



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No. 213/20 September 2017

WHO speaks out against attacks on medical personnel and hospitals in Idlib province

The World Health Organization (WHO) condemned the attacks on medical personnel and facilities in Idlib province on 19 September which reportedly killed and injured health workers and disrupted health services for thousands of people. According to WHO local partners, several ambulances and hospitals were hit by airstrikes within a few hours. All three hospitals in Kafr Nabl, Khan Sheikhoun and Heish sub-districts are no longer in service.

“These attacks deprive civilians caught in the crossfire of the critical trauma care and health services they need. Every day, health workers risk their lives to care for the sick and wounded across the country. We must continue to protect and support them as they work to save lives”, said Dr Peter Salam, Executive Director of WHO Health Emergencies. WHO urges all parties to the conflict to refrain from attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure, as required by International Humanitarian Law.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/who-condemns-attacks-hospitals-and-health-workers-idlib-and-hama>

Human rights investigative panel calls for perpetrators of human rights violations to be brought to justice

Civilians continue to be deliberately attacked, deprived of humanitarian aid and essential healthcare services, forcibly displaced, and arbitrarily detained or held hostage by all warring parties, according to the latest report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria. Presenting the report to the Human Rights Council on 18 September, the Chair of the investigative panel, Paulo Pinheiro, appealed to all parties – pro-Government and international coalition alike – conducting airstrikes in Syria to ensure they are taking all efforts to spare civilians from harm and refrain from striking hospitals, schools, and religious sites. “After six years of war, we are concerned that Member States have done so little to hold perpetrators accountable. The deadlock at the Security Council on Syria is reprehensible, and at times bewildering”, he told the Council.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22095&LangID=E>

WHO aid convoy delivers 7 tons of medical supplies in Raqqa governorate

The World Health Organization delivered on 18 September more than seven tons of medicines and medical supplies to Al-Tabqa hospital, in Raqqa governorate, in north-eastern Syria. Following escalating violence, more than half of the 180,000 people now residing in Al-Tabqa city are internally displaced. “WHO is committed to supporting health facilities in the Raqqa governorate to provide all displaced people, including those in the hardest-to-reach areas, with access to health services through the provision of

emergency lifesaving medicines,” said Elizabeth Hoff, WHO Representative in Syria. WHO has so far provided medicines sufficient for more than 600,000 treatments as part of its response in north-east Syria in 2017.

<http://www.emro.who.int/syr/syria-news/who-responds-to-critical-health-needs-of-displaced-populations-in-al-tabqa-city-ar-raqqa-governorate.html>

The UN urges protection of civilians in Deir-ez-Zor following airstrikes

The UN on 17 September called on all parties to the conflict to ensure the protection of civilians from the effects of violence in eastern Deir-ez-Zor, following reports of civilian deaths and injuries due to airstrikes in recent days. “The UN is deeply concerned for the safety and protection of civilians - men, women and children - who are victims of continued fighting, airstrikes and military operations in Deir-ez-Zor,” said Ramesh Rajasingham, the acting interim Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria. “I call on all parties to do their utmost to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians in the conduct of military operations and strictly adhere to the international humanitarian law principles of distinction, proportionality, and precautions in and from the effects of attack.” On 14 September alone, dozens of civilians were reportedly killed following a number of airborne strikes in several locations in eastern Deir-ez-Zor Governorate.

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Statement%20on%20Civilian%20Casualties_ds.pdf

Special Envoy welcomes Astana Agreement on de-escalation zones, reiterates calls for comprehensive political process

Speaking to reporters on 15 September after a high-level meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan of the three ceasefire guarantor states – Russia, Iran and Turkey – Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura welcomed the agreement to set up de-escalation zones in Syria for six months. “These arrangements need to be considered temporary in nature because of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria is fundamental”, he noted. The Special Envoy stressed the importance of advancing the political process. “We need now to bring the momentum of Astana to Geneva in order to have a political process moving on the basis of de-escalation. No de-escalation can be sustained without a comprehensive political process, and that is based in Geneva”, he added. The Envoy said that he would consult with the Secretary-General and the Security Council during the General Assembly in New York before announcing a date for the next round of Geneva talks.

