



## **Syrian Crisis** **United Nations Response**



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

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### **Secretary-General appeals for greater global solidarity with Syrian refugees**

Speaking at a UNHCR conference on Syrian refugees on 30 March in Geneva, the Secretary-General called for an "exponential increase in global solidarity". "Today, I ask that countries act with solidarity, in the name of our shared humanity, by pledging new and additional pathways for the admission of Syrian refugees. These pathways can include resettlement or humanitarian admission, family reunions, as well as labour or study opportunities", Mr. Ban said. UNHCR is trying to get at least 480,000 Syrian refugees to resettle or find another form of admission in a third country. "The world must step up, with concrete actions and pledges. All countries can do more," the Secretary-General stressed.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=9572>

### **Humanitarian situation remains dire in many besieged areas, warns UN Emergency Relief Coordinator**

UN humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien told the Security Council on 30 March that while there has been recent progress on humanitarian access, the UN continues to face daily obstacles to reach those in need across Syria. "Many of the 4.6 million people in need in besieged and hard-to-reach areas still remain outside our reach due to insecurity and obstructions by the parties. Even where we receive responses, these are often not approved", Mr. O'Brien said. "In 2016 so far, we have only reached some 30 per cent of people in besieged areas and less than 10 per cent of people in hard-to-reach areas", he added, stressing that the humanitarian situation in many of those areas remains critical. "We are still without approval to three besieged areas mere minutes' drive away from UN warehouses in Damascus: namely Duma, East Harasta and Darayya. In Darayya, we continue to receive reports of severe shortages of food, clean water, medicines, and reports of people even forced to eat grass", he told Council members.

[http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/USG\\_ERC%20Stephen%20O'Brien%20Statement%20on%20Syria%20SecCo%2030March2016%20CAD.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/USG_ERC%20Stephen%20O'Brien%20Statement%20on%20Syria%20SecCo%2030March2016%20CAD.pdf)

### **World Bank announces US\$100 million for job creation for refugees in Jordan**

During a joint visit to Jordan with the Secretary-General on 27 March, World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim announced a US\$100 million loan to help create 100,000 new jobs for Syrian refugees and Jordanians alike, in the next five years. "The Jordanian government has done an exceptional job in helping to meet the challenges posed by the large flows of refugees," said Mr. Kim. "It is now up to the international community to do more to help Jordan – and provide it with the innovative financing it needs to continue hosting refugees". The Bank's Board of Directors has agreed to offer Jordan financing at rates usually reserved for the poorest countries because of the extraordinarily difficult situation facing both the refugees and their Jordanian hosts. As part of their visit, both Mr. Ban and Mr. Kim met with refugees from the Zaatari camp as well as with senior Government officials, including King Abdullah II. "I was here at the beginning of the establishment of Zaatari camp and I saw a lot of difference: first of all, much more people, unfortunately, are there without being able to return," Mr. Ban told reporters at

a press conference. While in Jordan, the Secretary-General took part in a dialogue with youth at the University of Jordan in Amman.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/03/27/exceptional-financing-jordan-jobs-syrian-refugees>

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=4445>

### **Secretary-General reiterates UN support for Syrian refugees while visiting Lebanon**

The Secretary-General and President of the World Bank Jim Yong Kim visited the Palestinian camp Nahr el Bared and Syrian refugees in the Beka'a Valley on 25 March as well as a social development centre supported by the UN for marginalized Lebanese. In a press conference at the end of the two-day trip, the Secretary-General stressed that the UN and the World Bank are not settling Syrian refugees permanently in Lebanon, but are helping them settle temporarily until they can feel they can return safely to their home country, Syria.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db160328.doc.htm>

[http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments\\_full.asp?statID=2971#.VvqduXrgWDk](http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2971#.VvqduXrgWDk)

