



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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UN launches appeal for \$8.4 billion for aid to millions of Syrians, support to host communities

As Syria's war heads into the fifth year, several United Nations agencies and their partners launched a major new humanitarian and development appeal, seeking over US\$8.4 billion in funds to help nearly 18 million people in Syria and across the region in 2015. Launched on 18 December in Berlin at a donor's meeting, the appeal includes two main elements: support for over 12 million displaced and conflict-affected people inside Syria, and addressing the needs of the millions of Syrian refugees in the region and the countries and communities hosting them. The 2015 appeal incorporates, for the first time, significant development aspects in addition to the life-saving humanitarian needs of the largest number of displaced people in the world. The launch included both the Syria Response Plan for 2015 and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan – the 3RP. As one of the speakers said, together they comprise a new framework for responding to the needs of Syrians and people in neighboring countries.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-and-emergency-relief-15>

<http://www.unhcr.org/54929c676.html>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49639>

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/2015-strategic-response-plan-syrian-arab-republic-december-2014-enfrar>

<http://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/united-nations-launches-regional-refugee-and-resilience-plan-enarku>

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_78134.html

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-launches-plan-assist-syrians-affected-conflict-2015>

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-launches-2015-syria-regional-crisis-response-plan>

<http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/articles/2014/12/18/development-high-on-the-agenda-for-syria-response/>

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2014/12/18/gina-casar-statement-at-the-launch-of-the-syria-strategic-response-plan-2015-and-the-regional-refugee-and-resilience-plan-2015-berlin-germany-/>

As war continues, UN agency maps extensive destruction to Syria's cultural heritage

The extensive destruction and damage of Syria's historical and cultural heritage sites demands increased efforts to protect them from the violence of the country's continuing conflict, a new United Nations report, issued on 23 December, based on exclusive satellite imagery has revealed. The [report](#) – a comprehensive study compiled by the Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) of the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) – reviews 18 different cultural heritage areas. A total of 290 locations in these areas were found to have been directly affected by the hostilities over that past three years. Out of the 290 locations, the report says, 24 have been destroyed; 104 severely damaged; 85 moderately damaged; and 77 possibly damaged.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49681>

UNRWA unable to distribute aid in Yarmouk Palestine refugee camp

"The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was not cleared to distribute humanitarian assistance in Yarmouk on 22 December", said its spokesperson Chris Gunness. "UNRWA remains deeply concerned that, since July this year, there has been a noticeable decline in the quantity of food and other essential items that the Agency has been able to distribute to Yarmouk's civilians. It is acknowledged that in several instances, the distribution of aid in Yarmouk has been interrupted or proved impossible on account of exchanges of gunfire and insecurity. However, these instances do not fully account for the low number of civilians UNRWA is presently enabled to support inside Yarmouk."

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/crisis-yarmouk-camp-22-december-2014>

Amid heightened tensions, Security Council extends UN mission in Golan

The United Nations Security Council on 18 December extended the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) mission in the Golan until 30 June 2015, as it condemned recent fighting in the area and stressed that both Israel and Syria must "scrupulously" abide by the terms of the disengagement accord to prevent any breaches of the ceasefire. UNDOF was established, following the ceasefire between Syria and Israel after their 1973 war. Since then, UNDOF has remained in the area to maintain the ceasefire and to supervise the implementation of the disengagement agreement. Recent reports indicate that with the conflict in Syria spilling over to neighbouring nations, the region is likely to remain tense. The Council, which unanimously adopted resolution 904 (2014), also condemned armed Syrian groups' use of improvised explosive devices in the UNDOF area of operation.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49644>

UN Twitter account

Watch: A population of children as big as the entire population of #Manhattan has been forced from their homes <http://rfq.ee/FYUlb> #Syria
- 23 Dec 2014

What if 1.5 million people disappeared where you live? 1.5 million Syrian children have fled.
@Refugees video: <http://rfq.ee/FYTPL>
- 19 Dec 2014

#Syriacrisis: @WFP appeals for US\$1.5 billion in 2015 to feed 6.5 million Syrians <http://j.mp/1z9lkq8>
- 18 Dec 2014

Just launched! Learn abt #Syria3RP, 2 year plan to support refugees & host communities affected by #SyriaCrisis: <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>
- 18 Dec 2014

As Syria's war heads towards 5th year, new #SyriaAppeal launched to help nearly 18 million people
<http://trib.al/yw6a35R> via @refugees
- 18 Dec 2014

Security Council renews cross-border aid delivery to Syria for a year <http://j.mp/1v077W2>
- 17 Dec 2014

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/1syJybl>
pic.twitter.com/h3mpkyEgEd via @OCHA_Syria
- 17 Dec 2014

UN Facebook

What would happen if people living in Manhattan had to flee their homes? Would anyone notice? Of course they would.

1.5 million Syrian children have been forced to flee their country.

We need to notice, support, and welcome them.

Watch the powerful video from UNHCR. <http://j.mp/13YXhgU>

- 21 Dec 2014

UN Radio in Arabic

Satellite images reveal the damage to Syrian cultural heritage

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/156324/#.VJr4MV4Cjo>

United States says: real stability will not prevail in Syria if Assad continues in his position

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/156227>

Critical rate of malnutrition among displaced children in three Syrian provinces

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/156202>

Concern regarding the nutritional and health status of children displaced in the Syrian provinces

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/156245>

UNICEF says: 2014 was devastating for millions of children

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/156074>

Mutual criticism between the Syria, on one side, and Saudi Arabia and Qatar, in the other, in the General Assembly

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155982>

International appeal for \$8.4 billion to provide humanitarian and development assistance to those affected by the Syrian crisis

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155940>

UNICEF says: Children most threatened by the Syrian crisis

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/155912>

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/>