



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

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Secretary-General alarmed at the depth of suffering across Syria

As fighting continues in Raqqa and elsewhere in Syria, Secretary-General António Guterres made an urgent appeal to all conducting military operations in the country to do everything in their power to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure as well as to allow humanitarian access without delay. "I remain deeply alarmed at the depths of human suffering being endured across Syria. Daily life is dangerous and desperate for millions of people. Civilians continue to be killed, injured and displaced at a terrifying rate. I am also alarmed that places of refuge, such as hospitals and schools continue to be targeted", Mr. Guterres said on 21 June. The Secretary-General expressed particular concern about the perilous situation for civilians trapped in Raqqa. The United Nations and humanitarian partners are doing all they can to stem the suffering in Raqqa and across Syria, often at great personal risk, he noted.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2017-06-21/statement-secretary-general-regarding-situation-syria>

Syria remains world's largest producer of refugees - UNHCR report

In its Annual Global Trends report issued on 19 June, the UN refugee agency said that at the end of 2016 there were 65.6 million people forcibly displaced worldwide – some 300,000 more than a year earlier. Of these, 22.5 million people were refugees at the end of 2016, 40.3 million were internally displaced people (IDPs) and 2.8 asylum-seekers. Of the 22.5 refugees, 17.2 million were under UNHCR's mandate and 5.3 million Palestinian refugees were with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA). Syria's conflict remains the world's biggest producer of refugees with more than 12 million people forcibly displaced, including 5.5 million refugees and 6.3 million IDPs.

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/5943e8a34.pdf>

On World Refugee Day, UN urges support, solidarity for record number of displaced people

With a record 65.6 million people last year forcibly uprooted from their homes by violence and persecution, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on June 20 called on the international community to provide support and solidarity. "We reflect on the courage of those who fled and the compassion of those who welcome them," the Secretary-General said in his video message for World Refugee Day, marked annually on 20 June. He noted that more people than ever in our lifetimes are fleeing war, disasters and persecution.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57013>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/>

WHO confirms new cases of polio virus in Syria

The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed on 20 June 15 new cases of vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 in Syria, bringing the total of cases to 17, all between 3 March and 23 May. According to the agency, 16 of the cases are from Mayadeen district, Deir-Ezzor and one case is from Raqqa district. WHO said the priority was to fully implement

this outbreak response as quickly as possible to prevent further cases. Although access for vaccination is hampered due to prevailing insecurity in Deir Ezzor, the Governorate has been partially reached by several vaccination campaigns against polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases since the beginning of 2016.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/palais-briefing-notes-20-june-2017>

Aid reaches civilians besieged in Rural Damascus two days after attack on a convoy

The UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) delivered on 19 June humanitarian aid to East Harasta in rural Damascus, providing life-saving assistance for 11,000 people. The UN had originally asked to reach 33,000 people but only 11,000 were approved. The convoy arrived two days after a similar convoy tried to deliver assistance to East Harasta but was unable to cross into the area. On the way back to Damascus, two drivers from the SARC were injured after the convoy came under fire. In a statement, Ali Al-Za'tari, the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria, strongly condemned the attack on the convoy, expressing full solidarity with the SARC.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpBriefingsLatest_en\)/B1945BB31CAAB6B6C125814500481AD0?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/B1945BB31CAAB6B6C125814500481AD0?OpenDocument)

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Attacks%20on%20East%20Harasta%20convoy.pdf>

UN sounds the alarm about safety of civilians in Deir Ezzor amid continued fighting

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on 19 June voiced deep concern for the protection and safety of 100,000 people in areas of Deir Ezzor city, besieged by Da'esh since July 2014. Civilians continue to be subjected to violence, humanitarian aid is limited and basic services, especially medical care, is lacking. The UN continues to provide basic food, nutrition and medical supplies to people in need in Deir Ezzor through World Food Programme (WFP) airdrops. However, continued fighting between the Government of Syria and Da'esh forces may jeopardize the delivery of humanitarian aid should landing sites for aid become unsafe. The UN reiterates its calls for safe, unimpeded and sustained access to all people in need across the country, particularly the more than 4.5 million men, women and children in hard-to-reach and besieged areas.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170619.doc.htm>

UNICEF appoints Syrian refugee as Goodwill Ambassador

A 19-year-old Syrian refugee and education activist, Muzoon Alemellehan, was appointed Goodwill ambassador for UNICEF on 19 June. The appointment makes Muzoon Alemellehan the first person with official refugee status to become an Ambassador for the children agency. She fled the conflict in Syria along with her family in 2013, living as refugee for three years in Jordan before being resettled in the United Kingdom. It was during her 18 months in the Za'atari camp that Muzoon began advocating for children's access to education, particularly for girls. "Even as a child, I knew that education was the key to my future, so when I fled Syria, the only belongings I took with me were my school books," said Muzoon.

https://www.unicef.org/media/media_96488.html

Intra-Syrian talks to reconvene on 10 July - Special Envoy

Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura announced on 17 June that he will convene a seventh round of the intra-Syrian talks in Geneva to begin on 10 July. The Envoy added that he intends to convene further rounds of talks in August and in September. As in previous rounds, invitations will be sent in keeping with Security Council resolution 2254 (2015). In addition to the formal sessions of the intra-Syrian talks, expert meetings of the consultative process on constitutional and legal issues established during the sixth round will continue. The Special Envoy encouraged the invitees to prepare actively and

looks forward to them engaging in an intensified set of discussions within this framework.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/7F6A27871B5D69D0C1258144004AEF86?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/7F6A27871B5D69D0C1258144004AEF86?OpenDocument)

