



## **Syrian Crisis** United Nations Response



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

**No. 181/ 19 January 2017**

### **Special Envoy to attend in Kazakhstan**

The Office of the Special Envoy for Syria received an invitation to Astana, the UN Spokesperson told reporters on 17 January. It was announced on 19 January that in light of the complexity and importance of the issues likely to be raised in Astana, and of the senior level at which the conveners of the meeting will be represented, the Secretary-General has asked Mr. de Mistura, to lead the UN team at the talks. The Secretary-General is looking forward to the Astana meeting being a positive step, ahead of the resumption of intra-Syria negotiations in Geneva.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170117.doc.htm>

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2017-01-19/note-correspondents-un-representation-astana-talks-syria>

### **Ceasefire a 'disappointment' for aid access**

Despite a cessation of hostilities in war-ravaged Syria, aid workers are still unable to reach many people desperately needing assistance, the United Nations reported on 19 January. "An exhausted civilian population is still trapped, with no escape, we are still unable to reach hundreds and hundreds of thousands," UN Senior Adviser on Syria Jan Egeland told the press in Geneva, emphasizing that "in terms of humanitarian access, the cessation of hostilities period has been a disappointment." "In January, only half of the population that we asked to reach were approved for access in full," he added.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56005>

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2017-01-19/note-correspondents-transcript-stakeout-un-senior-adviser>

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

Water remains cut off from Ain El Fijeh, depriving 5.5 million people in Damascus and surrounding areas from their main water source since 22 December 2016, the UN Spokesperson told reporters on 17 January. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent and water authorities' technical teams, who suspended their mission following a security incident, remain on stand-by to enter the area again to complete their mission as soon as security conditions allow. The UN stands ready to provide additional support to ensure the swift repair of the water infrastructure. And an estimated 1.3 million people in Aleppo have been cut off from their main water source since 14 January due to a technical failure at the Al Khafse water station. The station is located in an eastern rural Aleppo area that is controlled by Da'esh.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170117.doc.htm>

### **Top UN humanitarian official in Syria allocates \$19 million for emergency response in Aleppo**

Amid an overall scale-up in relief operations in Syria, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the country, Ali Al-Za'tari, on 18 January approved \$19 million from the Syria Humanitarian Fund to sustain immediate life-saving and early recovery assistance for tens of thousands of people in war-ravaged Aleppo. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN and its implementing partners have significantly scaled up operations to address the most urgent needs and pave the way to recovery efforts in Aleppo.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55999>

### **Heavy fighting forces UN food relief agency to suspend airdrops in Deir ez-Zor**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said on 17 January that it has been forced to suspend airdrops to residents of the besieged Syrian city of Deir ez-Zor because of heavy fighting between Government forces and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh). Airdrops require a large and completely safe drop zone area where cargo is released and collected by a team on the ground for delivery. Stressing that partners on the ground could not expose the lives of the 60 volunteers who were in that open landing zone and would receive the supplies and distribute them, she said: "It is too precarious for the moment to continue the operation. WFP needs to make sure the volunteers are safe."

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55987>

### **"We must not let 2017 repeat the tragedies of 2016 for Syria" – top UN aid officials**

While efforts to fully implement a ceasefire in Syria continue, senior United Nations humanitarian officials on 16 January appealed for immediate, unconditional, and safe access to reach the children and families who are still cut off from relief aid across the Middle Eastern country. "We must not let 2017 repeat the tragedies of 2016 for Syria," said a joint statement signed by World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Ertharin Cousin, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director Anthony Lake, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Margaret Chan, and UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55974>

### **SARC and water authorities suspend mission following security incident**

The UN is alarmed by the reports of an attack on the technical team that went to Wadi Barada to assess damage to water infrastructure at the Al-Fiji spring site, the Spokesperson told reporters on 16 January. On 14 January, a member of the reconciliation committee was reportedly killed at the assessment site. Consequently, the assessment mission was suspended. The technical team, comprising Syrian Arab Red Crescent and water authorities, remained on stand-by to enter the area again to complete their mission as soon as security conditions allow.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170116.doc.htm>

### **Agreement reached regarding Wadi Barada**

The United Nations on 13 January welcomed reports that an agreement had been reached regarding Wadi Barada. According to the latest information received, the Government and Syria Arab Red Crescent technical teams entered the area to carry out a damage assessment of water sources and infrastructure at the Al-Fiji spring site, with

a view to repairing the facility as soon as possible. The UN called on all parties to ensure unrestricted and sustained access in order to restore the provision of water, which is essential for the survival and well-being of the civilian population.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170113.doc.htm>

### **UN agencies assess dire hygiene, protection needs for women in Syria's war-ravaged Aleppo**

The health, hygiene and protection needs of women and girls displaced in Aleppo are staggering, the United Nations has observed, voicing concern for civilians in the Syrian city that has endured intense fighting for about four years. "The destruction is beyond imagination," described Ruba Farah, security assistant at the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) on 13 January. She accompanied an interagency convoy to eastern Aleppo from 1 to 12 January. "Schools, hospitals, roads and houses were destroyed."

