



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



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

**No. 150/08 June 2016**

### **UN reiterates call for humanitarian access in Syria**

On 8 June, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) received reports of attacks in eastern Aleppo city, hitting two medical facilities and resulting in dozens of deaths and injuries, said the UN spokesperson. The recent escalation of violence in Aleppo and surrounding areas since late April has resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of people, many of them children. It has also caused damage to schools, hospitals and other civilian infrastructure, and hindered humanitarian aid operations. He said that the UN consistently condemns attacks on civilians, civilian infrastructure and the violence that is leading to more unnecessary suffering. Such attacks can constitute violations of international humanitarian law. The UN calls on all parties to the conflict to take all measures to protect civilians and facilitate humanitarian access, as required under international humanitarian law, in order to safeguard the lives of all civilians. Meanwhile, the United Nations has requested access to reach 17 besieged areas under the June inter-agency convoy plan. The convoys have now received approval for Daraya, Douma and Moadamiyeh; in all, we have received approvals for 15 of the 17 locations requested under the June plan. The only besieged locations where we have not received approval are Al Wa'er in Homs and Zabadani in Rural Damascus.

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

### **UN advisor foresees more humanitarian deliveries this month to besieged areas in Syria**

United Nations Senior Advisor Jan Egeland said on 2 June that there are plans to go to 11 besieged areas in Syria in the next few days, following the delivery the day before of humanitarian supplies in the city of Darayya for the first time since it was besieged in 2012. Speaking to the press in Geneva at the conclusion of a meeting of the humanitarian task force set up by the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) – comprised of the UN, the Arab League, the European Union and 18 countries that have been working on a way forward since late last year – Mr. Egeland said that while May had been a “very bad month” for the humanitarian task force, June seems to be “much better.”

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54120>

[http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp?HighD=6/2/2016&d\\_month=6&d\\_year=2016](http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp?HighD=6/2/2016&d_month=6&d_year=2016)

### **‘Operating space for humanitarian actors is shrinking’ in Syria, UN relief chief warns Security Council**

The top United Nations relief official said on 3 June that he remains extremely concerned about the welfare of civilians across Syria, who he said continue to face “horrific deprivation and violence,” particularly those trapped in besieged areas. Briefing the UN Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria, especially on critical access issues, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O’Brien said he is concerned about people trapped in the towns of Mare’a and Sheikh Issa, as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da’esh) forces advance, and for the people in eastern

Aleppo, and is "appalled" at the mortar attack on the Mseifra camp for internally displaced people in Dar'aa Governorate that occurred this past weekend.

The United Nations continues with its efforts to get humanitarian aid to people in besieged and hard-to-reach areas in Syria. Today, an inter-agency convoy returned to Moadamiyeh in Rural Damascus with food assistance, completing the 1 June delivery for some 45,000 Syrian men, women and children in need. The UN also continues to strongly advocate for food aid to be delivered to Darayya as soon as possible to complete the 1 June delivery that provided medicine, vaccines and nutritional items for children. The situation in Darayya is dire, characterized by severe shortages of food, medicine, medical equipment and supplies, health facilities and personnel.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-and-emergency-relief-40>

<http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/people-across-syria-continue-face-horrific-deprivation-and-violence-says-un->

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54131>

[http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp?HighD=6/3/2016&d\\_month=6&d\\_year=2016](http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp?HighD=6/3/2016&d_month=6&d_year=2016)

### **Ban 'shocked' at scale of grave violations against children detailed in latest report**

In his annual report on children and armed conflict covering the year 2015, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed his shock at the scale of grave violations against children in countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Mr. Ban noted the complex environments created by aerial operations by some Member States' armed forces and international coalitions, which killed and maimed many children. In some cases, State-allied armed groups have recruited and used children and committed other violations.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54134>

### **Syrian and international experts agree on emergency measures to safeguard Syria's heritage**

Some 230 Syrian and international experts joined forces in a two-day meeting to assess damage to cultural heritage sites in Syria, develop methodologies and define priority emergency safeguards for the country's heritage. The expert meeting, held in Berlin from 2 to 4 June, was organized by UNESCO and Germany. Conference participants included leading archaeologists, anthropologists, experts in monument preservation, architects and urban planners. Among them were representatives of the Syrian Antiquities Directorate as well as other scientists and experts from or working in Syria. Participants took stock of the work achieved so far by local and international actors. They proposed practical measures to address damage assessment, mapping and inventories, legal and institutional frameworks, technical assistance, including first aid measures for built heritage, and capacity building, as well as communication and awareness-raising. Concrete measures were identified for historic cities, archaeological sites, museums, movable objects and intangible heritage and added to the UNESCO Recommendations and Road Map, adopted in 2014.

