



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

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More than 900,000 people have received aid in hard-to-reach areas since start of the year

Since the beginning of this year, the UN and partners have delivered humanitarian assistance through inter-agency operations to more than 941,000 Syrian civilians in besieged, hard-to-reach and other priority cross-line locations with dire humanitarian needs. Briefing reporters in New York, UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on 7 July that a total of 64 UN inter-agency convoys have taken place, reaching more than 822,000 people. The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, UNRWA, has also delivered 30 convoys with assistance to 19,000 people, including thousands of residents in and from Yarmouk. In addition, through 64 World Food Programme-led airdrops, 1,140 metric tons of humanitarian supplies have been delivered to besieged parts of western Deir Ezzour city. Since 1 June, airdrops have provided sufficient materials to support more than 42,000 people in need as part of a second round of food distribution, which aims to reach a total of 110,000 beneficiaries. The UN continues to call for unconditional, unimpeded and sustained access to the 5.47 million Syrian men, women and children in hard-to-reach locations, including close to 600,000 in 18 besieged locations.

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

Special Envoy welcomes efforts to consolidate the cessation of hostilities

In a statement on 7 July, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura welcomed all efforts, including by the International Syria Support Group co-chairs through their joint mechanism in Geneva and as part of ongoing efforts to consolidate the several months long cessation of hostilities, to bring about a truce throughout the country. The Envoy continues to closely monitor the situation in Syria. Despite initial reports of potential violations, Mr. de Mistura urged all parties to the cessation of hostilities to abide by these days of silence for the sake of all Syrians. He also extended his wishes to the Syrian people on the occasion of Eid el-Fitr.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/E022C8D5FA17093AC1257FE900356615?OpenDocument&cntxt=F3B02&cookieLang=en](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/E022C8D5FA17093AC1257FE900356615?OpenDocument&cntxt=F3B02&cookieLang=en)

UN calls for immediate aid access to four besieged towns

The United Nations in Syria expressed alarm on 4 July by reports of deteriorating humanitarian conditions and urgent medical evacuation needs in four besieged towns and called for immediate and unconditional access. In a statement, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria Yacoub El Hillo said that the UN and partners have not been able to reach the four towns of Madaya, Foah, Zabadani and Kefraya, where over 62,000 people are besieged. "While parties to the agreement had committed to ensure humanitarian assistance to civilians trapped in the four towns, we have not been able to do so since April," he noted. "We are calling on all parties involved to ensure this doesn't happen again. Immediate and unconditional humanitarian deliveries to the four towns must take place now," he added.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/statement-yacoub-el-hillo-un-residenthumanitarian-coordinator-syria-four>

UNICEF-UNRWA condemn bombing of child friendly space south of Damascus

The latest attack on Khan Eishieh Refugee Camp, home to Palestinian refugees and internally displaced Syrians, is the latest example in the Syria conflict of the inhumane disregard for life, particularly that of children, and infrastructure, UNICEF and UNRWA said in a joint statement on 5 July. The Khan Eishieh camp, located in a rural area south of Damascus, was hit by a barrage of bombs on 3 July reportedly killing civilians and destroying homes as well as a Child Friendly Space. "Nothing justifies attacks on children and civilian facilities on which they depend", the agencies said. The Child Friendly Space, which was destroyed, was a point of respite for over 1,000 children who were coming to it daily to engage in education, psychosocial and recreational activities.

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_91803.html

Syrian refugees face growing poverty, warns UN agency

The number of Syrian refugees living in poverty continues to rise in host countries in the region, according to a report released by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) on 5 July. The report of the 2016 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) found that in Lebanon, the average debt held by refugee households has increased over the first quarter of 2016 and the number of people living below the poverty line has risen to 70 per cent compared to 50 per cent in 2014. In Jordan, 90 per cent of registered Syrian refugees in urban areas are below the national poverty line, while over 67 per cent of families are living in debt. In Egypt, some 62,000 refugees are living in poverty. The agency and its partners have called for more funding to help operations to mitigate further impoverishment of refugees and host communities, noting that as of 31 May the US\$4.55 billion sought under the 3RP was 30 percent funded.

