



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

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Special Envoy de Mistura visits Jordan, Qatar and the UAE

As part of ongoing consultations on Syria, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, visited Jordan on 14 July where he met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Nasser Judeh. While in Jordan, Mr. de Mistura also met Syrian opposition figures. Following his meetings, the Special Envoy reaffirmed the Secretary-General's resolve to spare no efforts to support the people of Syria in their yearning for peace and change. He stressed that both regional and international powers can do much more to end the raging conflict. Prior to this visit, the Special Envoy travelled to Qatar and the UAE where he met with senior government officials. Mr. de Mistura will continue his consultations with Member States in the region in the coming days.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150713.doc.htm>

Number of Syrian refugees passes the four million mark

More than four million Syrians have fled war and persecution and become refugees in neighbouring countries, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) reported on 9 July. According to the latest figures released by UNHCR, the total number of refugees from Syria has risen to 4,013,000 people. "This is the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation. It is a population that deserves the support of the world but is instead living in dire conditions and sinking deeper into abject poverty," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres. UNHCR said that the new figures were based on new arrivals in Turkey and updated data from the authorities on refugees already in that country. The exodus from Syria is the highest recorded since 1992 when the number of refugees from Afghanistan hit a staggering 4.6 million.

<http://www.unhcr.org/559d648a9.html>

Greek islands face unprecedented influx of refugees

The UN refugee agency warned on 10 July that Greek islands are facing an unprecedented emergency with an average of 1,000 refugees arriving daily, the majority of whom are from Syria. Since the beginning of the year, a staggering 77,000 people had arrived in Greece by sea, many on unsafe vessels. Almost 60 per cent of the new arrivals are from Syria while others come from Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea and Somalia. UNHCR said that the number of people arriving is now so high that, despite all efforts, the authorities and local communities can no longer cope. It is estimated that half of all refugees who are actually passing through the region do so without being registered by the authorities, and are exposed to violence and abuse by smugglers and criminal gangs.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/greece/average-1000-refugees-now-arriving-greek-islands-every-day>

Millions of children in Syria at high risk of disease amid water scarcity

Amid dwindling supplies of safe drinking water, UNICEF voiced concern about the threat of water-borne diseases for children during the summer months. In a statement issued on 10 July, the UN children agency said that over 105,000 cases of acute diarrhea and 1,700 cases of hepatitis A had been reported in Syria since the beginning of 2015. "With

the crisis now in its fifth year, water has become even more scarce and unsafe, and poor hygiene conditions especially among the displaced communities are putting more children at severe risk", said Hanaa Singer, UNICEF's Representative in Syria. One area where the risk of disease outbreak is particularly high is Deir-Ez-Zour in the east. Reports indicate that raw sewage is causing serious contamination to the Euphrates river.

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_82509.html

Malala Yousafzai calls for increased education funding for children refugees

Nobel Peace Prize winner and education activist Malala Yousafzai visited refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan on 13 July which coincided with her 18th birthday. Speaking at a press conference after meeting with children refugees in Azarq camp, she urged the international community to urgently increase education funding for Syrian refugees to avoid a lost generation resulting from the conflict. "Education is a basic human right for every child. Being a refugee should not be used as an excuse for saying that we cannot afford this child's education", Malala told reporters. UN agencies and NGO partners have requested US\$4.53 billion in 2015 to provide humanitarian and development assistance to more than four million Syrian refugees and the neighbouring countries and communities hosting them. Less than a quarter of that total had been received by the end of May. UNHCR's Representative to Jordan, Andrew Harper said funding shortages have already had a negative effect on school enrolment among Syrian refugees in Jordan.

