



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

No. 185/15 February 2017

Intra-Syrian negotiations set to start on 23 February in Geneva

UN Deputy Spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters at UN headquarters on 13 February that letters of invitation had been sent out ahead of the start of the intra-Syrian negotiations. "Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura is actively engaged in diplomatic efforts to ensure a successful confirmation of arrangements for the convening of intra-Syrian negotiations in Geneva". He added that delegations are expected to arrive in Geneva on or about 20 February to enable prior consultations with the Special Envoy and his team before the formal start of intra-Syrian negotiations planned for 23 February 2017.

UN senior humanitarian official warns of looming catastrophe in four besieged towns

The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria, Ali Al-Za'tari, called on all parties to reach an agreement for aid access to the four besieged towns of Al-Zabadani, Al-Fu'ah, Kafraya and Madaya where nearly 60,000 are trapped in daily violence. The last UN humanitarian convoy reached them on 28 November 2016. In a statement on 13 February, Mr. Al-Za'tari stressed that the situation is a looming humanitarian catastrophe. "The unfair and totally unjustified besiegement is compounded by the tit-for-tat arrangement between the four towns, which makes humanitarian access prone to painstaking negotiations that are not based on humanitarian principles. This has prevented medical cases from receiving proper treatment and evacuation. People are in need, and they cannot wait any longer. We need to act now", he said.

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Press%20statement%20on%20Four%20Towns_Final_English.pdf

Secretary-General says political solution needed to fight terrorism in Syria

As part of his first major trip since taking office, Secretary-General António Guterres met in Istanbul on 11 February with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to discuss the situation in Syria as well as ongoing diplomatic efforts to end the conflict. The Secretary-General noted during his meeting the need to fight terrorism and extremists in Syria but that effort would not be successful without a political solution supported by Syrians. While in Saudi Arabia on 12 February, Mr. Guterres spoke to journalists at a joint press stake out with Foreign Minister Adel bin Ahmad Al-Jubeir. He reiterated his concerns about the lack of political solution in several situations, including Syria. "It is very important to fight Da'esh, it is very important to combat terrorism in Syria, but we'll never be successful in fighting terrorism in Syria if an inclusive political solution is not found for the Syrian people", he said. The Secretary-General also thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its support in helping the Syrian opposition come together, to prepare for the Geneva talks.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/readout/2017-02-11/readout-secretary-general%E2%80%99s-meeting-he-mr-recep-tayyip-erdo%C4%9Fan>

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/press-encounter/2017-02-12/%C2%A0secretary-general%E2%80%99s-press-encounter-foreign-minister-adel-bin>

UN aid convoy delivers supplies to Al Rastan city in Homs

A UN inter-agency convoy reached on 12 February the city of Al Rastan in the Homs Governorate to deliver food and emergency items to more than 100,000 people, UN Deputy Spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters at UN Headquarters. He added however that the UN remains deeply concerned about the situation of 10,000 people trapped in Al Bab city under Da'esh control, facing increasingly difficult conditions. The UN continues to call for unconditional, unimpeded and sustained access — including for all health and medical items — to the 4.7 million people in hard-to-reach locations across Syria, including more than 640,000 in besieged locations.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170213.doc.htm>

UNICEF alarmed at reports of children killed and injured in Idlib and Homs

"Violence in Syria this week has reportedly killed at least 20 children and injured others in several areas across the war-torn country", UNICEF Regional Director Geert Cappelaere said on 10 February. According to reports, 30 people were killed including 16 children in Idlib as a result of ongoing fighting. Attacks in the Al-Zahraa and Al-Waer neighbourhoods in the Homs Governorate left four children dead. "These attacks are among the heaviest since the start of the most recent cessation of hostilities on 30 December 2016", he noted. UNICEF reiterated its appeal to all parties to the conflict and those who have influence on them to protect the lives of children and provide unhindered and immediate access to those in need of humanitarian assistance.

https://www.unicef.org/media/media_94872.html

UN Radio in Arabic

UN warns of impending humanitarian catastrophe in four besieged towns in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/233253/#.WKRm9W8rJaQ>

الأمم المتحدة تحذر من كارثة إنسانية وشيكة في أربع مناطق سورية

14/02/2017

Invitations to attend Syria talks in Geneva scheduled for February 23

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/233097/#.WKRmn28rJaQ>

إرسال الدعوات لحضور المحادثات السورية في جنيف المقررة في 23 فبراير

13/02/2017

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stresses the need for a political solution to combat terrorism in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/232895/#.WKRmXm8rJaQ>

غوثيريس يؤكد في لقائه مع أردوغان أن الحل السياسي هو السبيل لمكافحة الإرهاب والمتطرفين في سوريا

11/02/2017

UNICEF calls for the protection of children in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/232915/#.WKRmMW8rJaQ>

اليونيسف تناشد حماية الأطفال في سوريا

11/02/2017

United Nations condemns the attack on the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/232723/#.WKRj428rJaQ>

الأمم المتحدة تدين الاعتداء على مركز تابع للهلال الأحمر العربي السوري في حلب

09/02/2017

The United Nations calls on the parties in Syria to allow humanitarian convoys unimpeded access to besieged areas

