



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No. 180/ 11 January 2017

More than 5 million people cut off from running water in Damascus

The United Nations remains concerned that 5.5 million people continue to be deprived of running water in and around Damascus, UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters on 9 January. Ongoing fighting in the Wadi Barada area since 22 December 2016 has prevented Syrian technical teams to assess the damage to the water infrastructure, he said. While negotiations continue to enable repairs, the UN calls on all parties to allow immediate, unrestricted and sustained access in order to restore water supply.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170109.doc.htm>

Lack of water access in Damascus is creating risks for children, UN warns

Following two weeks with no access to running water for millions of people in and around Damascus due to ongoing fighting near the Syrian capital, the United Nations Children's Fund on 6 January raised the alarm over a potential increase in diarrheal diseases among children. While private distributors are providing water, Christophe Boulierac, a spokesperson for UNICEF, told reporters at the regular bi-weekly press briefing in Geneva that he is worried about quality and price of those supplies. Residents have been able to access water for up to two hours every three or four days through water rationing. But many have turned to private distributors, where neither price nor quality are regulated, prompting concerns about the risk of water-borne diseases among children. In many areas, families are paying up to \$12 for only 1,000 litres of water.

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55921>

Survey raises concerns about hepatitis C infection in Syria - WHO

A survey released by the World Health Organization (WHO) of more than 20,000 people in Syria has found a concerning number of people infected with hepatitis C, especially among people who are at higher risk. The study, carried out in collaboration with the Syrian Ministry of Health, showed that 14.4% of kidney dialysis patients included in the survey tested positive for hepatitis C. Several medications are available to treat chronic hepatitis C, including new treatments that are more effective and have fewer side-effects than previous options. The new treatments, however, are expensive and in many cases, unaffordable.

<http://www.emro.who.int/syr/syria-news/survey-raises-concerns-about-hepatitis-c-infection-in-syria.html>

UNRWA seeks US\$ 813 million to assist Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory and Syria

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) launched on 9 January two appeals totalling US\$ 813 million to fund the humanitarian response in the occupied Palestinian territory, and to assist Palestine refugees affected

by the Syria conflict, including those living in Lebanon and Jordan. With its aid operations carried out by 4,000 mainly Palestinian staff, the agency is the largest provider of assistance to Palestine refugees affected by the conflict. Assistance include cash distribution, water and sanitation, food and essential non-food items, shelter, health, education, livelihoods, microfinance and protection. Launching the appeal, UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl said: "1.6 million Palestine refugees, who are more insecure than ever and whose needs are growing, require our resolute action. I call for urgent and generous support from the international community."
<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-launches-appeals-us-813-million-emergency-interventions-occupied>

Special Envoy welcomes talks to be held in Kazakhstan

Speaking to reporters in Geneva on 5 January, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura said he welcomed the political talks to be convened in Astana, Kazakhstan, by the Russian Federation and Turkey at the end of January. "Our stand is that any initiative such as this one needs to be supported, and we hope it will succeed and is definitely welcomed", he noted. "Any effort that consolidates and that's the expectation, the cessation of hostilities, and helps in preparing for a discussion that will take place here in Geneva in February, is certainly welcome". Mr. de Mistura said that the UN planned to attend the meeting and would contribute to it.
[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/1F7A5D0E7E-DD22A2C125809F006A59CF?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/1F7A5D0E7E-DD22A2C125809F006A59CF?OpenDocument)

Syrian refugees in Lebanon remain highly reliant on humanitarian aid

A UN inter-agency study issued on 6 January found that Syrian refugees in Lebanon remain highly vulnerable and their economic situation continues to be difficult, with more than a third of them food insecure. The study conducted by the UN Refugee agency (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Food Programme (WFP) assessed the situation of more than 1.5 million Syrians in Lebanon. Since 2015, there has been a 12 per cent increase in the number of families who are moderately to severely food insecure. Among them about 70 per cent live below the poverty line, the study found. "Syrian refugees are barely coping," Amin Awad, Director of UNHCR Middle Eastern and North Africa bureau said. "They remain extremely vulnerable and dependent on aid from the international community. Without continued support, their situation would be appalling."
<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2017/1/586f51a44/syrian-refugees-lebanon-vulnerable-reliant-aid-study-shows.html>