### **Intra-Syrian talks to restart by mid-April**

Speaking to reporters in Geneva at the conclusion of the second round of intra-Syrian talks on 24 March, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura presented a Paper on Points of Commonalities between the two sides. The Envoy stressed that the paper aimed to capture the points of convergence to help him structure the next round of talks and did not constitute a framework document or a negotiating text. "I think by looking at those twelve points you can see that there is a lot of common ground. They are an understanding by the facilitator of what could be, and we believe are likely to be, a common ground", he noted. The paper outlines 12 principles of a political solution covering respect for the sovereignty of Syria, women's participation, political transition, a rejection of terrorism and the safe return of refugees. On the next steps, Mr. de Mistura said he hoped to convene the next round of talks on 9 or 10 April. "The target date starts on the 9<sup>th</sup>, on the 10<sup>th</sup> – can become the 11<sup>th</sup>, depending on the arrivals. We will start talking and meeting at the date that we will be indicating ourselves, which cannot be much later than 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> in my opinion, but could be perhaps the 11<sup>th</sup> of April, because we do not want too much of a gap", he said.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/%28httpNewsByYear\\_en%29/F5D895CE8892EA29C1257F80007978CF?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpNewsByYear_en%29/F5D895CE8892EA29C1257F80007978CF?OpenDocument)

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/%28httpPages%29/8E6FDF778A229D66C1257F800066B7EE?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpPages%29/8E6FDF778A229D66C1257F800066B7EE?OpenDocument)

### **35 UN staff remain detained or missing in Syria**

A total of 35 United Nations staff members continue to be detained or missing in Syria, the majority of whom are UNRWA staff. In a joint statement to mark the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria, Yacoub El Hillo, and the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, Kevin Kennedy, said that since the start of the Syria crisis, 17 UN staff members, 53 Syrian Arab Red Crescent staff members and volunteers, and 8 Palestinian Red Crescent Society staff members and volunteers have lost their lives. In addition, hundreds of medical workers have died in the course of duty. Both humanitarian officials renewed their call on the parties to the conflict to protect and safeguard humanitarian workers, respect their privileges and immunities and protect them at times of conflict.

[http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/joint\\_statement\\_on\\_the\\_international\\_day\\_of\\_solidarity\\_with\\_detained\\_and\\_missing\\_staff\\_members\\_english.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/joint_statement_on_the_international_day_of_solidarity_with_detained_and_missing_staff_members_english.pdf)

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

10 per cent of the 4.8 million Syrian refugees are in need of resettlement

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195757/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195757/index_search.html)

World Bank approves financing of US\$100 million to create jobs for Syrian refugees as well as Jordanians

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195588>

UNHCR grants help to start fixing the old market in the city of Homs

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195720/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195720/index_search.html)

The United Nations hails Jordan for hosting large numbers of Syrian refugees

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195581/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195581/index_search.html)

A message of hope from the United Nations to the Syrian refugees in Lebanon

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195546/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195546/index_search.html)

OCHA in Syria commemorates International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195466/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195466/index_search.html)

In Lebanon, Secretary-General underscores the importance of assistance for the refugees and the host communities

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195437/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/195437/index_search.html)

## **Twitter**

"The best way to offer hope to Syrians is by ending the conflict" - Ban Ki-moon

<http://j.mp/1VTnWCC> pic.twitter.com/FkFoC22E3z-30 March

#UNHCR calls on governments to be part of finding solutions for Syrian @refugees - Wednesday event at @UNGeneva: <http://trib.al/UuARdvm> -30 March

Ban Ki-moon is at @UNGeneva today for the @Refugees Conference. Watch live from 9am CET <http://webtv.un.org> [pic.twitter.com/4raolPIES5](http://pic.twitter.com/4raolPIES5)-30 March

1 in 10 Syrian refugees will need resettling, other solutions in next 3 years <http://trib.al/0VE8s10> via @Refugees [pic.twitter.com/hRVUpAORKJ](http://pic.twitter.com/hRVUpAORKJ)-29 March

News: @UNOCHA says nearly \$19m allocated to partners through Syria Humanitarian Pooled Fund <http://ow.ly/10002M> [pic.twitter.com/6Fbxx3pq4M](http://pic.twitter.com/6Fbxx3pq4M)-28 March

On 30 March, govts have a chance to concretely boost support for #Syrians: <http://trib.al/k0qePL8> via @Refugees [pic.twitter.com/Z2mffSI1XA](http://pic.twitter.com/Z2mffSI1XA)-27 March

Ban Ki-moon visited refugees at @ZaatariCamp, met w/ King & PM in Jordan <http://bit.ly/1ZFzcm7> #ShareHumanity [pic.twitter.com/dsAz3eGMBz](http://pic.twitter.com/dsAz3eGMBz)-27 March

"If opportunities are provided to refugees, a transformation will occur." #UNHCR's @GerDuany at @TEDxPdNations [trib.al/7r16ASo](http://trib.al/7r16ASo)-27 March

