



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Secretary-General: Bring the tragedy in Syria to an end

In a statement issued on 12 March, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, says that “three years ago, the Syrian people stood up in peaceful protest to demand their universal rights and freedoms. In response came brutal force, escalating bloodshed and the devastation of civil war”. “As the conflict now enters its fourth year”, he appeals to all to reflect upon the long and growing list of horrors taking place in Syria every day. The Secretary-General strongly urges the Syrian Government and opposition to exercise responsibility, leadership, vision and flexibility to rise to the challenge. Working with Joint Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi, the Syrian sides and regional and international actors must act now to bring the tragedy in Syria to an end.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7520>

The destruction of Syria’s cultural heritage must stop: UN officials

In a statement issued on 12 March, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and JSR Lakhdar Brahimi say that as the people of Syria continue to endure incalculable human suffering and loss, their country’s rich tapestry of cultural heritage is being ripped to shreds. World Heritage sites have suffered considerable and sometimes irreversible damage. Four of them are being used for military purposes or have been transformed into battlefields: Palmyra; the Crac des Chevaliers; the Saint Simeon Church in the ancient villages of Northern Syria; and Aleppo, including the Aleppo Citadel.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7521>

Date set for new camp opening in Jordan

On 11 March, UNHCR welcome a decision by the Jordanian Government to open the country's third refugee camp – Azraq – on 30 April. Azraq is located nearly 100 kilometres east of Amman in Zarqa governorate. The camp will initially house relatively small numbers of refugees but will eventually be able to accommodate up to 130,000 people. UNHCR says that the past weeks had seen the numbers of people crossing the border increasing by 50 per cent to an average of approximately 600 daily.

<http://www.unhcr.org/531eede79.html>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47332&Cr=Jordan&Cr1=>

Fighting prevents UNRWA from reaching Yarmouk for 11th consecutive day

UNRWA has received credible reports that clashes and shelling intensified in Yarmouk during the night of 9 March and continued throughout the day of 11 March. Ongoing hostilities have now prevented UNRWA from distributing humanitarian assistance in Yarmouk for eleven consecutive days.

<http://www.unrwa.org/crisis-in-yarmouk>

Number of children affected by conflict in Syria has doubled since last year - UN

10 March 2014 – As the conflict in Syria enters its fourth year, the United Nations Children’s Fund ([UNICEF](http://www.unicef.org)) has released a new report that carries alarming news: more than twice as many children are affected by the hostilities than were 12 months ago, and particularly hard hit are up to a million children trapped in areas that are under siege or that are hard to reach with humanitarian assistance due to continued violence.

“For Syria’s children, the past three years have been the longest of their lives. Must they endure another year of suffering?” asked UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake, calling for an immediate end to the violence and increased support for those affected.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47320&Cr=Syria&Cr1=>

Select UN stories

Some food reaches previously inaccessible areas

In the last few weeks, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) succeeded in reaching many areas of Syria that were inaccessible for months. But as the conflict enters its fourth year, delivering food to people in desperate need remains a challenge. Over the last few days, WFP reached Al-Houle in rural Homs for the first time since May 2013 and delivered food for 20,000 people. Trucks carrying food rations for another 20,000 people arrived in Ar-Raqqa Governorate for the first time in six months.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/syria-conflict-enters-fourth-year-some-food-reaches-previously-inaccessible-areas>

Interview: UN relief official recalls ‘a day from hell’ amid ongoing strife in Syria

“Where have you been? What took you so long? Why is it only after a year that the UN would try to reach us knowing that we have been here for that long?”

These are the questions that greeted Yacoub El Hillo, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria and his team early last month when they were finally able to reach the Old City of Homs, which had been under siege and cut off from aid for nearly two years.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47331&Cr=Syria&Cr1=>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77BUGcWBnLo>

<http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/syria-%E2%80%99Cit-was-day-hell%E2%80%9D>

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=>

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/>