



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

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Inter-agency aid convoy reaches Duma city

A UN/International Committee of the Red Cross/Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoy delivered on 13 November life-saving assistance for more than 21,000 people in need in Duma city in besieged East Ghouta of rural Damascus. The area was last reached with relief assistance on 17 August. Elsewhere in Syria, the UN is also concerned about the protection of civilians in Atareb, in rural Aleppo following reports of fighting between different non-state armed groups in the past days. Shelling is affecting the movement of civilians, including commercial activities, and has interrupted aid deliveries due to the clashes and road blocks.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db171113.doc.htm>

WHO calls for immediate aid access in eastern Ghouta

Amid a worsening humanitarian, health and security situation in besieged eastern Ghouta, the World Health Organization (WHO) urged all parties to the conflict stop attacks on civilians, facilitate immediate medical evacuations, and allow safe passage of medical supplies. "The situation is heart breaking," said Elizabeth Hoff, the head of WHO operations in Syria said on 12 November. "We have now reached a critical point, where the lives of hundreds of people, including many children, are at stake. If they do not immediately get the medical care they urgently need, they will most likely die." Severe food and medical shortages are reported in eastern Ghouta, rural Damascus, where as many as 400,000 people remain besieged and cut-off from life-saving assistance.

<http://www.emro.who.int/syr/syria-news/who-calls-for-immediate-and-unimpeded-access-to-save-lives-in-eastern-ghouta-syrian-arab-republic.html>

Denial of care and food for civilians in Eastern Ghouta must stop – Human rights experts

"We remind the Government of Syria of its obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, to care for the sick and wounded in Eastern Ghouta, and to ensure that medical resources and vital supplies can safely reach the area," said the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Dainius Puras, and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Hilal Elver, on 10 November. "The obstruction of access to adequate health care for an estimated 350,000 civilians who have been under siege for four years is a clear and repugnant violation of the right to health. We call on the Government of Syria to immediately allow the medical evacuation of all the most urgent cases, and to ensure the safe and sustained humanitarian access required to allow food and medical supplies to enter the area for patient treatment", the human rights experts said.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22381&LangID=E>

UN refugee agency brings assistance to civilians returning to Aleppo

According to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), more than 440,000 displaced people have returned to Aleppo since the start of 2017. An estimated 300,000 have returned to Eastern Aleppo, which witnessed some of the heaviest fighting of the conflict. For those that have returned, UNHCR and its partners are providing assistance to including building materials to help rehabilitate homes, mobile medical services, distribution of mattresses and blankets and legal assistance with birth registrations and civil documentation. Another critical challenge is the high number of children missing out on education. The agency has set up 15 community centres in Eastern Aleppo that offer accelerated remedial classes to help teenagers prepare for their high school exams. <http://www.unhcr.org/5a096a894.html>

Special Envoy de Mistura continues consultations ahead of new round of intra-Syrian talks

In a statement on 9 November, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura said that he has been undertaking intensive consultations with the relevant stakeholders in preparation for the 8th round of the intra-Syrian talks, due to take place in Geneva on 28 November. In this context, the Special Envoy has been, and will continue to be, having a range of contacts with senior regional, European, Russian, and US officials. Mr. de Mistura continues to focus on advancing the implementation of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) through a negotiated political solution to the conflict in Syria under the auspices of the United Nations.