On #ShareHumanity trip, ahead of @WHSummit, Ban Ki-moon & @JimKim\_WBG visits refugees at @ZaatariCamp in Jordan. [pic.twitter.com/l8vg6qz7Qx](http://pic.twitter.com/l8vg6qz7Qx)-27 March

Ban Ki-moon & @JimKim\_WBG met King Abdullah, tks Jordan for hosting refugees <http://bit.ly/1eWjzyS> #ShareHumanity <https://twitter.com/RHCJO/status/714076570332344320>-27 March

#ShareHumanity - Ban Ki-moon & @UNYouthEnvoy hear from refugees at the @UN\_Women Oasis in @zaataricamp. #Jordan [pic.twitter.com/aQUvFZ7cvs](http://pic.twitter.com/aQUvFZ7cvs)--27 March

#ShareHumanity: Ban Ki-moon in Lebanon where 1/3 of population are refugees from Syria or Palestine. Photo: @gcwingman [pic.twitter.com/7l7ELTpUQD](http://pic.twitter.com/7l7ELTpUQD)-26 March

In Lebanon, Ban Ki-moon praises country's generosity towards Syrian refugees <http://bit.ly/25nLRym> #ShareHumanity [pic.twitter.com/q5jwVVtFOa](http://pic.twitter.com/q5jwVVtFOa)-25 March

35 UN staff members continue to be detained or missing in Syria. @UNOCHA calls for their immediate release: <http://j.mp/1RBFzHb> -25 March

Meet the 5,000th baby born at #Zaatari @refugees camp clinic: <http://bit.ly/1WtkdKk> via @UNFPA [pic.twitter.com/x9ZS7G3mja](http://pic.twitter.com/x9ZS7G3mja)-25 March

Ban Ki-moon w/ refugees, urges intl community to provide necessary funding <http://bit.ly/25odbwf> #sharehumanity <https://twitter.com/UNICBeirut/status/713263329242820608> ...-25 March

Progress made on humanitarian track for #SyriaTalks, reports UN advisor Jan Egeland <http://bit.ly/1Ps8bey> -24 March

## **FACEBOOK**

"Today, they are refugees. Tomorrow, they can be students, professors, scientists and researchers, workers and caregivers. "Ban Ki-moon speaks powerfully about the potential of refugees - and says attempts to demonize them are "not only offensive, but factually incorrect" - at the opening of the UNHCR Global Responsibility Sharing Conference for Syrian Refugees in Geneva today.

<https://www.facebook.com/UN.Geneva/videos/vb.117939301585215/1028419177203885/?type=2&theater>-30 March

"I want to be a doctor so I can treat people in need." Ghaidaa faces an uncertain future in war-torn Syria, but she still has big, big dreams. The seven year old has been living at the Islamic Charity Association Orphanage in Homs for the past three years with her sister. She loves math and Arabic and possesses a healthy competitive streak.

UNHCR shares her story

<https://www.facebook.com/UNHCR/photos/a.113847718437.119729.13204463437/10154884219413438/?type=3&theater>-29 March

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been in Lebanon with Jim Yong Kim as part of his #ShareHumanity trip ahead of May's World Humanitarian Summit. During the visit, they have met with refugees from Syria and Palestine, and vulnerable Lebanese citizens.

"The main thing is that nobody should be left behind, everybody should work together and the people who are suffering should not be left alone. That is my firm commitment and I will continue to work with Lebanese leaders and people," said the Secretary-General.

<https://www.facebook.com/JimYongKimWBG/videos/vb.1644354869127662/1769301646632983/?type=2&theater>-26 March

The UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, closes the first round of Intra-Syrian Talks at UN Geneva with a message of hope.

<https://www.facebook.com/UN.Geneva/photos/a.175840892461722.36393.117939301585215/1022869044425565/?type=3&theater>-25 March

## **INSTAGRAM**

"I want to be a doctor so I can treat people in need." Ghaidaa faces an uncertain future in war-torn Syria, but she still has big, big dreams. The seven year old has been living at

the Islamic Charity Association Orphanage in Homs for the past three years with her sister. She loves maths and Arabic and possesses a healthy competitive streak. When UNHCR colleagues met Ghaidaa recently, she was unphased by the camera and kept studying hard for her upcoming Arabic exam.

