



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

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Secretary-General welcomes Syria consultations to be held in New York

Speaking to the press after a meeting with US Secretary of State John Kerry in Paris, the Secretary-General welcomed Mr. Kerry's initiative to hold the third meeting of the International Syria Support Group in New York on 18 December. If the talks are held then, he said that he and his Special Envoy, Staffan de Mistura, will participate. Mr. Ban stressed the need to have a nationwide ceasefire in Syria as soon as possible. He expressed hope that the talks would provide a firm and solid basis for the ceasefire and political process to begin.

http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp?HighD=12/8/2015&d_month=12&d_year=2015

UNHCR calls on Jordan to allow 12,000 refugees to enter

Amid a sharp increase in the number of Syrian refugees into Jordan, UNHCR on 8 December voiced grave concern for some 12,000 people stranded at the north-eastern Jordanian border, facing worsening humanitarian conditions. While recognizing Jordan's tremendous contribution in hosting 630,000 refugees, the UN refugee agency appealed to Jordanian authorities to allow refugees at the border to enter the country, particularly the most vulnerable adults and children. Among them are elderly people, women and others who are vulnerable and need help, said UNHCR, noting that the Azraq camp in Jordan had capacity to receive additional people.

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpBriefingsLatest_en%29/66FE2DDDD54BB86C1257F15004BEEC2?OpenDocument

UNHCR says most Syrians arriving in Greece are educated

According to a UNHCR survey released on 8 December (UNHCR), a majority of Syrians arriving in Greece are students. Among the 1,245 Syrians interviewed by the agency between April and September 2015, over 80 per cent said they have secondary school or university education. Half of that group had studied at university. The study also found that 78 per cent were under the age of 35. Overall, the profile is of a highly-skilled population on the move. Almost two-thirds of those surveyed – 63 per cent – said they left Syria in 2015.

<http://www.unhcr.org/5666ddda6.html>

UNICEF plans to reach 2.6 million Syrian children with winter assistance

Ahead of the harsh winter months, UNICEF announced on 7 December that it is providing a package of assistance for 2.6 million Syrian children inside Syria and in the region. The winter assistance includes the distribution of locally procured clothing kits, blankets and school heaters as well as cash. This support is in addition to ongoing programmes in health, education, water and sanitation and protection which continue to reach millions of children around the region. Nearly five years into the conflict, the violence has displaced more than 3 million children inside Syria. In neighbouring Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt more than 2.2 million children are now living as refugees.

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_86455.html

UN humanitarian official calls for greater protection of civilians

Wrapping up a visit to Jordan and Turkey on 5 December, Deputy UN Humanitarian Chief Kyung-wha Kang called for greater protection and assistance for Syrians caught up in the conflict. "The violence and destruction is relentless, exacting a terrible toll on women and girls, men and boys," said Ms. Kang. "Parties to the conflict show little regard for the basic norms of warfare." During her visit, the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs talked with Syrian refugee families in Jordan and Turkey, who were being assisted and protected by the host governments with the support of humanitarian actors. Ms. Kang also spoke out against the repeated aerial bombing of health facilities. "There have been repeated devastating attacks on health facilities, and countless health workers have been killed or injured along with their patients," she stressed.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/deputy-un-humanitarian-chief-kyung-wha-kang-calls-greater-protection-and>

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA%20Press%20Release%20on%20ASG%20Kang%20visit%20to%20Turkey%20and%20Jordan%20%287%20Dec%202015%29.pdf>

UN Radio in Arabic

Syrian parties to meet in New York next week

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/186384/#.VmhK9biDFBc>

Volunteers from the island of Lesbos are helping UNHCR in saving lives and meeting the needs of refugees

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/186370/#.VmhLRLiDFBc>

UNHCR calls on Jordan to allow thousands of Syrian refugees stranded at the border to enter

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/186353/#.VmhLe7iDFBc>

Qatar Fund for Development supports Emergency Heritage Fund of UNESCO

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/186338/#.VmhMAbiDFBc>

UNICEF is helping about 2.6 million Syrian children with the approach of a winter that is expected to be harsher than last year

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/186342/#.VmhMZriDFBc>

UN humanitarian official expresses concern about the refugees stranded at the Jordan/Syria border

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/186276/#.VmhNMbiDFBc>

UN TWITTER (@UN)

New: #UNHCR releases results of survey of Syrian @refugees arriving in Greece this summer: <http://trib.al/mfncYhj> pic.twitter.com/ZPJM94fmiZ- 9 December

How are refugees moving on within Europe? View daily data from #UNHCR <http://j.mp/1m78a93> via @refugees pic.twitter.com/QwIY5IJtL4- 7 December

UN FACEBOOK

"When people call me Malala, it tells me what I'm doing is important." Meet Muzon, an inspirational young Syrian refugee, who fights for the right to education in the refugee camp where she lives and beyond.

<https://www.facebook.com/UNHCR/videos/vb.13204463437/10154535063823438/?type=2&theater>

Ongoing UN social media campaigns:

#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/>

ShareTheMeal is a smartphone application launched by the UN World Food Programme on 12 November 2015 to support refugee children who have fled the conflict in Syria to neighboring countries. The free app is available for iOS and Android app stores worldwide. Users can make donations and start sharing meals with hungry children. Contributions will benefit Syrian refugee children in Jordan who are part of WFP's school meals programme.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-launches-free-app-smartphone-users-help-feed-syrian-refugee-children>

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/>