



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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UN agencies are rushing to provide urgent aid to civilians in Aleppo

Acting Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria Sajjad Malik said on 4 January that 261,000 residents have received winter aid, but needs persist as many shelter in damaged buildings and informal camps. "UN agencies are rushing to provide urgent aid to the civilians of Aleppo and are finding fledgling signs of optimism for the future. The soul of Aleppo is still there, and there is optimism and there is hope," Malik told during a press briefing at UN headquarters from Syria's second largest city. Among the estimated 1.5 million inhabitants in Aleppo, UN agencies have access to about 400,000 people. UNHCR, other UN agencies and partners have been focusing on immediate assistance, including shelter, food, fuel, winter clothing, water and sanitation and medical support.

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2017/1/586d45994/amid-ruins-aleppo-unhcr-sees-signs-hope.html>

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55909>

UN calls for donor support to displaced civilians in Aleppo

UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters on 3 January that the United Nations is concerned about the 116,000 people displaced from areas of eastern Aleppo formerly controlled by armed opposition groups. The UN, he noted, is working closely with the Government to respond to the most urgent needs following the massive destruction of infrastructure in the city. The United Nations also urged donors to provide immediate and long-term support to the more than 100,000 highly vulnerable people in Aleppo, so they can receive humanitarian assistance.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170103.doc.htm>

Security Council unanimously passes resolution on ceasefire in Syria

The Security Council on 31 December adopted resolution 2336 (2016) endorsing a ceasefire in Syria that started on 30 December, and calling on all parties to allow unhindered humanitarian access. In the resolution, which was submitted by Russia and Turkey, Council members took note of efforts by the two countries to jump start a political process. The Council said it looked forward to the meeting to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, between the Syrian Government and opposition representatives, stressing it was an important part of the Syrian-led political process, and a "step ahead" of the resumption of talks under UN auspices in Geneva on 8 February 2017. Together with the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O'Brien welcomed the resolution and the Council's call to allow safe and unhindered aid access throughout Syria. "The UN and our national and international humanitarian partners are mobilized and ready on the ground to do all that we can to ensure that people receive the aid they so desperately need. It is imperative that the Government of Syria and the

non-State armed groups end all sieges, remove bureaucratic obstacles and provide safe and unhindered access for humanitarians”, Mr. O’Brien said.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12663.doc.htm>

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/USG%20ERC%20Statement%20on%20Syria%2031.12.16.pdf>

Special Envoy welcomes ceasefire agreement

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Staffan de Mistura welcomed the announcement of a nationwide ceasefire between the Government of Syria and armed opposition groups that came into effect on 30 December 2016. In a statement, Mr. de Mistura hoped that the agreement will save civilian lives, help in delivering humanitarian assistance across Syria, and pave the way for productive talks in Astana. The Envoy noted that these developments should contribute to inclusive and productive intra-Syrian negotiations to be convened under UN auspices on 8 February 2017.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/9D219AF6652499F1C12580980056E462?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/9D219AF6652499F1C12580980056E462?OpenDocument)

UN alarmed at lack of water supply in Damascus

Four million people in Damascus and surrounding areas have been cut off from the main water supply since 22 December, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported on 29 December. Two sources of drinking water, Wadi Barada and Ain-el-Fijah, which provide water for 70 percent of the population in and around Damascus are not functioning due to deliberate targeting resulting in the damaged infrastructure. The UN is concerned about the lack of water which could lead to waterborne diseases, particularly among children. Throughout Syria, about 15 million people are facing water shortages.

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UN%20Statement%20Water%20Crisis%20in%20Damascus%2029.12.2016.pdf>

UN Radio in Arabic

UNICEF calls for access for its teams to Wadi Barada to restore water supply

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/227613/#.WGwD6FMrJaQ>

اليونيسف تدعو إلى السماح بوصول فرقها إلى منطقة وادي بردى لإعادة تدفق المياه إلى دمشق

03/01/2017

UN: More than five million people are deprived of water in Damascus

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/227558/#.WGwEEIMrJaQ>

الأمم المتحدة: أكثر من خمسة ملايين شخص محرومون من المياه في دمشق

03/01/2017

Russia-Turkey resolution on Syria unanimously adopted by the Security Council

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/227488/#.WGwDr1MrJaQ>

القرار الروسي التركي بشأن سوريا يحصد إجماعاً تاماً من مجلس الأمن

31/12/2016

Children displaced in eastern Aleppo are distressed- UNICEF

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/227405/#.WGwDSIMrJaQ>

الأطفال النازحون من شرقي حلب مفجوعون وجرحى ومنفصلون عن ذويهم

30/12/2016

Special Envoy de Mistura welcomes the announcement of a cease-fire across Syria
http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/227342/#.WGv_iVMrJaQ

دي مستورا يرحب بإعلان وقف إطلاق النار في كل أنحاء سوريا

29/12/2016

Facebook

Alia is among 430,000 Palestine refugees who rely on the UNRWA food assistance programme to survive. Thanks to a generous donation from the King Salman Centre for Relief and Humanitarian Aids, the Agency was able to continue to provide critical food assistance to this particularly vulnerable population in Syria during the last quarter of 2016.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.10517119286279/1281127151933849/?type=3&theater>

#myvoicemyschool students in Latakia in Syria wish everyone joy and warmth this holiday season and a happy and peaceful new year!

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/pcb.1293441090702455/1293439197369311/?type=3&theater>

Twitter

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria 4 January

As east #Aleppo becomes increasingly accessible, more displaced families are expected to return. Read latest report <http://ow.ly/tn2a307GH2T>

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria-3 January

Communal kitchens continue to provide 2 meals a day for 20,700 people in collective shelters in #Aleppo #Syria. Read <http://ow.ly/vbPn307E8UV>

UNICEF @UNICEF- 3 January

Children displaced from east #Aleppo: distressed, injured, alone. <http://uni.cf/2hzLZch>
#Syria

UN Spokesperson✓@UN_Spokesperson- 31 December

Ban Ki-moon welcomes Security Council's unanimous adoption of resolution 2336 on #Syria & #Russia #Turkey efforts. <http://bit.ly/2iRiBjI>

OCHA Syria✓@OCHA_Syria- 31 December

People in #Syria have been through a lot in 2016. @UN hopes #NewYear2017 brings peace and an end to the #SyriaCrisis

كل عام وأنتم بخير

UNRWA@UNRWA- 30 December

"We don't have anything" - will you #shareyourwarmth with Raya this winter?

<http://ow.ly/1O03307yncR>

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/814796958875451392>

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- 29 December

Most urgent needs for displaced people in #Aleppo #Syria are shelter, warm clothes, heaters, fuel & protection. [Read http://ow.ly/m3pm307wYuK](http://ow.ly/m3pm307wYuK)

Social media campaigns

#Shareyourwarmth- UNRWA launched its winter fundraising campaign #shareyourwarmth in December 2016 to support the needs of this vulnerable population affected by the Syrian crisis and bring respite during the cold months. <http://www.unrwa.org/galleries/photos/families-face-hardship-during-winter-khan-dunoun-shelter>

#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

#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