



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

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Secretary-General urges all parties to continue to adhere to cessation of hostilities, allow more humanitarian aid

Speaking at a press conference in Madrid on 1 March, the Secretary-General noted that despite some incidents, the cessation of hostilities (which came into effect on 27 February) is by and large holding. "I call on all parties to continue to keep their promises and demonstrate their good faith, particularly to allow the delivery of vital humanitarian aid to besieged areas. Some of the people in those areas have not received aid for months or even years. Many people may have starved to death, or died from a lack of routine healthcare", Mr. Ban said. The Secretary-General hailed the work of the Task Force on the Cessation of Hostilities and the leadership demonstrated by the members of the International Syrian Support Group (ISSG) and particularly as co-chairs, the United States and the Russian Federation. "I call on everyone involved to build on the cessation of hostilities and prepare the groundwork for the resumption of talks on 9 March."

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=4394>

Inter-Syrian talks to resume on 9 March

Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura announced on 1 March that the intra-Syrian peace talks will resume in the afternoon of 9 March in Geneva. Initially scheduled for 7 March, the talks were postponed to allow adequate time to address logistical and practical issues, the Special Envoy said. Mr. de Mistura added that he looked forward to Syrian participants' engagement in serious discussions with a view to implementing Security Council resolution 2254 (2015).

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpNewsByYear_en%29/BCB9C0683B321C9CC1257F69005D87A9?OpenDocument

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2254%282015%29

Security Council unanimously endorses cessation of hostilities agreement

The 15 members of the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2268 (2016) on 27 February, endorsing the cessation of hostilities agreement announced by the United States and Russia, co-chairs of the International Syria Support Group. The resolution demanded that all parties to the agreement live up to its terms, and urged all Member States to use their influence to ensure that parties to the conflict fulfil their commitments and create the conditions for a durable and lasting ceasefire. Briefing the Council before the vote, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura noted that the cessation of hostilities was the result of intense consultations and negotiations, and was in itself a major achievement.

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2268%282016%29

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpPages%29/DE41A46692A9D300C1257F660003F8AD?OpenDocument

UN calls for unimpeded, sustained humanitarian access to all people in need

Urgently needed medical supplies reached the besieged town of Moadamieyh, in Rural Damascus, on 2 March. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

announced that inter-agency aid convoys carrying food and health supplies for over 20,000 people to the Kafr Batna sub-district in East Ghouta were planned for 3 March. So far this year, the World Health Organization (WHO) has submitted 15 requests to the Government of Syria to send medical supplies to enable the treatment of 2.5 million people in 53 hard-to-reach and besieged locations. The Syrian authorities recently approved requests to send medicines and medical supplies to Douma, Madaya and Moadamiyeh in Rural Damascus while the other requests remain pending. The UN continues to call on all parties to ensure rapid, unconditional, unimpeded and sustained access of humanitarian aid to all people in need across Syria.

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

UNICEF to launch nationwide children's immunisation programme

Wrapping up a visit to Syria on 1 March, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake said the Syrian authorities had agreed that, together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health, UNICEF will plan and implement a nationwide immunization programme against childhood diseases. The UNICEF top official also highlighted the sense of hope generated by the cessation of hostilities. "Everywhere I have visited - in Damascus, Homs, Hama and Al-Salameya - people spoke of hope. Hope that there will be peace, hope that peace can be found in more than a diplomatic piece of paper, hope that peace will return in their daily lives", he stated. According to UNICEF more than eight million Syrian children are in need of assistance, including six million inside Syria.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/statement-unicef-executive-director-anthony-lake-following-his-visit>

UNHCR warns of imminent humanitarian crisis in Europe

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) warned on 1 March that Europe faces an imminent humanitarian crisis, following a rapid influx of refugees and migrants in already over-stretched Greece. "With governments not working together despite having already reached agreements in a number of areas, and country after country imposing new border restrictions, inconsistent practices are causing unnecessary suffering and risk, being at variance with EU and international law standards," UNHCR spokesperson Adrian Edwards told a press briefing in Geneva. As of 1 March, the number of people needing accommodation had risen to 24,000, he said, noting that 55 per cent of refugees from Syria arriving in Greece were women and children. "It is time for Europe to wake up, either we have a massive orderly relocation from Greece or a repeat of what we saw last year, more chaos and confusion", Mr. Edwards stressed. UNHCR is supporting the response operation and has set up field offices in eight locations and deployed additional staff including mobile emergency teams.

