



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

No. 175/ 7 December 2016

UN concerned about the deterioration of humanitarian situation in several besieged areas across Syria

UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters on 6 December that the United Nations is extremely concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the besieged neighbourhood of Al Waer in Homs as a result of sporadic fighting in the past three weeks. Dozens of people have reportedly been killed and some 50,000 people remain trapped in Al Waer. Since the end of October, the UN has not been able to deliver humanitarian aid to the area. The UN is also very concerned about the safety of civilians in the four besieged towns of Madaya and Zabadani in rural Damascus and Foah and Kafraya in Idlib Governorate. In all these areas, the UN and partners continue to respond to the needs of the newly displaced and are increasing protection services in the shelter facilities currently being used. We are also increasing emergency preparedness in the event of further displacement, with food and current supplies available in west Aleppo.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db161206.doc.htm>

Board of Inquiry travels to Damascus

At the noon briefing at UNHQ in New York on 6 December, the UN Spokesperson informed that the Board of Inquiry looking into the attack on a humanitarian convoy in Urum al-Kubra in Syria, travelled to Damascus over the weekend and met with Government officials. The Government also approved for them to visit Aleppo to meet with other officials, but not to visit the site of the attack on the aid convoy. The Board is expected to submit its report later this month.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db161206.doc.htm>

Resolution to end attacks in Aleppo vetoed in the Security Council

Following vetoes wielded by China and the Russian Federation, the Security Council on 5 December failed to adopt a draft resolution that would have ended attacks on civilians in Aleppo within 24 hours. The proposed cessation of hostilities would have lasted at least one week and would have demanded immediate safe access to all areas for humanitarian assistance. Following the vote, Member states that supported the draft expressed deep disappointment in the failure to relieve the suffering of civilians trapped in Aleppo. Its sponsors — Egypt, New Zealand and Spain — said there had been lengthy consultations to seek a consensus.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12609.doc.htm>

WHO responds to growing health needs in Aleppo

As the conflict in Aleppo intensifies and residents face dwindling supplies, the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners said on 4 December that it is responding to the growing medical needs and, from its hub in Southern Turkey, is monitoring the displacement of people from eastern Aleppo to opposition-controlled areas in western rural Aleppo or Idlib. Health facilities are stocked with medical supplies, the agency said, 10 mobile clinics are positioned near possible routes of movement, and ambulances are on standby to assist and transfer people who may require hospitalization. WHO is also using video and telephone to train first responders in besieged areas in eastern Aleppo.

<http://www.emro.who.int/media/news/who-responds-to-increasing-health-needs-in-aleppo-syria.html>

Thousands fleeing fighting in Aleppo in need of shelter warns UNHCR

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on 2 December expressed deep concern about the rapidly rising shelter needs for the thousands of people fleeing the eastern part of Aleppo. Many of those who have fled eastern districts are now in unfinished or partly-destroyed buildings. Unsanitary conditions and overcrowding are already challenges in the city with few open spaces, the agency noted. To meet most urgent needs and improve living conditions, UNHCR had been providing tents, shelter kits and sealing-off kits. In western Aleppo, an estimated 400,000 people are now displaced. UNHCR has dispatched a needs assessment mission which arrived on 1 December on the ground. Additionally, the agency has been providing psychological counselling as well as legal protection and other protection services at 15 community centres in the area.

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/briefing/2016/12/58413f364/growing-shelter-pressure-aleppo-thousands-fleeing.html>

Senior UN Human Rights advisers alarmed at inhumane situation of civilians in Aleppo

The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, and the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, Ivan Šimonović, voiced outrage at the dire situation of civilians trapped in Aleppo. "Civilians are being killed in besieged east Aleppo on a daily basis and tens of thousands of them are attempting to flee the area due to intensified ground fighting and indiscriminate attacks by Syrian Government forces and their allies. This is inhumane and should be stop immediately." The Special Advisers expressed alarm that trapped civilians have only two deadly options: either to stay in east Aleppo and be subjected to indiscriminate bombardments and starvation, or flee and face the risk of being killed during their attempt to leave eastern Aleppo and the risk of being arrested and detained once they reach government or Kurdish-controlled areas. "There must be accountability for potential crimes committed", they stressed "but no retaliation. That requires respect for due process of law, and not arbitrary detention, torture and extra judiciary killings."

