



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

No. 222/22 November 2017

Special Envoy de Mistura attends opposition meeting in Riyadh

Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura travelled to Riyadh on 21 November at the invitation of the Saudi authorities. The Envoy attended the opening ceremony of the Riyadh meeting. Speaking to reporters, Mr. de Mistura said he believed the meeting will assist the UN-led negotiations in Geneva for a political solution in Syria, based on resolution 2254 (2015). He told opposition leaders that a strong, unified team would be a creative partner in Geneva, and stressed the need for a team that can explore more than one way to arrive at the goals that need to be reached.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/noon-briefing-highlight>

Millions of Syrians continue to require humanitarian assistance- UN report

Some 13.1 million people in Syria require humanitarian assistance, of those 5.6 million are facing acute need, according to the latest Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview report released on 21 November. As a result of the disruption caused by hostilities and extensive displacement, access to services as well as livelihood opportunities remain scarce. The report also found that about 3 million people live in hard-to-reach areas, including 419,000 in UN-declared besieged areas. This entails a reduction of 1.9 million people living in hard-to-reach areas compared to last year. In 2017, Syrians continued to bear the brunt of the hostilities in the absence of a political solution, contributing to the world's largest displacement crisis.

<http://www.unocha.org/story/syria-2018-humanitarian-needs-overview-millions-people-face-daily-struggle-survive>

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018_syr_hno_english.pdf

Nearly 715,000 displaced Syrians returned home

Between January and October 2017, a total of 714,278 internally displaced Syrians returned to their places of origin within Syria, the International Organization for Migration said on 21 November. A majority of them returned from Aleppo Governorate, many of whom were returning to another area within Aleppo, and 12 per cent from Ar-Raqqa Governorate. The amount of people returning was generally higher in the first half of the year, which was around the time that the Government of Syria retook Aleppo city, and other sub-districts in Aleppo Governorate were liberated from ISIL control.

<http://www.iom.int/news/nearly-715000-syrian-displaced-returned-home-between-january-and-october-2017>

Inter-agency humanitarian convoy reaches Deir Ez-Zor

On 20 November, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) dispatched a convoy of 12 trucks loaded with humanitarian assistance to Deir Ez-

Zor governorate in eastern Syria. "Deir Ez-Zor has been the site of relentless fighting for more than three years, and we know that the situation there is desperate, especially now that winter is upon us and people need humanitarian assistance and this is what UNHCR is here to do", said Sajjad Malik, UNHCR's Representative for Syria. The convoy delivered relief items and winterization supplies such as mattresses, blankets and plastic sheets to people in need. This is the third dispatch of UNHCR's humanitarian aid to people of Deir Ez-Zor, after the opening of the land route to the city.

<http://www.unhcr.org/sy/11224-unhcr-humanitarian-assistance-reaches-deir-ez-zor-city-eastern-syria.html>

UN official condemns attacks on warehouses in Quneitra

Regional Coordinator for Syria Ali al-Za'tari condemned on 21 November the shelling of Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) warehouses in Quneitra, in southern Syria. He said that the UN stands ready to support the SARC in repairing the warehouses and replenishing the destroyed aid to avoid any interruption of relief activities in the area. The UN continues to be alarmed at the escalated violence in eastern Ghouta and Damascus which has resulted in dozens of civilian deaths and hundreds of injuries, many of them are women and children.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db171121.doc.htm>

Security Council fails to renew investigative panel into use of chemical weapons

Due to the veto of a permanent member, the Security Council failed to renew the mandate of the panel investigating the use of chemical weapons in Syria on 17 November. The draft resolution, tabled by Japan, was rejected by a vote of 12 in favour and 2 against (Bolivia, Russian Federation), with 1 abstention (China). By the text, the Council would have extended the mandate of the Joint Investigative Mechanism of the UN and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for 30 days. The JIM was established by the Security Council in 2015 to identify "to the greatest extent feasible" individuals, entities, groups or Governments perpetrating, organizing, sponsoring or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons in Syria.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc13076.doc.htm>

