



## **Syrian Crisis** **United Nations Response**



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

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### **Iraq crisis triggers new displacement of civilians**

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, reported on 14 October that some 180,000 people have fled from the central Iraq town of Hit, following its capture by ISIL and affiliated armed groups over the weekend. The town's mostly Sunni residents fled to various parts of Anbar province, as well as to Karbala and Baghdad. "The exodus from Hit represents the fourth major wave of displacement in less than a year in Iraq", said the UNHCR spokesperson in Geneva. Meanwhile, in northern Iraq, an increasing number of Syrian Kurds from the besieged border town of Kobane are seeking shelter in Dohuk province, having crossed the border from Turkey. UNHCR said that about 5,400 people from Kobane had entered Iraq via Turkey in the last few days. The agency is holding talks with Iraqi authorities to expand a refugee camp in Erbil province as a further influx of displaced people is expected.

<http://www.unhcr.org/543cf28c9.html>

### **Special Envoy de Mistura calls for action to avoid massacre in Kobane**

Speaking at a press conference in Geneva on 10 October, the UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, said that he had held broad consultations regarding a possible political process and would pursue his consultations inside Syria and in the region. "What we are working on is listening, being in a listening mode, being in a position of understanding where is the current regional, global and national environment regarding possible political process, if and when that can be started and facilitated by the UN," he told reporters.

The Special Envoy also said that the UN would continue to focus its actions on promoting or facilitating a reduction of violence and increasing humanitarian access to the civilians in need in Syria. Expressing concern about the threat faced by thousands of civilians trapped in the border town of Kobane, Mr. de Mistura urged the international community to take urgent action against ISIL's advance to avoid a massacre.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3674>

### **WFP prioritises most needy Syrian refugees for food assistance**

The World Food Programme (WFP) said on 15 October that it is taking action to prioritise the most vulnerable families among the half a million Syrian refugees in Jordan who receive food vouchers. As a result, some 12,000 households who have access to sufficient income or support to meet their food requirements will

be removed from the agency's voucher programme. The move follows a study conducted by WFP in early 2014 to assess the level of food security among registered Syrian refugees in Jordan. According to its findings, 85 percent of Syrian refugee families would not have sufficient funds to put enough food on the table without the WFP voucher support.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-prioritises-most-needy-syrian-refugees-food-assistance>

### **Farmers in Ar-Raqqa governorate receive cereal seeds from FAO**

In a press statement on 14 October, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said it had started distributing over 1,000 tonnes of cereal seeds in Ar-Raqqa governorate to meet the needs of over 4,500 small-scale farmers for the planting season. Despite the fragile security situation, the FAO plans to reach seven locations in the governorate with the support of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Ar-Raqqa governorate is part of the so-called "cereal belt" of Syria, which produces more than 80 percent of the country's wheat.

<http://www.fao.org/emergencies/fao-in-action/stories/stories-detail/en/c/260036/>

### **UN Twitter account**

Update from #UNHCR: Syrian Kurds from Kobane take shelter in Iraq's Kurdistan region <http://trib.al/jynH3Cy>

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### **UN radio in Arabic**

Mohammed Massad: "Sa'a Souria" is a newsy and humanitarian radio show at the same time

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/149458/#.VD6Q9Ff4JR>

Yaacoub El-Helou asks donors not to forget the suffering of the Syrian people

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/149320/#.VD6R61f4JR>

Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria: Despite the difficulties we are staying and working for Syrians

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/149260/#.VD6SX1f4JR>

Increasing numbers of Syrian Kurds are moving from Turkey to Iraq and other areas of Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/149251/#.VD6TVFf4JR>

Continuation of UN humanitarian efforts through partners in the areas under ISIS in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/149232/#.VD6Tilf4JR>

Staffan de Mistura calls on Turkey to allow volunteers to cross its territory to help residents of Kobane

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/149242/#.VD6UJ1f4JR8>

Iraq and Syria delegates highlight terrorism and the importance for the international community to face it

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/149134/#.VD6UeFf4JR8>

### **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/>

#### ***UN humanitarian agencies***

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/>