



## **Syrian Crisis**

### **United Nations Response**



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

**No. 207/26 July 2017**

#### **UN voices concerns for the protection of civilians in eastern Ghouta**

The United Nations expressed concern on 25 July about reports of deadly air strikes on the town of Arbin in eastern Ghouta, despite the announcement of a ceasefire in the area. The UN also called for the protection and well-being of the 400,000 people in eastern Ghouta, where people are in desperate need of medicine, health supplies, food, nutrition and other life-saving assistance. Elsewhere in Syria, clashes continue to undermine the delivery of much needed life-saving assistance through the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing between Turkey and Syria, which has remained closed since 19 July, with no UN cross-border shipments having taken place since then.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170725.doc.htm>

#### **WHO warns of increased attacks on health care facilities**

Attacks on health care facilities is one of the major reasons affecting health service delivery in Syria according to a report published by the World Health Organization on 25 July. The study found that the first half of 2017 witnessed an increase of 25% attacks on healthcare as compared to last year. A total of 62 verified incidents on 43 health facilities resulted in the killing of at least 46 people, including 18 health workers and 11 patients. Hospitals were the most affected with 31 incidents in 2017 and 21 in 2016, followed by primary health care centres and ambulances.

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima/document/monitoring-violence-against-health-care-mvh-mid-year-report-2017>

#### **UNRWA delivers critical aid to Palestine refugees in Syria thanks to US funding**

The UN Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) welcomed the generous contribution of the United States to the emergency response in Syria since the start of the conflict. "The United States of America continues to play a leading role in 2017 in supporting the Agency's emergency interventions, benefiting Palestine refugees impacted by the conflict", the agency said on 24 July. The funding has enabled UNRWA to launch two cash assistance rounds and two food assistance rounds, as well as the distribution of non-food items (NFIs), for vulnerable refugees by mid-2017. The agency also provided education for approximately 46,000 students in 101 schools in the first six months of the year.

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/photos/usa-support-unrwa-enables-delivery-critical-aid-palestine-refugees-syria>

#### **WHO launches polio vaccination campaigns in Deir-ez-Zor and Raqqa**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has successfully delivered more than half a million doses of polio vaccines to Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Qamishli in preparation for a one-week

polio vaccination campaign. The campaign began on 22 July targeting about 450,000 children in rural Deir-ez-Zor, south of Al-Chadaddi area in rural Al-Hassakeh and Raqqa governorate. "This is an emergency campaign aimed at ending the circulation of vaccine-derived poliovirus type-2 in the area and preventing further spread to other conflict affected areas where children did not have regular access to polio vaccination," said Elizabeth Hoff, WHO representative in Syria.

<http://www.emro.who.int/syr/syria-news/who-shipment-of-polio-vaccines-to-launch-local-vaccination-campaigns-in-deir-ez-zor-and-ar-raqqa.html>

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

Syria: UN concerned over deadly air strikes in eastern Ghouta

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/248427/#.WXjQpoQrKUK>

### **Twitter**

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria- 25 July

New @FAOnews report: half of households reduced their meals and some 7 million people are food insecure in #Syria <http://ow.ly/Qu7Z30dTxby>

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria -24 July

Displacement from and within #ArRaqqa #Syria continue due to heavy fighting. Read latest @UNOCHA situation report <http://ow.ly/eC1630dRnID>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 24 July

The #US plays a leading role in 2017 in supporting dire emergency interventions #ForPalRefs in #Syria @StatePRM  
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/889439099593134080>

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria - 24 July

"We are with @SYRedCrescent and @ICRC\_sy as one team to reach all people in need," said Ali Al-Za'tari, head of @UN in #Syria at the #ISSG

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria -23 July

Over 35,000 people were reached in June by @UNRWA. See snapshot of their work with #Palestine refugees in #Syria

OCHA Syria@OCHA\_Syria -22 July

Just delivered food, nutrition, water, health and education supplies for 33,500 people in Dar Kabirah #Homs w/ @SYRedCrescent @ICRC\_sy @UN

### **Facebook**

UNRWA- 24 July

The seven-year-long conflict in Syria has resulted in massive displacement, hardship and suffering for hundreds of thousands of Palestine refugees, large massive-scale destruction of infrastructure, and immense loss of lives and livelihoods. Due to the proximity of Palestinian camps and gatherings in Syria to volatile areas, Palestine refugees are among the most affected communities. To respond to the population's

enormous needs and to continue operating in these complex environments, UNRWA relies on the generosity of its donors.

The United States continues to play a leading role in 2017 in supporting the Agency's emergency interventions, benefiting Palestine refugees impacted by the Syria conflict. With USA support, UNRWA successfully launched two cash assistance rounds and two food assistance rounds, as well as the distribution of non-food items (NFIs), for vulnerable refugees. See more in this photo-essay: <https://www.unrwa.org/.../usa-support-unrwa-enables-delivery-...>

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1497031683676727/?type=3&theater>

UNRWA- 21 July

"Getting by is very difficult as prices are continuously increasing because of the war. The cash assistance allows me to buy milk for my 3-year-old son and support my parents," says Siba, a 21-year-old widow from Syria, as she receives cash assistance provided by UNRWA with the support of donors like the Government of Japan.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1493632604016635/?type=3&theater>

### **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](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, more than 15 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>

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/>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 21 July

Cash assistance allows me to buy milk for my 3-year-old son," Siba, 21, #Syria. Siba received cash assistance, thx to donors like #Japan

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/888346603312091136>