



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



**A Weekly Update from the
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Secretary-General says Syria nightmare must end in 2015

Speaking at the end-of-the-year press conference on 17 December, the Secretary-General said that "2015 must be the year in which we end the nightmare in Syria – and avert the escalation of other worrying situations." He highlighted this as one of the four imperatives for 2015. He said that "the successful dismantling of the chemical weapons programme has been of little consolation to the people who have seen the war rage on" in Syria.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3767>

Security Council renews cross-border aid delivery to Syria for a year

On 17 December, the United Nations Security Council renewed for 12 months the use of routes across conflict lines and several border crossings in Syria so that humanitarian assistance can reach communities in need, as it expressed outrage at the escalating violence that has killed nearly 200,000 people. Unanimously adopting a new resolution, the Council said it was "gravely distressed" by the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria and by the fact that now more than 12.2 million people need relief aid. The resolution – pursuant to [resolution 2165 \(2014\)](#) – extends until January 10, 2016, the authorization for UN agencies and their partners to use routes across conflict lines and four border crossings – two in Turkey, one in Iraq and one in Jordan – so that humanitarian assistance reaches Syrian civilians.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49632+>

UN to launch humanitarian plans for Syria crisis response

On 18 December, the UN will launch two funding appeals for the Syria crisis at an event hosted by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in Berlin.

The Syria Strategic Response Plan 2015, which covers the humanitarian response inside Syria, will be launched by Under-Secretary-General for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos.

The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for 2015-2016, covering support to refugees from Syria and host communities in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, will be jointly launched by the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), António Guterres, and Associate Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Gina Casar.

http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp?HighD=12/12/2014&d_month=12&d_year=2014

'Even in war there are rules' – Amos urges SC to enforce protection of Syrian civilians

Civilians in Syria are being subjected to escalating levels of brutality as the war creeps into its fourth year, the UN humanitarian chief told the Security Council on 15 December. Briefing the 15-member Council for the second time in less than a month, Under-Secretary-General for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos reminded delegates of their "strong demands" regarding the inviolability of Syrian civilians as enshrined in the Council's resolution 2139 which, she observed, had gone "unheard." In many parts of Syria, "the level of violence has worsened, with civilians continuing to pay heavily with loss of life, serious injuries,

psychological trauma, ongoing and recurring displacement and massive damage to property and infrastructure," Ms. Amos explained.

<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/15%20December%202014%20USG%20SecCo%20statement%20on%20Syria.pdf>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49614>

DSG Eliasson in Lebanon pledges to 'help as much as possible' with refugee impact

With soaring numbers of refugees seeking asylum in Lebanon, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson on 15 December pledged to "help as much as possible" to ensure that the tragic conflict in Syria will not spread into Lebanese society. Meeting with the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Nabih Berri in Beirut, Mr. Eliasson said that his visit to the Middle Eastern nation comes at a "very crucial" time. "I was here two years ago and the numbers of refugees were less than 150,000 and now we have almost ten times that number and we understand fully the strains that this has on the Lebanese society," Mr. Eliasson observed.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49610>

WFP operations secure after funding drive; must raise more in 2015

Having raised \$88 million in a 10-day global fundraising effort, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said on 16 December that its funding for December 2014 was secure and the agency could resume providing food assistance through electronic vouchers to 1.7 million refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Turkey. "WFP plans to reach 4.25 million people inside the country in December. In November, we distributed enough food to feed just over 4 million people," WFP spokesperson Elisabeth Byrs said during a press briefing in Geneva.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49621>

U.N. Envoy briefs EU on freeze of hostilities in Aleppo

The UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, participated in a meeting in Brussels on 14 December in which he provided an update on the latest consultations and meetings to advance the freeze of hostilities in Aleppo. He is currently traveling to the region to discuss that further. His deputy, Ramzy Ezzedin Ramzy, arrived in Damascus over the weekend to discuss the freeze with Syrian officials. Asked if he was also consulting the opposition Syria National Coalition, the spokesman said that "Mr. de Mistura and his deputy and his colleagues are speaking to all parties. He was in Turkey, talking to opposition members."

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/db141215.doc.htm>

UNESCO chief condemns murder of Syrian television journalists

On 15 December, the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Irina Bokova, deplored the killing of three Syrian journalists, who were killed while reporting on fighting in the southern Syrian province of Deraa last week. "I condemn the killing of Youssef Mahmoud El-Dous, Rami Adel Al-Asmi and Salem Abdul-Rahman Khalil," the Director-General said. "I call on all parties in the tragic conflict in Syria to respect the civilian status of journalists in keeping with the Geneva Conventions."

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49611>

UN launches new tool to help to stop atrocity crimes 'before tensions escalate'

On 11 December, Deputy-Secretary-General Jan Eliasson launched the Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes, an analysis and risk assessment tool that uses a set of risk factors and related indicators to identify and prevent atrocity crimes. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Eliasson said that with much more needing to be done to prevent crises and protect populations at risk of genocide, the Framework offered a route to reaching that vitally important goal. The [Framework](#) was developed by the UN Office of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect.

"2014 has been a troubled and turbulent year. We have witnessed large-scale violence and widespread suffering – in Iraq, Syria, the Central African Republic and South Sudan and many other places," said the Deputy-Secretary-General. "There has been important cooperation among States to provide assistance to populations affected by these crises."
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49584>

UN Twitter account

In Syria, winter has become a season of hardship. Help @UNRWA #weatherthestorm:
<http://j.mp/1BS9kaP>
- 17 Dec 2014

"Even in war there are rules" @ValerieAmos on protection of Syrian civilians
<http://bit.ly/1syJybI> pic.twitter.com/h3mpkyEgEd via @OCHA Syria
- 17 Dec 2014

Surpassing fundraising goal, @WFP restarted food aid this week for #Syria refugees
<http://bit.ly/1wcv7MF>
- 13 Dec 2014

UN Facebook

Thanks to the massive support from the public, the private sector and donor countries, World Food Programme (WFP) can now resume food assistance to Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.

After suspending food aid to nearly 1.7 million Syrian refugees on 1 December, WFP launched an ambitious fundraising campaign --#ADollarALifetime -- that raised more than \$80 million. This money will permit food vouchers to be distributed to refugees this month, with some funds carrying through to January.

Learn more: <http://j.mp/1Bwvims>

UN Radio in Arabic

Unanimous decision from Security Council to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155802/#.VJGoJQYA>

Jan Eliasson discusses Syrian refugees with Lebanese Cardinal Bechara Boutros al-Rahi in Bkirki

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155763/#.VJGonQYA>

Resumption of e-vouchers for Syrian refugees aims to feed nearly two million people

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155699/#.VJGo9QYA>

Jan Eliasson launches the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan in Beirut

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155641/#.VJGpQQYA>

Syrian Ambassador calls for cooperation with the Syrian government to deliver humanitarian aid to the needy

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155474/#.VJGp7QYA>

A Syrian refugee journeys to Germany to help his child get his hearing back

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155449/#.VJGqPQYA>

Patriarch of Antioch: the dialogue and the political process are the only solution to what is happening in the region

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155305/#.VJGq1QYA>

ICRC launches an awareness campaign on the threat of mines for Syrian refugees
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155221/>

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/>