[https://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/3127959370D484E3C12581D40030437B?OpenDocument](https://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/3127959370D484E3C12581D40030437B?OpenDocument)

UN Special adviser warns of "bleakest days of the conflict"

Speaking to reporters on 9 November following a meeting of the Humanitarian Task Force in Geneva, Jan Egeland, the Special Adviser to the Special Envoy for Syria, said "we are now returning to some of the bleakest days of the conflict". He said there were reports of attacks against civilians, displacement of civilians from Idlib and Aleppo in the northwest, through Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor in the north and the east and in the central regions, east of Damascus. However, he noted "nowhere is it as bad as in eastern Ghouta. Mr. Egeland added that UN convoys are the only lifeline, but those convoys were blocked again over the past week despite the best efforts by the humanitarian community to get aid in.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2017-11-09/note-correspondents-transcript-press-stakeout-special>

UN Radio in Arabic

Special Envoy de Mistura met with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister in preparation for the resumption of Syrian Talks

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/268476>

تحضيراً لاستئناف المحادثات السورية دي مستورا يلتقي نائب وزير خارجية روسيا

2017-11-14

WHO calls for immediate access to the eastern Ghouta to save lives

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/268377>

منظمة الصحة العالمية تدعو إلى السماح بالوصول الفوري إلى الغوطة الشرقية لإنقاذ الأرواح

Syria: new call for ceasefire and to allow the evacuation of injured

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/268275/index_search.html

سوريا: نداء جديد لوقف إطلاق النار والسماح بإجلاء المصابين

2017-11-09

Twitter

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 15 November

The @UN is concerned for the safety and protection of some 400,000 civilians in besieged #EastGhouta as fighting continues to be reported in the besieged area <http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db171114.doc.htm> ...

UN Refugee Agency@Refugees- 15 November

Life is slowly returning to the destroyed city of Aleppo, where we are helping Syrians like Mohamad rebuild their lives.

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- 14 November

Right now: @UN @SYRedCrescent @ICRC_sy team offloading education, food, water and sanitation, health and other relief items for 107,500 people in need in hard-to-reach #ArRastan #Homs #Syria

UN Refugee Agency@Refugees - 14 November

Syrian refugees in the UK want nothing more than to make a valuable contribution to their host communities. New @UNHCRUK report: <https://trib.al/tdMV2g6>

UNHCR Syria@UNHCRinSYRIA - 14 November

Before today's convoy, the last UN convoy to hard-to-reach ArRastan was on 27 August 2017. We continue to call for safe, unimpeded and sustained access to all people in need across #Syria

UNHCR Syria@UNHCRinSYRIA - 14 November

#Now Humanitarian assistance reached 107,500 ppl in need in hard-to-reach ArRastan in #Homs #Syria through a UN/SARC/ICRC IA convoy. Assistance includes @UNHCRinSYRIA 's #winter assistance: winter clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, mattresses, plastic Sheets & kitchen sets

OCHA @OCHA_Syria- 13 November

See how #Syria Humanitarian Fund helps Maher, his family and many other displaced people in #Homs and elsewhere in the country

OCHA @OCHA_Syria- 13 November

"We have now reached a critical point, where the lives of hundreds of people, including many children, are at stake," said @WHO @WHOEMRO #EastGhouta #Syria

United Nations@UN Retweeted IOM Turkey- 11 November

Here's how @UNmigration helps Syrian migrants and refugees rebuild their lives in Turkey and restore hope for a better future↓United Nations added, IOM

Turkey@IOMturkey

What is it like behind the front lines of humanitarian aid? Read some stories of 2mil #Migrants #Refugees assisted: <http://bit.ly/2iqw67w>

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 11 November

استمعوا إلى شهادة أحد موظفي #الأمم المتحدة حول الوضع في #كفر_بطنا في #الغوطة_الشرقية #سورية خلال إيصالهم المساعدات الإنسانية @UNarabic التي تكفي 40 ألف شخص

UN Geneva @UNGeneva- 9 November

Watch @NRC_Egeland, Special Advisor to @UN Special Envoy on #Syria brief the Press today on the critical humanitarian situation in war-torn Syria @UNGeneva 🗣️

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 9 November

Supported by the #Syria Humanitarian Fund, Tasneem passed her national exams after studying for months by candlelight in her damaged home in #Aleppo.

READ her story <http://www.unocha.org/story/syria-humanitarian-fund-supports-education-services-children-conflict-affected-areas-aleppo> ...

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/>