



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

**No. 228/3 January 2018**

### **UNFPA delivers aid to previously unreachable Sheikh Maqsoud in Aleppo**

Two mobile reproductive health teams have been deployed to the Sheikh Maqsoud area of Aleppo following the arrival of a UNFPA and Syrian Arab Red Crescent mission on 28 December, the first time a UN agency has entered the area with aid for distribution. There are an estimated 65,000 people in need in Sheikh Maqsoud, the majority of them women, children and elderly persons. This number is expected to change as more displaced families return to the area. An assessment found significant health-care needs, including severely limited reproductive health services. "Conflict typically puts these women and their babies at risk. Physical hardship and emotional trauma often complicate delivery," said Massimo Diana, UNFPA's Representative in Syria. "Health services are deteriorated after the seven years of crisis in Syria, in addition to the limited supplies and high patient loads. We at UNFPA in Syria are working to deploy emergency supplies and equipment to make childbirth safer and to support medical interventions," Mr. Diana said. On 30 December, UNFPA's mobile reproductive team provided services to over 80 women, reaching those in need of antenatal care, family planning services, postpartum care, and other essential health assistance. Many women had been without care for years. UNFPA and its partner, Syrian Arab Red Crescent, distributed 1,200 dignity kits, which contain hygiene supplies such as soap, sanitary napkins and underwear. They are also planning to open three reproductive health centres in the area as soon as possible, which will provide not only reproductive health care but also services for survivors of gender-based violence.

<http://www.unfpa.org/news/unfpa-delivers-aid-previously-unreached-sheikh-maqsoud-aleppo>

### **European Commission Provides Vital Support for WFP Food Assistance in Syria**

In 2017, the European Commission Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) contributed US\$22.8 million for the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to provide life-saving food assistance for families across Syria. ECHO support was integral for WFP to assist up to four million people each month across Syria, including the northeastern governorates of Hasakeh, Raqqa and Deir Ezzor. The contribution also empowered WFP with the ability to respond rapidly to new population displacements across Syria. "We know we can always count on the generous support of the European Commission and other partners to reach vulnerable people in need with food assistance," said Jakob Kern, WFP Representative and Country Director in Syria. "We look forward to our continued cooperation to alleviate the suffering of displaced families in Syria." Yet despite donor support this past year, WFP has recently been forced to reduce its food assistance across Syria and is now reaching 3.3 million people due to insufficient funding. The ongoing conflict in Syria has left almost 6.5 million people facing acute hunger, with an additional four million people at risk of becoming food insecure. To continue to provide food assistance to those in need across Syria, WFP urgently needs US\$263 million for the first half of 2018.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/european-commission-provides-vital-support-wfp-food-assistance-syria>

## **UN Radio in Arabic**

في معرض التعاون بين دول الجنوب تأكيد على أهمية دور الشباب في بناء مجتمعات قوية

The inter- South Cooperation Exhibition stresses the importance of the role of Youth in building strong societies

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/269555>

اليونيسف: الأطفال يتعرضون للهجوم على نطاق صادم في الصراعات حول العالم

**UNICEF:** Children are being attacked on a shocking scale in conflicts around the world

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/270711>

## **Twitter**

UN Refugee Agency Retweeted Chris Reardon @scoop\_reardon January 3 2018

Hungary made it harder for refugees to integrate, but look who's caring for some of its oldest citizens. #WithRefugees

UN Refugee Agency @Refugees January 3 2018

Efi believes miracles can happen when we open our arms to refugees. Know a hero like Efi helping refugees? Nominate them for the 2018 #NansenAward <http://www.unhcr.org/nansen-refugee-award.html> ...

UNHCR Syria Retweeted @VToumeh January 1 2017

#Syrian women stitch their lives together with the support of @UNHCRinSYRIA livelihood programmes. read more: <http://bit.ly/2IEDWMO>

UNHCR Syria @UNHCRinSYRIA December 29 2017

@UNHCRinSYRIA in partnership with Aoun NGO open new 3-storey Community Center in #AlWaer to provide protection & relief for 18,500 vulnerable Syrians in the area. @UN w/ local partners today operate 23 similar centers across #Homs & #Hama <http://www.unhcr.org/sy/cc>

UNHCR Syria @UNHCRinSYRIA December 29 2017

@UNHCRinSYRIA & partners bring relief to #AlWaer #Homs

#Ikea mattresses

Sleeping mats

Plastic sheets

Blankets

Winter clothing

Hygiene kits

Jerry cans

Solar lights

These are some of the items we're distributing to help families survive harsh winter months in #Syria

UNHCR Syria @UNHCRinSYRIA December 28 2017  
One mattress means a child not sleeping on the floor.

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The IKEA Foundation donation of 150,000 mattresses to @UNHCRinSyria helps tens of thousands of vulnerable families across #Syria -- like Abd Al-Razaq's family

UNHCR Syria December 28 2017

As winter settles in #Syria. @UNHCRinSYRIA brings warmth & comfort. Today, AlWaer #Homs is again accessible.

@UNHCRinSYRIA delivers to 500 families core relief items, including winter clothing, #Ikea mattresses and more. More aide to come.

UNHCR Syria Retweeted Sajjad Malik @malik\_sajjad December 27 2017

@UNHCRinSYRIA @UN @SYRedCrescent and partners distributed humanitarian assistance to 279 families/1061 in newly-accessible AlQuaryatein in Rural Homs #Syria. This was the first dispatch of assistance to this area since it became accessible after the defeat of ISIS in October 2017

## **Social media campaigns**

### **UNRWA Transforms the Lives of Palestine Refugees with Disabilities**

On 3 December, UNRWA joins the rest of the world in celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This year's global theme, 'Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies for all', celebrates the important contribution persons with disabilities can make in their communities, when given equal opportunities. Removing barriers and facilitating inclusion can empower persons with disabilities to become agents of change in their own lives and communities, striving towards ending exclusion and promoting equality. UNRWA provides physiotherapy treatment and equipment for Palestine refugee children in Khan Dunoun refugee camp in Syria, Ahmad and Ali are among these beneficiaries.

[www.unrwa.org/newsroom/photos/unrwa-transforms-lives-palestine-refugees-disabilities](http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/photos/unrwa-transforms-lives-palestine-refugees-disabilities)

**#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/>