



## **Syrian Crisis** United Nations Response



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

**No. 219/1 November 2017**

### **Children around the world suffering enormously, Secretary-General tells the Security Council**

Secretary-General António Guterres presented his latest report on children and armed conflict to the Security Council on 31 October, noting that last year saw an alarming level of violations. "Children around the world are suffering enormously and unacceptably by conflict. This is a source of global shame", he told the Council. The report, which covers the period from January to December 2016, found that in Syria the number of children recruited and used by armed groups more than doubled compared with 2015. The United Nations verified the killing of 652 children and the maiming of 647 during 2016. "The continued level of violations against children in the Syrian Arab Republic remains highly alarming and I urge all parties to engage in the inclusive and Syrian led peace process under United Nations auspices aimed at ending conflict", the Secretary-General said.

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/72/361&referer=/english/&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/72/361&referer=/english/&Lang=E)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58001>

### **13 million people in Syria in need of humanitarian aid, warns UN Relief Chief**

Briefing the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria on 30 October, Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock said that more than 13 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance. He also voiced concerns about the impact of fighting and airstrikes on civilians in Raqqa Governorate. "Since the beginning of the anti-ISIL offensive in November last year, airstrikes and clashes have resulted in more than 436,000 people being displaced from Raqqa to 60 locations, including in neighbouring governorates. One conclusion is obvious: the impact of the Syria crisis continues to be profound", Mr. Lowcock noted. Against this background, he added, "the UN and partners continue to implement in Syria one of the largest humanitarian operations in the world. We are reaching millions of people on a monthly basis. For example, in September WFP provided food assistance to more than 3.3 million people, UNICEF reached over 1.5 million people, and WHO reached over 800,000 people".

[http://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/statement-and-speech/ERC\\_USG%20Mark%20Lowcock%20Statement%20to%20the%20SecCo%20on%20Syria%20-%2030Oct2017%20-%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/statement-and-speech/ERC_USG%20Mark%20Lowcock%20Statement%20to%20the%20SecCo%20on%20Syria%20-%2030Oct2017%20-%20FINAL.pdf)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57994>

### **High Commissioner for Human Rights speaks out on suffering of civilians in Eastern Ghouta**

High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on 27 October described the situation of civilians in Eastern Ghouta, on the outskirts of Damascus, as an outrage. "The shocking images of what appear to be severely malnourished children that have emerged in recent days are a frightening indication of the plight of people in Eastern Ghouta, who are now facing a humanitarian emergency," said Zeid. An estimated 350,000 civilians have been under siege by Government forces for more than four years despite Eastern Ghouta being considered one of the "de-escalation areas" brokered in May by Iran, Russia and Turkey under the Astana process. In addition, various armed groups controlling Eastern Ghouta have restricted the work of aid organisations, and clashes between these groups have for months limited civilians' freedom of movement within the region. "I remind all parties that the deliberate starvation of civilians as a method of warfare constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian law, and may amount to a crime against humanity and/or a war crime. I also call on all those with involvement or influence in the conflict to facilitate the access of humanitarian workers so they can deliver the aid that the people of Eastern Ghouta so desperately need," Zeid said.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22312&LangID=E>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57974>

### **Special Envoy to reconvene Intra-Syrian talks in late November**

Briefing the Security Council on 26 October from Geneva, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura said he intended to convene the 8<sup>th</sup> round of Intra-Syrian talks on 28 November. The Envoy called for an intensified engagement among key players to support the Geneva process and stressed the need for the parties to come to Geneva ready to negotiate. "Time is not on our side," he noted. During the upcoming round of talks, within the framework of Council resolution 2254 (2015), he said he intended to realize a transitional political process that focused on items with prospects of progress, including the process for drafting a new constitution and establishing the requirements for UN-supervised elections. The issue of detainees and missing persons should also be addressed as a confidence-building measure.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc13041.doc.htm>

### **Humanitarian convoy delivers aid to 35,000 people in three hard-to-reach areas in Rural Damascus**

A Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoy was able to deliver humanitarian assistance provided by the UN to the hard-to-reach towns of Yalda, Babila and Beit Sahem in Rural Damascus on 26 October. The delivery consisted of food, nutrition, medical supplies, hygiene kits and other emergency items for 35,000 people. Across Syria, 3.5 million people live in besieged or hard-to-reach areas. The UN and partners continue to advocate for unconditional, unimpeded, safe and sustained access to those who need life-saving assistance. The call for access includes the facilitation of medical evacuations in line with the International Humanitarian and the International Human Rights Laws.

