



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

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UN humanitarian officials raise alarm at escalating violence in Aleppo

In a joint statement on 13 July, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria Yacoub El Hillo and Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis Kevin Kennedy voiced alarm about the escalating fighting in and around Aleppo city. Since 7 July, they said, the intensification of hostilities between Government forces and non-state armed groups has rendered impassable the only access road to eastern Aleppo city. Government and Kurdish forces have since then reportedly gained control of the majority of Castello road, cutting off humanitarian, commercial and civilian movement in and out of eastern Aleppo city, and putting an estimated 300,000 people closer at risk of besiegement. Government forces also reportedly intensified airstrikes on areas in rural Aleppo, killing at least 19 people in the town of Ibeen and seven people in the town of Shantra on 10 July. From 8 to 11 July, 57 people were reportedly killed including 15 children and 497 were injured. The UN calls on all parties to the conflict to end indiscriminate attack on civilians and to allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Aleppo%20Press%20Statment%20English%2013.7.2016.pdf>

It is critical for parties to commit to political transition, says UN Envoy

As part of his ongoing consultations, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura held bilateral meetings in Rome with Italian authorities on 11 July. He also met with the Head of the High Negotiations Committee, Riad Hijab. Speaking to reporters afterwards, he noted the importance of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) co-chairs, the United States and Russia, and stressed it was critical for the ISSG and the Syrian parties to commit to a serious and meaningful process of political transition.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db160711.doc.htm>

UN food agency airlifts relief supplies to Qamishly

A UN World Food Programme (WFP) flight carrying 40 tons of humanitarian supplies landed in Qamishly airport in Al Hassakeh Governorate on 9 July. The plane was the first of at least 25 rotations between Damascus and Qamishly over the course of a month. "These airlifts are a big step forward in the humanitarian response in Syria this year and brings a glimmer of hope to the people of Al Hassakeh Governorate who have survived without a lifeline for far too long," said Jakob Kern, WFP Country Director. "WFP food stocks in Qamishly were exhausted a few weeks ago, so the first seven airlift rotations will deliver desperately needed food rations and nutrition supplies, with distributions starting within the week". Food distributions will be conducted by WFP's partners on the ground in coordination with local relief committees in 35 distribution points around the governorate covering rural and urban areas.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-airlifts-bring-humanitarian-lifeline-families-northeast-syria>

Facebook group helps Syrian refugees in Lebanon

Since its launch in 2014, the "I am a Syrian in Lebanon" Facebook group has gained 30,000 members and has helped to answer a wide range of questions for Syrian refugees who live in exile in Lebanon. Set up by a Syrian who fled Homs with her husband and four children, the group has become an information platform for seeking assistance provided by UNHCR and its partners. A recent UNHCR survey of 2,000 refugees in Lebanon found the number with access to a mobile phone had grown to 92 per cent, up from 54 per cent when they lived in Syria. Those with access to the internet climbed to 75 per cent from 10 per cent. The Agency publicized the group via its Communication with Communities programme, which informs refugees about support and services via channels or "trees," including WhatsApp and Facebook.

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2016/7/577e16064/facebook-group-helps-syrian-refugees-navigate-life-lebanon.html>

UN Radio in Arabic

OCHA: Fighting in and around the city of Aleppo puts lives of thousands of civilians at risk

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/207965/#.V4ZQcvkrLcs>

UN Syria Envoy stresses need for serious commitment to a political transition by the parties to the conflict

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/207864/#.V4ZQePkrLcs>

WFP airlifts extends aid lifeline for families in north-eastern Syria

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/207793/index.html#.V4ZLM_krLcs

Recent clashes in Aleppo are endangering civilians and hampering the delivery of aid, warns the OCHA

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/207695/index.html#.V4ZLgfkrlcs>

Twitter

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria 13 July

READ @UN statement on escalating violence in #Aleppo #Syria putting hundreds of thousands at risk of death & injury

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria 12 July

Humanitarian community is very concerned about the spread of hostilities across #Aleppo #Syria putting the lives of all civilians at risk

United Nations Retweeted

WFP Middle East @WFP_MENA 10 July

#Syria: The 1st @WFP-chartered plane w/ 40 MT of food for families in Al Hassakeh governorate lands in Qamishli

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria 9 July

#UN extremely concerned about situation in #Aleppo #Syria, calls on all parties to the conflict to protect civilians <http://ow.ly/ZMqv3024RAA>

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria 9 July

Fighting in east #Aleppo #Syria putting an est. 300,000 civilians at risk of death & injury & cutting access to aid <http://ow.ly/ZMqv3024RAA>

Facebook

On World Population Day, we salute the courage of refugee populations in Syria. The armed conflict has displaced 60 per cent of the 560,000 registered Palestine refugees in Syria from their homes, and nearly all of them are in need of immediate assistance.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1125541207492445/?type=3>

UNRWA supports Palestine refugee entrepreneurship through its microfinance programme. In the past year, the volume of active loans provided by UNRWA in Syria increased by 108 per cent. Thirty per cent of loan recipients are women.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1125540324159200/?type=3>

Since the beginning of the crisis, life expectancy in Syria has dropped by 20 years. UNRWA health services are a lifeline to the 450,000 Palestine refugees who remain in the country.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1125539970825902/?type=3>

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/>