Ahead of next round of Syria talks, UN facilitates consultations with experts from three opposition groups

The Office of the Special Envoy (OSE) for Syria said on 16 June that it had facilitated a two-day meeting with technical experts from three opposition groups: the High Negotiations Committee, the Cairo Platform and Moscow Platform. That meeting is part of the technical consultation process announced at the end of the sixth round of talks in Geneva. The OSE noted it was the first time that experts from the various opposition groups invited to participate in the formal rounds of intra-Syrian talks, had sat together with UN experts and officials. The substance of the deliberations during the meetings had revolved around a schedule and process for drafting a new constitution, and how it could be approved by the Syrian people, in line with relevant Security Council resolutions.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpPages\)/AF6900849E815326C12581410056BFF3?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpPages)/AF6900849E815326C12581410056BFF3?OpenDocument)

Security Council briefed on progress of elimination of Syria's chemical weapons

Briefing the Security Council on 15 June, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, noted that "some progress" had been made in the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013) on the elimination of chemical weapons in Syria. On 6 June, she said, a remaining hangar had been destroyed. However, due to security concerns, two remaining surface installations could not be accessed by investigative teams. She added that the Fact-Finding Mission in Syria continues its investigation into the allegation of the use of chemical weapons in Khan Sheikhoun on 4 April. "The continued use of chemical weapons in Syria is not only horrific in its own right, but also profoundly damaging to the international community's confidence in its non-proliferation architecture", Ms. Nakamitsu told the Council.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/High-Rep-Briefing_JUNE-2017_AS-DELIVERED.pdf

UNICEF faces severe funding shortage to assist 9 million children in Syria

UNICEF programmes for over 9 million children in Syria and neighbouring countries are at risk of being cut off due to a critical US\$220 million funding shortage, the agency warned on 16 June. "This is the most severe funding gap UNICEF has had since we started responding to the Syria crisis - one of the largest humanitarian operations in the history of the organisation," said Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa. UNICEF has appealed for US\$ 1.4 billion for its emergency operations in 2017 inside Syria and in neighbouring countries but to date less than a quarter of its funding needs have been fulfilled.

https://www.unicef.org/media/media_96457.html

UN Radio in Arabic

قافلة مساعدات إنسانية توفر الإغاثة لموقعين يصعب الوصول إليهما في حمص وحماة

A humanitarian aid convoy provides relief for two hard-to-reach locations in Homs and Hama

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/245231>

نقص التمويل يهدد بتقليص المساعدات المقدمة للأطفال السوريين

Lack of funding threatens humanitarian aid to the Syrian children

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/245207/#.WUp2yOvyuUk>

2017/06/16

دي ميستورا : عقد الجولة السابعة من المحادثات السورية في الـ 10 يوليو

de Mistura announces that the 7th round of Syrian talks will be held on July 10

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/245358/#.WUp3BuvyuUk>

2017/06/17

مزون المليحان أصغر سفراء اليونسيف للنوايا الحسنة وأول لاجئ يكلف بهذا الدور

Muzoon Alemellehan is UNICEF's youngest Goodwill Ambassador and she is the first refugee to be assigned for this role

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/245449>

2017/06/19

تقرير مفوضية شؤون اللاجئين يؤكد أن عوامل الحروب والعنف والاضطهاد تفرز أعدادا غير مسبوقة من اللاجئين

UNHCR's report finds that war, violence and persecution produce an unprecedented number of refugees

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/245410>

2017/06/19

علاء الدين الجابي :سوري يساعد لاجئي جنوب السودان في أوغندا

Ala Eddin Al-Jabi is a Syrian who assists refugees of South Sudan in Uganda

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/245628>

2017/06/19

عائلة سورية اضطرت إلى اللجوء إلى الولايات المتحدة لتبدأ حياة جديدة

A Syrian family had to seek asylum to the United States in order to start a new life

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/245376/#.WUp30OvyuUk>

2017/06/20

مشروع من الفاو يساعد العراقيين والسوريين على استعادة سبل العيش

FAO project helps Iraqis and Syrians to recover livelihoods

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/245637/#.WUp3cuvyuUk>

2017/06/20

Twitter

António Guterres@antonioguterres – 21 June

Civilians are still killed and injured at horrifying rates in Syria. I call for protection & humanitarian access. <http://bit.ly/2sVzs9C>

United Nations@UN · 20 June

On #RefugeesDay, take a look at this new animation featuring @YusraMardini's journey from Syria to the Olympics <http://ow.ly/4A7Q30cIH9H>

United Nations Retweeted - 20 June

UNICEF @UNICEF

Our youngest-ever Goodwill Ambassador @muzoonrakan1 has a message for #ChildrenUprooted.

UN Geneva @UNGeneva -19 June

#SyriaTalks will resume in Geneva on 10 July, @UN Special Envoy for Syria S. de Mistura announced <https://goo.gl/XZBFGK>

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 19 June

Two days after attack on convoy, @UN @SYRedCrescent @ICRC_sy returning to besieged East #Harasta #Syria to deliver aid for 11,000 people

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 19 June

#Syria Humanitarian Fund works on rehabilitating schools in #Homs with @SIF_ONG as 1/3 of schools in the country are destroyed or damaged

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria – 17 June

STATEMENT: strongly condemn attack on @UN @ICRC @SYRedCrescent convoy but will return to complete our mission <http://ow.ly/Shh030cG0F6>

UN Geneva@UNGeneva-16 June

Polio vaccination campaign in planning in #Syria's Deir Ezzor governorate, says @WHO - UNGeneva press briefing today <http://goo.gl/acrP5P>

Social media campaigns

#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>

UNFPA: <https://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/crisis-syria>

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/>