



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No. 71/ 3 December 2014

WFP launches 72-hour media campaign to raise funds for Syrian refugees

On 3 December, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) launched a 72-hour social media campaign to raise US\$64 million for Syrian refugees. The campaign asks members of the public to donate US\$1 towards WFP's food aid vouchers and to swap their profile picture on Twitter and Facebook with a badge representing the \$1 for the campaign. "Even one dollar can make a difference. We're saying to people: 'For you it's a dollar, for them it's a lifeline. All it takes is US\$1 from 64 million people'", said WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin in a press statement.

The initiative follows WFP's announcement two days earlier of the suspension of a critical food voucher programme to more than 1.7 million Syrian refugees, due to a funding crisis. In an appeal to donors, Ms. Cousin warned that a suspension of WFP food assistance will endanger the health and safety of these refugees and will potentially cause further tensions, instability and insecurity in the neighbouring host countries. Under the programme, Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt have used electronic vouchers to buy food in the local shops. The agency said that if new funding is received in December, it will immediately resume its food assistance programme.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/64-million-people-its-dollar-17-million-syrian-refugees-its-lifeline>

<http://www.wfp.org/forsyrianrefugees>

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-forced-suspend-syrian-refugee-food-assistance-warns-terrible-impact-winter-nea>

Echoing concerns over WFP's funding gap, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres called on the international community to urgently support the agency. "This could not come at a worse time", he said on 1 December. "Winter is already an extremely difficult period for Syrian refugees, but the suspension of food assistance at this critical juncture is going to be devastating. It will impact tens of thousands of the most vulnerable refugee families who are almost entirely dependent on international aid", he stressed.

<http://www.unhcr.org/547c7e039.html>

UNESCO Director General calls for the creation of "protected cultural zones"

During a conference on threats to cultural heritage and diversity in Iraq and Syria, held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, on 3 December, UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova called for the creation of "protected cultural zones" around heritage sites in both countries. Among the endangered World Heritage sites where a start could be made, Ms. Bokova suggested the Omeyyad Mosque in the Syrian city of Aleppo. "To fight fanaticism, we also need to reinforce education, a defense against hatred, and protect heritage, which helps forge collective identity", she said, reaffirming that there could be no purely military solution to the crisis. In a message to the Conference, the Secretary-General supported UNESCO's call to place cultural diversity at the heart of humanitarian and peace building efforts in Syria and Iraq, stressing that "the protection of cultural heritage is a security imperative."

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/unesco_conference_calls_for_protected_cultural_zones_to_be_established_syria_and_iraq/

UNRWA provides schools kits to Palestine refugee children from Syria

To mark the start of the 2014-2015 school year in Lebanon, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) distributed "back-to-school" kits to Palestine refugee students from Syria at a preparatory school for girls in Tyre. In a press release, UNRWA said that more than 38,000 Palestine refugee children in Lebanon received these kits this year thanks to funding received from the European Union and UNICEF.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/eu-unicef-and-unrwa-back-school-kits-palestine-refugee-students-syria-and>

UN Twitter account:

For you it's \$1, for them it's a lifeline – donate now & help @WFP feed 1.7M Syrians

<http://www.wfp.org/forsyrianrefugees>

- 3 Dec 2014

Wednesday in Paris: @UNESCO conference rallying the intl community to protect the #culturalheritage of Iraq & Syria <http://ow.ly/Ff1p3>

- 3 Dec 2014

"This couldn't come at a worse time" - Syrian refugees face new hunger threat

[@refugees](http://j.mp/1FLpo0n_pic.twitter.com/HSfOHen580_via)

- 2 Dec 2014

"Winter is extremely difficult for Syrian refugees. The suspension of food assistance is going to be devastating." <http://trib.al/ZS41nNK>

- 2 Dec 2014

News: @WFP forced to suspend food aid to 1.7+ million Syrian refugees due to funding crisis <http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-forced-suspend-syrian-refugee-food-assistance-warns-terrible-impact-winter-near>

- 1 Dec 2014

A rare glimpse into the lives of a group of young Syrian refugees. #SeeWhatISee

[@refugees](http://trib.al/ZzOdsiN_pic.twitter.com/VJlr1fXNa2_via)

- 27 Nov 2014

UN Instagram:

Three years of persistent conflict and deteriorating economic conditions in #Syria have challenged the resilience of #Palestine refugees and Syrians alike. Most of the approximately 540,000 Palestine #refugees in Syria are now unable to meet their daily needs. Many of the most vulnerable are taking refuge in #UnitedNations collective shelters, which are mostly former #schools. Privacy is limited and classrooms are subdivided by curtains to create 'living units' for two to three #families. Some, such as those who fled the besieged area of #Yarmouk in 2012, have been living in these shelters for up to two years. Photo: @unrwa archives #UN #children #CRC25 #education #peace #development

26 Nov 2014

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=>

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/>