



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

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UN health agency steps up health services for thousands of people in Raqqa

The United Nations health agency is stepping up the delivery of medicines and medical supplies to thousands of people in newly accessible areas of Raqqa. "The immediate objective of WHO [World Health Organization], together with local health authorities and NGO [non-governmental organization] partners, is to scale up life-saving health services for thousands of people who had been deprived of essential health care," said Elizabeth Hoff, WHO Representative in Syria. "We are also ensuring the availability of quality vaccines for children." In a news release issued on 24 October, the agency said that five tons of shipment, including medicines and medical supplies for 500 trauma cases and 37,000 medical treatments, have been provided to Al-Tabqa National Hospital, the closest hospital to Raqqa.

www.emro.who.int/syr/syria-news/who-reinforces-health-care-services-for-thousands-of-people-in-newly-accessible-areas-of-ar-raqqa-governorate-syria.html

Security Council fails to extend mandate of panel investigating use of chemical weapons in Syria

The Security Council on 24 October failed to adopt a resolution extending the mandate of a joint United Nations-Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapon (OPCW) body to identify the perpetrators of chemical weapons attacks in Syria due to a 'no' vote by permanent member Russia. Eleven of the Council's 15 members voted in favour, while Russia and non-permanent member Bolivia voted against the text. Permanent member China, and non-permanent Kazakhstan abstained.

www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57953#

Civilians in Raqqa at risk of death and injury from unexploded ordnance

At the noon briefing on 24 October, the UN Spokesperson said that humanitarian colleagues are concerned for the safety and protection of civilians at risk of death and injury from unexploded ordnance reportedly planted throughout Raqqa city's neighbourhoods. While the clearing of unexploded ordnance operation is ongoing, nine people were reportedly killed during the weekend while trying to return to their homes. Humanitarian workers are unable to access the city until the clearing of mines and other unexploded ordnance is completed.

www.un.org/press/en/2017/db171024.doc.htm

Famine can be a war crime and should be prosecuted, says independent UN rights expert

Famine can constitute a war crime or crime against humanity, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Hilal Elver, told journalists in New York on 23 October. Those

countries include Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen, where around 20 million people are hungry or face starvation as a result of man-made conflict.

www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22278&LangID=E

This is the time for the political process to move ahead, says the Special Envoy for Syria

The Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on 19 October and said that this is the time for the political process to move ahead once more. He said that he would consult the Secretary-General before meeting with the Security Council on Thursday, 26 October. Mr. de Mistura added that he is determined to relaunch the Geneva negotiations in November.

[www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/ADDC950BEF757A9AC12581C4003CAA51?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/ADDC950BEF757A9AC12581C4003CAA51?OpenDocument)

Inter-agency convoy enters hard-to-reach Dar al-Kabira in rural Homs

A UN-Red Cross-Syrian Arab Red Crescent inter-agency convoy on 19 October entered the hard to reach Dar al-Kabira in rural Homs with aid for 33,500 people. This was the third inter-agency convoy to the Dar al-Kabira. The last time the area was reached with humanitarian assistance was in July 2017.

www.un.org/press/en/2017/db171019.doc.htm

Watchful of the situation in Raqqa, UN chief urges need to revive political process

In a statement issued on 18 October, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres urged all sides involved in the fight for Raqqa, Syria, to protect civilians, abide with international law, and allow humanitarian access to those in need. The Secretary-General also said the latest developments in Syria "point once again to the urgent need to reinvigorate the political process." The Spokesperson said that Mr. Guterres had directed his Special Envoy, Staffan de Mistura, to intensify efforts, in consultation with all concerned, to reconvene the next round of the intra-Syrian talks on the basis of the Geneva communique and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2254 (2015).

www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2017-10-18/statement-attributable-spokesman-secretary-general-syria

UN Radio in Arabic

WHO promotes health services in Raqqa after it's liberation from Daesh

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266899/#.WfC8jVuPKUk>

Disagreement in the SC on the issue of extending the mandate of JIM in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266841/#.WfC831uPKUk>

UNESCO condemns killing of journalists in Syria and Somalia

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266697/#.WfC9dFuPKUk>

de Mistura: It is time to move the political process forward

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266686/#.WfC9qFuPKUk>

The Secretary-General calls for facilitation of humanitarian access in Raqqa

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266614/#.WfC94VuPKUk>

Twitter

@OCHA_Syria, 24 October

Only 8.1% of people in besieged areas in #Syria reached with assistance in September. See comprehensive map

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_un_inter-agency_operations_18_october_2017.pdf

@WFP_MENA, 24 October

Thank you King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre for supporting @WFP food assistance to #Syria's hard-to-reach and besieged areas.

@OCHA_Syria, 22 October

Last month, 47,248 students, both boys and girls, enrolled in @UNRWA schools across #Syria #palestinerefugees <http://ow.ly/QDIS30g2Odm>

@OCHA_Syria, 19 October

Food, nutrition, health, education and other aid for 33,500 people entered hard-to-reach Dar Al Kabira #Homs #Syria @UN @ICRC @SYRedCrescent

@OCHA_Syria, 19 October

Shelling, sniping and airstrikes, caused civilian deaths and widespread destruction in #ArRaqqa #DeirezZour #Syria <http://ow.ly/dBs230fZbcz>

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/>