



## Syria Crisis United Nations Response



**A Weekly Update from the  
UN Department of Public Information**

**No. 1 / 24 July 2013**

During a press conference at UN Headquarters on 22 July, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict Leila Zerrougui said that she had been “overwhelmed” by what she had seen during her recent visit to Syria and neighbouring countries Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Lebanon from 28 June to 18 July. Syrian children were not just losing their families and homes; they had lost hope and were “full of anger,” she said, noting that if the crisis persisted for much longer, there was a real risk that Syria would have a generation of illiterate people.

The Special Representative added that in her meetings with Government officials, opposition groups, and officials in neighbouring countries, she had repeated the same message: apart from humanitarian assistance and the provision of basic services, access to affected populations was vital.

[http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2013/130722\\_Guest.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2013/130722_Guest.doc.htm)

On 22 July, the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the Arab League for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, said that he is pursuing his efforts to hold a peace conference on Syria. “It is extremely difficult to bring people who have been killing one another for two years just by a magic wand to a conference like this. It will take time, but I hope it will happen,” JSR Brahimi told reporters on the margins of an event in Washington, D.C.

Robert Serry, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, briefed the Security Council on 23 July, noting that the surge in sectarian threats and violence in Syria and across the region is “deeply worrisome.”

“Syria is increasingly turning into a regional, if not a global, battleground,” he stated. Mr. Serry said that warring parties have not responded to appeals for a cessation of violence during the holy month of Ramadan and should be reminded that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law will be held to account.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45483>

On 23 July, a 15-truck humanitarian convoy from UNICEF, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and other UN agencies delivered life-saving supplies to the northern city of Aleppo. The convoy, which travelled from Damascus, included medical supplies, hygiene kits, cooking stoves, high-energy biscuits and school supplies. According to UNICEF, Aleppo has the highest number of affected people by the conflict – at least 2.4 million, half of whom are children. UNICEF also delivered five generators and eight water tanks that will provide safe drinking water to more than 1 million people in Aleppo. [http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_69902.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_69902.html)

On 24 July, Professor Åke Sellström, the Head of the United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian conflict, and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane, arrived in Damascus. The purpose of the visit is to complete consultations on the modalities of cooperation required for the proper, safe and efficient conduct of the Mission.

According to UNRWA, the conflict is increasingly encroaching on UNRWA camps with shelling and clashes continuing to take place near to and within a number of camps. A reported 8 Palestine refugees were killed in Syria over the past week, highlighting their unique vulnerability, with refugee camps often theatres of war. Approximately 235,000 refugees are displaced in Syria with over 200,000 in Damascus, around 6600 in Aleppo, 4500 in Latakia, 3050 in Hama, 6400 in Homs and 13,100 in Dera'a. <http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-crisis-situation-update-issue-55-22-july-2013>

### **Selection of UN News Stories:**

#### **Despite violence and limited access, UN agencies continue aid delivery in Syria**

19 July 2013 – While violence continues unabated in many parts of Syria, United Nations agencies are working to deliver humanitarian assistance, in spite of difficult security conditions and restricted access to various areas, a spokesperson for the world body said today.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45458&Cr=Syria&Cr1=>

#### **Lebanon: Medical facilities stretched to the limit**

23 July 2013 - The waiting room of the Nahada primary health-care clinic in northern Lebanon's Tripoli region is packed with patients, mostly from Syria. The NGO International Medical Corps began supporting the clinic in May to help the increasing number of refugees in the region. But since then, the clinic's caseload has increased by 400 per cent, and in May its doctors saw about 700 Syrian patients.

<http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/lebanon-medical-facilities-stretched-limit>

#### **Links to UN Secretariat, Agencies, Funds and Programmes on Syria**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=146&Body=Syria&Body1=>

UNICEF: <http://www.unicef.org/media/index.html>

WFP: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria>

OCHA: <http://www.unocha.org/crisis/syria>

WHO: <http://www.who.int/countries/syr/en/>

UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f86c2426.html>

OHCHR: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/NewsSearch.aspx?CID=SY>

UNRWA: <http://www.unrwa.org/>

#### **UN on social media:**

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UN>

Flickr: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/un\\_photo/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/un_photo/)

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/unitednations>

Tumblr: <http://united-nations.tumblr.com/>

\* \* \*