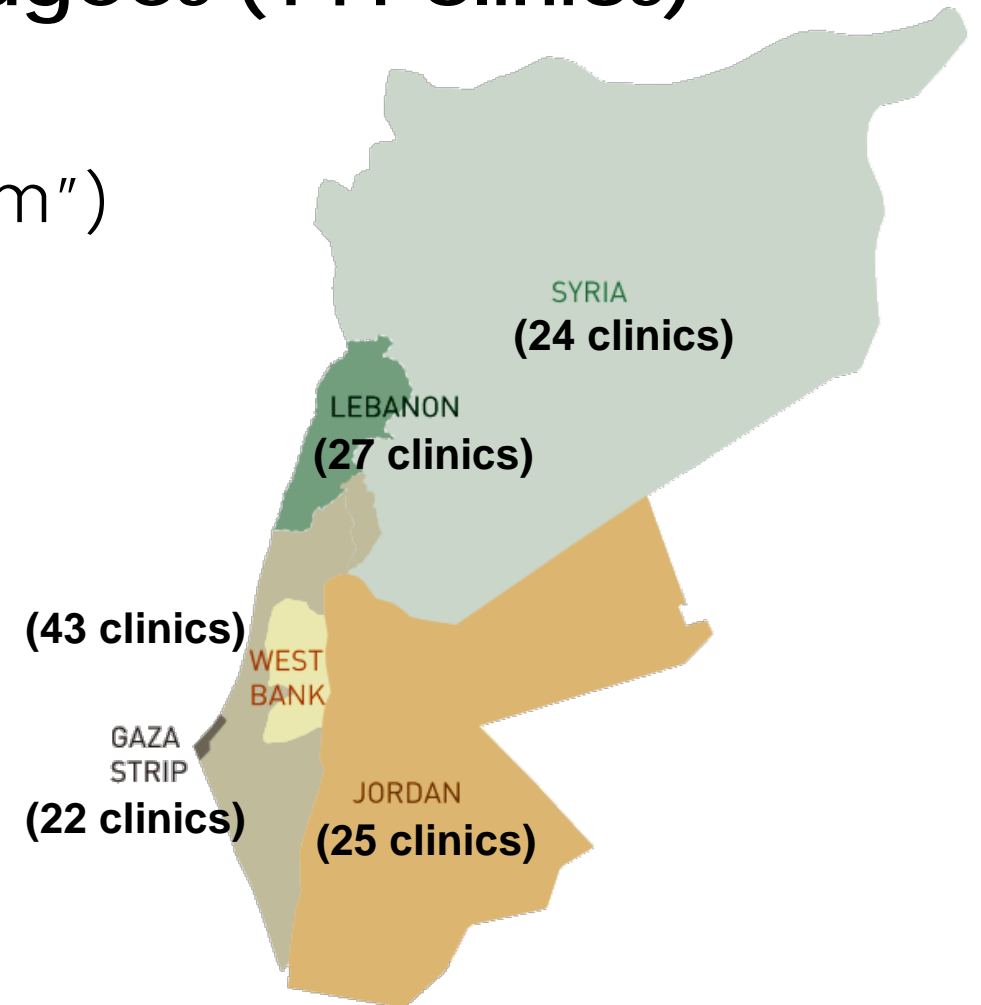
for Palestine refugees



# Before COVID: UNRWA's health reform

## Primary health care to Palestine refugees (141 clinics)

- **Quality improvement**
  - **Family medicine** ("family health team")
    - person-centered, continuity of care
  - **Mental health**
    - WHO mhGAP introduction
- **Evidence-based management**
  - **e-health (EMR)**
    - 3.2M patients records
  - **ICD-11** full introduction (Sept 2020)



# COVID-19 and UNRWA



## Initial response

- **UNRWA-wide response**

- Preparedness & response plan
- Flash appeal for UNRWA needs

- **Health services response**

- Collaboration with host governments
- Maintain lifesaving primary care
  - NCD (e.g. home delivery of medicines)
- Protect health staff & patients
  - PPE, IPC, triage system and MHPSS





