



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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UN senior officials brief General Assembly on Syria

Addressing a special meeting of the General Assembly on 21 June, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura said that political talks cannot proceed effectively while hostilities are escalating and civilians are starving. While noting that access to besieged and hard-to-reach areas had improved, this was not near the pace and the volume required to address the needs of all Syrians. Mr. de Mistura expressed concerns that in recent weeks areas where there had been a breakthrough of delivering humanitarian aid had been shelled before or after the convoys had reached or departed. Also briefing the General Assembly, Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien provided an update on ongoing humanitarian efforts in Syria. "Warring parties have displayed a brazen and brutal disregard for international and human rights law, using indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks including the use of barrel bombs in populated areas, which are the primary cause of civilian deaths and injuries", he stated. Assistant High Commissioner for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic described attacks on medical facilities. He stressed that even in the parts of Syria that still provide medical care, people may be too scared to seek help.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/439DB3CDB4856F3DC1257FDA0034B6B3?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/439DB3CDB4856F3DC1257FDA0034B6B3?OpenDocument)

<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/USG%20ERC%20Stephen%20OBrien%20Statement%20on%20Syria%20to%20GA%2021June16%20CAD.pdf>

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20154&LangID=E>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54283#.V2mqpuTgW3Y>

Secretary-General condemns attacks against Jordanian border guard post

The Secretary-General condemned on 21 June the terrorist attack against a Jordanian border guard post at the north-eastern border with Syria. In a statement, he voiced concerns that the attack took place opposite a camp where Syrian asylum seekers await entry into Jordan. The Secretary-General offered his condolences to the families of the victims and urged all Governments to strengthen their efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, and to support the Government of Jordan in this context.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=9825>

UN aid convoy reaches besieged areas near Damascus

A UN inter-agency convoy delivered food, nutrition and health assistance for 25,000 people to two besieged locations and three hard-to-reach communities in Kafr Batna on the outskirts of Damascus on 19 June. The last convoys to Kafr Batna were in mid-April. Since the beginning of 2016, nearly 850,000 people in hard-to-reach areas, including more than 330,000 people in besieged locations, have received assistance through UN inter-agency operations.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db160620.doc.htm>

Secretary-General discusses Syria with President Putin

During a meeting with Russian President Putin on 17 June in St. Petersburg, the Secretary-General discussed the situation in Syria. They shared the sense of urgency in advancing the political process and exchanged views on the role of the bilateral Russia-US dialogue in that regard. They also welcomed developments related to improved humanitarian access, the Secretary-General hoping that all besieged areas will soon be reached.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=4579>

ISIS is committing genocide against Yazidis

ISIS is committing genocide against Yazidis, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria said in a report released on 16 June. The investigative panel also found that ISIS abuse of Yazidis amounts to crimes against humanity and war crimes. The report says that ISIS sought – and continues to seek – to destroy the Yazidis in multiple ways, including through killings, sexual slavery, enslavement, torture and inhuman and degrading treatment and forcible transfer, forced conversion of adults and the transfer of Yazidi children from their own families, among other steps. Thousands of women and girls, some as young as nine, have been sold in slave markets, or “souk sabaya”. The Commission urged international recognition of the genocide, and stated that more must be done to assure the protection of this religious minority in the Middle East.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20113&LangID=E>

UNESCO deplores death of journalist Osama Jumaa in Syria

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova denounced on 16 June the killing of journalist Osama Jumaa in the city of Aleppo. “I call on all parties in the conflict to respect the Geneva Conventions on the civilian status of journalists and their right to exercise their profession”, Ms. Bokova said. Jumaa was killed on 5 June when artillery fire hit an ambulance in which he was being treated for injuries sustained while covering the bombing of a residential neighbourhood of Aleppo.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/syria-crisis-response/regional-response/single-view/news/director-general-deplores-death-of-journalist-osama-jumaa-in/#.V2quFaLgW3Y>

UNRWA extends cash assistance for basic needs for Palestine refugees from Syria in Lebanon

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) announced on 15 June that thanks to the contributions of donors who have supported the agency’s cash assistance programme under the 2016 Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal – particularly the Governments of France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States – the agency is able to extend the provision of cash assistance towards basic needs, including housing, to eligible Palestine refugees from Syria until the end of October 2016.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-extends-cash-assistance-basic-needs-palestine-refugees-syria-lebanon>

UN Radio in Arabic

Ban Ki-moon condemns the terrorist attack on the Jordanian/ Syrian borders
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/205654/#.V2qoZfkrKUK>

Syrians want peace, the rule of law and human rights - Ivan Simonovic
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/205591/#.V2qopfkrKUK>

Special Envoy de Mistura says joint international action is achieving results at various levels in Syria

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/205514/#.V2qo5_krKUK

UNESCO condemns the killing of a Syrian journalist inside the ambulance while he was receiving treatment

