



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No. 217/18 October 2017

Syrian Democratic Forces reportedly take control of Raqqa city; humanitarian situation remains of concern

Reportedly, the Syrian Democratic Forces have taken full control of Raqqa city, with the last remaining civilians evacuated over the past few days, informed the UN Spokesperson at the daily noon briefing on 17 October. The UN is however not able to verify first hand the situation in the city due to lack of access, but we have received reports that much of the city has been damaged or destroyed due to the fighting, he added. We are closely monitoring the situation and stand ready to deliver life-saving assistance to those in need as soon as access is granted and security conditions permit.
www.un.org/press/en/2017/db171017.doc.htm

Inter-Agency convoy delivers humanitarian assistance in besieged Al-Qaboun

A UN-International Committee of the Red Cross-Syrian Arab Red Crescent inter-agency convoy on 15 October delivered assistance to 1,500 men, women and children remaining in the besieged al-Qaboun area in Damascus. Al-Qaboun was besieged in April this year, and this is the first access to the besieged area since April, said the UN Spokesperson on 16 October. The UN continues to call for safe, unimpeded and sustained access to close to 3 million people in hard-to-reach and 10 besieged areas, including the facilitation of medical evacuations in line with international humanitarian and human rights law.
www.un.org/press/en/2017/db171016.doc.htm

UNICEF-sponsored vaccine cold room destroyed following attack in Deir ez-Zour

UNICEF had received reports that the ongoing violence in Deir ez-Zour in eastern Syria had destroyed a UNICEF-sponsored vaccine cold room in Al-Mayadin district, with at least 140,000 doses of vaccines lost, including some planned for the ongoing vaccination drive in the area, according to a UNICEF statement. The reported attack is likely to hamper efforts to protect children from a range of life-threatening diseases including measles and polio. Al-Mayadin is the centre of an outbreak of vaccine-derived polio which has so far paralyzed 48 children since March 2017, it noted.

https://www.unicef.org/media/media_101052.html
www.un.org/press/en/2017/db171012.doc.htm

Chile resettles Syrian refugees through UN-backed programme

Sixty-six Syrian adults and children arrived in Santiago, Chile from Lebanon on 12 October, making the South American country the newest to resettle Syrian refugees under a United Nations-backed programme. "We congratulate Chile's Government and society for extending their hand in solidarity with Syrian refugees in need and for

participating in the response of the international community to one of the greatest humanitarian crises since the Second World War," Michele Manca di Nissa, regional representative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said. At Santiago airport, Chilean President Michelle Bachelet welcomed the refugees.

www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57885#.WedqxftSxpg

UN Radio in Arabic

Hani Magali from Egypt joins the International Commission of Inquiry on Syria
المصري هاني مجالي ينضم للجنة التحقيق الدولية المعنية بسوريا

www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266288/#.WeYWCFuPLcs

UNHCR expresses concern over safety of civilians trapped in Raqqa
مفوضية اللاجئين تعرب عن قلقها حيال سلامة المدنيين المحاصرين في الرقة بسبب استمرار القتال العنيف

www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266294/#.WeYWTVuPLcs

UNHCR: Terrible stories from inside Raqqa city
مفوضية شؤون اللاجئين: قصص مروعة من داخل مدينة الرقة

www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266328/#.WeYWZFuPLcs

Syrian refugee Mazoon al-Malihan says she will continue to fight for the education of children

اللاجئة السورية مزون المليحان تؤكد أنها ستواصل النضال من أجل تعليم الأطفال

www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266415/#.WeYWnFuPLcs

FAO supports income generation for Syrian rural households affected by the conflict
الفاو تدعم مصادر دخل الأسر السورية الريفية المتضررة من النزاع

www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266500/#.WedW3VuPLcs

United Nations reiterates its readiness to provide life-saving assistance in Raqqa
الأمم المتحدة تؤكد استعدادها لتقديم المساعدة المنقذة للحياة في الرقة

www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266472/#.WedW luPLcs

Twitter

@UNICEF Mena, 18 October

"Attacking medical facilities and destroying vaccines amount to an attack on all children in #Syria" @gaviseth

@OCHA_Syria, 18 October

Much of #ArRaqqa city reportedly damaged/destroyed, @UN delivering aid to 330,000 people displaced by violence at camps & sites in northeast

@RefugeesChief, 17 October

Five million Syrian refugees & the countries hosting them continue to need support. My op-ed in @TheNational

@OCHA_Syria, 17 October

"Extremely challenging and risky," learn about @WFP's airdrops from within on previously besieged #DeirezZor <http://ow.ly/mek230fVuyZ>

@OCHA_Syria, 16 October

More OCHA Syria Retweeted FAO Newsroom
7 million people in #Syria are food insecure #WFD2017 #WorldFoodDay

@OCHA_Syria, 16 October

Resulted in 40 deaths & 100 injuries, @UNHCR condemns car bombs between #DeirezZor & #Hassakeh in strongest terms <http://ow.ly/idUA30fTKVI>

@OCHA_Syria, 15 October

First @UN @ICRC @SYRedCrescent convoy entered besieged #Qaboun #Damascus to deliver food & other emergency supplies for 1,500 people #Syria

@OCHA_Syria, 15 October

Attacks on vaccines in #Syria's #DeirezZor unequivocally condemned by @WHO. Health facilities are #NotATarget. READ <http://ow.ly/o4EX30fSMRr>

@OCHA_Syria, 13 October

Destruction of @UNICEF-supported vaccine cold room in #DeirezZor likely to hamper children protection from diseases <http://ow.ly/5Uce30fQORr>

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/>