



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



**A Weekly Update from the
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UN Humanitarian Chief tells the Security Council that the situation has worsened since the beginning of the year

In a briefing to the Security Council on 27 October, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O'Brien warned that the rising levels of fighting and violence over the last few weeks have had an enormous humanitarian impact, resulting in large-scale death, injury and displacement to civilians, particularly in northern Syria. "We now estimate that some 13.5 million people in Syria are in need of some form of protection and humanitarian assistance throughout the country, an increase of some 1.2 million in just ten months. More than six million of those in need are children", he told the Council. The UN humanitarian chief added that according to latest estimates, over 120,000 people have been displaced in northern Syria since early October as a result of aerial bombardment, as well as ground offensives. He lamented that aid organizations had only been able to access a fraction of the 4.5 million people living in hard-to-reach areas. "Even as the political and military situation evolves, the immediate priority for humanitarian organizations remains to reach all people in need wherever they may be found in Syria," he added. "To do this, we must have sustained, predictable and unimpeded access throughout the country", Mr. O'Brien stressed.

https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/USG%20Stephen%20OBrien_Statement%20to%20Security%20Council%20on%20Syria_27%20Oct%202015%20CAD.pdf

UNHCR welcomes EU agreement on plan for western Balkans migration route

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres welcomed the agreement reached among European leaders on a plan of action on the western Balkans migration route for refugees fleeing Syria. "It is absolutely vital that the European Union (EU) remain a continent of asylum; that the sustainability of Europe's protection of refugees is guaranteed," he said at a press conference in Brussels on 25 October. Referring to the 17-point plan of action on the western Balkans route, he said that there was also a consensus about a clear distinction between refugees and migrants, noting that "there are people in need of protection – those that are considered refugees. It is not an option to receive them or not". "Europe has the obligation to receive them, to grant them protection and assistance and to guarantee their future", he stressed.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52373>

WFP resumes food assistance for Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon

As a result of new donor funding, the World Food Programme (WFP) has increased the value of electronic vouchers used to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon to an average of \$21 per person per month, or 80 percent of the full intended value of the vouchers. The UN food agency also announced on 27 October the resumption of assistance to 229,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan who stopped receiving food vouchers in September due to severe shortage of funds. Their electronic vouchers will be uploaded with a value of \$14 per person per month. WFP added that without predictable sources of funding, it may not be able to provide regular food assistance to the most vulnerable Syrian refugees for more than two months. Inside

Syria, WFP continues to provide food for more than 4 million people every month, although as a result of the funding crisis, the size of the food parcel has been reduced.
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db151027.doc.htm>

UNHCR starts winter aid programme for Syria

As many Syrian refugees will be facing their fifth winter in exile since the onset of the conflict, a UNHCR winter aid programme is already under way. UNHCR spokesperson Melissa Fleming told reporters in Geneva on 23 October that the US\$ 236 million aid programme aims to reach 2.5 million Syrians with winter kits. The programme also includes a mix of extra cash, high thermal blankets, plastic tarpaulins and other forms of shelter insulation (from tent liners to polystyrene foam boards and insulated floor mats), heating fuel, stoves or heaters and winter shoes and clothing. UNHCR's winter plan for Syria requires \$US 171 million, and is 89 per cent funded, with \$147 million received by mid-October.

<http://www.unhcr.org/562a16326.html>

Suspected case of cholera found in rural Aleppo - WHO

The World Health Organization announced on 27 October that it had received reports of a suspected cholera case in rural Aleppo, northern Syria, involving a five year-old boy, who had died before an appropriate sample could be taken for confirmative testing. WHO focal points in Aleppo were gathering information to investigate any new potential cases. In addition, the agency printed a further 50,000 information brochures for Syria, and the health sector. WHO had stepped up preparedness measures to respond to cases of cholera, and is conducting active disease surveillance in all health facilities.

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpBriefingsLatest_en%29/BFB8D1DEEC1C846C1257EEB004A3211?OpenDocument

UN Radio in Arabic:

Jordan's Foreign Minister: An all-inclusive political solution is the only solution to the Syrian crisis

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/182292/index.html#.VjDWErSUK>

Human error is to blame for sending expired high energy biscuits to Zabadani and Madaya in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/182502/index.html#.VjDWFLeSUK>

120,000 displaced from Aleppo, Hama and Idlib

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/182548/index.html#.VjDWFberSUK>

Roni lost his parents on the Serbian-Croatian border

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/182556/index.html#.VjDWF7erSUK>

Death reported in Aleppo could be due to cholera

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/182669/index.html#.VjDWGLerSUK>

UN says 13.5 million people need aid and protection in Syria, including 6 million children

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/182673/index.html#.VjDWGrerSUK>

Syrian refugees and migrants: A long journey to safety in Europe

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/182148/index.html#.VjDWYLeSUK>

UN Twitter:

United Nations @UN 27 October

Syria's conflict and Europe's refugee crisis in numbers - from @UNICEFData

<http://uni.cf/1LPZlu5>

Stephen O'Brien @UNReliefChief 27 October

I told #UN SecCo some 13.5 million people now need protection & humanitarian aid in #Syria. Over 6 mln are children <http://bit.ly/1Mq2Jhg>

United Nations Retweeted UNOCHA @UNOCHA 27 October

#Syria: Map demonstrating active frontlines + major IDP flight routes in Aleppo, Idleb, Hama <http://ow.ly/TTEly>

UN Facebook

United Nations October 26 at 8:00pm

Winter is coming and UNHCR has begun distributing raincoats, blankets and more to tens of thousands of refugees buffeted by the first winter storms and freezing temperatures that have already struck many parts of Central and South Eastern Europe.

So far this year, more than 644,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe by sea. Thousands making an onward journey by foot, on buses and trains have been exposed to cold and rain.

Find out how you can help here: <http://j.mp/1Wemqb9>

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>.

#myvoicemyschool is an educational project linking Palestinian refugee youth displaced by the Syrian conflict with their peers in England. Through live video conversations and customized teaching materials, students and teachers explore how education can meet their future aspirations. Each class will define and develop an advocacy project to promote and share their ideas. <http://www.unrwa.org/myvoicemyschool>

#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/>