[https://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/988AFD40EC321909C125819F005885FB?OpenDocument](https://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/988AFD40EC321909C125819F005885FB?OpenDocument)

UN appeals for protection of thousands of civilians trapped in Raqqa city

UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on 14 September that the UN was concerned about the safety and protection of up to 15,000 people, many of them women and children, trapped inside Raqqa City. “The humanitarian situation inside the city remains dire, with a majority of the remaining population reportedly facing deteriorating humanitarian, health, living and security conditions. Since July, over 51,000 people in Raqqa have been displaced, including close to 30,000 in the month of August”, he said. UN agencies, through their local partners, continue to provide food and other key items, hygiene kits, nutrition, medical treatment and vaccinations for people in need in at least 58 areas where most of the internally displaced people are concentrated.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170914.doc.htm>

UN Radio in Arabic

The United Nations calls upon all parties of the Syria conflict to abide by the principles of distinction, proportionality and caution during military attacks

سوريا: الأمم المتحدة تدعو جميع أطراف النزاع إلى الالتزام بمبادئ التمييز والتناسب والحيلة خلال الهجمات العسكرية
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/251575>

2017-09-18

Special Envoy de Mistura welcomes the agreement in Astana on de-escalation zones

دي مستورا يرحب بالاتفاق في أستانة على مناطق تهدئة التصعيد
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/251429>

2017-09-15

First aid convoy arrives in Deir-ez-Zor by land after 3 years of siege

بعد 3 سنوات من الحصار، وصول أول قافلة مساعدات إلى دير الزور برا
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/251356>

2017-09-15

Twitter

UNHCR Syria- 20 September

Farmers of Ein Al Wade in Rural #Latakia shared this breathtaking view with our chief @malik_sajjad, they're glad to be back home after 3y

UNHCR Syria- 20 September

Most of the residents of Ein Al Wade Sub-District in Rural #Latakia had returned home, #UNHCR & #PUI support with houses rehabilitation

UNHCR Syria- 19 September

During his visit to Community Center in Baniyas #Tartous, our chief @Malik_Sajjad met w/ displaced children who shared their hopes & dreams

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria - 19 September

Over 7 tons of medicines & medical supplies delivered by @WHO to #Tabqa city's national hospital in #ArRaqqa #Syria <http://ow.ly/m97R30fg5ct>

UN Syria Commission- 18 September

We have a duty to document the unambiguously illegal use of prohibited #chemicalweapons in violation of #internationallaw #HRC36 #Syria

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria - 19 September

Over 7 tons of medicines & medical supplies delivered by @WHO to #Tabqa city's national hospital in #ArRaqqa #Syria <http://ow.ly/m97R30fg5ct>

UNFPA-Syria @UnfpaSyria - 18 September

.@UNFPA in #Homs #Syria organized a workshop #CaringForSurvivors for #MobileTeams 2 improve #Quality of services provided by local partners
OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- 17 September
Calling on parties to the conflict to protect civilians from the effects of violence in #DeirEzzor @rajasingham_UN

WFP Middle East @WFP_MENA – 17 September
Breakthrough in #Syria: @WFP halts costly airdrops, reaches Deir Ezzor by land for the 1st time since May 2014 → [http://www.wfp.org/news-release/wfp-halts-airdrops-syria%E2%80%99s-deir-ezzor-city-land-corridor-opens ...](http://www.wfp.org/news-release/wfp-halts-airdrops-syria%E2%80%99s-deir-ezzor-city-land-corridor-opens...)

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- 16 September
READ @UnfpaSyria story on providing hygiene kits for women, girls and men in #DeirEzzor #Syria <http://ow.ly/XNyt30fcPKF>

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria – 15 September
Up to 15,000 civilians trapped in #ArRaqqa face increasingly deteriorating humanitarian conditions, full report

Facebook

UN Geneva- September 15 at 11:22am
Watch Jens Laerke, Spokesperson for United Nations OCHA update the press this morning in Geneva on the humanitarian situation in Deir Ez-Zor, Syria, where 93,500 people are in urgent need of assistance.

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

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>