



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

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UN aid chief outlines measures to improve response to Syrian crisis in 2018

After seven years of bloody conflict, the Syrian war has wreaked a "colossal toll" on the country and its people, the United Nations relief chief said on Thursday from the capital, Damascus, where he outlined ways to sustain and improve humanitarian assistance and protection for everyone affected by the crisis this year. "I have this week seen first hand the colossal toll that the brutal and sustained hostilities have taken," said Mark Lowcock, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, in a statement to the media on the third day of his visit to Syria. Describing the dire situation, he said estimates suggest that hundreds of thousands of people have been killed, countless more are missing or detained, and five million have fled to other countries. Gross domestic product (GDP) is less than half what it was before the war, and replacing destroyed infrastructure and housing will cost hundreds of billions of dollars. "Almost 70 per cent of people now live in extreme poverty," said Mr. Lowcock.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58409#.Wle_pa6nG70

UN rights chief condemns spike in civilian casualties in 'de-escalation' areas

The United Nations human rights chief on Wednesday condemned an upsurge in civilian casualties in Eastern Ghouta in Syria amid the recent escalation in airstrikes and ground-based attacks by Government forces and their allies, noting that at least 85 civilians have been killed since 31 December. "The suffering of the people of Syria knows no end," said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, noting that residential areas in Eastern Ghouta on the outskirts of the nation's capital, Damascus, are being hit day and night by strikes from the ground and the air, forcing civilians to hide in basements. He stressed that all parties are obliged under international law to distinguish between lawful military targets and civilians and civilian objects.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58399#.WlfCV66nG70>

Syrian refugees in Lebanon are becoming poorer, more vulnerable – UNHCR

More than half the war-weary Syrian refugees in Lebanon are living in extreme poverty and borrowing money for food and to pay rent has become commonplace, the United Nations reported Tuesday. This news came with a warning that more of these refugees find themselves dependent on international aid amid an uncertain outlook for humanitarian funding in 2018. "Seven years into the crisis, Syrian refugees in Lebanon are finding it increasingly more difficult to make ends meet [and] are more vulnerable than ever, William Spindler, UNHCR spokesperson told reporters at the regular press briefing in Geneva on 9 January.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58394#.WlfBm66nG70>

13 million people in desperate need as seventh war-torn winter sets in

With millions of desperate people across Syria now facing their seventh winter of war, the United Nations warned on Tuesday that intensified military operations in the country's north are forcing families to flee, in the cold, to areas without enough resources to support them. "While some parts of Syria are witnessing a welcome reprieve from hostilities, many others face intensified military operations and conflict," UN Spokesman Stéphane Dujarric told the regular briefing in New York, noting that more than 13 million people in the country need basic aid and protection. "The UN is deeply concerned for the safety and protection of tens of thousands of people in southern Idlib and rural Hama in northeastern Syria, where ongoing hostilities have reportedly caused hundreds of deaths and injuries of civilians," he added.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58392#.WlfCtq6nG70>

UN Radio in Arabic

-1 وإدلب ووقوع قتلى وجرحى
Syria: International concern due to increased hostilities in Hama and Idlib
And deaths and injuries occurred.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/270944>

-2 صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان والهلال الأحمر العربي السوري يقدمان المساعدة لـ 65 ألف شخص في حي الشيخ مقصود
The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) provide assistance to 65,000 people in Sheikh Maksoud neighborhood.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/270934>

-3 حوار: صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان في سوريا يقدم المساعدة لـ 65 ألف شخص في حي الشيخ مقصود
Interview: The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Syria provides assistance to 65,000 people in the Sheikh Maksoud neighborhood.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/270979>

-4 قلق دولي بشأن آثار القتال في شمال غرب سوريا على المدنيين
International concern over the impact of fighting on civilians in northwestern Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/271030>

-5 وكيل الأمين العام يتوجه إلى سوريا للاجتماع مع الحكومة ومعاينة أثر الصراع على المدنيين
Under Secretary General heads to Syria to meet with the Government and to examine the impact of the conflict on civilians

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/271097>

-6 استطلاع أممي: اللاجئين السوريون في لبنان أكثر فقرا وأشد ضعفا في 2017
UN survey: Syrian refugees in Lebanon are poorer and more vulnerable in 2017

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/271135>

Twitter

OCHA Syria Retweeted Mark Lowcock @UNReliefChief January 10 2018

In #Homs today I met Khaled, 10 yrs, who's displaced w his family from Palmyra. He told me he just wants to continue to go to school. All kids in #Syria should be able to

OCHA Syria January 9 2018

Today, @UNReliefChief Mark Lowcock expressed appreciation for humanitarian partners, both national and international NGOs, operating in #Syria and discussed response to people in need and access challenges

United Nations Retweeted UN Refugee Agency January 9 2018

7 years into the Syria crisis

- Syrian refugees in Lebanon need humanitarian aid more than ever.
- More than 50% live in extreme poverty.
- Over 75% live below the poverty line.

OCHA Syria January 9 2018

#Syria Humanitarian Fund and @UnfpaSyria are providing safe spaces for women and girls. Read the story of a woman who fled #ISIL in #ArRaqqa [https://www.unocha.org/story/syria-humanitarian-fund-providing-safe-space-women-and-girls ...](https://www.unocha.org/story/syria-humanitarian-fund-providing-safe-space-women-and-girls...)

UN Refugee Agency January 5 2018

Syrian beekeeper tastes sweet success with British honey bees 🐝
<https://trib.al/emrHnIF>

OCHA Syria January 4 2018

Scores of civilian deaths and injuries and displacement resulted from rising violence in #Hama #Idleb
Read [http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58378#.Wk3dTN-WZPY ...](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58378#.Wk3dTN-WZPY...)

OCHA Syria January 3 2018

Learn how #Syria Humanitarian Fund is supporting an overstretched health infrastructure in the north-east

[https://www.unocha.org/story/syria-humanitarian-fund-providing-life-saving-surgeries-most-vulnerable ...](https://www.unocha.org/story/syria-humanitarian-fund-providing-life-saving-surgeries-most-vulnerable...)

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

#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/>