<http://www.unocha.org/story/syria-humanitarian-aid-reaches-35000-people-yalda-babila-and-beit-sahem>

### **Winter may be 'harsh blow' to vulnerable children in Middle East, UNICEF warns amid funding gap**

Freezing temperatures, storms and heavy snowfall will add to the misery afflicting hundreds of thousands of families affected by conflict across the Middle East unless

assistance – including cold weather clothing and supplies – is urgently provided, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has warned. "Without help, the cold could be yet another harsh blow to vulnerable children in the region who have already been through so much," said Geert Cappelaere, the UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, in a news release on 27 October.  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57975>

## **UN Radio in Arabic**

Forty thousand people received food aid in the besieged area of Eastern Ghouta  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/267803>

ألف شخص في المناطق المحاصرة بالغوطة الشرقية يتلقون مساعدات غذائية 40  
2017-10-31

Secretary-General calls on parties to conflict to work with the UN to protect children  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/267782>

الأمين العام يدعو أطراف الصراعات للعمل مع الأمم المتحدة لحماية الأطفال  
2017-10-31

Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock says SC resolution 2165 is a "lifeline"  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/26774>

منسق الإغاثة الطارئة يدعو إلى تجديد العمل بالقرار 2165  
2017-10-30

UN Human Rights High Commissioner Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussain says that the suffering of civilians in the besieged Syrian enclave of Eastern Ghouta is "an outrage"

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/267058>

زيد رعد الحسين يصف معاناة المدنيين في الغوطة الشرقية بالأمر المشين  
2017-10-27

Special envoy de Mistura stresses the importance of the overall political process in Syria  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266980>

دي مستورا يؤكد أهمية العملية السياسية الجامعة لهزيمة الإرهاب في سوريا  
2017-10-26

WFP calls for access to the besieged Eastern Ghouta following reports of hunger  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266965>

برنامج الأغذية العالمي يطالب بالوصول للغوطة الشرقية المحاصرة في ظل تقارير عن الجوع  
2017-10-26

WFP confirms readiness to deliver aid in Eastern Ghouta once permitted access  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/266979>

برنامج الأغذية العالمي يؤكد استعداده لتقديم المساعدات في الغوطة الشرقية فور السماح بالوصول الإنساني  
2017-10-26

## **Twitter**

WFP Middle @WFP\_MENA -31 October

#Fact: most families in besieged Kafr Batna, Eastern Ghouta can only eat one meal a day. #Syria

UNHCR Syria Retweeted UN Refugee Agency @Refugees – 31 October

We're helping those who have returned to Aleppo as they work to rebuild their lives. Learn how on our Instagram story today: @refugees

Mark Lowcock@UNReliefChief – 30 October

At #UNSC now, I am raising my continuing concern about civilians trapped in #Syria's urban areas. Civilians are #NotATarget

UNICEF @UNICEF- 30 October

Hundreds of children are suffering from malnutrition in Eastern Ghouta, #Syria

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria – 30 October

The @UN & @SYRedCrescent entered #KafraBatna & #Saqba in besieged #EastGhouta with humanitarian assistance for 40,000 people in need #Syria

OCHA Syria@OCHA\_Syria- 30 October

Particular concern for civilians in #ArRaqqa city remains explosive remnants of war contamination Read latest report <https://reliefweb.int/node/2298289>

UN Refugee Agency@Refugees – 30 October

After years of darkness, city of Aleppo is lit at night - via @UNHCRSyria

UNHCR Syria- 30 October

Some shops reopened in eastern #Aleppo bringing back some normalcy after years of hardship-a step forward for the people #SupportSyria

UNHCR SyriaVerified account @UNHCRinSYRIA – 30 October

One stitch at a time vulnerable women in #Aleppo learn sewing and other crafts at @Refugees partner community centres to improve livelihood.

UNHCR Syria Retweeted UNHCR Syria- 29 October

Water not fully restored in #Aleppo, laundromat run by @Refugees partner offers single moms & elderly to wash clothes for free #SupportSyria

OCHA @OCHA\_Syria- 26 October

Food, nutrition, health, hygiene & other aid provided by the @UN for 35,000 people in #Yalda #Babila #BeitSahem delivered by @SYRedCrescent

UN Political Affairs@UN\_DPA- 26 October

Special Envoy de Mistura announces intention to convene round 8 of intra #Syria-n talks in Geneva on 28 November: [https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2017-10-26/briefing-security-council-staffan-de-mistura-special-envoy ...](https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2017-10-26/briefing-security-council-staffan-de-mistura-special-envoy...)

## **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](http://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](http://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](https://twitter.com/ocha_syria), [facebook.com/UNOCHA.Syria](https://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/>