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/205454/#.V2qpPPkrKUK>

Since the beginning of Ramadan, the application of "share the meal" feed 1400 Syrian refugees children in Beirut

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/205343/#.V2qpovkrKUK>

Sawsan's family is dispersed between Syria, Turkey and Germany, but she still has high hopes to reunite with the support of the other refugee and civil society

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/205334/#.V2qp7vkrKUK>

Small projects to enable Syrian women refugees invest in their future

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/205146/#.V2qrSvkrKUK>

Aid reaches 87,000 people in the besieged areas of Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/205070/#.V2qrivkrKUK>

Jan Egeland: progress is made in the delivery of humanitarian aid in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/205023/#.V2qr5vkrKUK>

United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Syria: ISIS is committing genocide against the Yazidis

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/204951/#.V2qsIvkrKUK>

Twitter

@OCHA_Syria 21 June

On #WorldRefugeeDay in #Syria, @refugees invite displaced Syrians to a #Ramadan Iftar meal <http://goo.gl/tsQHh3>

@UNRWA 21 June

So far, we have delivered food to over a thousand Palestine refugee families this Ramadan. Thank you.

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/745226065128333313>

@OCHA_Syria 20 June

Mission completed: humanitarian aid delivered to besieged and hard-to-reach towns in #KafrBatna #EastGhouta #Syria

United Nations@UN 20 June

6 years into the #Syriacrisis, watch and share this video to say you stand #withrefugees <https://youtu.be/qWfvYqBW0xo> #UN4RefugeesMigrants

United Nations Retweeted UN Women @UN_Women 20 June

Half of #SyrianRefugees are women&girls. How we support them:

<http://owl.li/AGJu301nLOb> #WithRefugees #WorldRefugeeDay

@UNRWA 20 June

There are almost a million Palestine refugees in Gaza and over 430,000 in Syria – all in need of our help.

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/744960760883847168>

@UNRWA 18 June

#Palestine refugees: "Another generation is facing the trauma of lost homes and family members" @PKraehenbuehl

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/744229961054052352>

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson 17 June

Ban Ki-moon & #Russia President, Vladimir Putin discuss the situation in #Syria

<http://bit.ly/1WR2rnH> @SPIEF

@UNRWA 17 June

"I am deeply impressed by the will and dedication of young #Palestine refugees to get an #education" @PKraehenbuehl

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/743865905470279681>

United Nations Retweeted

UN Human Rights @UNHumanRights 16 June

#ISIS is committing genocide against #Yazidis -new UN Commission of Inquiry on #Syria report <http://ow.ly/V7W2301jLih>

Facebook

Today is World Refugee Day – a day on which we ask that more than ever you stand with us to provide a #GiftofHope to Palestine refugees living in constant fear of conflict in Syria. Please watch and share this short video to show how you can help Palestine refugees in Syria this World Refugee Day, and throughout the holy month of Ramadan. We truly appreciate your support. #GiftofHope #WithRefugees

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/videos/1115764681803431/>

Today is World Refugee Day when more than ever we are thinking about Palestine refugees in Syria who are living in fear of conflict. Please join us on World Refugee Day and two weeks into the holy month of Ramadan, by providing them with a #GiftofHope. You can help us to deliver food to people who need it most and at the same time, show them that someone cares and give them hope for a better tomorrow.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1115622541817645/?type=3>

Our cash assistance programme allows Palestine refugees in difficult conditions - such as those displaced from Syria - to maintain dignity and autonomy, and to choose how to best provide for their families

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1082949178418315/?type=3>

We are 12 days into our Ramadan campaign and many of you have already given a #GiftofHope to Palestine refugee families living in Syria and Gaza. Your donations are helping us to deliver food to people who really need it, so thank you so much for your support. You can still donate here and help to ensure more and more Palestine refugees are given the gift of food – and hope – this Ramadan.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1114907191889180/?type=3>

Around 2,946 Palestine refugees and Syrians are displaced in 12 temporary collective shelters managed and/or supported by UNRWA across Syria.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1112246482155251/?type=3>

Social media campaigns

#GiftofHope

UNRWA launched a #GiftofHope fundraising campaign on 6 June that will run throughout the holy month of Ramadan. The campaign, which focuses on raising funds for food for close to a million Palestine refugees in Gaza and over 430,000 in Syria who are living in dire need of assistance, will run mainly across the Agency's social media platforms.

<https://donate.unrwa.org/en-us/ramadan>

@ShareTheMeal: In April 2016, the World Food Programme launched its phone application to support fundraising efforts for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. ShareTheMeal's fundraising aims to 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

#ActofHumanity: UNICEF launched in March 2016 a series of animated films entitled "Unfair Tales" to help frame positive perceptions towards the millions of children and young people on the move globally. The Unfair Tales are part of an initiative, #actofhumanity, emphasising that every child has rights and deserves a fair chance. UNICEF will engage audiences through the hashtag #actofhumanity to share stories about refugees and migrant children.

<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 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, 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/

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/>