



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

No. 173/ 23 November 2016

UN aid deliveries resume along Syrian-Jordan border

UN inter-agency aid operations at the “berm” along the Syrian-Jordan border were resumed on 22 November. Food and essential supplies were delivered to approximately 170 households in the Rukban community in preparation for the winter months as part of a planned two-week distribution cycle. In a statement, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O’Brien welcomed the operation and praised the continued partnership and support of the Government of Jordan.

https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/ERC%20USG%20Stephen%20OBrien%20on%20Syria_22%20November2016.pdf

More than one million Syrians live in besieged areas

Briefing the Security Council on 21 November, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O’Brien reported that an estimated one million people are now living under siege in Syria. The UN Relief Chief highlighted the worsening humanitarian situation, noting that the suffering of civilians in Aleppo and across Syria rages on unabated. “Horror is now usual – it is a level of violence and destruction that the world appears to consider normal for Syria”. “Shame on us all for not acting to stop the annihilation of eastern Aleppo and its people and much of the rest of Syria too”, Mr. O’Brien told Council members. He added that he had long called for a lifting of all sieges, which have become one of the most prevalent and insidious aspects of the conflict.

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ERC_USG%20Stephen%20O%27Brien%20Statement%20on%20Syria%20to%20SecCo%2021NOV2016%20CAD.pdf
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55619>

Special Envoy meets with Syrian Foreign Minister in Damascus

As part of his ongoing consultations, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura visited Damascus on 20 November where he met with Foreign Minister Walid al Mouallem. Speaking to reporters afterwards, Mr. de Mistura expressed outrage about reports of several hospitals being heavily bombed by airstrikes in Aleppo. Noting that the Foreign Minister had denied that Syrian aerial attacks had struck any medical facilities, the Envoy suggested that the UN be allowed to send a verification team to examine the damage done to hospitals in eastern and western Aleppo. He stressed that the United Nations had not received approval from the Syrian Government on a four-point humanitarian plan, including medical evacuation of severely wounded people from eastern Aleppo, distributions of medicines as well as food supplies and a rotation of doctors to the besieged city.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/D518B0A02A5B99BEC1258072002FA65A?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/D518B0A02A5B99BEC1258072002FA65A?OpenDocument)

Secretary-General urges all sides to halt aerial attacks on schools, calls for accountability

Amid intensifying air assaults in areas of Aleppo governorate and eastern Aleppo city, the Secretary-General on 20 November condemned the indiscriminate shelling, including strikes on schools said to have killed a number of children. The Secretary-General reminded all parties to the conflict that targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure is a war crime, urging all sides to immediately cease any such attacks. "Those responsible for these and other atrocities in Syria, whoever and wherever they are, must one day be brought to account", he stated.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2016-11-20/statement-attributable-spokesman-secretary-general-syria>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55612>

No functioning hospital left in Eastern Aleppo warns WHO

More than 250,000 men, women, and children living in eastern Aleppo are now without access to hospital care following attacks on the remaining hospitals over the last week, the World Health Organization said on 20 November. According to reports, there are currently no hospitals functioning in the besieged area of the city. Although some health services are still available through small clinics, residents no longer have access to trauma care, major surgeries, and consultations for serious health conditions. This further suffering is imposed on a population that has had steadily declining access to health care for the past five years, as the conflict has brought relentless damage and destruction to health facilities, WHO stressed.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2016/aleppo-without-hospitals-syria/en/>

UNICEF denounces attacks on schools and hospitals

The UN documented 84 attacks on schools across Syria this year, resulting in at least 69 children being killed and many others injured. "Parties to the conflict must stop bombing schools, hospitals and other civilian infrastructure – actions which are against international law and may amount to war crimes", UNICEF MENA Regional Director Geert Cappelaere said on 21 November. "There are few words left to express our outrage. We wonder if all those who are responsible have words left to justify these attacks on children."

https://www.unicef.org/media/media_93337.html

No UN aid convoys allowed in besieged areas in November

The Syria Humanitarian Task Force (HTF) met on 17 November in Geneva to review progress on humanitarian access to besieged and hard-to-reach areas. The members of the task force voiced regret that no UN-inter agency convoys were able to deliver assistance so far in November. They reiterated their commitment to enabling the UN and partners to reach all those in need of humanitarian aid in a safe, sustained, unconditional and unimpeded manner, including in besieged eastern Aleppo city.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/701345D935DCADAAC125806E005C507E?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/701345D935DCADAAC125806E005C507E?OpenDocument)

Security Council renews mandate of investigative panel on chemical weapons for a year

The Security Council on 17 November extended, for a year, the mandate of the Joint Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-UN Investigative Mechanism (JIM) on the use of chemical weapons in Syria. In resolution 2319 (2016), Security Council members encouraged the investigative panel to engage with relevant regional States in line with its mandate, including to identify involvement of Da'esh, Al-Nusra Front or other non-State actors in the use of chemicals as weapons. In its latest report, the Mechanism identified actors in four out of nine cases under its investigation. In three

cases, the Syrian armed forces were identified as the actor involved in the use of chlorine as a weapon. In the fourth case, Da'esh was found to be responsible for the use of sulphur mustard.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12594.doc.htm>

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2016/888

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55592>

UN Radio in Arabic

Security Council meets on the situation in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/222770/#.WDSijbIrKUK>

مجلس الأمن يتناول الوضع في سوريا

21/11/2016

Special Envoy de Mistura calls for verification of bombing of hospitals in Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/222756/#.WDSizrIrKUK>