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/232563/#.WKRjp28rJaQ>

الأمم المتحدة تدعو الأطراف في سوريا إلى تسهيل مرور القوافل الإنسانية للمناطق المحاصرة وضمان الإجلاء الطبي للمرضى

08/02/2017

Twitter

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria – 15 February

Use & share the NEW humanitarian atlas - for all working on #SyriaCrisis to plan & implement humanitarian activities <http://ow.ly/JFOE3091xMs>

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria – 14 February

Read latest report on #Raqqa #Syria where 50,000 people in need were reached with winter-related assistance: <http://ow.ly/rW5n308ZMpo>

United Nations Retweeted WFP Middle East-13 February

More updates on the UN's response to the crisis in Syria are here: <http://j.mp/1oJpstW>

United Nations added,

WFP Middle East @WFP_MENA

#Syria: @WFP has successfully reached Al-Rastan city in Homs yesterday with food

assistance to around 107,500 people enough for one month

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- 13 February

Read @UN appeal for immediate access to 60,000 people in besieged Al-#Zabadani, Al-#Fuah, #Kafra & #Madaya #Syria

<http://ow.ly/NmzY308Y79h>

UNRWA @UNRWA - 13 February

Children in Syria want to encourage student to pursue their education.

#nolostgeneration @eu_near

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- 12 February

A @UN @ICRC_sy @SYRedCrescent convoy entered Ar-Rastan #Homs #Syria with food, health, nutrition & emergency items 107,500 people in need

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria -12 February

Violence in #Syria reportedly killed at least 20 children and injured others, read

@UNICEF @gcappelaere statement: <http://ow.ly/8MWu308Vo5Z>

United Nations @UN- 11 February

In Istanbul, @AntonioGuterres & @RT_Erdogan discussed Syria, Iraq, Cyprus peace process + more <http://bit.ly/2kefhjN>

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson- 10 February

I have a huge debt of gratitude for the hospitality & generosity Turkey has shown to refugees from Syria & other countries, @antonioguterres

Facebook

UNICEF Canada - 15 February 2017

"What I want for every child of Syria, is something to eat and some clothes, and that they can be happy with their families and friends... I wish children never stop hoping they can return to Syria and keep believing that one day they will go back." - Rami, 12 UNICEF is working to improve education, child protection and youth programming in Syria and host countries. <http://www.unicef.ca/en/children-syria-canadas-response>

UNDP Syria- 15 February 2017

To address the acute shortage of classroom space due to the high influx of displaced families to Hama, UNDP is rehabilitating four affected schools, which will help to accommodate the increasing number of students and facilitate their access to better services and education.

لمعالجة النقص الحاد في مساحة الفصول الدراسية نظرا لتدفق أعداد كبيرة من الأسر النازحة إلى حماة، يقوم برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي بإعادة تأهيل أربع مدارس متضررة مما سيساعد على استيعاب العدد المتزايد من

الطلاب وتسهيل وصولهم لتعليم وخدمات أفضل.

UNDP Syria - 14 February

With UNDP's support, many affected youth like Omar benefited from job opportunities provided in the ancient market rehabilitation project in Homs to learn new skills and generate income.

بمساعدة البرنامج، استفاد العديد من الشباب المتضررين مثل عمر من فرص العمل المقدمة في مشروع إعادة تأهيل السوق القديم في حمص. لتعلم الكثير من الخبرات الجديدة وتوليد دخل.

UNICEF Lebanon -13 February

"I forgot how to read and write." Jomaa,14, says. Jomaa fled Syria with his seven siblings four years ago seeking refuge in Lebanon. He works to support his family, making \$2 a day.#ImagineaSchool

UNICEF - 13 February

He may only be 5 but Mohamad is a brave little boy. Four months ago he fled Raqqa, Syria, with his three siblings and parents. They now live in an informal settlement in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. Check out UNICEF Lebanon to find out how we support children like Mohamad.

UNDP Syria- 13 February

UNDP is supporting around 150 women heading households in Al-Qadmous area in Rural Tartous through the distribution of livestock to help enhance their living situation.

يقوم برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي بدعم حوالي ١٥٠ امرأة معيلة لأسرتها في منطقة القدموس في ريف دمشق من خلال توزيع الأغنام للمساعدة على تحسين ظروفهن المعيشية.

UNDP Syria - 13 February

In Aleppo, UNDP helped 40 affected people to restore their livelihoods in the field of shoes manufacturing. Another 20 people were given the opportunity to learn this profession through on-the-job training to help them generate income and enhance their living conditions.

في حلب، ساعد برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي ٤٠ شخص متضرر على استعادة سبل عيشهم في مجال صناعة الأحذية كما وفر لـ ٢٠ شخص آخر الفرصة لتعلم هذه المهنة لتساعدهم على توليد دخل وتحسين أوضاعهم المعيشية.

UNRWA- 13 February

"Students in Syria and Germany participating in the EU-supported project My Voice-My School reflect on how technology can help facilitate access to education for all'.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1335103939869503/?type=3&theater>

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