Sadly, the Syrian war is taking a heavy, heavy toll on hundreds of thousands of young children inside Syria. The orphanage currently provides a haven for 56 children ranging from 2 to 20 years. Nearly 100 years old, the orphanage one of the few care facilities in Homs that provides shelter, care and education for children who have lost parents due to the crisis.

The #UnitedNations Refugee Agency supports the orphanage, which makes a huge difference in the children's lives and does incredible work considering the situation inside Syria. This year, #UNHCR is increasing aid and psycho-social work there.

Stay tuned for more stories from the orphanage. @unrefugees / Qusai Alazroni

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BDiqaMwzDD0/?taken-by=unitednations>--29 March

#UnitedNations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his wife, Yoo Soon-taek, meet Zaad from #Syria, at the @unwomen Oasis in Zataari refugee camp, #Jordan, where over 80,000 Syrian refugees have sought shelter. The Secretary-General encouraged 17-year-old Zaad to pursue her dream of becoming an interpreter. "From her face, we were able to see her dreams and aspirations. That really motivated me and we thought again that we should do much more for these young people". Through the "Oasis" initiative, UN Women provides safe spaces for women and girls in the camp to access services earn an income and learn life skills such as Arabic and English literacy, sewing and computing. Over 5,000 women and girls take advantage of the spaces each month.

Millions of Syrian refugees have fled to neighbouring countries during the nearly 5 years of the #SyriaCrisis. The Secretary-General has been in Jordan along with @worldbank President Jim Kim, as part of his #ShareHumanity trip ahead of May's World Humanitarian Summit. #UNWomen Jordan #GlobalGoals #Planet5050

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BDema-KzDPF/?taken-by=unitednations>-27 March

#UnitedNations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visits Hay El-Tanak, Northern #Lebanon. The settlement is home to at least 2400 refugees from different populations, including vulnerable Lebanese and refugees from #Palestine and #Syria. "The international community will support the Syrian refugees temporarily hosted in Lebanon, until the moment they feel they can return safely and securely to Syria. Lebanon can count on our full support for its vulnerable citizens as well as Syrian refugees," he said.

At Nahr El-Bared camp, the Secretary-General spoke with one woman waiting to return home, who was in tears. "I tried to sympathize and console her, but no words can satisfy her, and no words are enough. I am very sad." "The main thing is that nobody should be left behind, everybody should work together and the people who are suffering should not be left alone. That is my firm commitment and I will continue to work with Lebanese leaders and people". The Secretary-General has been in Lebanon as part of his

#ShareHumanity trip ahead of May's World Humanitarian Summit. 📷 @clarkegiles / @gettyreportage

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BDbNCRFTDJD/?taken-by=unitednations>-26 March

### **Social media campaigns**

**#ActofHumanity:** UNICEF launched on 29 March a series of animated films entitled "Unfair Tales" to help frame positive perceptions towards the tens of millions of children and young people on the move globally. The Unfair Tales are part of an initiative, #actofhumanity, emphasising that children are children, no matter where they come from, and that every child has rights and deserves a fair chance.

UNICEF will engage audiences with social media messaging to use the hashtag

#actofhumanity to share stories about refugees and migrant children. The Unfair Tales,

plus the real stories behind the animation and other media assets can be seen at:  
<http://weshare.unicef.org/Package/2AMZIF3BZ9S>

**#RememberUs - #Syria5Years** is an advocacy and fundraising campaign to tell the story of Palestine refugees in Syria after five years of armed conflict. 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. To date, 16 UNRWA staff members have lost their lives in the armed conflict in Syria. This is the largest death toll for any single United Nations agency working in Syria.

<http://www.unrwa.org/syria5years>

Arabic: <http://goo.gl/vVRZRw>

**#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>

**#IamSyrian** is a global engagement campaign on social media platforms launched by the World Food Programme (WFP) at the London Syria conference in February 2016. It offers global citizens the opportunity to show solidarity with the Syrian people by sharing their stories, sending messages of support and demonstrating how the world continues to care about their plight. The campaign will culminate in an exhibition at the UN General Assembly in September 2016.

<https://www.facebook.com/WorldFoodProgramme/photos/a.59121880177.81015.28312410177/10153310768060178/?type=3&theater>

### **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](https://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/](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](http://www.unicef.org/photography/photo_2013.php#UNI82253)

IRIN: <http://www.irinnews.org/photo/>