# What COVID-19 means to refugees



***19 year old mother in a refugee camp in Jordan***

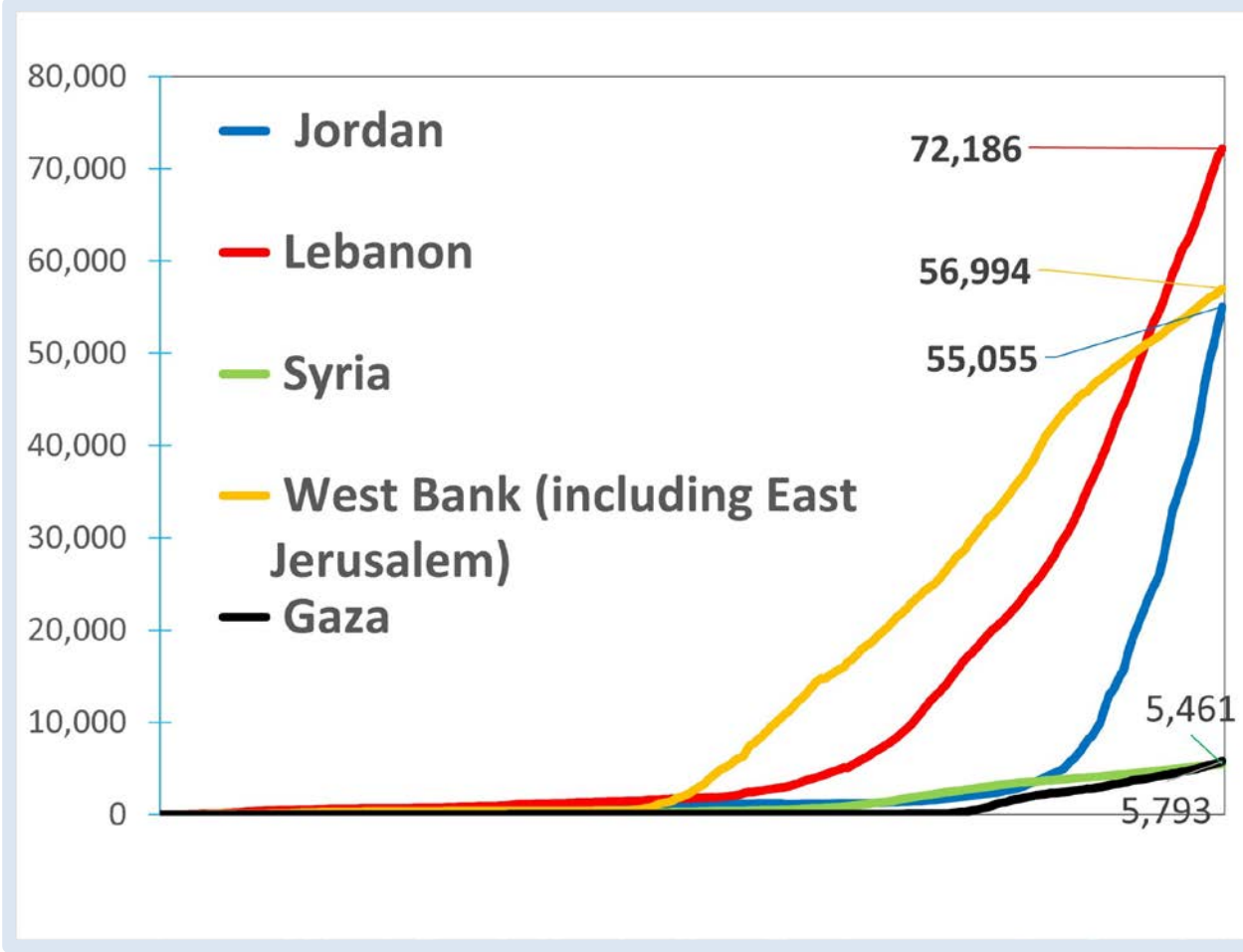
***Happy to have vaccines for my son.***

***My life is very difficult.  
My husband was a day labour  
at construction sites.***

***Now, he has no job last three  
months. My husband's  
family is helping us....***

# What COVID-19 means to UNRWA & Palestine Refugees (PR)

## COVID-19 in host countries (till 27 Oct)



## Increased covid-19

- Host: 195,489 cases, 2,000 deaths
- PR: 16,652 cases, 152 deaths

- **Health pressure**

- Overwhelmed UNRWA & hosts

- **Education pressure**

- 700 schools with 0.5M students

- **Economy pressure**

- Vulnerable to most vulnerable

- **UNRWA pressure**

- Increased No. of infected staff

# COVID: voices from our fields

- **Resistance**

- Pre-COVID resilience & Innovations

- **Absorb & continue care, start e-NCD app**

- **Opportunities**

- New ways of work, more partners, new normal & new hope

- **Telemedicine, in-country partnerships, PMAC!!**

- **Threats**

- COVID reveal & exaggerate all vulnerable: health, society, all...

- **Primary care (all care), Community integrity, Hope...**





# Appeal in PMAC for Palestine Refugees (PR)

- UNRWA contributed to health gain
  - Improved maternal & child health
  - NCD via Family medicine & e-health
- UNRWA health services are resilient
  - Continued primary care against COVID
  - Last resort support (e.g. Lebanon)
- Maintaining UNRWA is critical for PR
  - COVID-19 shock to PR & hosts
  - Overall health needs of PR





united nations relief and works agency  
for palestine refugees in the near east

وكالة الأمم المتحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل  
اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في الشرق الأدنى

Thank you so much



unrwa  
الأونروا

the un agency for  
palestine refugees

وكالة الأمم المتحدة  
لللاجئين الفلسطينيين  
for Palestine refugees

Peace  
Starts Here

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