



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

No. 233/7 February 2018

WHO medical aid convoy reaches Syrians in need in north-east Syria

The World Health Organization (WHO) said on 7 February that it has dispatched 14 tons of life-saving medicines and medical kits to Deir-ez-Zor governorate to urgently respond to the health needs of people in north-east Syria. Many Syrians who have recently returned to Deir-ez-Zor have found that their homes have been damaged or destroyed, and health care facilities in the area are closed or only partially functioning. Vulnerable people who cannot afford the prohibitive costs of medicines to treat chronic conditions will benefit from this shipment, as well as the considerable number of people who have recently returned to the area.

<http://www.emro.who.int/syr/syria-news/who-delivers-life-saving-health-supplies-to-deir-ez-zor-governorate-syrian-arab-republic.html>

UN aid officials in Syria call for a month-long cessation of hostilities

Amid escalating fighting, senior UN officials in Syria raised alarm over the dire humanitarian crisis in several parts of the country, calling on warring parties to immediately stop fighting so aid and basic services can reach those in need.

"The United Nations humanitarian team in Syria warns of the dire consequences of the compounded humanitarian crisis in several parts of the country," they said in a statement issued on 6 February by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and the UN Representatives in Syria. "In this extreme situation, we are calling for "an immediate cessation of hostilities lasting for at least one month throughout Syria to enable the delivery of humanitarian aid and services, evacuation of the critically sick and wounded, and alleviation of people's suffering, to the extent possible, wherever they are."

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Press%20statement%20on%20Feb%202018.pdf>

Surge in violence in Idlib is troubling, human rights investigative panel says

The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria expressed deep concern over the further escalation of violence in Idlib governorate and in eastern Ghouta. "Over the last 48 hours, the scale and ferocity of attacks has increased dramatically resulting in multiple reports of civilian casualties and airstrikes that have reportedly hit at least three hospitals", the Chair of the investigative panel, Paolo Pinheiro said on 6 February. Since the beginning of the year, the increase in violence in Idlib has resulted in another upsurge of internal displacement with over a quarter of a million civilians reportedly fleeing the fighting, according to reports received by the panel. "These reports are extremely troubling, and make a mockery of the so-called "de-escalation zones" intended to protect civilians from such bombardment," he said.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22636&LangID=E>

OPCW mission probes allegations of use of chemical weapons in Syria

Briefing the Security Council on 5 February, the Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, said that the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) fact-finding mission continues to look into allegations of the use of chemical weapons in Syria, the majority of which involve the use of toxic chemicals such as chlorine, in areas not under the control of the Government. The mission expects to submit a report on these allegations very soon. In addition, she said, another team has been considering allegations of the use of chemical weapons brought to the attention of OPCW by the Government of Syria. She noted that, should the teams conclude that there has been the use, or likely use, of chemical weapons in any of these alleged incidents, "our obligation to enact a meaningful response will be further intensified".

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58533>

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda->

<web/documents/Remarks+of+the+High+Representative+to+Security+Council+on+Syria+-+5+Feb+2018.pdf>

Kuwait donates US\$ 900,000 to UNRWA to assist Palestine refugees

Kuwait announced on 5 February a US\$ 900,000 donation to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in response to the Agency's appeal. This contribution represents the first pledge towards the appeal this year.

"We are deeply grateful to Kuwait for this additional contribution in support of the 2018 Syria Regional Crisis Appeal at a time when a dramatic financial crisis threatens our ability to provide these life-saving services to Palestine refugees in and from Syria," said UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl.

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/kuwait-donates-us900000-towards-life-saving-assistance-palestine-refugees>

Syrian peace process is at a meaningful stage

The Syrian peace process is at a meaningful stage and the presence of the UN in Sochi was based on a common understanding between the United Nations and the Russian Federation, Secretary-General António Guterres told reporters on 2 February. Speaking at a press stake out following the Syrian National Dialogue Congress held in Sochi, Russia, the Secretary-General said that his Special Envoy, Staffan de Mistura, would now draw on the Sochi outcome to fully implement Security Council Resolution 2254 and the Geneva Communiqué. The Secretary-General called on the government and opposition delegations as well as all States with influence to cooperate with the Special Envoy. "We must ensure that the UN-led process moves ahead in Geneva, credibly and seriously", he added.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/press-encounter/2018-02-02/secretary-generals-remarks-press-stakeout>

UN resumes cross-border aid convoys into Idlib governorate

The UN resumed cross-border deliveries from Bab al-Hawa border crossing point in Turkey into Idlib Governorate in Syria on 31 January. A total of 25 trucks with food and medical supplies were involved. This was the first convoy following the UN decision on 20 January to halt deliveries due to security concerns. An additional 15 trucks delivered aid on 1 February. Due to the security situation, the UN is maintaining its temporary suspension of deliveries through Bab al-Salam, the second border crossing point in Turkey. Mitigation measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of UN staff at Bab al-Hawa, including the use of armoured vehicles and restrictions on staff authorized into the area.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2018/db180201.doc.htm>

