



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Secretary-General welcomes outcome of Syria talks in Vienna, pledging full United Nations support

The Secretary-General welcomed the outcome of the Vienna meeting on Syria on 30 October and congratulated the participants, in particular, US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Federation Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, for their leadership, commitment and determination. As participants in the Vienna meeting acknowledged themselves, substantial differences remain. The Secretary-General hopes that in the coming days and weeks they will be able to narrow down these differences and build on areas of agreement. The Syrian people have suffered too much for too long. The Secretary-General strongly urged the Syrian Government and opposition to take all possible steps to support the opening provided by the agreement in Vienna to bring the Syrian crisis to an end. He pledged the full support of the United Nations in moving the process forward. The UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, represented the Secretary-General at the Vienna conference.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm17285.doc.htm>

http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp?HighD=10/29/2015&d_month=10&d_year=2015

UN Envoy visits Syria for talks on recent Vienna conference

In a statement issued on 2 November, it was said that the Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, had spent the previous two days in Damascus, where he discussed with the Government of Syria the outcomes of the Vienna Conference and the importance of early confidence-building measures in order to maintain the spirit of the Vienna meeting.

http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp?HighD=11/2/2015&d_month=11&d_year=2015

UN Envoy meets Russian Foreign Minister

The UN Spokesperson announced on 4 November that Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura had that day met in Moscow with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and other officials of the Russian Federation. They discussed follow-up to the Vienna meeting of 30 October. They focused on issues needed to maintain the momentum of this important process through follow-up action on the agreed specific areas in the Vienna Communiqué. They also discussed preparation for the next meeting, and the urgent need for de-escalation of violence and ceasefire.

<http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp>

Secretary-General, Red Cross chief voice concern over 'brazen and brutal erosion' of respect for humanitarian law

Warning of rising number of 'deliberate' attacks on civilians across the world, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 31 October urged the international community to end the 'callous disregard for human life' and stressed the need for stronger commitment from Member States to bring perpetrators of such attacks to account.

"From Afghanistan to the Central African Republic, from Ukraine to Yemen, combatants and those who control them are defying humanity's most basic rules. Every day, civilians – ordinary women, men and children – are being deliberately or recklessly injured and killed, tortured and abducted. Every hour, people in dire circumstances are being denied the medical care, food, water and shelter they need to survive," said Mr. Ban at a joint press encounter with Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in Geneva. The UN chief said that airstrikes are increasing in besieged populated areas and cited the killing of dozens of people the previous day, when Syrian government forces fired missiles into a marketplace in Douma and the continual indiscriminate firing of rockets in Damascus. "Such deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian areas is a clear breach of international law. The continuing violence is a clear indication that a political solution to the conflict in Syria is desperately needed – the fighting must stop now. There is no military solution to the crisis – not in Syria or anywhere else," said Mr. Ban.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52431>

Over 123,000 people displaced in three governorates in October

According to the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on 3 November, at least 123,842 people have been displaced in Aleppo, Hama and Idlib governorates between 05 October and 30 October 2015. The road from Hama to Aleppo remains cut since 23 October, putting at risk an estimated 700,000 people living in government-controlled areas of the city. Aerial attacks on medical facilities and staff continued as the hospitals in Maarat al-Nu'man (Idlib) and in Kafr Zeita (Idlib) were reportedly hit during the previous week.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-developments-northern-governorates-situation-repo-0>

WFP's Syria response in numbers – an infographic

As the humanitarian situation in Syria continues to deteriorate, the World Food Programme (WFP) is struggling to meet the urgent food needs of more than five million displaced people in Syria and in neighbouring countries. Food operations are severely underfunded, meaning that WFP has been forced to reduce the level of assistance it provides to refugees across the region. The infographic shows WFP's Syria response in numbers.

<http://www.wfp.org/stories/wfps-syria-response-numbers-october-2015>

Shaken by war, Syrian children start over at German school

Leen flings open the school doors after her German language class and runs out, clearly delighting in her new surroundings despite a cold rush of autumn air. "I like being here," said Leen, gesturing around her. "I have new friends, a good school and... I'm safe." Bundled up in a sweater and gloves, she laughed and cycled off to a dance class. Here is the story of a 12-year-old girl from Damascus, who along with her older brother, Yousef, are enjoying their first term at 'Am Lindetal' school in Neubrandenburg in northeast Germany after surviving a recent harrowing journey from war-ravaged Syria. Leen is among the so-called "lost generation" of children who have missed out on schooling since Syria's civil war erupted in 2011. She has joined 70 young refugees and asylum-seekers starting over at a school in Neubrandenburg, hoping to catch up in classes. "Syrians prize education highly but worsening conditions for refugees in Syria's neighbouring countries have a devastating impact on the education of children," said Martin Rentsch from UNHCR, which stresses the importance of integration. "Hundreds of thousands of refugee children miss out on school and we are on the verge of producing a lost generation."

<http://www.unhcr.org/5632312d6.html>

In Greece, a sea of arrivals -- a photo essay

A record numbers of refugees and migrants continue to pass through Greece en route to other Western Europe destinations, and the country remains by far the largest single entry

point for new sea arrivals in the Mediterranean. Arrivals by sea this year have already passed half a million. There were more than 153,000 in September alone. Here is a photo essay about it.

<https://medium.com/photography-and-social-change/in-greece-a-sea-of-arrivals-ee7840f3ad81>

UN Radio in Arabic:

WHO deliver assistance in Daraa and Hama in Syria for the first time since July 2015
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/183327/#.VjorArerSUK>

UNHCR: 218,000 people crossed the Mediterranean in October to reach Europe, many among them being Syrians

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/183156/#.VjoreberSUK>

Ban Ki-moon welcomes the results of Vienna talks on the crisis in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/183114/#.Vjor2LerSUK>

OCHA: 400,000 people living under siege in Syria and the United Nations has been only able to reach 3.6 per cent

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/182992/#.VjosIberSUK>

Weather conditions bring more tragedy to the east of the Aegean Sea with the continuing influx of refugees into Greece

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/182942/#.VjoshberSUK>

WHO and the ministry of Health in Hungary assess the health of refugees and migrants in country

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/182766/#.Vjos_7erSUK

UNHCR is trying to help 15 million displaced Syrians and Iraqis to cope with winter

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/182741/#.VjotZberSUK>

UN Twitter:

UN Development@UNDP 4 November 2015

More can be done to aid refugees from #Syria @HelenClarkUNDP in @AP:

<http://ow.ly/UcI9d> #VallettaSummit #RefugeeCrisis

UN Development@UNDP 3 November 2015

85% of #SyriaRefugees live outside camps. Host countries key to response:

<http://undp.org/syriacrisis> #VallettaSummit

United Nations@UN 29 October 2015

@WFP provides food assistance to >4M Syrians inside Syria & >1.3M refugees abroad

<http://j.mp/1OZMBmR>

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/>