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/7/577b717a4/unhcr-partners-warn-syria-report-growing-poverty-refugee-needs.html>

<http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>

UN refugee agency and ILO sign agreement on helping refugees find work

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) signed on 1 July an agreement aimed at promoting employment opportunities for refugees as well as internally displaced and stateless persons. It focuses on developing better guidance to support Governments to find safe and decent work for refugees and people displaced. The agreement also sets out steps aimed at ensuring the inclusion of refugees in labour markets and development initiatives. Amid increased forced displacement worldwide, several countries have begun to realize the potential for refugees and internally displaced people to contribute to their communities and to the economies, the report said. Turkey has extended the right to work to all refugees. Jordan, meanwhile, has taken a series of steps to improve access to work for Syrian refugees, including through a temporary waiver of work permit fees. UNHCR applauds these efforts and is working with partners around the world to build on them.

<http://www.unhcr.org/577676eb4.html>

Denmark contributes US\$4 million for Syria regional crisis emergency appeal

The Government of Denmark announced on 1 July a generous contribution of US\$4.46 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) towards the 2016 Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal. Welcoming the contribution, the agency said it will help provide vital humanitarian assistance and emergency services to Palestine refugees who have been affected by the Syria crisis, including those who have been displaced internally or to neighbouring Lebanon. In 2016, UNRWA is appealing for US\$414 million to meet the minimum humanitarian needs of Palestine refugees affected by the Syria conflict in the region.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/denmark-announces-dkk-30-million-contribution-towards-2016-syria-regional>

UN Radio in Arabic

UNHCR warns of poverty and the growing needs for Syrian refugees- 5 July

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/207283/index.html#.V35wfPkrLcs>

UNICEF and UNRWA condemn the bombing of a recreational space for children camp- 5 July

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/207295/#.V353HfkrLct>

As the humanitarian situation deteriorates in Fouah, Madaya, Zabadani and Kefraya, Yacoub El-Hillo appeals for immediate and unconditional humanitarian access

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/207205/index.html#.V35w2_krLcs

Facebook

High unemployment has made over 95 per cent of Palestine refugees in Syria reliant on UNRWA for basic necessities such as food, cash stipends and non-food items like blankets, mattresses, baby hygiene and kitchen kits.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1112923245420908/?type=3>

Today, on the International Day of Cooperatives, UNRWA chooses to celebrate the commitment of Faiza Al Awawde. Every day, Faiza takes on a dangerous three hour commute through multiple checkpoints to run the Community Centre of Husseineyeh, Syria. Among different services, the centre comprises a kindergarten ran by volunteers and provides family counselling for victims of gender based violence. "I want to assist the population who have come back to rebuild the community," says Faiza, who was herself displaced away from her home near Damascus.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1123081904405042/?type=3>

Twitter

United Nations @UN – 7 July

Latest update from Special Envoy de Mistura on Syria crisis is here:

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=4609...>

United Nations @UN - 7 July

3 in 4 Syrian refugees are women & children - @UNESCO info is here:

<http://on.unesco.org/29bYhVQ> #UN4RefugeesMigrants

United Nations @UN – 6 July

Humanitarian coordinator alarmed at deteriorating conditions in besieged Syrian towns

<http://ow.ly/aOHS301Xex2>

United Nations Retweeted- 5 July

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria Key milestone during #Ramadan: all besieged areas in #Syria reached w/ aid in 2016. Wishing all a blessed #EidulFitr

United Nations Retweeted- 4 July

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria Jul 4

READ @UN statement calling for immediate & unconditional access to 62,000 besieged civilians in Four Towns #Syria

United Nations Retweeted
UNHCR Washington @UNHCRdc – 4 July
Watch @johnngreen's video with a Syrian refugee family resettled in #Illinois
<http://owl.li/pDQB301wl4T> #WithRefugees

@UNRWA- 2 July
Now, more than ever, Palestine refugee children and their families in Syria and Gaza need your help.
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/749304161112588288>

Social media campaigns

@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/>