دي ميستورا يدعو إلى إرسال فريق أممي للتحقق من صحة قصف المستشفيات في حلب بسوريا

21/11/2016

UN official warns of worsening humanitarian situation in Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/222806/#.WDSiYbIrKUK>

مسؤول دولي: الوضع الإنساني في حلب أصبح مروعا

21/11/2016

Secretary-General condemns air attacks on Aleppo and reminds the parties to the conflict that targeting of civilians is a war crime

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/222735/#.WDSEUyIrKUK>

الأمين العام يدين الهجوم الجوي المكثف على حلب ويذكر أطراف الصراع بأن استهداف المدنيين والبنية التحتية يعتبر جريمة حرب

20/11/2016

WHO Representative in Syria appeals to the Security Council to use its influence to put an end to the suffering

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/222861/#.WDSEqLIrKUK>

ممثلة منظمة الصحة العالمية في سوريا تطالب مجلس الأمن باستخدام نفوذه لوضع حد فوري للمعاناة في البلاد

21/11/2016

Security Council extends mandate of panel to investigate the use of chemical weapons in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/222537/#.WDRigrIrKUK>

مجلس الأمن يمدد ولاية آلية التحقيق في استخدام الأسلحة الكيميائية في سوريا

18/11/2016

Facebook

Children are particularly vulnerable in armed conflicts; more than 80 per cent are affected by the war in Syria. Children are rights' holders, and these rights, essential for their protection and human development, are enshrined in international law and human rights law. On Universal Children's Day, UNRWA reminds the world that the Convention on the Rights of the Child needs to be applied to the children in Syria. -20 November

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1236697279710170>

My Voice-My School is an UNRWA project implemented by Digital Explorer to connect schools in Gaza, Syria, Lebanon with schools in Europe and USA through Skype exchanges. Stay tuned as the 2016/17 MVMS students meet for the first time and get to know each other!- 18 November www.unrwa.org/myvoicemyschool

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1239914612721770>

Saleem (Latakia, Syria): "We live in a war zone and in very difficult conditions. I want to keep studying to ensure my future."- 18 November

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1239911876055377>

This month, UNRWA is kicking off the 3rd edition of the My Voice-My School project, thanks to the support of the #EU and of contributors to the Syria Regional Crisis

Emergency Appeal. Learn more at: www.unrwa.org/myvoicemyschool- 17 November

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1239244199455478>

Over 12 weeks, we will empower youth by giving them a voice and the opportunity to communicate across borders on issues that matter to them, thanks to the support of generous donors, including the @EUandPalestinians and contributors to the Syria Emergency Appeal. Follow our students from Europe, the USA and the Middle East as they develop a classroom project and advocate for quality education for all! – 16 November

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/posts/1238122619567636>

Twitter

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria-22 November

Offloading food, nutrition, WASH, health & other supplies in Ar-#Rastan & surrounding villages in #Homs #Syria with @UN @ICRC @SYRedCrescent

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria-22 November

Decreasing cross-line access, humanitarian developments in #Aleppo #Ar_Raqqa & more from #Syria in our latest report <http://ow.ly/KGLk306pdri>

UNOCHA @UNOCHA-22 November

Shame on us all for not acting to stop the annihilation of E #Aleppo and its people and much of the rest of #Syria

https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/ERC_USG_Stephen_O'Brien_Statement_on_Syria_to_SecCo21NOV2016CAD.pdf

Stephen O'Brien @UNReliefChief-21 November

My Syria statement to UNSC just now, shame on all of us for not acting: how many more Council sessions must be held?

https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/ERC_USG_Stephen_O'Brien_Statement_on_Syria_to_SecCo21NOV2016CAD.pdf

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria-21 November

Regardless of @UN calls for lifting all sieges, nearly 1 million people in #Syria are estimated to live under siege <http://ow.ly/d6YM306orZr>

UNICEF @UNICEF-21 November

It has been a horrific week for #Syria's children. Stop bombing schools and hospitals.
<http://uni.cf/2gb05kN> #WarOnChildren

UNRWA@UNRWA-22 November

#Youth is the backbone & the future of communities in warzones like in #Syria. Check #UNRWA youth response <http://www.unrwa.org/engaging-youth-syria> ...
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/800972089654185984>

UNRWA@UNRWA-21 November

#UNRWA provides #assistance to 450,000 #PalestineRefugees in #Syria.
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/800609700844830720>

UNRWA@UNRWA-20 November

The world must provide protection 4 #children in #Syria as stated in the #ConventionontheRightsoftheChild! #Remember Us #UniversalChildrenDay
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/800292608396455936>

UNRWA@UNRWA-19 November

To help kids escape the #war in #Syria, #UNRWA has set up safe learning spaces playgrounds for them to play & socialize #RememberUs
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/799884922726924289>

UNRWA@UNRWA-18 November

"Young #Palestine #refugees from #Syria now understand the fear & #trauma that their families went through in 1948 & 1967" @PKraehenbuehl
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/799688632110120960>

UNRWA@UNRWA-18 November

Saleem in #Syria talks about important #education in #emergencies support from @UNRWA #EiEChat @INEEtweets @eu_near
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/799647104893386753>

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. Through the app, smartphone users can join thousands of other people in making donations and support a selected community and monitor progress. Since the launch of the campaign, nearly 7.5 million meals have been shared.

www.sharethemeal.org

#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.

<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>

#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