



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No. 65 / 22 October 2014

Secretary-General warns that a purely military response could lead to radicalization

Addressing the Security Council during a briefing on the Middle East on 21 October, the Secretary-General reiterated his call on all parties to protect civilians in the besieged town of Kobane. He noted that in addition to the “barbarity” of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), or Daesh, the Syrian Government continues to indiscriminately attack populated areas, including with barrel bombs. On the threat posed by Daesh, he underscored that a purely military response could ultimately contribute to the radicalization of other Sunni armed groups and trigger a cycle of renewed violence. The Secretary-General also told the Security Council that the UN’s long-term strategic objective in Syria remains a political solution based on the Geneva Communiqué.

<http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/Syria/FinalCommuniqueActionGroupforSyria.pdf>

http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2408#.VEfRhbz7kc

UN Humanitarian Chief appeals for more assistance and urges a political solution

After wrapping up a two-day visit to Turkey on 21 October, UN Humanitarian Chief Valerie Amos reminded the international community of the gravity of Syria’s humanitarian crisis and called for additional support for displaced people ahead of the winter. To date, about 10 million people have been displaced internally or have left Syria. Ms. Amos said that the UN and its partners will continue to do all they can to help those in need but stressed that there is a limit to what the humanitarian community can do. “We can save lives. Help to clothe, house and feed people. But we cannot deliver the safety and security that people crave,” said Ms. Amos. “We urgently need a political solution in Syria. The world must remember the suffering of the Syrian people and act,” she stated.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/turkey/un-humanitarian-chief-calls-continued-assistance-and-political-solution-syria>

Further assistance needed to help Lebanon deal with refugee crisis - UNSCOL

During a visit to the Bekaa on 21 October, the Special Coordinator for Lebanon Derek Plumbly said that the United Nations was committed to do all it can to assist Lebanon in confronting the impact of the Syrian crisis, including by seeking additional international assistance for refugees and the Lebanese Armed Forces. Mr. Plumbly, accompanied by the UNHCR Representative in Lebanon, Ms. Ninette Kelley, visited displaced Syrian families and listened to their concerns and their hopes to return to their country as soon as conditions permit. “The burden is enormous for both the Lebanese and the displaced Syrians themselves,” he said, noting that hope was not gone and that the 28 October

donor conference in Berlin would seek to encourage the international community to continue to share the burden generously.

<http://unscol.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=9473&ctl=Details&mid=12484&ItemID=20860&language=en-US>

UNICEF convoys reach Aleppo for the first time in months

For the first time in several months, UNICEF said that it was able to cross the line in Aleppo to deliver humanitarian aid. A UNICEF spokesperson told reporters in Geneva on 21 October that five trucks had left the Government-controlled western part of Aleppo City and reached the suburb of Afrin with relief supplies for thousands of children from the besieged city of Kobane who have taken refuge there. That was a small but significant breakthrough in UNICEF's efforts to reach children who had been among the hardest to reach due to the conflict, he said.

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpBriefingsLatest_en%29/1D07A038D02B1DF3C1257D780044BA70?OpenDocument

WFP forced to cut operations due to funding shortfall

In a press statement issued on 21 October, the World Food Programme (WFP) said that the agency has reached a critical point in its response to reach about 4.25 million people in Syria and 1.8 million vulnerable people in the region. As a result, WFP is being forced to significantly limit the number of people supported with food assistance just before winter. These reductions are likely to cause widespread food insecurity, further population displacement and heighten protection concerns. WFP needs a total of US\$ 352 million for its operation until the end of 2014.

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WFP%20SYRIA%20Funding%20and%20Shortfalls%20October%202014%20Version%20II.pdf>

UN Twitter account

#Syria: aid convoy crosses lines to reach children fleeing fighting in besieged #Kobane
<http://ow.ly/D6KaW> - 21 Oct 2014

Millions of Syrian children have lost their homes & now many risk losing their education, too
<http://trib.al/jHkCSWX> - 19 Oct 2014

Photo from @UNICEFmena: Syrian girls inspect their new school supplies. More info:
<http://uni.cf/1pQc5Cf> - 19 Oct 2014

UN Facebook

For the first time in months, a UN aid convoy has managed to cross over the battle line in Aleppo, delivering lifesaving supplies for Syria children -- a small but significant breakthrough in efforts to help children displaced by the fighting in Kobane.

Find out more about the delivery here: <http://j.mp/1zjGbrI>

Photo credit: United Nations OCHA-21 Oct 2014

UN radio in Arabic

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/

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/>