



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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UN concerned over safety of thousands of civilians in berm

UN agencies are deeply concerned about the security and protection of the nearly 50,000 people — mainly women and children — who remain stranded at Syria's southern border with Jordan in an area known as the berm, said the UN Spokesperson on 14 August. Air strikes have been reported in the area in the last few days, and the area is reported to be increasingly unsafe. Some people are reportedly attempting to leave the area, risking further danger and deprivation in an inhospitable desert location. The situation for those who remain is worsened by the scarcity of services available in the area, especially food and health care.

www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170814.doc.htm

Over 600,000 displaced Syrians returned home so far this year, UN agency

More than 600,000 displaced Syrians returned home in the first seven months of 2017, the United Nations migration agency and partners announced in a press release on 11 August. Findings by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and partners indicate that 84 per cent of the people returning had been displaced within Syria, and the rest returned from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. Refugees returning from Turkey and Jordan reportedly returned mainly to Aleppo and Al Hasakeh Governorates.

www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57340

Giving youth a chance to become peace builders in conflict-ridden countries

Youth play an important role as agents of change – they are the future of their communities. This year's International Youth Day is putting a spotlight on the role of youth in the prevention of conflict and in building peace. In countries marked by armed conflict or unrest, young people often comprise the majority. According to the Syria Population State Report, in 2014, youth between the ages of 15 and 24 represented 20 per cent of Syria's population. However, in conflict-ridden countries, where their role as peace builders is most necessary, the impact of conflict poses the greatest challenges for young people in reaching their full potential. The conflict in Syria is coupled with economic disintegration and social fragmentation, leaving youth feeling overwhelmed and insecure about their future. Many have been exposed to armed violence, forced to leave their homes, discontinue their education or been unable to find jobs.

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/photos/giving-youth-chance-become-peace-builders-conflict-ridden-countries>

UN Radio in Arabic

The United Nations reminds all military personnel of their obligations to protect civilians in ar Raqqa.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249643/>

Jordan is starting to give work permits to Syrian refugees and this is the first of its kind in the Middle East.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249679/>

The Director General of UNESCO condemns the killing of Syrian Bassel Khartabil ElSafadi
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249705/#.WZNZ9D59670>

Refugee Syrian mothers are learning how to read and write in Lebanon.
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249318/#.WZNaET59670>

600,000 Syrians return home from the beginning of the year.
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249766/#.WZNaLz59670>

United Nations concerned about 50,000 Syrian stuck on the Jordanian border.
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249898/#.WZNbZT59670>

Twitter

@OCHA_Syria, 16 August
"I was more frightened than I've ever been in my life," READ accounts from health workers #NotATarget <http://ow.ly/r7ju30erKWU> #Syria

@OCHA_Syria, 16 August
Latest situation report on #ArRaqqa An estimated 224,250 people displaced as access to basic needs extremely limited <http://ow.ly/CIn830erryy>

@OCHA_Syria, 16 August
In #Syria, over 1.7 million children are not in school. One in three schools across the country is out of service. Childhood is #NotATarget

@UNICEF_Mena, 16 August
Beautiful and inspiring. This Syrian Girl Has Been Training In Karate Amid #Aleppo's Ruins @Buzzfeed www.buzzfeed.com/rosebuchanan/karate-kid?utm_term=.lk2P1ejp7#.ii0JMPV5D

@UNICEF_Mena, 15 August
#Hama, #Syria: @UNICEF was part of the 1st interagency assessment mission to reach the three towns of Souran, Maardes and Tibet Al-Imam.

@WFP_MENA, 13 August
Every month, @WFP reaches more than 4 million people inside #Syria w/ life-saving food – half of them are children. <http://www1.wfp.org/syria-emergency>

@UNFPA-Syria, 13 August
On #YouthDay, @UNFPA celebrates their contributions to #conflict prevention & commits to support them. #Youth4Peace #ActOn2250

@OCHA_Syria, 13 August
Providing aid to people evacuated from #Arsal to Syria, despite concerns for civilians impacted by local agreements <http://ow.ly/HWni30emV2n>

@UNRWA, 12 August
"We should work hand in hand 2 promote & hope. People r frustrated & suffered loss." Waed was besieged for 7 mths in Yarmouk #Syria6Years

@UNRWA, 12 August
"If the energy of kids is directed constructively, Syria will enjoy peace," says 23-year-old

Ahmad [#forPalestinerefugees](#) [#VoicesfromSyria](#)
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/896385813260271617>

@OCHA_Syria, 11 August

In [#Lattakia](#) [#Syria](#) @UndpSyria providing tool kits to help young people start businesses and generate income [#youth4peace](#) [#IYD2017](#)

@UNRWA, 12 August

"Youth should look at themselves and see how they can serve their community," says Waed, who uses her photos to convey peace. [#Youth4Peace](#)
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/896397135083560960>

@UNRWA, 12 August

"We should work hand in hand 2 promote peace & hope. People r frustrated & suffered loss." Waed was besieged for 7 mths in Yarmouk [#Syria6Years](#)
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/896379009574907904>

@UNRWA, 12 August

On Int'l [#YouthDay](#), we focus on youth as peace builders: UNRWA supports youth to contribute to their community [#forPalestinerefugees](#)
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/896359439862833155>

@UNRWA, 12 August

Thx to [#Japan](#), UNRWA teachers provide [#qualityeducation](#), translated into success rate of 80% on the official ninth-grade exams. @UNinSyria
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/896334240253702144>

@UNRWA, 12 August

UNRWA inaugurated its annual [#education](#) conference in [#Damascus](#) to review achievements & challenges of 2016/17 More: <http://bit.ly/2vAarC8>

Facebook

Take a look at our interactive timeline to see the impact of

[#Syria6Years](#) on [#Palestine](#) [#refugees](#) at: <https://www.unrwa.org/syria-crisis>

To date, the UNRWA Syria Emergency Appeal is 75 per cent underfunded. Share and donate at <https://www.unrwa.org/donate>

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1517535788292983/?type=3&theater>

"My dream is to carry out activities for traumatized children to provide them with psychosocial support and motivate them to be active members in their community," says 23-year-old Nermin. [#forPalestinerefugees](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/posts/1515647915148437>

Like thousands of Palestine refugees, Waed lived under siege for seven months with her mother and sisters in Yarmouk refugee camp. "My suffering in the camp inspired the topic of my graduation film, which focused on peace. We should work hand in hand to promote harmony and hope because many people are frustrated and have suffered great losses," says Waed. [#forPalestinerefugees](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/posts/1515646151815280>

This International Youth Day is putting a spotlight on the role of youth in the prevention of conflict and building peace. In Syria, their role is critical. UNRWA works to ensure Palestine refugee youth in the country have access to education, vocational training, counselling, recreational activities and career guidance

[#forPalestinerefugees](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/posts/1515640458482516>

Thanks to donations from the Government of Japan, UNRWA teachers continue to provide students with quality education in Syria. This translated into a success rate of 80 per cent on the official ninth-grade exams, in comparison to the national average of 65.8 per cent. [UN in Syria](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.10517119286279/0/1515736181806277/?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

@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

#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](https://www.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/>