<http://www.unhcr.org/55a3da986.html>

UN Radio in Arabic:

Special Envoy de Mistura visits Qatar and UAE and calls for a political solution to the Syrian Conflict

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/173800/index.html#.VaaSJvIVhBc>

UN Envoy for Syria ends his visit to New York

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/173692/index.html#.VaaSP_IVhBc

UNICEF: Millions of Syrian children are at risk of contracting diseases transmitted through water in the hot summer months

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/173585/index.html#.VaaSRfIVhBc>

Syrian Javia Ali sheds light on the plight of persons with disabilities in war and crises

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/173536/index.html#.VaaSS_IVhBc

UNHCR: the number of Syrian refugees has crossed the 4 million mark for the first time

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/173476/index.html#.VaaSUIVhBc>

The international heritage committee ended its work, adding 24 new locations

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/173339/index.html#.VaaSkfIVhBc>

Syrian refugee crisis worsens dramatically in the absence of any signs of the war ending

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/173485/index.html#.VaaWGPIVhBc>

UN Twitter (@UN)

Greece: #UNHCR says almost 60% of new arrivals are from Syria:

<http://trib.al/22QoQ4B> via @Refugees - 14 July

United Nations retweeted UN Refugee Agency

Happy birthday! Malala visits Syrian @refugees in Lebanon & Jordan as she turns 18
<http://trib.al/ZZz5g57> -13 July

Syria: @UNOCHA says 302,435 people were displaced in by fighting in Iraq
<http://bit.ly/1eUs6s4> - 12 July

4 million refugees - Syria's conflict is now biggest humanitarian crisis of our era
<http://trib.al/Iy74NEX> @Refugees - 11 July

UN Facebook

Yesterday, on Malala's 18th birthday, Malala and the Fund committed to supporting a new education program that helps Syrian refugee children at the Azraq Camp in Jordan get back to and succeed in school.

Of the 6,500 school-age Syrian refugee children and youth living in Azraq, only 3,289 were enrolled in the camp's school last year. -13 July

On average 1,000 refugees are now arriving on the Greek islands every day creating an unprecedented emergency for Greece and other countries.

Since the beginning of the year, a staggering 77,100 people have arrived in Greece by sea, many on flimsy and unsafe vessels.

Almost 60 per cent of the new arrivals are from Syria while others come from Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea and Somalia. Find out more from UNHCR- 13 July

Ongoing social media campaigns on Syria

#4Syria campaign was launched on 20 March 2015 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to highlight the Syrian conflict, which has entered its fifth year. The campaign calls for an end to the conflict and seeks to raise funds for UNRWA's programmes to support Palestinian refugees from Syria. It features testimonies of Palestine refugees; voices that, amid the tragedy, brim with positive energy and determination, as well as documents highlighting UNRWA's emergency work in the region. View the campaign at: <http://www.unrwa.org/syria-crisis/syria4thanniversary>

#SaveYarmouk was launched in January 2015 to shed light on the grave deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yarmouk, following the escalation of fighting. The campaign includes stories and updates from Yarmouk as well as recorded voices of residents describing the horrible conditions in which they are living. With no access to regular food supplies, clean water, health care, electricity or heating fuel, Yarmouk's civilian population is on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe. For those who wish to support UNRWA's work in Syria, donation is possible through the campaign's website: <http://www.unrwa.org/crisis-in-yarmouk>.

#ChildrenofSyria

UNICEF and its partners are committed to keeping Syrian children from becoming a 'lost generation'. Critical efforts are being made to minimize the impact of the crisis on children – including in the life-saving areas of health, nutrition, immunization, water and sanitation, as well as in the future of children, through education and child protection.

<http://www.unicef.org/emergencies/syria/>

<http://childrenofsyria.info/>

Relevant links to UN Secretariat, Agencies, Funds and Programmes on Syria DPI Focus Page on Syria:

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

UN System agencies :

UN Women: <http://www.unwomen.org/>

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

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

OCHA: <http://unocha.org/syria> , twitter.com/ocha_syria , facebook.com/UNOCHA.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/

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

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

Photo galleries:

UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c25d.html>

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

OCHA: <http://www.unocha.org/media-resources/photo-gallery>

UNICEF: http://www.unicef.org/photography/photo_2013.php#UNI82253

IRIN: <http://www.irinnews.org/photo/>