WFP speaks out against destruction of food supplies in eastern Ghouta

The World Food Programme (WFP) on 16 November expressed strong concerns about the destruction of food intended for hungry people in the besieged enclave of eastern Ghouta, about 15 kilometres from Damascus. The UN food agency said that food distribution points belonging to its local partners were hit by mortars and a quantity of food was destroyed. However, no one was inside the buildings at the time of the strikes. WFP condemned the destruction of desperately-needed food assistance inside Syria. "We urge all parties to the conflict to respect humanitarian principles and allow the safe delivery and distribution of food to families in need, no matter where they are located", the agency said.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-condemns-destruction-humanitarian-food-supplies-eastern-ghouta-area-syria>

UN Radio in Arabic

WHO calls for immediate access to 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

UN: Millions of Syrians struggle daily to survive.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/268826>

الأمم المتحدة: ملايين السوريين يكافحون بشكل يومي للبقاء على قيد الحياة

2017-11-21

The United Nations deplores the bombing of Syrian Arab Red Crescent warehouses in Quneitra

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/268822>

الأمم المتحدة تستنكر قصف مخازن الهلال الأحمر العربي السوري في القنيطرة

2017-11-21

A child who has lived half his life outside Syria due to the conflict wishes for the war to stop

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/268734>

أمنية طفل عاش نصف عمره خارج سوريا بسبب الصراع: أوقفوا الحرب

2017-11-20

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

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/268692>

مجلس الأمن يفشل في تمديد ولاية آلية التحقيق بشأن ادعاءات استخدام الأسلحة الكيميائية في سوريا

2017-11-17

After several draft resolutions, the Security Council can not renew the mandate of the panel investigating use of chemical weapons in Syria

بعد عدة مشاريع قرارات، مجلس الأمن لا يتمكن من تجديد ولاية آلية التحقيق المعنية بسوريا

2017-11-16

Twitter

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- 22 November

Millions of people in #Syria face a daily struggle to survive. The scale, severity and complexity of needs remain overwhelming #Action4Syria

[http://www.unocha.org/story/syria-2018-humanitarian-needs-overview-millions-people-face-daily-struggle-survive ...](http://www.unocha.org/story/syria-2018-humanitarian-needs-overview-millions-people-face-daily-struggle-survive...)

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 21 November

Appalled by the two mortar shells hitting @SYRedCrescent warehouses in Quneitra in southern #Syria. Humanitarian workers and supplies are #NotATarget

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 21 November

What life in #Syria is like today

Get a glimpse at the humanitarian needs and take #Action4Syria

[https://act.unfoundation.org/onlineactions/CCRxf3RV0C-51fmpvV6_g2 ...](https://act.unfoundation.org/onlineactions/CCRxf3RV0C-51fmpvV6_g2...)

UN Refugee Agency- 21 November

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

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 21 November

The #Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview Report 2018 is now available. Read the full report here #Action4Syria

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018_syr_hno_english.pdf

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 20 November

The humanitarian situation in #DeirezZor remains desperate after more than 3 years of besiegement. READ @UNHCRinSYRIA statement on aid delivery to the city

<http://www.unhcr.org/sy/11224-unhcr-humanitarian-assistance-reaches-deir-ez-zor-city-eastern-syria.html> ...

UNHCR Syria@UNHCRinSYRIA- 20 November

All the children of #Syria deserve care, support and all the love that humanity can provide. They suffered a lot, some were abused & traumatized. @Refugees & partners celebrate with them in Syria and teach them about their rights and non-violence.

#KidsTakeOver #SupportSyrians

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria – 17 November

Alarmed by the high level of hostilities in besieged #EastGhouta and #Damascus

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db171116.doc.htm> ...

United Nations Retweeted UN News@UN_News_Centre- 17 November

UN Security Council fails at fresh attempt to renew panel investigating

#chemicalweapons use in Syria <http://bit.ly/2mzrJvS>

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 16 November

Supported by #Syria Humanitarian Fund, Al Kindi public hospital started providing medical services to people in need in #Homs @UNOCHA

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/>