



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

No. 230/17 January 2018

New round of Intra-Syrian talks convened in Vienna

Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura sent on 17 January separate invitations to the Syrian Government and the Syrian Negotiation Commission to a special meeting in Vienna on 25-26 January in the framework of the UN-facilitated political process. Mr. de Mistura said he looks forward to the participation of both delegations in this special meeting. He expects that delegations will be coming to Vienna prepared for substantive engagement with him and his team with a specific focus on the constitutional basket of the agenda towards the full implementation of Security Council resolution 2254. The Special Envoy reiterated the view of the United Nations that any political initiative by international actors should be assessed by its ability to contribute to and support the United Nations-facilitated Geneva political process and the full implementation of resolution 2254 (2015).

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2018-01-17/note-correspondents-statement-behalf-united-nations>

UNRWA faces worst financial crisis in its history

Following the US Government's decision to withhold US\$ 60 million in aid for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl said that the agency was facing a formidable challenge in upholding its mandate. "This reduced contribution threatens one of the most successful and innovative human development endeavors in the Middle-East", he noted. "At stake is the access of 525,000 boys and girls in 700 UNRWA schools, and their future. At stake is the dignity and human security of millions of Palestine refugees, in need of emergency food assistance and other support in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip". The UNRWA Chief called on UN Member States to take a stand and join UNRWA in saying to Palestine Refugees that their rights and future matter. He added that the agency would be launching a global fund-raising campaign to preserve its operations.

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/statement-unrwa-commissioner-general-pierre-kr%C3%A4henb%C3%BChl-1>

UN sounds the alarm about the impact of escalating violence on civilians

In a statement on 17 January, the UN warned that the escalating violence has had a devastating impact on all civilians throughout Syria. Recent violence in Idlib, east Ghouta in Rural Damascus, Hama, Damascus, Aleppo, Hassakeh, Deir EzZour, Raqqah and Daraa has resulted in the deaths and injuries to hundreds of civilians, including women and children. In the last few weeks, increasing indiscriminate bombing, shelling and fighting had forced tens of thousands of people to be uprooted. Accessing camps and other makeshift sites where internally displaced people are in dire need of aid is also urgently required. The UN urges all parties, inside and outside of the country, to prevent further violence and enable humanitarian organizations to assist people in need. The UN

also calls on all parties to facilitate medical evacuation of critically ill people notably in east Ghouta, Foah and Kafraya and other locations.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/statement-un-syria-civilians-impacted-increase-hostilities-enar>

Over 30 children killed in the first two weeks of the year -- UNICEF

In the first two weeks of 2018 more than 30 children have been killed in growing violence in east Ghouta, UNICEF Representative for Syria Fran Equiza said on 14 January. In Idlib, to the northwest of the country, heavy violence reportedly killed and injured scores of children and women and displaced an estimated 100,000 civilians in the past few weeks. "It is shameful that nearly seven years into the conflict, a war on children continues while the world watches. Millions of children across Syria and in neighbouring countries have suffered the devastating consequences of unabating levels of violence in several parts of the country", he said.

https://www.unicef.org/media/media_102458.html

UN Relief Chief Mark Lowcock visits Palestinian and Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Mark Lowcock together with Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon, Philippe Lazzarini, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Lebanon, Claudio Cordone and Head of OCHA Lebanon, Nathalie Fustier, visited Burj Barajneh camp in Beirut on 12 January where they witnessed the living conditions of Palestinian and Syrian refugees. The UN officials also met with a group of Palestinian and Syrian refugees who highlighted their daily suffering and challenges since their displacement. Burj Barajneh camp was established in 1949 and is the largest Palestine refugee camp in the Beirut area and the second largest in Lebanon.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-mark-lowcock-visits-palestinian-and>

UN Radio in Arabic

مفوض حقوق الإنسان يدين زيادة عدد الضحايا المدنيين في الغوطة الشرقية وإدلب

High Commissioner for Human Rights condemns the increase in the number of civilian casualties in Eastern Ghouta and Idlib

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/271183>

الأمم المتحدة تسعى لتأمين 3.5 مليار دولار لتلبية احتياجات أكثر من 13 مليون شخص في سوريا

The United Nations seeks to secure US\$3.5 billion to meet the needs of more than 13 million people in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/271316>

دي مستورا يعرب عن صدمته لوفاة منير درويش عضو وفد المعارضة السورية المفاوض -

Special Envoy de Mistura expresses shock at the death of Mounir Darwish, member of the delegation of the Syrian opposition

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/271402>

مقتل أكثر من 30 طفلا في الغوطة الشرقية منذ بداية العام -

More than 30 children killed in Eastern Ghouta since the beginning of the year

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/271413>

سوريا: قصف في الغوطة الشرقية يؤدي إلى وقوع ضحايا بين المدنيين -

Syria: Bombing in Eastern Ghouta results in civilian casualties

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/271480>

Twitter

UN News@UN_News_Centre- 17 January

Intra-Syrian talks to resume next week in Vienna, announces UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura

[http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58433 ...](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58433...)

UNRWA@UNRWA- 17 January

UNRWA CG @PKraehenbuehl: US gov. announced a contribution of \$60 M, in support of our efforts to keep our schools open, health clinics running, and emergency food systems functioning. This funding is dramatically below past levels. I ask you to stand w us.

<https://www.unrwa.org/donate>

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- 17 January

All affected civilians, wherever they are in #Syria, must be protected, provided with assistance and accorded safe freedom of movement. Read @UN statement on civilians impacted by increase in hostilities <https://reliefweb.int/node/2419714>

Sajjad Malik UNHCR Country Representative in #Syria @malik_sajjad – 17 January
UN in Syria reminds all parties of their obligation under international humanitarian and human rights law to protect civilians;
appeals to allow humanitarians to reach people in need with care, food and medical support and providing them with hope.

Sajjad Malik UNHCR Country Representative in #Syria @malik_sajjad- 17 January
Most refugees in Syria have been in displacement for a decade and some for two. Thank you #Syria for hosting them for all those years. At least a few have now found a new home in the UK.
<http://www.unhcr.org/sy/11521-refugees-syria-start-journey-new-home-united-kingdom.html> ... via @refugees

David Akopyan UNDP SYRIA, Country Director @DA_UNDP- 17 January 17

New project on job creation with sustainability in-approach planned from start. Decent jobs coming for Aleppo people

UN in Syria Retweeted UNDP Syria – 16 January

"A step of hope" event in #Al_Qamishli where a friendly football match between Al-Jihad national team and a team of volunteers was held under the Youth Flashes initiative which aims to enhance dialogue and social cohesion among displaced people and their host community.

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 16 January

Escalating hostilities in north-western #Syria #Idleb #Hama #Aleppo uprooted 212,140 people since 15 December.

Read the latest @UNOCHA report:

[https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/turkey-syria-recent-developments-north-western-syria-16-january-2018 ...](https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/turkey-syria-recent-developments-north-western-syria-16-january-2018...)

Fran Equiza@franequiza-16 January

We received reports, and this heartbreaking photo, of a 2-year-old boy fatally wounded when a mortar hit a kindergarten in #Aleppo #Syria. 150 other children were safely evacuated by teachers. Schools are NOT targets! Children MUST be protected
#ChildrenUnderAttack

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 15 January

We must be able to reach children in need of humanitarian assistance, urgently and without restrictions, wherever they are in #Syria, said @franequiza @UNICEFmena https://www.unicef.org/media/media_102458.html ...

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 14 January

#Syria Humanitarian Fund allocated \$12.9 million to partners to reach 775,500 people in the north-east with water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, health, food, shelter and other emergency supplies

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/>