[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/syrian\\_and\\_international\\_experts\\_agree\\_on\\_emergency\\_measures/#.V1hQer cpC70](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/syrian_and_international_experts_agree_on_emergency_measures/#.V1hQer cpC70)

### **UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Ricky Martin calls for greater efforts for children fleeing Syria conflict**

Following a two-day visit to Lebanon, singer Ricky Martin, a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)), called for greater efforts to safeguard the futures of millions of children affected by the Syrian conflict, whose lives have been shaped by displacement, violence and a persistent lack of opportunities. "We are in the

sixth year of a crisis that has impacted the lives of millions of children and their families. An estimated 2.8 million children are now out of school in the region," [said](#) Mr. Martin on 3 June, highlighting that he met children who have been forced to become breadwinners for their families, working up to 12 hours a day.

[http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_91416.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_91416.html)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54130>

### **Escalation of violence in Syria claiming Palestine refugee lives and destroying civilian homes, says UNRWA**

In a statement issued on 8 June, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) deplored the escalation of the armed conflict in Syria, which in recent days has claimed the lives of two Palestine refugees in the northern city of Aleppo and continues to gravely endanger the safety of Palestine refugees in Khan Eshieh camp in southern rural Damascus. On 4 June, at around 15:30 hrs, 14 year-old Baraa Mahmoud Hosin Jomaa was killed in the Al Hamadaniyeh area of Aleppo city when an exploding rocket struck his home. He died at a time when the area was hit by a barrage of munitions causing tens of deaths and casualties. On 5 June, at approximately 10:30 hrs, Khairieh Zohir Siam, aged 41 years, was struck by a bullet from a sniper rifle while she was travelling in a commercial mini-bus in the Al Ramoseh area in Aleppo city. UNRWA strongly condemns the parties responsible for these deaths. The thoughts and condolences of UNRWA staff are with the bereaved families.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/escalation-violence-syria-claiming-palestine-refugee-lives-and>

### **Droughts and persisting conflicts exacerbate global food needs, says FAO**

Droughts linked to El Niño and civil conflicts have pushed the number of countries currently in need of external food assistance up to 37 from 34 in March, a new report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has found. The new edition of the Crop Prospects and Food Situation report, which came out on 2 June, adds Papua New Guinea, Haiti and Nigeria to the list of countries requiring outside help to feed their own populations or communities of refugees they are hosting.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54114>

<http://www.fao.org/GIEWS/ENGLISH/cpfs/index.htm>

### **Ramadan pulls despair of millions of Syrians into sharp focus**

For Abu Ahmad, Ramadan got off to a shaky start this year. As the 44-year-old from Homs and his family looked forward to breaking their first day of fasting with the traditional *iftar* meal in their small apartment in the Jordanian capital, Amman, the gas for their cooker ran out. "This month I am covered in debt, and I didn't even have the seven dinars (US\$10) for a new gas bottle. I had to go to our Jordanian neighbours and borrow the money so that we could eat," he told UNHCR, the UN refugee agency.

Back in Syria, Abu Ahmad described Ramadan as a special time, when his extended family would come together to perform evening prayers and, after breaking their fast, spend long nights in the parks that dotted their neighbourhood of Homs, buying sweets and other treats for their children.

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2016/6/5756bff44/ramadan-pulls-despair-millions-syrians-sharp-focus.html>

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

Air drop aid to the besieged Daraya in Syria is not off the table

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203919/#.V1hB8\\_krKUK](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203919/#.V1hB8_krKUK)

Jordanian official: our motives for hosting refugees are deeper than implementing international conventions, but our capacity to cope dwindling

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203886/#.V1hCV\\_krKUK](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203886/#.V1hCV_krKUK)

Wafa' Story: She lost her son in Syria and was forced to flee with her other children to Turkey

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203882/#.V1hDCvkrKUK>

WHO condemns attack on Ihsan Charity association in Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203775/#.V1hD1fkrKUK>

UNESCO and Kuwait sign agreement to provide education for Syrians children in Lebanon

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203754/#.V1hEMvkrKUK>

Ricky Martin in Lebanon: "the courage of children refugees is inspirational"

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203685/#.V1hEsPkrKUK>

O'Brien: The siege in Syria is a deliberate policy used by the parties that can be undone if there is political will

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203673/#.V1hE6PkrKUK>

Juliette Touma: stopping the vaccination campaign in Syria put lot of children at risk

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203544/#.V1hFYPkrKUK>

The situation in Syria and the two states solution were the two areas of discussion between the Secretary-General and Secretary of State Kerry

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203537/#.V1hFk\\_krKUK](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203537/#.V1hFk_krKUK)

UNICEF appeals to all parties to the Syrian conflict to provide access to the affected areas without conditions or obstacles

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203531/#.V1hF4\\_krKUK](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203531/#.V1hF4_krKUK)

Egeland: food distribution in Daraya is a "test" for continuing the humanitarian operations in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203434/#.V1hGLfkrKUK>

