



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Secretary-General extends invitations for Geneva Conference on Syria

On 6 January, the Secretary-General sent out invitations to Syrian and international participants to the Geneva Conference on Syria. In a press statement, he underscored that he views the conference as a unique opportunity for ending the violence and ensuring that peace can be restored and the transition, foreseen in the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012. He noted that at the core of this effort is the establishment of a transitional governing body based on mutual consent. The conference will convene under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General in Montreux on 22 January 2014, and will be followed by negotiations between the two Syrian parties facilitated by Joint Special Representative Brahimi at the UN Office in Geneva starting on 24 January 2014.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7387>

Joint Mission makes further progress in removal of chemical weapons

As international efforts continue to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons programme, a first consignment of priority chemical materials was removed from Syria on 7 January. The chemicals were transported from two sites to the Syrian port of Lattakia and were loaded onto a Danish cargo ship. The operation, which was assisted and verified by the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, is a first important step in the process of transferring chemical materials from Syria to locations outside its territory for destruction. After the loading of the chemicals the ship left for international waters and will remain at sea awaiting the arrival of further chemical materials at the Lattakia port.

<http://opcw.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=6576&ctl=Details&mid=10358&ItemID=13664&language=en-US>

Speaking to the media after a closed-door briefing to the Security Council on 8 January, Special Coordinator Kaag said there will be no delay beyond the 30 June deadline for the total removal of all chemical weapon materials. Citing the challenges that could hinder the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, she noted that "security when it comes to access to sites, getting caught in crossfire, direct fire, indirect fire, is a concern for the mission".

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46888&Cr=Syria&Cr1=#.Us20M_t5iGk

UN agencies launch "No Lost Generation" initiative

On 7 January, UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children and World Vision, along with other NGO partners, appealed for USD 1 billion to save Syrian children from becoming a lost generation. Through the "No Lost Generation" strategy, the organizations are focusing donor and public support on critical education and protection programmes to lift Syrian children out of misery, isolation and trauma. A major public

engagement campaign under the hashtag #childrenofsyria was also rolled out, using social media to enlist supporters and public contributors.

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_71701.html

<https://twitter.com/search?q=%23childrenofsyria&src=tyah>

Select UN stories

WHO delivers more than 125 tons of medical supplies in Aleppo

In the last week of 2013 and the first week of 2014, the World Health Organisation (WHO) delivered two shipments with more than 125 tons of medical equipment and medicines to health providers in Aleppo, Syria -- in both government-controlled and in opposition-controlled areas. These shipments continue the steady supply of medicine and medical supplies to all sides of the conflict. In 2013, WHO and its partners distributed medical supplies for 4.6 million people, supported mobile health clinics and other service delivery through 36 local NGOs and other health partners, trained almost 2,500 local health workers on infectious diseases and outbreak response, chemical hazard, malnutrition and mental health.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/who-delivers-more-125-tons-medical-supplies-aleppo>

Thousands of refugees arrive in Kurdistan region of Iraq

On 6 January, the Syrian-Iraqi border at Peshkhabour opened and 2,519 Syrians crossed by barge, according to UN's Refugee Agency, UNHCR. Border crossing points between the Kurdistan region of Iraq and Syria had been closed since mid-September in the wake of an exodus of some 60,000 Syrians. Iraq hosts 210,000 registered Syrian refugees.

Meanwhile, insecurity is creating new internal displacement in central Iraq. UNHCR is working with UN partners and the government to try to assess the needs of displaced persons from the recent upsurge in violence in Fallujah and Ramadi.

<http://www.unhcr.org/52cbf3a39.html>

Links to UN Secretariat, Agencies, Funds and Programmes on Syria

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=146&Body=Syria&Body1=>

UNICEF: <http://www.unicef.org/media/index.html>

WFP: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria>

OCHA: <http://www.unocha.org/crisis/syria>

WHO: <http://www.who.int/countries/syr/en/>

UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f86c2426.html>

OHCHR: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/NewsSearch.aspx?CID=SY>

UNRWA: <http://www.unrwa.org/>

UN on social media:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UN>

Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/un_photo/

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/unitednations>

Tumblr: <http://united-nations.tumblr.com/>

Photo galleries:

UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c25d.html>

UNRWA: <http://www.unrwa.org/photogallery.php>

OCHA: <http://www.unocha.org/media-resources/photo-gallery>

UNICEF: http://www.unicef.org/photography/photo_2013.php#UNI82253

IRIN: <http://www.irinnews.org/photo/>