



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

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Reports of airstrike killing people fleeing ISIL in rural Hama, UN official

Briefing the UN Security Council on 27 September, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Mark Lowcock expressed concern about reports of recent fighting and airstrikes in Idlib and Hama, which have resulted in significant death and injury, and damaged critical civilian infrastructure. He said reports suggest that an airstrike on 26 September in the Wadi Al-Zeib area in rural Hama may have killed as many as 80 people fleeing ISIL. "I am particularly concerned about reported airstrikes hitting schools and hospitals in Idleb. Humanitarian partners told us last week that three hospitals in Kafr Nabl, Khan Sheikhoun, and Heish sub-districts are no longer in service, leaving over half a million people without access to medical care. Such attacks result not only in direct human suffering from the attacks themselves, but they also cause unnecessary consequential suffering and death by depriving people of access to medical care for what would, otherwise, be treatable conditions", he added. "Over a million people rely on assistance that is provided across conflict lines. We are still unable to reach the vast majority of them on a sufficiently regular basis. So far in September, 9,000 people in the three besieged towns of Foah, Kefraya and Yarmouk have been reached, and 25,000 people were reached in East Harasta, Misraba and Modira. In total, under the August and September access plan, we have reached just 280,500 of the 1.23 million people we requested to provide assistance to, he said. (The speech is also attached)

<http://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/statement-and-speech/USG%20ERC%20Statement%20to%20Security%20Council%20on%20Syria%20-%2027%20September%202017.pdf>

School in Rural Idlib hit by airstrike

A school in Syria, which was used as a shelter for internally displaced people in Khan al-Sobol in rural Idlib, was reportedly hit by an airstrike, said the UN Spokesperson at the daily press briefing on 25 September at UNHQ in New York. Four people were killed and many others injured. He said that increase in violence in south and west rural Aleppo had also been reported, and as a result, some of the local councils in the area had reportedly suspended classes.

www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170925.doc.htm

Inter-agency convoy delivers assistance to besieged towns in rural Damascus

On 23 September, a UN-Syrian Arab Red Crescent-International Committee of the Red Cross inter-agency convoy delivered food, health, nutrition, education items and children's clothing for 25,000 people in the besieged towns of east Harasta, Misraba and Modira in eastern Ghouta, rural Damascus, said the UN Spokesperson at the daily noon briefing at UNHQ. He said the area was last reached by an inter-agency convoy in June of this year.

www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170925.doc.htm

Disarmament and non-proliferation 'mutually-reinforcing,' Security Council told

The United Nations disarmament chief on 21 September warned against emerging technologies that make the acquisition and use of weapons of mass destruction easier, and stressed the need for effective approaches combining diplomacy, international cooperation and implementation of Security Council decisions. In Syria, successful engagement by Russia and the United States resulted in that country eliminating its declared chemical weapon programme under UN supervision and with unprecedented international cooperation. "Regrettably, we continue to find evidence of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons" by the Government of Syria and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh), she added.

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57654#>

UNHCR and League of Arab States sign agreement to address refugee challenges in the Arab region

On 22 September, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and the League of Arab States (LAS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at establishing a global cooperation framework for an effective response to the needs of refugees in the Arab region and to facilitate better humanitarian access and emergency response. The agreement was signed at a ceremony in New York attended by Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, on the margins of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly. UNHCR estimates that more than half of the refugee population worldwide and some 40 per cent of internally displaced persons are being hosted in the Arab region. Half of UNHCR's annual budget, approximately, is allocated to operations in the Middle East and North Africa.

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2017/9/59c4d7024/unhcr-league-arab-states-sign-agreement-address-refugee-challenges-arab.html>

Sustained engagement vital to address immense humanitarian needs in Syria – UN official

Sustained international attention and engagement is vital as the Syrian conflict moves into its seventh year and the suffering of civilians shows no signs of waning, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Mark Lowcock told the High-level Meeting on Syria held on 21 September in the margins of the General Assembly. Mr. Lowcock, who is also UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, reported that de-escalation has resulted in calm in some parts of the country. But an increase in operations in the east to combat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) has caused fresh suffering and displacement. Among the other participants at the meeting were the UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57653#.WcvZoLKGNpg

UN Radio in Arabic

مذكرة تفاهم بين مفوضية اللاجئين وجامعة الدول العربية لمعالجة تحديات اللاجئين في المنطقة العربية

MOU between the UNHCR and the LAS on to address refugee challenges in the Arab region

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/252062/#.WcupvVuPLcs>

سوريا تؤكد التزامها بمسار أستانة واحتفاظها بحق الرد على أي خرق

Syria confirms its commitment to the Astana process and reserves the right to respond to any breach

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/252186/#.WcuqOVuPLcs>

تقارير حول وقوع ضحايا إثر غارة جوية على مدرسة في ريف إدلب

School housing IDPs in Idlib hit by airstrike

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/252313/#.WcuqbluPLcs>

Twitter

@OCHA_Syria, 27 September

#Syria Humanitarian Fund has been supporting a hospital in previously besieged #AlWaer #Homs. Learn about choices medical staff had to make

@UNICEFmena, 27 September

#Syria: @UNICEF is supporting a national measles campaign, which to protect over 3.5 million children aged 5-12 years old. #ChildrenofSyria

@OCHA_Syria, 26 September

12 incidents of violence against healthcare reported in August, seven in besieged or hard to reach areas @WHO #Syria <http://ow.ly/Emn530fr8Lo>

@UNHCRinSyria Retweeted, 26 September

347 families returned to Arran rural #Aleppo. Winter fast approaching, UNHCR & SARC started distributing winterization kits to needy Syrians

@OCHA_Syria, 25 September

Humanitarian access to 3.47 million people in hard-to-reach and besieged areas in #Syria remains a critical concern <http://undocs.org/S/2017/794>

@OCHA_Syria, 23 September

NOW delivering food, health, nutrition, education items for 25,000 people in East #Harasta, Misraba & Modira w/ @SYRedCrescent @ICRC_sy @UN

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>