



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Secretary-General on safety of OPCW-UN personnel

In a letter to the Security Council transmitting the second monthly report on the Joint OPCW-UN Mission on 27 November, the Secretary-General expressed deep concern at the security and safety of the Mission's personnel in view of the volatile, unpredictable and highly dangerous situation on the ground. The Secretary-General stated that all parties must ensure the access and safety of Joint Mission personnel at sites where they may exert influence, in order that the Joint Mission may fulfil its mandate.

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2013/700

Special Coordinator on ongoing efforts to remove chemical weapons from Syria

During a press conference in Damascus on 30 November, the Head of the Joint OPCW-UN Mission, Sigrid Kaag, said that ongoing efforts to remove chemical weapons from Syria to locations elsewhere continue to pose challenges due to the security situation on the ground. While noting that a decision had been taken that chemicals making up Syria's chemical weapons programme will be destroyed on a US ship outside Syrian territorial waters, she indicated that the Mission is coordinating offers of assistance with respect to supporting the maritime transfer of chemical materials. The Mission is also working to establish a temporary forward operating base at the port of Latakia to support the inspection and verification of chemical material.

<http://opcw.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=6576&ctl=Details&mid=10358&ItemID=9213&language=en-US>

Humanitarian Chief says greater work needed on protection of civilians

USG for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos briefed the Security Council on 3 December on the implementation of the 2 October presidential statement on humanitarian access. Speaking to the media following the closed briefing, she said that despite modest progress on administrative procedures, much more needs to be done to improve access and the protection of civilians inside Syria. She stressed that that on some of the more difficult areas - protection of civilians, demilitarization of schools and hospitals, access to besieged communities and also cross-line access to hard-to-reach areas - there had not been any progress.

<http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/syria-greater-work-needed-improve-access-and-protection-civilians>

WFP concerned at humanitarian situation in besieged areas

On 3 December, the World Food Programme (WFP) said that it had dispatched enough food to feed over 3.4 million people inside Syria in November, mainly to internally displaced families in 13 governorates and had reached eight more locations, which had been inaccessible in recent months. However, WFP remains gravely concerned about the fate of many Syrians trapped in conflict zones throughout the country, including around Damascus and in Al Hassakeh, where some areas had been without food assistance for six consecutive months. The Syria response is WFP's largest and most complex emergency worldwide. WFP needs to raise USD 40 million every week to meet the food needs of people affected by the conflict.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpBriefingsLatest_en\)/05FC04FD04589231C1257C36004EB20A?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/05FC04FD04589231C1257C36004EB20A?OpenDocument)

UNRWA launches annual appeal

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) held its annual pledging conference at the UN headquarters on 3 December during which it appealed for \$687 million to provide basic services to Palestinian refugees in 2014. Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner-General Margot Ellis expressed concerns about the welfare of the 520,000 Palestine refugees who reside in Syria. "Our fear is that as violence continues, Palestine refugees will be increasingly drawn into the conflict, thereby placing them at risk of targeted attacks", she said. She also indicated that approximately 10,000 Palestine refugees had fled to Lebanon and about 2,200 of them have sought refuge in Jordan.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/speech-unrwa-deputy-commissioner-general-margot-ellis-2013-pledging>

Select UN stories

UNHCR's protection chief sees key role in future for Syrian refugee women

December 4 (UNHCR) – Syrian refugee women have a key role to play in Syria's future, UNHCR's protection chief Volker Türk told a conference in London on December 4. He added that more than 80 per cent of the more than 2.2 million Syrian refugees were women and children – a particularly vulnerable population facing serious protection risks such as early marriages, child labour, isolation and lack of livelihoods.

<http://www.unhcr.org/529f474c9.html>

UNHCR airlifts urgently needed winter supplies to northern Iraq

December 2 (UNHCR) – The UN refugee agency has commenced an emergency airlift of urgently needed winter supplies to reinforce its stockpile in Erbil, in northern Iraq, with relief items for up to 50,000 vulnerable Syrians. The agency already maintains a global stockpile in Amman, Jordan, as well as its global central emergency stockpile in Dubai, UAE.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/unhcr-airlifts-urgently-needed-winter-supplies-northern-iraq>

Relevant links

DPI Focus Page on Syria:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=146&Body=Syria&Body1=>

OPCW-UN Joint Mission in Syria: <http://opcw.unmissions.org>

UNICEF: <http://www.unicef.org/media/index.html>
WFP: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria>
OCHA: <http://www.unocha.org/crisis/syria>
WHO: <http://www.who.int/countries/syr/en/>
UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f86c2426.html>
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UNRWA: <http://www.unrwa.org/>

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