UNICEF and WHO urge parties in Syria to end violence so they can continue campaign to vaccinate children

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203366/>

ILO DG visited Harran camp in Turkey to see training programs for Syrian refugees

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203271/#.V1hHJvkrKUK>

UN convoys were finally able to enter Daraya and Moadamieh in Syria

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203323/#.V1hHx\\_krKUK](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/203323/#.V1hHx_krKUK)

## **Facebook**

"As we enter the holy month of Ramadan, I urged all parties to the [Syrian] conflict to not just reflect on Islam's core values of charity, mercy and peace, but to use this moment to apply these values to improve the situation of those innocent civilians who suffer so terribly in this conflict." - UN Humanitarian Chief, Stephen O'Brien

<http://ow.ly/2xX7300Ytah>

<https://www.facebook.com/UNOCHA/photos/a.144296522253272.26451.135156639833927/1391247957558116/?type=3&theater>

6 June

Ramadan Kareem.

"Millions of men, women and children are observing the Holy Month amid fierce conflict, uprooted from their homes, and seeking basic safety and protection. My thoughts are with them, as well as the communities that so generously host them year after year."

Watch this Ramadan video message from our High Commissioner, Filippo Grandi.

<https://www.facebook.com/UNHCR/videos/10155089020948438/>

6 June

### **Twitter**

@OCHA\_Syria

As the world marks the holy month of #Ramadan, we wish for peace and compassion for people in #Syria.

[https://twitter.com/OCHA\\_Syria/status/739781149019496448](https://twitter.com/OCHA_Syria/status/739781149019496448)

6 June

@UN

.@UNICEF Ambassador @ricky\_martin met refugee children in Lebanon

<http://uni.cf/1TSRmlv> #UN4RefugeesMigrants

<https://twitter.com/UN/status/739518413513494530>

5 June

@UN\_Women

Meet a young woman dreaming of a better future in @ZaatariCamp, where we provide safe spaces <http://ow.ly/hxMj300LzIZ>

[https://twitter.com/UN\\_Women/status/739042811803250688](https://twitter.com/UN_Women/status/739042811803250688)

4 June

@Refugees

"I'm not a person who likes to sit around. I have talents that no ordinary person has"

<http://trib.al/22wyj69>

<https://twitter.com/Refugees/status/739180449445076993>

4 June

@UNESCO

NEWS: Syrian & international experts agree on emergency measures to safeguard

Syria's heritage <http://on.unesco.org/1VDPBYU> #Unite4Heritage

<https://twitter.com/UNESCO/status/739154893252919297>

4 June

@UNICEF

We risk losing chance to vaccinate 1m #childrenofSyria as violence escalates- UNICEF &

@WHO <http://uni.cf/20VhkDU>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEF/status/738723217133686784>

3 June

@phumzileunwomen

.@UN\_Women's @HibaQasas on need for Syrian women's leadership in peace

negotiations: <http://ow.ly/2Sys300M8ps>

<https://twitter.com/phumzileunwomen/status/738729559416307712>

3 June

@UN\_News\_Centre

.@UN advisor foresees more #humanitarian deliveries this month to besieged areas in #Syria <http://ow.ly/aMOt300RsmD>

[https://twitter.com/UN\\_News\\_Centre/status/738473400428036096](https://twitter.com/UN_News_Centre/status/738473400428036096)

2 June

## **Social media campaigns**

**@ShareTheMeal:** On 27 April, WFP announced its award-winning phone application would support fundraising efforts for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. ShareTheMeal's fundraising goal in Lebanon will support 1,400 refugee children aged 3–4 in Beirut for a full year. Through the app, smartphone users can join thousands of other people in making donations and support a selected community and monitor progress. Since November 2015, the app has been available globally and has received several awards for its design and innovative character.

[www.sharethemeal.org](http://www.sharethemeal.org)

**#ActofHumanity:** UNICEF launched on 29 March a series of animated films entitled "Unfairy Tales" to help frame positive perceptions towards the tens of millions of children and young people on the move globally. The Unfairy 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 Unfairy 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>

**#Unite4Heritage** is a global movement run by UNESCO that aims to celebrate and safeguard cultural heritage and diversity around the world. Launched in response to the unprecedented attacks on world heritage sites, the campaign calls on everyone to stand up against extremism and radicalization by celebrating the places, objects and cultural traditions that make the world such a rich and vibrant place.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1254/>

## **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 :**

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://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/>

UNESCO: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/syria-crisis-response/>

UNESCO Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage Project:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/beirut/areas-of-action/culture/syria/emergency-safeguarding-of-the-syrian-heritage/>

UNESCO Observatory of Syrian Cultural Heritage <https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/>

UNESCO Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/syria-crisis-response/bridging-learning-gaps/>

### **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/>