



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



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

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### **WHO condemns multiple attacks on Syrian hospitals**

The World Health Organization (WHO) condemned on 19 July the attacks on hospitals in Aleppo and Idlib governorates. It also offered its condolences to the families and colleagues of the health staff and patients killed in the number of attacks that have taken place in the last few weeks. On 16 July, Omar Ibn Abdel Aziz hospital, located in Al-Maadi neighbourhood in the eastern part of Aleppo city, was hit and a number of medical staff reportedly injured. The hospital had also been reportedly hit a few days earlier, sustaining significant damage to infrastructure. In total, Omar Ibn Abdel Aziz hospital has been hit three times since June 2016. These latest events represent a serious setback for the affected community and an additional challenge to humanitarian work in Syria. "It is unacceptable that such attacks on health care, which violate international humanitarian law, are increasing in both frequency and scale said the agency in a statement, urging once again all parties in the conflict to respect the safety and neutrality of health workers and health facilities", WHO said.

<http://www.emro.who.int/media/news/who-condemns-multiple-attacks-on-syrian-hospitals.html>

### **Continued violence in Aleppo city is causing numerous civilian deaths**

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on 18 July warned that continued aerial attacks on east Aleppo city and hundreds of mortars and projectiles launched on west Aleppo city had caused numerous civilian deaths and injuries in the past week. Due to the closure of the Castello road, the last access road into east Aleppo city, humanitarian assistance and commodities cannot get in. The freedom of movement of an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 people in east Aleppo in urgent need of assistance is also curtailed. While there is enough food in east Aleppo city for at least 145,000 people for one month and enough essential medical supplies for approximately four months, rationing of supplies has already been reported. The Office urged safe, unimpeded, and sustained humanitarian access into east Aleppo city to save lives and reduce suffering.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db160718>

### **UN convoy delivers aid in Rural Damascus**

An inter-agency humanitarian convoy delivered much needed life-saving assistance to 15,000 people in the hard-to-reach town of Serghaya, in Rural Damascus on 19 July. The convoy carried food, education and health kits, water, sanitation and hygiene, and other basic relief items. The town was last reached in February 2016.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db160719.doc.htm>

### **Halfway through the year, UNRWA renews its call for funding for Palestine refugees in Syria**

In a statement on 19 July, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said that its crucial work to provide humanitarian support to Palestine refugees affected by the Syria conflict was under threat due to funding shortage. UNRWA said that to date the 2016 Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal remains only 30 percent funded. The agency added that it depends on the renewed commitment of its generous donors to help fill the gap.

<http://www.unrwa.org/galleries/photos/halfway-through-year-unrwa-renews-its-call-funding-palestine-refugees-syria>

### **UNRWA commemorates death of staff member in Aleppo**

In the early evening of 17 July, Yaser Mahmoud Shuaeeb, a driver for UNRWA in Aleppo, was struck by shrapnel fragments in his back as he was getting off a bus on Nile Street on his way home. The 45-year-old subsequently succumbed to his injuries, bringing the death toll of UNRWA staff to 18. UNRWA sends its heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-deplores-loss-life-syria-it-commemorates-death-staff-member-aleppo>

### **At least 200,000 civilians in dire situation in three Syrian towns, UN Human Rights Chief**

Human Rights Chief Zeid Ra'ad Hussein expressed alarm on 15 July about the increasingly desperate situation of at least 200,000 civilians trapped in three towns in Syria where attacking forces have been making significant headway in recent weeks. "We believe there are at least 150,000 civilians who are now effectively totally trapped in the opposition-held part of Aleppo. We are deeply worried about what will happen to them as the fighting closes in and intensifies, while the already minimal supplies of food, water and medicine have run out", he said. He also voiced concerns about the situation of civilians in Darayya, near Damascus, which has been under siege by Government forces and their allies since 2012 as well as in Manbij in the eastern rural area of Aleppo Governorate. The High Commissioner urged all the forces advancing on Aleppo, Darayya and Manbij, as well as those fighting in other parts of Syria, not to harm the many hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped in the conflict zones.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20271&LangID=E>

### **Special Envoy de Mistura vows progress in diplomatic efforts**

Speaking to reporters in Geneva on 14 July, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura said he hoped that an agreement will be reached between the two co-chairs of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) - Russia and the United States- to help the political and humanitarian processes. "There is a lot of informal diplomacy taking place and I think the next few days are crucial in order to make sure that we know where they stand. When the two co-chairs agree on something, as you know, that helps a lot the political process and even the humanitarian", he said. The Envoy stressed the importance of reaching consensus in order to "give a concrete and effective start" to the third round of Intra-Syrian talks, which are targeted to start by early August.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear\\_en\)/EBE4F8358A065747C1257FF10029A6C4?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/EBE4F8358A065747C1257FF10029A6C4?OpenDocument)

## **UN Radio in Arabic**

WHO condemns attacks on hospitals in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/208726/index.html#.V4-0EPmDFHw>

سوريا في الامس تشهديات على الهجمات تدين العالمية الصحة منظمة

2016/07/19

UNRWA reiterates appeal for funding for the Palestine refugees in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/208765/index.html#.V4-4FbccTVg>

سوريا في فلسطين لاجئي من تمويل على ل الحصول نداءهتت جد الأونروا

2016/07/19

Zeid Ra'ad Al-Husseini raises alarm about 200,000 civilians trapped in three Syrian cities

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/208359/index.html#.V4-](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/208359/index.html#.V4-ODPmDFHw)

[ODPmDFHw](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/208359/index.html#.V4-ODPmDFHw)

سورية مدن ثلاث في محاصرين منذى ألف منتي بشأن الاخطر ناقوس يدق الحسد بين رعد زيد

2016/07/15

## **Facebook**

Over five and a half years into the conflict in Syria, young Palestine refugees are losing opportunities to further their education and access employment. To reverse this, the 'Engaging Youth' project, funded by the European Union, provides young people with vocational training, language and computer literacy courses, career guidance and business development advice.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1125542044159028/?type=3&theater>

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&theater>

## **Twitter**

UN News Centre @UN\_News\_Centre – 19 July

#Syria: Food convoy reaches Serghaya; @UN agencies urge protection of aid workers and sites <http://ow.ly/Xb4n302pjiY>

United Nations Retweeted- 17 July

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria

Violence continues in #Aleppo city #Syria causing numerous civilian casualties and injuries <http://ow.ly/ahud302ktI>

United Nations Retweeted

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria – 15 July

At least 200,000 civilians in dire straits as noose tightens on #Aleppo #Daraya #Manbij #Syria says @UNHumanRights <http://ow.ly/TQVa302jyDp>

United Nations Retweeted- 14 July

UN Geneva @UNGeneva

Transcript of a press stakeout by @UN Envoy for #Syria, @NRC\_Egeland & @WHO Rep. Hoff: <https://is.gd/juqTBS>

### **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](http://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](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/>