



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Momentum for Syria political process cannot be lost: UN Special Envoy

UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura travelled to Riyadh on 4 January where he met with the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, and the High Negotiation Commission of the Revolutionary Forces and the Syrian Opposition. After the meeting, the Envoy noted the clear determination on the Saudi side that current regional tensions will not have any negative impact on the Vienna momentum for a political process that the UN, together with the International Syria Support Group, intends to start in Geneva soon. "We cannot afford to lose momentum, despite what is going on in the region", Mr. de Mistura stressed. On the same day, UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Sigrid Kaag also arrived in Riyadh as part of her ongoing consultations with regional partners to discuss Lebanon's stability and security as well as humanitarian and development needs.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db160105.doc.htm>

Destruction of Syria's chemical weapons is complete

In a statement issued on 4 January, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) announced the completion of the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons programme. The Organization said that the US firm it had contracted to dispose of part of the Syrian chemical weapons stockpile had completed disposal of 75 cylinders of hydrogen fluoride at its facility in Texas. This concluded the destruction of all chemical weapons declared by the Syrian Arab Republic. "The process closes an important chapter in the elimination of Syria's chemical weapon programme as we continue efforts to clarify Syria's declaration and address ongoing use of toxic chemicals as weapons in that country", said the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü.

<https://www.opcw.org/news/article/destruction-of-syrian-chemical-weapons-completed/>
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/S-2015-1049.pdf>

Number of refugees arriving in Europe in 2015 passes 1 million

Over one million refugees and migrants have fled to Europe by sea in 2015, many on board dangerously inadequate vessels run by people smugglers, according to figures released on 30 December by the UN refugee agency. "Tragically, over 3,700 other children, women and men did not survive the perilous journey by sea and their hope for a fresh start died with them", said Vincent Cochetel, UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Europe. The landmark figure was reached on December 29. One in every two of those crossing the Mediterranean this year were Syrians escaping the war in their country. Afghans accounted for 20 per cent and Iraqis for seven per cent.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/world/over-one-million-sea-arrivals-reach-europe-2015>

UN Radio in Arabic

Special Envoy de Mistura, in Riyadh, stresses the need to maintain the momentum of Vienna meetings

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/188440/#.Vo00_vkrKUK

Staffan de Mistura expresses concern about the impact of the Saudi-Iranian crisis
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/188345/#.Vo01WfkrKUK>

UNHCR: More than a million refugees and immigrants fled to Europe by sea
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/188110/#.Vo019fkrKUK>

UN Twitter

In Saudi Arabia, senior UN officials discuss regional tensions and needs
<http://bit.ly/1Pe6odr> #SyriaCrisis
6 Jan 2016

Meet a Syrian refugee living in Jordan who draws strength from her art after she lost her teenage son
https://youtu.be/vzgd9kqL_FE
30 Dec 2015

UN Instagram

Bayan laughs as her father Hassaka throws her in the air and catches her. They are refugees from #Syria, who were waiting in Rigonce on the Slovenian-Croatian border.

Persecution, conflict and poverty have driven a staggering one million people to seek safety in Europe in 2015. As of 21 December, some 972,500 had taken the often-dangerous Mediterranean Sea crossing. More than 3,600 people died or went missing.
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BALvSInTDJJ/?taken-by=unitednations>
5 Jan 2015

“Winter is coming and we don’t have enough money for food and water, so how can we afford to pay for heating and winter clothing for our children?” Rawda is the mother of these Palestine refugee children displaced to #Lebanon from #Syria. She’s particularly worried about the bitter winter ahead.

More than 1.2 million food-insecure #Palestine refugees across Syria, the occupied Palestinian territory, #Jordan and Lebanon receive food assistance from UNRWA that helps them meet their minimum daily needs.

This winter, you can #shareyourwarmth and help meet the basic daily needs of refugee families, including food, shelter and health care:

<http://www.unrwa.org/shareyourwarmth>
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BAGPgg9zDI2/?taken-by=unitednations->
3 Jan 2015

Ongoing UN social media campaigns:

#4Syria campaign was launched on 20 March 2015 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to highlight the Syria conflict, now in its fifth year. The campaign calls for an end to the conflict and seeks to raise funds for UNRWA programmes supporting Palestine refugees in Syria as well as those displaced outside the country. It features testimonies of Palestine refugees, as well as documents highlighting emergency work carried out by UNRWA in the region. View the campaign at: <http://www.unrwa.org/syria-crisis/syria4thanniversary>

#myvoicemyschool is a youth advocacy project born in the classroom. Palestine refugee youth in Syria study and discuss quality education with their peers in the UK and Belgium. Through live video conversations and customized teaching materials, students and teachers explore how education can help them achieve their aspirations. Each class will define and develop an advocacy project to promote and share their ideas.
<http://www.unrwa.org/myvoicemyschool>

ShareTheMeal is a smartphone application launched by the UN World Food Programme in 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/>