<http://www.unhcr.org/56d58c146.html>

UN food agency resumes assistance for refugees thanks to unprecedented donor support

The World Food Programme (WFP) announced on 29 February the resumption of food assistance for refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt following the record US\$675 million pledged by donors at the London conference. "On behalf of the Syrian people whose lives have been torn apart by the conflict, we thank those world leaders who stepped up in London. Their generosity means we are able to fully meet the immediate basic food assistance needs of 1.8 million refugees in the region and 4.5 million Syrians inside the country," said WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin. The funds will also enable WFP to provide a full food basket for families inside Syria from April until October 2016.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-restores-full-rations-syrian-people-thanks-unprecedented-donor-support>

Critically needed aid reaches Palestine refugees for the third consecutive week

For a third consecutive week, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) continued to deliver humanitarian assistance to civilians in the areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Sahem, south of Damascus. Since 13 February, more than 5,700 families have received food parcels, blankets and hygiene kits. The resumption of deliveries occurred following eight months of impeded access. UNRWA seeks to deploy mobile health teams to provide immediate care and begin larger needs assessment.

<http://www.unrwa.org/galleries/photos/much-needed-aid-reaches-palestine-refugees-yalda-second-consecutive-week>

Thousands of people at risk of starvation in Syria, warns High Commissioner for Human Rights

Opening the 31st Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 29 February, High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Al Hussein warned that thousands of people were at risk of starving to death in Syria. He said that more than 450,000 people are currently trapped in besieged towns and villages, and food, medicine and other urgently needed aid is repeatedly obstructed. The UN human rights chief recalled that under international human rights law, the deliberate starvation of people is unequivocally forbidden as a weapon of warfare.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=17102&LangID=E>

UN Radio in Arabic

Rima, child No. 5000 in Zaatari refugee camp, Jordan, is in good health

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/193389/#.VtcX-vkrKUK>

President of the Saudi Human Rights Commission: The Kingdom has received 2.5 million Syrians since the beginning of the crisis

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/193362/#.VtcYL_krKUK

Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura announces resumption of Syrian talks on March 9

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/193321/#.VtcYrfrkrKUK>

Sidra and Rama lost their mom and dad due to the Syrian war

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/193231/#.VtcY6vkrKUK>

Ban Ki moon: Cessation of hostilities in Syria still holding to a large extent

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/193206/#.VtcZLPkrKUK>

WFP will resume delivery of full food rations to the Syrian people, thanks to unprecedented donor support

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/193192/#.VtcbjvkrKUK>

WHO calls for improving access to besieged areas in Syria

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/193175/#.Vtcby_krKUK

de Mistura: We are at a crossroads and there is a possibility of turning the page in the Syrian conflict

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/193099/#.Vtcc6PkrKUK>

Russia-US brokered agreement about cessation of hostilities in Syria got 15 votes in favour

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/193089/#.VtcdCvkrKUK>

Six important facts in the international report on foreign terrorist fighters

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/193065/#.VtcdWvkrKUK>

Blue dot hubs to protect most vulnerable children and their families along migration routes in Europe

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/192977/#.VtcekvkrKUK>

FACEBOOK

In the last five years, the Palestine refugees of Syria have experienced tremendous hardship with over 60 per cent of the 560,000 registered with UNRWA displaced throughout Syria and further afield. The conflict has been deadly, claiming the lives of over 250,000 civilians, including over 30 Palestinians just last week in areas surroundings Qabr Essit and Khan Esheikh camps. [#Syria5Years #RememberUs](https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1045547938825106/?type=3&theater)
<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1045547938825106/?type=3&theater> – 2 March

"I left Syria because the life is so difficult there. There is a war and you can't live there and that's the reason why I am leaving to Britain. I also want to see if I can bring my family. I am thinking of my family in Syria. Life there is very, very difficult."

-- 16-year-old Ahmed on the situation in Dara'a, Syria where he's from. Thanks to a recent UK court ruling, he was able to reunite with his older brother in the UK.

Here's their story.

<https://www.facebook.com/UNHCR/videos/vb.13204463437/10154695432893438/?type=2&theater>

-27 February

"Let us pray that this works - it is the best opportunity the Syrian people have had in 5 years to hope for peace"

Speaking to the press in Geneva, UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura announced that following an agreement on a cessation of hostilities in Syria which came into force midnight Friday, he will reconvene the suspended Intra-Syrian Talks in Geneva on 7 March. He spoke just after the Security Council endorsed the cessation of hostilities pact in Syria, see: <http://j.mp/1KRuZZO>

<https://www.facebook.com/UN.Geneva/posts/1005136349532168>

-26 February

"If the cessation of hostilities takes hold effectively, it will have an impact on the acceleration of reaching the people in need in Syria, not only in the besieged areas, but everywhere." UN Syria Envoy Staffan de Mistura, with his Special Advisor Jan Egeland, briefs the press at UN Geneva.