UN Radio in Arabic

A WHO survey raises concerns about hepatitis C in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/228472/#.WHZDeVMrJaQ>

مسح جديد يثير مخاوف حول عدوى التهاب الكبد الوبائي في سوريا
10/01/2017

UN calls for immediate access to the Barada valley to restore water supply to Damascus

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/228185/#.WHZDSVMrJaQ>

الأمم المتحدة تدعو إلى إتاحة الوصول الفوري إلى وادي بردى من أجل استعادة تدفق المياه إلى دمشق

09/01/2017

WFP welcomes Canada's support for Syrian refugees in Lebanon

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/227939/#.WHY-M1MrJaQ>

برنامج الأغذية العالمي يرحب بدعم كندا للاجئين السوريين في لبنان

05/01/2017

Staffan de Mistura expresses hope that the Astana talks will consolidate the ceasefire

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/227850/#.WHY-aIMrJaQ>

دي مستورا يعرب عن الأمل في أن تعزز محادثات أستانة وقف إطلاق النار

05/01/2017

Twitter

United Nations @UN- 10 January

"Nothing can really prepare you for the scale of the destruction in east Aleppo" - Syria update from @Refugees

OCHA Syria ✓ @OCHA_Syria- 9 January

Fighting in #Wadi_Barada displaced 10,000 people and deprived 5.5 million people in #Damascus from main water source <http://ow.ly/YD14307R8Iq>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 9 January

UNRWA seeks support to provide aid to the #Palrefs in #Syria. To learn more and retweet check #UNRWA_Appeals & #ShareYourWarmth campaign.

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/818507632700887042>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 9 January

Cash assistance is the most important component of the UNRWA emergency response in Syria. Follow [#UNRWA_Appeals](#) & [#ShareYourWarmth](#) for more

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/818532807257559041>

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria – 9 January

1st inter-agency convoy in 2017 crossed the conflict line on Saturday to deliver aid for 40,000 people in #Muadamieh with @UN @SYRedCrescent

OCHA Syria ✓ @OCHA_Syria- 8 January

Over 7,000 people displaced from #Wadi_Barada & water cut-off in #Damascus since 22 December due to fighting #Syria <http://ow.ly/Q6sL307N768>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 8 January

#UNRWA_Appeals ask donor countries to help meet the critical humanitarian needs of #Palrefs in occupied #Palestinian territory and #Syria

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/818117565721546759>

United Nations @UN- 8 January

Aid workers share experiences of evacuations from eastern Aleppo, Syria

<http://goo.gl/tBuqiy> via @WHO

United Nations @UN -8 January

Massive humanitarian needs remain across Syria. The UN @Refugees Agency explains.

UNRWA@UNRWA- 6 January

Palestine refugee families in Syria are enduring a cold winter. Will you help and

[#shareyourwarmth? http://ow.ly/J8mO307BP8E](#)

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/817365173547765760> - 6 January

UN Geneva ✓@UNGeneva- 5 January

"To sabotage and to deny water is a war crime" - @NRC_Egeland on Damascus, #Syria water crisis: <https://goo.gl/ozFPqc>

UN News Centre ✓@UN_News_Centre -5 January

.#Syria: After five 'ruthless' years, 2017 can be for conflict resolution – @NRC_Egeland briefing media at @UNGeneva <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55916>

Facebook

With winter upon us in Syria, please help us keep Palestine refugee families warm today
#shareyourwarmth

unrwa.org/shareyourwarmth

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/videos/1296317217081509/>

Please remember Palestine refugee families in Syria, starting the New Year with nothing, and [#shareyourwarmth](#) with them. unrwa.org/shareyourwarmth

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1296328877080343/?type=3&theater>

A young Syrian refugee smiles at a UNICEF-supported centre in Buyukyol, Turkey. At the centre children are given emotional support and a chance to learn. #foreverychild, hope.

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/>

#NoLostGeneration- The initiative was launched by UNICEF and partners in 2013 to focus attention on the plight of children affected by the Syrian crisis. By articulating real concerns about the possible 'loss' of a generation of children to the effects of violence and displacement, the initiative put education and child protection at the centre of the response inside Syria and across the refugee hosting countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt).

<http://nolostgeneration.org/about>

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

