



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

No. 215/4 October 2017

UN Refugee agency warns of critical funding gap

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Spokesperson Andrej Mahecic told reporters on 3 October that the agency is increasingly concerned over the funding situation for refugees and displaced families in the Middle East as winter is approaching. The US\$245 million Regional Winter Assistance Plan for 2017/2018 which covers winter needs of Syrian and Iraqi refugees and internally displaced people in Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt is only 26 per cent funded. According to UNHCR as many as four million people are in the extreme risk category and need timely and substantial help to prepare for the winter.

<http://www.unhcr.org/59d34b0c4.html>

UN voices deep concern about protection of civilians caught in fighting in several parts of Syria

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on 2 October expressed deep alarm about reports of fighting and airstrikes in several parts of Syria resulting in the death and injury of scores of civilians and damage to schools, hospitals and centres for displaced people. Fighting and attacks reportedly continue in Raqqa city, Eastern Ghouta in rural Damascus, and Idlib Governorate. Three explosions in Damascus city on the same day reportedly caused the death of 10 people and injured 15 more. The UN reminds all parties of their obligation to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, including facilitating access to those in need in a regular, sustained and impartial manner, in line with International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db171002.doc.htm>

Special Envoy calls for new round of Geneva talks in one month

Briefing the Security Council on 27 September, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura confirmed his intention to convene the eighth round of the intra-Syrian talks in Geneva about a month from now, with the precise date still to be determined. He added that the talks should start no later than the end of October or early November. "Now that the scourge of terror is starting to be defeated in Syria, time was ripe for a real and inclusive process", the Envoy said.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc13010.doc.htm>

European Union makes donation in support of UNRWA programmes for Palestine refugees in Syria

The European Union donated EUR 10 million in support of UNRWA development and emergency programming, benefitting Palestine refugees across Syria. The donation

includes support to education and health programmes, technical and vocational education and training, as well as the microfinance department and the emergency cash assistance. Thanks to the EU-supported Engaging Youth project, UNRWA bolsters the resilience of Palestine refugees through the provision of continuing education, career guidance, business development and life-skills.

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/videos/eu-unrwa-together-palestine-refugee-youth-syria>

UN Radio in Arabic

Millions of refugees in MENA are at risk as funding for winter relief operations fall

<https://goo.gl/98WbFh>

3 October

Dozens are killed or injured in fighting in Syria

<https://goo.gl/abjuwg>

2 October

UN Relief Chief calls for lifting the bureaucratic challenges in Syria as frontlines shift

<https://goo.gl/Rkv5X8>

27 September

Special Envoy de Mistura intends to reconvene the Intra-Syrian talks within a month

<https://goo.gl/ZChjJn>

27 September

Twitter

UN Refugee Agency @Refugees- 4 October

Our US\$245 million Regional Winter Assistance Plan for the Middle East for 2017/2018 is currently only 26% funded

UNRWA- 2 October

Thanks 2 @EU_Near's Engaging Youth project UNRWA bolsters the resilience of #Palestine #refugees like Ala' through education&career guidance

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/914928735324823552>

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/914853498918801408>

UN Refugee Agency- 2 October

On the tiny Greek island of Tilos, 10 families from war-torn Syria have found refuge, work and a sense of community.

UN Political Affairs@UN_DPA- 28 September

"De-escalation should be precursor to truly nationwide ceasefire" in #Syria, @UN Envoy de Mistura told Council: <http://www.un.org/undpa/en/speeches-statements/27092017/syria> ...

UNICEF MENA @UNICEFmena -28 September

Children in #Syria are crossing conflict lines to sit for their school exams. @UNICEF assisted over 10,600 children this year.

Facebook

UNRWA - 2 October

Bolster the resilience of Palestine refugee through the provision of continuing education, career guidance, business development and life-skills. Listen to Ala's experience with the Engaging Youth project. [EU Neighbourhood & Enlargement](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/videos/1559979094048652/>

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency

October 1 at 7:18am

Explore our partnership with [Google](#): <https://searchingforsyria.org/en/what-is-going-on-in-syria/>

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/>