



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Special Envoy de Mistura holds talks in Turkey on freeze proposal

As part of ongoing regional consultations to promote a fighting "freeze" in Aleppo, UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura met with Turkish officials as well as a delegation of the Syrian opposition in Istanbul on 7 December. During his talks with the Head of the Syria National Coalition, Hadi-al-Bahra, Mr. de Mistura exchanged views on how to make the proposal operational on the ground. He also met separately with Feridum Sinirliglu, the Under Secretary at the Turkish Foreign Ministry. The Special Envoy also travelled to the southern city of Gaziantep to discuss his plan with key rebel groups from Aleppo.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/db141208.doc.htm>

UN Refugee agency's Chief appeals to Western nations to help resettle 100,000 Syrian refugees

Addressing a ministerial-level pledging conference in Geneva on 9 December, UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres urged Western nations to help resettle 10 per cent of the 3.2 million refugees in countries neighbouring Syria. "Providing refuge for vulnerable people fleeing war is of life-saving importance for the individuals affected, but it's also an important show of solidarity with countries of the region that are hosting millions of Syrians", he said. Following the pledges and indications of commitments, UNHCR expects the total number of places for Syrian refugees available in the coming months to reach 100,000. This includes 62,000 places already made available by governments. Expressing deep gratitude to the neighboring countries of Syria hosting large numbers of refugees, Mr. Gutierrez also thanked nations that have offered options other than traditional resettlement such as admitting Syrians on humanitarian visas and family reunification programmes.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/governments-pledge-take-around-100000-syrian-refugees-0>

<http://www.unhcr.org/548737926.html>

WFP restarts food voucher distribution for 1.7 million Syrian refugees

The UN World Food Programme announced on 9 December it is resuming food aid distribution for Syrian refugees in host countries after raising more than \$88 million through a social media campaign.

The campaign, launched on 1 December using the hashtag #ADollarALifetime, received massive expression of support from the public, the private sector and donor countries. "This outpouring of support in such a short time is unprecedented," said WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin. "We're especially grateful to the many individual members of the public who reached into their own pockets to send whatever they could to help Syrian refugees who have lost everything. They showed that even as little as a dollar can make a difference", she added.

As a result of the campaign, Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq, as well as Egypt, will again receive electronic food vouchers to buy food from local shops.

WFP's donation page is still up and running on <http://www.wfp.org/ForSyrianRefugees> and the public can continue to contribute to WFP's life-saving assistance for displaced Syrians.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-resumes-food-assistance-syrian-refugees-fundraising-drive-exceeds-goal>

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-partners-help-wfp-resume-food-assistance-syrian-refugees>

Secretary-General thanks King of Saudi Arabia for \$100 million donation

In a statement issued on 10 December, the Secretary-General expressed profound gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for his generous contribution of US\$104 million to the UN World Food Programme. He noted that this aid will help the United Nations provide millions of refugees from Syria, South Sudan and Somalia with food aid at a crucial time when food operations in those areas are under threat of suspension due to lack of financial support.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8264>

UNHCR calls for saving lives as number of asylum seekers coming by sea rises to 350,000

On 11 December, the UN refugee agency warned the international community that it was losing its focus on saving lives amid confusion among States' response to the growing challenge of people making risky sea journeys in search of asylum or migration.

According to UNHCR, since January, nearly 350,000 people worldwide have taken to the seas in search of asylum or of better opportunities, among which at least 4,000 did not survive. For the first time, people from refugee-producing countries (mainly Syria and Eritrea) have in 2014 become a major component in this tragic flow, accounting for almost 50 per cent of the total. To ensure better protection of people at sea, High Commissioner Guterres stressed that innovative thinking was required. "We must look at why people are fleeing, what prevents them from seeking asylum by safer means, and what can be done to crack down on the criminal networks that prosper from this, while at the same time protecting their victims", he noted.

<http://www.unhcr.org/54882c149.html>

UN Twitter account

Good news: @WFP resuming assistance to Syrian refugees as fundraising drive exceeds goal <http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-resumes-food-assistance-syrian-refugees-fundraising-drive-exceeds-goal>- 9 Dec 2014.

Some 660,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon are in need of assistance to stay warm & dry during the winter <http://youtu.be/Wmu4SucLrUk> via @refugees- 6 Dec 2014.

UN Facebook

Without your immediate support, World Food Programme (WFP) cannot continue providing food assistance for Syrian refugees.

Be one of those people making a difference today and join WFP's campaign to raise the \$64 million! For you it's a dollar. For them it's a lifeline.

Help now at: <http://www.wfp.org/ForSyrianRefugees>

<http://j.mp/1yljTDt>

UN Radio in Arabic

ICRC launches a mines awareness campaign for Syrian refugees

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155221/index.html#.VIhiwTHF9Q0>

UN calls for 16.4 billion dollars for humanitarian efforts in 2015

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/154975/index.html#.VIhixTHF9Q0>

UNICEF: 2014 is the year of horror, fear and despair for 230 million children living in conflict zones

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/154966/index.html#.VIhiyDHF9Q0>

Derrick Plumbly says farewell to Lebanon and begins a new chapter in his life

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/154898/index.html#.VIhizDHF9Q0>

De Mistura meets with SNC in Turkey and opposition forces in Ghazi Antab

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/154997/index.html#.VIhobTHF9Q0>

WFP receives \$80 million and resumes aid delivery to Syrian refugees

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155098/index.html#.VIhpGTHF9Q0>

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/>