<https://www.facebook.com/UN.Geneva/videos/vb.117939301585215/1004778196234650/?type=2&theater>

-26 February

TWITTER

Thanks to @johnngreen for help raising awareness Syria crisis & @refugees! Help here:

<http://j.mp/1Luxq4G> <https://twitter.com/johngreen/status/704519910852956160> ...

-1 March

Intra #SyriaTalks will resume 9 March at @UNGeneva - UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura <http://goo.gl/yy7uIO> pic.twitter.com/gWeKem38rT

-1 March

Good news! Unprecedented donor support enables @WFP to restore food assistance to Syrians <http://j.mp/1QgRmHk> pic.twitter.com/Ew2yDcMC2c

-1 March

Blue dot safe hubs to boost protection for families on the move in Europe - @refugees
<http://trib.al/FmlVVZ6> pic.twitter.com/ZBFYxQ9k5P

-27 February

On Friday, the UN Security Council endorsed the cessation of hostilities pact in Syria
<http://j.mp/1QmfTbz> https://twitter.com/venezuela_un/status/703330519686242304 ...

-26 February

Taskforce to meet at @UNGeneva on Saturday to see how cessation of hostilities has been able to take hold. #Syria

<https://twitter.com/ungeneva/status/703366422097960960> ...

-26 February

Happening now: Syria Envoy Staffan de Mistura is briefing journalists in @UNGeneva:

<http://j.mp/1Ljshw6>

https://twitter.com/UN_Spokesperson/status/703348209662427137 ...

-26 February

News: Security Council unanimously adopts resolution 2268 endorsing agreement on a cessation of hostilities in Syria <http://j.mp/1UpcDBz>

-26 February

Now addressing Security Council by videoconference from @UNGeneva: Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura, see: <http://j.mp/1UpcDBz>

-26 February

Palestine refugees in #Syria have experienced tremendous hardship in the last five years. #Syria5Years #RememberUs

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/704963751011860480> - 2 March

We remember the victims of the #Syria conflict, especially the Palestine refugees, during these dire times. #Syria5Years #RememberUs

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/704963833803239424> - 2 March

Over 60% of the 560,000 registered Palestine refugees in #Syria are displaced, both internally and further afield. #Syria5Years #RememberUs

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/704964125189914624> - 2 March

INSTAGRAM

Writer, vlogger and @unrefugees supporter John Green is travelling with #UNHCR meet Syrian families living in refugee camps and towns and cities across Jordan.

John sharing some of their extraordinary stories of escape and survival and highlighting the vital role of UNHCR in supporting and protecting refugees.

Regram @johngreenwritesbooks:

... Brothers Beshar, Ganem, and Moataz. Their two oldest siblings (13 and 17) have already had to leave school to pursue work. When you hear about a lost generation of Syrian kids when it comes to education, these are the kids we're concerned about. UN Refugee Agency education programs are woefully underfunded.

#refugeeswelcome UNHCR.org/johngreen

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BCdI05SzDCc/?taken-by=unitednations>

-2 March

Social media campaigns

#RememberUs is a campaign soft-launched on 2 March 2016 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to tell the story of Palestine refugees in Syria after five years of armed conflict. The advocacy and individual fundraising campaign will culminate in the unveiling of a multimedia page, #Syria5Years. In the last five years, the Palestine refugees of Syria have been experiencing tremendous hardship with over 60 per cent of the 560,000 registered with UNRWA displaced throughout Syria and further afield. Through the campaign, UNRWA remembers the victims to the Syrian conflict, in particular the Palestine refugees, many of whom have lost their communities, family members, houses and livelihoods.

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/704964125189914624>

#MyVoiceMySchool- #Myvoicemyschool, running for a second year, is an educational project linking Palestine refugee youth in Syria with their peers in England and Belgium. Through live video conversations and customized teaching materials, students and teachers explore how education can help them meet their future aspirations.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.995861277127106.1073741879.105171192862790/995861320460435/?type=3&theater>

Joint appeal to end suffering in Syria #SyriaCrisis

More than 120 humanitarian organizations and UN agencies issued a joint appeal on 21 January, urging the world to raise their voices and call for an end to the Syria crisis and to the suffering endured by millions of civilians. The appeal outlines a series of immediate, practical steps that can improve humanitarian access and the delivery of aid to those in need inside Syria. People can "[*sign the appeal*](#)" by liking, sharing, and retweeting it.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/more-100-humanitarian-organizations-and-un-agencies-urge-public-join-them-speaking>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWBni3P4Ok8>

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 neighbouring 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](https://www.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/>