



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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UNHCR welcomes additional support to refugees, calls for fast implementation

In a statement issued on 24 September, the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, welcomed the announcement by the European Council to significantly increase resources for humanitarian assistance in countries neighbouring Syria, as well as the decision to relocate an additional 120,000 people. "The relocation plan will not put an end to the problem, but it hopefully will be the beginning of a solution," said High Commissioner António Guterres, calling for a quick implementation of the programme. UNHCR also welcomed the announcement of new funding for refugees in first countries of asylum. UNHCR urged, however, a substantial and rapid increase in legal opportunities for refugees to access the European Union, including enhanced resettlement and humanitarian admission, family reunification, private sponsorship, and humanitarian and student visas.

The UN refugee agency has stepped up its operations in countries affected by the refugee flows and is ready to fully support all measures by the EU and Member States in effectively responding to the present crisis.

<http://www.unhcr.org/5603af5c6.html>

Special Envoy meets heads of intra-Syrian thematic working groups

The UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, along with his deputy, Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy, said on 22 September they had met the two previous days with the facilitators appointed by the Secretary-General to head the intra-Syrian thematic working groups.

"The Working Groups are intended to provide Syrians with a platform to address in-depth themes that are certainly not new, but have lacked to date sustained intra-Syrian discussion. It is hoped that their outcomes could eventually set the stage for an agreement to end the conflict on the basis of the Geneva Communiqué," said the Special Envoy in a statement. The facilitators include Mr. Jan Egeland for the Safety and Protection thematic Working Group; Mr. Nicolas Michel for the Political and Legal Issues thematic Working Group; Mr. Volker Perthes for the Military, Security and Counterterrorism thematic Working Group; and Ms. Birgitta Holst Alani for the Continuity of Public Services, Reconstruction and Development thematic Working Group.

Mr. de Mistura recently returned from consultations with Syrian interlocutors in Damascus and Istanbul. These visits complement ongoing outreach by his office to regional capitals and elsewhere. The Special Envoy will travel to UN Headquarters in New York to carry these discussions forward in the margins of the UN General Assembly.

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpPages%29/4D6470DBEAF92917C1257E59004FAC2D?OpenDocument

Head of Investigation Mechanism on Syria's chemical weapons meets Secretary-General

The Head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) on the use of chemicals as weapons in Syria met with the Secretary-General on 22 September to brief him on progress in setting up the operation. During the meeting, the Secretary-General expressed concern at the

continuing allegations of the use of chemical as weapons in Syria and reiterated his condemnation of any use of chemical weapons. Mr. Ban stressed that the unique mandate of the JIM demonstrates the determination of the international community to hold accountable those who use chemical weapons.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=4073>

Time to overcome the diplomatic failure in Syria, says Chair of Commission of Inquiry

Addressing the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 21 September, the Chair of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, stressed that it was time to overcome the diplomatic failure and recognise that there was a global interest in returning Syria to peace.

Mr. Pinheiro called for full and effective support to Special Envoy de Mistura's plan and for the Security Council to act with the responsibility vested in it. He described as auspicious the agreement between Russia and the United States to discuss mechanisms for "deconfliction" in Syria.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16474&LangID=E>

UN Humanitarian Chief warns that funding gap continues to widen

Wrapping up his first visit to Jordan on 20 September, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O'Brien said that a disproportionate burden of the response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria had fallen on the neighbouring countries, including Jordan. "Syria's neighbours are reaching the point where the rest of the world urgently must share more of the responsibility in responding to the humanitarian needs caused by the crisis", Mr. O'Brien told reporters in Amman.

The needs generated by the Syria crisis are outpacing the generous funding received so far. For 2015, the humanitarian community has appealed for \$7.4 billion, but only 38 per cent of the essential funding has been received so far.

<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/USG%20O'Brien%20remarks%20to%20the%20press%20in%20Amman%2020Sept2015.pdf>

UN Radio in Arabic:

UNHCR cautiously welcomes the European Union deal on refugees

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/179077/#.VgQTlstViko>

UN Goodwill Ambassador Shakira: We must not forget the photo of the Syrian Kurdish child Aylan

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/179013/#.VgQUAMtViko>

Secretary-General meets the leadership of the Joint Investigation Mechanism on the use of chemical weapons in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/178973/#.VgQUTctViko>

Special Envoy de Mistura meets the heads of thematic working groups on Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/178890/#.VgQU6stViko>

Pinheiro: Syria collapsed in front of our eyes and its social fabric is torn apart

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/178757/#.VgQV0ctViko>

UN calls for increasing support to the Syrian refugees and host communities in Jordan

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/178745/#.VgQWkMtViko>

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs visits Jordan to assess the situation of Syrian refugees

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/178640/#.VgQXF8tViko>

UNICEF condemns the killing of dozens of children in Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/178510/#.VgQYgMtViko>

High increase in malnutrition among Syrian children because of the conflict
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/178478/#.VgQY3ctViko>

UN Twitter

United Nations @UN 24 September

As Syria's armed conflict grows, @WHO aid to the region is unrelenting. More info here:
<http://goo.gl/rCT69r>

United Nations retweeted

Shakira @shakira 22 September

Shakira talked about the refugee crisis in Syria today @UN with @UNICEF. ShakHQ
#UNGA #ECD

[https://amp.twimg.com/v/6606388c-ddd1-466d-9134-72424fb2afc0 ...](https://amp.twimg.com/v/6606388c-ddd1-466d-9134-72424fb2afc0...)

United Nations Retweeted

UNOCHA @UNOCHA 17 September

#Syria: 1 in 4 schools can't be used- they're damaged, destroyed or being used as IDP shelters or military proposes <http://ow.ly/SiHvG>

Ongoing UN social media campaigns:

#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, 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 challenging 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/>