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/statement-special-adviser-secretary-general-prevention-genocide-and-0>

Special Envoy renews appeal for cessation of hostilities in Aleppo

Speaking to reporters in Geneva on 1 December, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura reiterated the United Nations' call for a cessation of hostilities to allow humanitarian aid and medical evacuation of besieged civilians in Aleppo. "The UN is still asking for a pause in order to reach civilians and evacuate them medically. And in this context, the most urgent thing that we are going to ask for at the moment, is actually shelter, winter and places for displaced to be, winter is coming. The Envoy also renewed his request to Al-Nusra Front to leave eastern Aleppo on a safe passage. "This will contribute avoiding bloodshed and increase our leverage on insisting on an urgent pause", he noted.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/472230E718F3CA52C125807D003663F7?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/472230E718F3CA52C125807D003663F7?OpenDocument)

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/472230E718F3CA52C125807D003663F7?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/472230E718F3CA52C125807D003663F7?OpenDocument)

UN Radio in Arabic

OCHA says it faces challenges in obtaining information on the number of displaced people from the east of Aleppo or the number of fatalities

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/224641/#.WEb0YrIrJaQ>

أوتشا: مع استمرار القتال لا يوجد معلومات محدثة حول عدد النازحين من شرق حلب أو عدد الذين قتلوا أو استهدفوا

06/12/2016

UN launches new appeal for funding to assist Syrian refugees and host countries

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/224468/#.WEbwFbIrJaQ>

نداء جديد للتمويل من أجل مواصلة دعم اللاجئين السوريين والبلدان المضيفة

05/12/2016

Russia and China used their veto against a draft resolution on Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/224521/#.WEbxI7IrJaQ>

روسيا والصين تستخدمان الفيتو ضد مشروع مصري إسباني نيوزيلاندي حول حلب

05/12/2016

WHO responds to the growing health needs in Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/224442/#.WEbzJ7IrJaQ>

منظمة الصحة العالمية تستجيب للاحتياجات الصحية المتزايدة في حلب

05/12/2016

Learning opportunities for Syrian children with disabilities in Lebanon

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/224313/#.WEbvC7IrJaQ>

فرص للتعلم للأطفال السوريين فاقدي السمع في لبنان

02/12/2016

Twitter

United Nations @UN – 6 December

The humanitarian community provides life-saving support to Syrians – but so much more is needed: <http://unocha.org/stateofaid> #Agenda4Humanity

UN News Centre @UN_News_Centre – 5 December

.@UN #SecurityCouncil fails to adopt resolution on #Aleppo ceasefire due to split votes among five permanent members

United Nations Retweeted

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria - 4 December

With onset of winter, insufficient and inadequate shelter for displaced people from east #Aleppo is biggest concern <http://ow.ly/YE8m306M660>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 4 December

It's the first Skype call for students in Berlin and Latakia. Nerves quickly make room for laughter and excitement!

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/805342741932769280>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 4 December

#EU-funded #myvoicemyschool project encourages youth in #Germany & #Syria to reflect on importance of education

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/805441545050685440>

Facebook

With 1 month left till the end of the year, UNRWA has only received 50 per cent of its need to support Palestine refugees in Syria.

Please help us stand with Palestine refugees in Syria.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1236721269707771/?type=3&theater>

#myvoicemyschool introduces students from Homs to new potential friends in Plymouth, UK! Stay tuned to learn more about this unique experience.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/posts/1252917908088107>

#QualityEducation is a right for students everywhere! #myvoicemyschool

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1252918781421353/?type=3&theater>

My Voice-My School: In Berlin and Latakia, Raghad, Finn, Mohammad, Yasmin and their friends meet during the project's first Skype call. Follow us to hear what they have to say about the importance of education! @eu_near #SyriaAppeal

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/posts/1258115487568349>

Watch how Rana's life changed after a bomb attack in Syria. Now Rana stands strong. #IDPD

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/videos/1254487424597822/>

Social media campaigns

#My Voice-My School is an UNRWA project launched in 2015 and implemented by Digital Explorer to connect schools in Gaza, Syria, Lebanon with schools in Europe and USA through Skype exchanges. Through live video conversations and customized teaching materials, students and teachers explore how education can help them meet their future aspirations. www.unrwa.org/myvoicemyschool

@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>

#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