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55965>

<http://www.unfpa.org/news/women%E2%80%99s-needs-staggering-winter-grips-aleppo-un-convoy-finds>

### **UN Special Envoy calls for improved humanitarian access**

On 12 January, the Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura said in Geneva that the cessation of hostilities in the country has been largely holding, with some exceptions. However, he added, humanitarian access has yet to improve and he stressed the importance of steps to improve that access. He said that the main area of concern is Wadi Barada, and the cut off of water from there to about 5.5 million people. Mr. de Mistura said that five villages in the Wadi Barada area had reached an agreement with the Government, which he welcomed; but other villages, including one which is the source of the water supply, have still not reached any such agreement. He noted that water engineers are ready to repair the water supply lines once there is security to do so. Mr. de Mistura said that the UN was supportive of planned talks in Astana, Kazakhstan, and said it is ready to contribute to a positive Astana meeting.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170112.doc.htm>

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

Lifesaving aid to displaced people from eastern Aleppo, and efforts continue to restore water in Damascus

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/228573/#.WH93LIMrJaQ>

مساعدات منقذة للحياة لنازحين من شرق حلب، وجهود متواصلة في ظل انقطاع المياه عن دمشق

11/01/2017

Dialogue with World Health Organization about the risk of hepatitis C infection in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/228545/#.WH93V1MrJaQ>

حوار مع منظمة الصحة العالمية حول مخاطر عدوى التهاب الكبد سي في سوريا

11/01/2017

de Mistura: problems of water and the delivery of aid threaten the fragile ceasefire in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/229225/#.WH93mVMrJaQ>

دي مستورا: مشكلتا المياه وإيصال المساعدات تهددان وقف إطلاق النار الهش في سوريا

12/01/2017

UN welcomes an agreement on the Barada valley to repair water sources

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/229481/#.WH9331MrJaQ>

الأمم المتحدة ترحب بالتوصل إلى اتفاق بشأن وادي بردى لإصلاح مصادر المياه

13/01/2017

Humanitarian conference on Syria in Helsinki on 23 and 24 of this month

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/229399/#.WH94BIMrJaQ>

مؤتمر إنساني حول سوريا في هيلسنكي يومي ال 23 و 24 من الشهر الجاري

13/01/2017

Joint international appeal for the people of Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/229534/#.WH94XVMrJaQ>

نداء دولي مشترك من أجل شعب سوريا

16/01/2017

World Food Program suspended air drops in Deir al-Zour due to heavy fighting

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/229676/#.WH94h1MrJaQ>

برنامج الأغذية العالمي: تعليق الإسقاط الجوي للمساعدات في دير الزور بسبب القتال العنيف

17/01/2017

## **Twitter**

United Nations @UN Jan 19

"As a refugee, you know what it is to be hungry & thirsty" – see what else

@YusraMardini said at #Davos <http://trib.al/HGFKOsR> #WEF17

United Nations @UN Jan 19

\$19 million allocated Humanitarian Fund for life-saving & early recovery aid in Aleppo -

@OCHA\_Syria statement <http://ow.ly/pwkO30878Bg>

United Nations Retweeted

**UN Refugee Agency** @Refugees Jan 16

Syria: We appeal for unconditional access to reach children + families cut off from aid w/

[@UNOCHA](#) [@WFP](#) [@WHO](#) [@UNICEF](#)

United Nations @ Jan 17

Syria: world must not stand silent while denial of food, water, medical supplies + aid is used as a weapon of war

United Nations Retweeted

**UN News Centre** @UN\_News\_Centre Jan 16

[#Syria](#): Senior [@UN](#) humanitarian officials appeal for immediate, unconditional & safe access to reach people in need

[United Nations Retweeted](#)

**WHO** @WHO Jan 16

[#Syria](#): 5 million people, including 2 million children, live in areas extremely hard to reach with humanitarian aid [goo.gl/LAFp66](http://goo.gl/LAFp66)

United Nations Retweeted

[UN Refugee Agency](#) @Refugees Jan 13

The first snow is falling in Lebanon, + Syrian refugees are hit hard. Please help us keep more refugees warm: <https://donate.unhcr.org/gb-en/syria/>

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

**#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](http://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](http://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](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)