



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

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Secretary-General encouraged by Security Council's support for latest proposal on Syria

Speaking to the press following his meeting with President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C. on 4 August, the Secretary-General said he was encouraged by the strong support expressed by the Security Council for the proposal presented on 29 July by Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura to establish four thematic groups to operationalize the Geneva communiqué. "We will try to expedite -- to provide some political solution to this, operationalizing the Geneva communiqué. At the same time, we are doing our best effort to provide humanitarian assistance to needy people" the Secretary-General said. http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/sgspeeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2711

Special Envoy explains his proposal on thematic discussions

In an interview with the UN News Centre on 30 July, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura explained his proposal of launching thematic discussions through intra-Syrian working groups to address key aspects of the Geneva Communiqué. "One is the humanitarian issue, which means access. People are requesting a format through which access can be guaranteed for many things: medicines, humanitarian aid, food. And there is, of course, the mother of all issues: the political process. And that means how to get into a [political] transition, through a transitional governing body, but do so in a way that you are not actually producing an immediate shake-up, rather, a scenario where you are getting, gradually but clearly, to a different political scenario, where everyone is included. All that can be part and should be part of this working group, so that when the right time comes, the working groups would be ready", the Envoy noted. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51535>

Secretary-General calls for urgent donor funding for UNRWA

As the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is facing an unprecedented financial crisis, the Secretary-General expressed deep concern about the agency's funding shortage and its humanitarian, political and security consequences. In a letter transmitting the UNRWA Commissioner-General's Special Report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General stressed that at a time when crises and human suffering are growing throughout the Middle East, it was imperative that UNRWA is provided with the resources necessary to enable it to continue providing services including education for half a million Palestine refugee children. The Secretary-General, who has spoken to several world leaders in the past few weeks on this topic, called on all donors to urgently ensure that the US\$100 million required is contributed to UNRWA at the earliest possible date so that the children of Palestine can begin their 2015-2016 school year without delay.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8883>

<http://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/unrwa-sends-emergency-financial-report-un-secretary-general>

UN Twitter

United Nations @UN- 5 August

Ban Ki-moon concerned re: @UNRWA funding; hopes that children of Palestine can begin 2015-2016 school year without delay <http://bit.ly/1N8oUEE>

United Nations @UN - Aug 3

Reveiled & revered, @ChrisGunness talks about his work as @UNRWA spokesperson. New interview: <http://j.mp/1JHS1j6>

United Nations @UN- Aug 2

Jordan's Za'atari @refugees camp turns 3, challenges for the future of thousands living there <http://trib.al/RFAMcFh>

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- Jul 30

Over 1 million people were displaced in Syria, some for the second or third time, since January <http://bit.ly/1DbFNym>

UNHCR-Syria @UNHCRinSYRIA- Aug 4

Over 1.3M people received relief items throughout Syria so far in 2015 <http://goo.gl/HdZy6K> @UNHCRinSYRIA

UN Facebook

United Nations- August 1 at 10:08am

What's the latest on efforts to end the Syria Crisis? UN Envoy Staffan de Mistura explains here in a new interview: <http://j.mp/1LZX8gw>

UN Radio in Arabic:

Staffan de Mistura: There is no doubt that ISIL has become a priority <http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174840/#.VcIkNPIVhBc>

Ambassador Bashar Jaafari: Elimination of terrorism is a top priority for the Syrian government

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174832/#.VcIkafIVhBc>

UN Special Envoy says we cannot repeat the mistakes of Iraq, Libya or Somalia

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174819/#.VcIkpfIVhBc>

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](https://www.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/>