



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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Secretary-General appeals to European countries to do more to respond to migrant crisis

Speaking at a press stake-out in Paris following his meetings with French President François Hollande and Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius on 26 August, the Secretary-General urged European countries to do more to respond to the migrant crisis. "More people are displaced today than at any time since the Second World War. Many millions are fleeing violence and persecution in Syria and elsewhere. Others are seeking to escape poverty and looking for opportunities to lead a dignified life. They are making perilous journeys and should not face yet another ordeal upon arrival. I commend those countries that are showing solidarity, and I call on other countries in Europe and elsewhere to show compassion and do far more to respond to this crisis. Our response must save lives, fight trafficking and stigma, provide legal channels, examine root causes and uphold human rights", Mr. Ban stated.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=4053>

UN refugee agency warns that the situation of refugees and migrants in Europe is unsustainable

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) warned on 25 August that the situation of refugees and migrants making their way from Greece into the Western Balkans is unsustainable and a symptom of a much wider problem of record levels of forced displacement from conflicts in Syria and elsewhere. "It is clear that this cannot be solved by any one country working alone, and that a comprehensive European response is urgently required based on solidarity and equal sharing of the burden. All European countries and the European Union (EU) must act together and help those countries whose capacities are already overstretched such as Greece, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia", UNHCR noted. This includes capacity support, and support for equitable redistribution of refugees and asylum seekers across the EU. According to the agency, beyond the EU's immediate borders, and in the region surrounding Syria, the number of refugees is continuing to rise following new registrations in Turkey and now stands at 4,089,023 people.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/world/treat-refugees-humanely-work-together-says-unhcr-thousands-continue-heading-western>

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

Secretary-General condemns the destruction of Palmyra temple

In a statement issued on 25 August, the Secretary-General strongly condemned the continuing acts of terror and grave violations of international law committed by Da'esh in Syria, including the systematic destruction and plunder of the country's cultural heritage. He said he was appalled by reports of the demolition by Da'esh of the ancient temple of Baal Shamin in the city of Palmyra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Secretary-General also expressed outrage at the brutal murder of Khaled al-Asaad, retired chief archaeologist of Palmyra, by the terrorist group on 18 August. "These barbaric acts of terror join a long list of crimes committed over the past four years in Syria against its

civilian population and heritage”, Mr. Ban said. The Secretary-General called on the international community to unite and act swiftly to put a stop to this terrorist activity.
<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8928>

Increased evidence that water is used as a weapon of war, says UNICEF

UNICEF said on 25 August that there is increasing evidence that parties to the conflict in Syria are using water to achieve military and political gains. In the northern city of Aleppo, where fighting has crippled the main pumping station for months, UNICEF has recorded 18 deliberate water cuts this year alone. The agency notes that the unpredictability of warfare can make the process of fetching water dangerous, and even lethal. In recent weeks, at least three children were killed while they were out collecting water in Aleppo. “Clean water is both a basic need and a fundamental right, in Syria as it is anywhere else,” said Dr. Peter Salama, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa. “Denying civilians access to water is a flagrant violation of the laws of war and must end”, he added.

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_82980.html

UNRWA provides health care to Palestine refugees suffering from typhoid

Amid reports of an outbreak of typhoid in the Yarmouk refugee camp and its surrounding areas, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) conducted humanitarian operations in Yalda, providing vital healthcare to civilians displaced from Yarmouk and host communities. On 24 August, UNRWA medical personnel established a health point in Yalda, treating 360 patients over the course of the day. This included 15 suspected cases of typhoid, one suspected case of hepatitis and five suspected cases of scabies. UNRWA voiced concerns that as high summer temperatures and regular interruptions in water supply continue to affect Damascus, communicable diseases remain a source of profound vulnerability for civilians residing in Yarmouk and the neighbouring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/yarmouk-situation-update-41>

Secretary-General calls for restraint after rocket attack across ceasefire line between Israel and Syria

Following reports of rockets fired across the ceasefire line between Israel and Syria on 20 August, the Secretary-General expressed his deep concern over the serious violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement between the two countries. According to reports, rockets landed in the vicinity of Qiryat Shmona, in response to which Israel Defence Forces fired across the ceasefire line, with the projectiles impacting the Syrian Armed Forces positions near Al Baath and Khan Arnabeh. UNDOF immediately liaised with the Israel Defence Forces and the Syrian Armed Forces to de-escalate the situation. The Secretary-General condemned all violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement. He urged all involved to exercise maximum restraint to prevent any further escalation in an already tense regional environment.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8919>

UN Radio in Arabic

UNICEF: Water price in Aleppo increased by 3,000 percent within weeks

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176658/#.Vd3VdPIVhBc>

UNHCR appeals to Europe to develop its asylum system to enable Syrian refugees to travel legally

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176613/#.Vd3V5 IVhBc>

UNHCR provides assistance on the borders between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176558/#.Vd3WqPIVhBc>

UNESCO: The destruction of the temple in Palmyra is a war crime and a huge loss for Syrian and humanity

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176520/#.Vd3XI_IVhBc

Secretary-General condemns the grave violations of disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176443/#.Vd3XwflVhBc>

Irina Bokova condemns the destruction of the monastery of Mar Elian in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176428/#.Vd3YOvlVhBc>

Syria: UNRWA confirms the 23 cases of typhoid in the Yarmouk refugee camp

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176374/#.Vd3Y1vlVhBc>

UN Twitter

United Nations @UN- 26 August

Syria: @UNESCO chief @IrinaBokova condemns destruction of Palmyra's ancient Baalshamin temple <http://ow.ly/RhvLr>

United Nations @UN - 23 August

"We have to keep reminding the world about the Syria crisis" <http://j.mp/1TRfOhF> via @WFP

United Nations retweeted UN News Centre @UN_News_Centre 22 August

In #Syria @UNRWA reports jump in #typhoid cases among #Palestinian refugees from #Yarmouk camp <http://bit.ly/1LnvQ0y>

United Nations @UN – 22 August

On World Humanitarian Day, @LeonaLewis shared a #SyriaCrisis story. See it: <http://j.mp/1TTJNL5> #ShareHumanity

UN News Centre @UN_News_Centre- 21 August

#UNSG Ban calls for restraint as violations jeopardize the ceasefire between #Israel & #Syria <http://bit.ly/1NKWasm>

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/>