



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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### **Humanitarian appeal for Syria largely unanswered - UN agencies**

The heads of five UN agencies warned on 23 April that the appeal launched a year ago to address the growing human impact of the Syrian crisis has been largely unanswered. In a joint statement, USG for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake, High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin and WHO Director General Margaret Chan said that the humanitarian situation deteriorates day after day. "For the civilians remaining in parts of Aleppo, Homs, as well as other areas experiencing heavy fighting, the worst days seem yet to come". While stressing that more needs to be done to reach those affected by the conflict, they urged both the Government and opposition groups to enable unconditional access, lift the sieges imposed on several towns as well as end the indiscriminate bombing and shelling of civilians.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/joint-statement-heads-un-humanitarian-agencies-syria>

### **Close to 90 percent of Syria's chemical weapons removed or destroyed**

On 22 April, the OPCW-UN Joint Mission reported that over 88 percent of the overall Syria's chemical weapons materials have been removed from or destroyed in-country.

<http://opcw.unmissions.org/AboutOPCWUNJointMission/tabid/54/ctl/Details/mid/651/ItemID/303/Default.aspx>

This consignment was the 17th to date, marking a significant acceleration in the pace of deliveries to the Syrian port of Latakia in April. Describing the movement as encouraging, the OPCW Director General expressed hope that the remaining two or three consignments are delivered quickly to permit the destruction operations to get under way in time to meet the mid-year deadline for the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons.

<http://www.opcw.org/news/article/removal-of-syrian-chemicals-passes-86-of-total/>

### **UN warns elections in current context would damage the political process**

Following the announcement by Syrian authorities that a presidential election will be held on 3 June, the UN spokesperson told reporters on 21 April that both the Secretary-General and the Joint Special Representative, Lakhdar Brahimi, have repeatedly warned that the holding of elections in the current circumstances amid the ongoing conflict and massive displacement would damage the political process and hamper the prospects for political solution that the country so urgently needs. "Such elections are incompatible with the letter and spirit of the Geneva Communiqué", he said, noting that the UN will,

nonetheless, continue to search and build upon any opening to a solution to the tragedy in Syria.

<http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2014/db140421.doc.htm>

### **No food aid has reached Yarmouk in the past two weeks - UNRWA**

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has reiterated on 20 April its demand for unimpeded humanitarian access to the Yarmouk camp, outside of Damascus, which hosts over 18,000 Palestinian refugees. According to UNRWA, no food aid has reached the camp since 8 April. "The threat of malnutrition and starvation increases with each passing hour. The Security Council must act as envisioned by resolution 2139 which calls for further action if full humanitarian access is not achieved", said the agency in a press statement.

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

### **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=>

#### **OPCW-UN Joint Mission**

<http://opcw.unmissions.org/>

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/](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](http://www.unicef.org/photography/photo_2013.php#UNI82253)

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