



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No. 110/2 September 2015

UN relief chief calls for sustained donor support in response to ever-shifting needs in Syria

On 1 September, at the Fifth Syria Top Donor group meeting in Kuwait City, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien reminded that even as aid agencies continue to reach those impacted by the Syria conflict, the needs of the 7.6 million people displaced by the war and the four million others who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries are "greater than ever". He said that the world's worst humanitarian crisis looks set to deteriorate even further unless a political solution is found. He acknowledged the "generous contributions" by top donors and said that despite the "difficult and dangerous" conditions inside Syria that have killed 79 aid workers since March 2011, humanitarian agencies continue to stay and deliver to millions of people in need.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51769#.VechJvIViko>

UNESCO condemns destruction of the Temples of Bel and Baal Shamin

Analysts at UNOSAT have used commercial satellite imagery over Syria to confirm reports that the Temples of Bel and Baal Shamin in Palmyra have been destroyed. Only hours earlier, on 31 August, some in Syria believed the Temple of Bel was still standing, despite rumours of its destruction. But, after acquiring rush imagery from one of its partners, UNOSAT confirmed the loss of the ancient monument overnight. The Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Irina Bokova, expressed profound dismay as she condemned the destruction of the Temple. Ms. Bokova said that the destruction of Palmyra constitutes an intolerable crime against civilization, [but 4,500 years of history will never be erased]. She said that each of these attacks invites us to share ever more widely the heritage of humanity, whether in museums, schools, the media and our homes.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150901.doc.htm>

Special Envoy for Syria meets with Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran

On 1 September, the Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, met in Beirut with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Arab African Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hussain Amir Abdullahian. The meeting was an opportunity to analyse the evolving situation with a key regional player and to discuss efforts in the follow-up to the Security Council presidential statement supporting the recent UN initiative to operationalize the Geneva communiqué. Mr. de Mistura elaborated on the usefulness of the Working Groups aimed at facilitating a political solution to the ongoing Syrian conflict.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150901.doc.htm>

Secretary-General strongly condemns use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as weapons in Syria conflict

In a statement issued on 27 August, the Secretary-General strongly condemned the use of chemical weapons, as well as the use of toxic chemicals, as weapons in Syria by any party to the conflict. He stressed that the entire international community has the responsibility to hold the perpetrators to account. The Secretary-General reiterated that

a resolution unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council earlier this month is a strong collective message from the international community that any use of chemical weapons "shall not be tolerated and will have consequences."

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8935>

UN relief chief urges Security Council action to end 'immense suffering' of Syrians

The United Nations humanitarian chief on 27 August urged the Security Council to do everything in its power to push for a political solution to end the conflict in Syria, as he described the immense suffering and destruction he witnessed for himself during a recent visit. "It is difficult to find words that would justly describe the depth of suffering that the Syrians face on a daily basis. Having just returned from the country, I have seen a glimpse of this grim reality myself," said Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien. Since the conflict began over four years ago, more than a quarter of a million people have been killed in Syria and over a million people injured, Mr. O'Brien noted in his briefing. Some 7.6 million people have been displaced inside the country. Over one million people have had to leave their homes this year alone. Over four million people have fled across borders in a desperate search for survival and a future, placing host countries and communities under pressure which are now stretched to breaking point.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51739#.VedIwPIViko>

UN Radio in Arabic

Nine new cases of suspected typhoid in Yalda, Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/177219/#.VecmCfIVhBc>

UNICEF: the number of women and children crossing to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has increased threefold

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/177206/#.VecmU_lVhBc

Syria: UN calls to close the gap between the growing humanitarian needs and available resources

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/177178/#.VecmhfIVhBc>

UN special envoy to Syria meets Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in Beirut

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/177172/#.VecmOfIVhBc>

UNESCO condemns the destruction of the Bel Temple in the Palmyra, Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/177096/#.VecnCPIVhBc>

Secretary-General: The tragedies of refugees and migrants show a global solidarity crisis

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176952/#.VecnkPIVhBc>

UNHCR: The tragedy in Austria must push Europe towards finding legal alternatives for the ones seeking safety on its territory

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176878/#.Vecn9fIVhBc>

Secretary-General renews its condemnation for the use of chemical weapons in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176835/#.VecoYPIVhBc>

Stephen O'Brien urges the Security Council to do everything possible to end the Syrian crisis

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176816/#.VecokPIVhBc>

Bashar Al-Jaafari: Syrian army is acting in accordance with international law

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176797/#.VecozPIVhBc>

O'Brien expresses his anger at the inability of the international community to do more to protect Syrians

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/176782/#.VecpAvIVhBc>

Social media:

Twitter

UN Refugee Agency @Refugees 2 September 2015

For refugee Syrian mothers, a birth is an addition to the family + a reminder of happier times trib.al/czTIEsm pic.twitter.com/kA7mTOpVo3

UN Info Centre Cairo @UNICCairo 2 September 2015

#UNRWA reports 9 new suspected cases of #Typhoid among #Yarmouk civilians in Yalda bit.ly/1Q7WvjR

UN Geneva @UNGeneva August 27 2015

Press briefing summary - news from UN spox on refugees & migrants in Europe, Maldives, Syria, Libya, Nepal, & Ebola - ow.ly/RIeT

United Nations @UN Aug 31

Ban Ki-moon calls for safe & legal channels of migration following refugee/migrant tragedies: <http://j.mp/1hIRW9m>

United Nations @UN Aug 28

"Refugee" or "migrant"? @Refugees explains the difference & why it matters: <http://j.mp/1EnkH0r>

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson Aug 28

#UNSG Ban Ki-moon horrified & heartbroken at latest loss of lives of refugees & migrants in #Mediterranean & #Europe <http://bit.ly/1hJSSoY>

United Nations Aug 28

It is a crisis of solidarity, not a crisis of numbers - Ban Ki-moon on recent refugee/migrant tragedies: bit.ly/1hJSSoY

United Nations retweeted

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson Aug 27 New York, NY

#UNSG Ban Ki-moon strongly condemns use of chemical weapons & toxic chemicals as weapon in #SyriaCrisis - <http://bit.ly/1hi6SFG> @UN_DPA

United Nations @UN Aug 27

In pictures: Life as a humanitarian- 4 emergencies. 4 aid workers. 4 stories. <http://j.mp/1VahJjN>

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/>