Da'esh remains a threat to international peace

Despite the recent setbacks experienced by ISIL (Da'esh) in Iraq, Syria and the Philippines, the group and its affiliates have been forced to relinquish strongholds in urban areas and to adapt to circumstances. In his latest report on the threat posed by ISIL to international peace and security issued on 31 January, Secretary-General António Guterres noted that ISIL is now organized as a global network, with a flat hierarchy and less operational control over its affiliates. Several Member States have stressed that the willingness of some members of the ISIL and Al-Qaida networks to support one another's attacks remains a concern, and the potential convergence of the two networks, at least in some areas, is an emerging threat.

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2018/80

UN Radio in Arabic

استئناف القوافل الإنسانية عبر الحدود وإيغلا ند يدعو إلى هدنة إنسانية في الغوطة الشرقية

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272520>

Cross border humanitarian convoys resume and Egeland calls for a humanitarian truce in Eastern Ghouta

الأمين العام: العملية السياسية السورية وصلت إلى مرحلة مهمة

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272565>

UN Secretary-General: The Syrian political process has reached an important stage

مسؤولة دولية: مواصلة النظر في كل ادعاءات استخدام السلاح الكيميائي في سوريا

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272633>

UN Disarmament official: allegations of the use of chemical weapons in Syria being probed

اليونيسف: مصرع 83 طفلا في 5 دول عربية خلال شهر يناير

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272599>

UNICEF: 83 children killed in 5 Arab countries during January

الأمم المتحدة تدعو إلى وقف فوري للأعمال العدائية في سوريا لمدة شهر

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272692>

United Nations calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Syria for one month

Twitter

United Nations retweeted UN Geneva@UNGeneva- 7 February

"Enough is enough": UN in #Syria rings alarm bell, calls for immediate humanitarian pause given "very critical humanitarian needs".

Watch @UNOCHA spox @JensLaerke brief the press in Geneva

UNFPA-Syria - 7 February

An estimated 15,000 people from #Afrin #Aleppo have been internally displaced by ongoing hostilities. Check the full report of recent developments in northwestern #Syria <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/turkey-syria-recent-developments-northwestern-syria-idle-governorate-0>

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria - 6 February

The @UN calling for immediate cessation of hostilities for at least one month throughout #Syria to allow for humanitarian convoys and medical evacuations, saving the lives of hundreds, including critically ill children

[https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/statement-un-resident-and-humanitarian-coordinator-and-un ...](https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/statement-un-resident-and-humanitarian-coordinator-and-un-...)

UN News@UN_News_Centre- 5 February

Evidence of the use, or likely use, of banned #ChemicalWeapons in Syria should be met with a "meaningful response" within the Security Council – @UN_Disarmament chief

[http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58533 ...](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58533...)

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 5 February

Children have paid the highest price for wars that they have absolutely no responsibility for: 59 children reportedly killed in the past four weeks due to intensifying fighting in #Syria

[https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/bloody-month-january-dozens-children-killed-their-voices-will-never-be ...](https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/bloody-month-january-dozens-children-killed-their-voices-will-never-be-...)

UN Refugee Agency@Refugees – 5 February

With the help of host communities, Syrian refugees are finding ways to become self-reliant in Argentina:

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 4 February

The @UN is concerned for the safety of civilians in #Idleb and #Hama where death, injury and the destruction of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools, continue to be reported #Syria

UNFPA-Syria – 4 February

It is estimated that there are around 6,800 pregnant women in need of reproductive health services. Yet poverty and insecurity have worsened health-care access for many pregnant women.

Read the full article on opening a new clinic in #AITABAQA #Syria:

<http://ow.ly/C8Z230i3IRp>

António Guterres@antonioguterres- 2 February

I believe we are at a meaningful stage in the Syria peace process. But progress towards a political settlement must be accompanied by progress on aid deliveries.

<http://bit.ly/2EAWAT8>

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria – 2 February

In the last 2 months, there hasn't been a single convoy of life-saving relief, medical supplies, food to any besieged area, that is the worst we have experienced since 2015 said @NRC_Egeland on #Syria

Social media campaigns

UNRWA Global fund-raising campaign

UNRWA launched in January 2018 the #DignityIsPriceless global campaign in response to the unprecedented funding reductions by the U.S. Government to protect the dignity of Palestine refugees by providing emergency food assistance to the most vulnerable, and by not disrupting the education of their children and healthcare for families. Through a call to action, UNRWA aims to raise five hundred million USD (500\$M). #FundUNRWA #DignityIsPriceless

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

#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/>

