



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No. 76/7 January 2015

Syrians have become the largest refugee population being helped by UNHCR

In a report issued on 7 January on "Mid-Year Trends 2014", the UN refugee agency said that with a refugee population of more than 3 million (as of June 2014), Syrians have become, for the first time, the largest refugee population under UNHCR's mandate, overtaking Afghans, who held that position for over three decades. Syrian refugees now account for 23 percent of all refugees being helped worldwide by the UN agency. The report also shows that wars in the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere displaced an estimated 5.5 million people during the first six months of 2014, indicating a further rise in the number of people forcibly displaced. "As long as the international community continues to fail to find political solutions to existing conflicts and to prevent new ones from starting, we will continue to have to deal with the dramatic humanitarian consequences," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres, who called for increased international solidarity to support nations hosting Syrian refugees.

<http://www.unhcr.org/54ac24226.html>

Humanitarian Chief Valerie Amos starts visit in Lebanon on refugee crisis

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos began on 7 January a three-day visit to Lebanon to meet with senior officials, local authorities, humanitarian partners and people affected by the Syria crisis. The visit will focus on how the international community can support the Government of Lebanon, whose social services have been affected by the Syria crisis, and in providing assistance to vulnerable Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians. According to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan for 2015-2016, over 2.2 million people, primarily Syrian refugees are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. The plan also identifies 2.9 million people in the most vulnerable communities and locations who need support through investment in services, economies and institutions.

<http://www.unocha.org/cap/appeals/lebanon-crisis-response-plan-2015-2016>

<http://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/visit-un-humanitarian-chief-valerie-amos-lebanon>

UN High Representative for Disarmament briefs the Security Council on destruction of Syria's chemical weapons programme

On 6 January, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Angela Kane briefed the Security Council on progress in the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons programme. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, she said she highlighted three main issues: gaps in Syria's chemical weapons declaration, progress achieved in the destruction of 12 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) in Syria, as well as the report of the fact-finding mission appointed by the OPCW Director-General to examine alleged uses of chlorine gas as a weapon. Ms. Kane noted that it was the first time she was briefing the Security Council following the conclusion of the UN-OPCW Joint Mission, on 30 September 2014, adding that she would continue to regularly update Council members.

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/angela-kane-unoda-on-syria-chemical-weapons-%E2%80%93-security-council-media-stakeout-6-january-2015/3973956996001>

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2014/948

<http://www.opcw.org/news/article/opcw-fact-finding-mission-compelling-confirmation-that-chlorine-gas-used-as-weapon-in-syria/>

UNICEF says conflict disrupts education for 670,000 Syrian children

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on 6 January that the continuing conflict in Syria and recent closure of some schools in Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zour governorates and parts of rural Aleppo are believed to have disrupted education for 670,000 children of primary and lower high school age. "In addition to lack of school access, attacks on schools, teachers and students are further horrific reminders of the terrible price Syria's children are paying in a crisis approaching its fifth year," said Hanaa Singer, UNICEF representative in Syria. While there remain conflicting reports on the exact scale of the current school closures, between January and December 2014 alone, there were at least 68 attacks on schools across Syria, according to data available to UNICEF. These attacks reportedly killed and wounded hundreds of children. The real numbers are expected to be higher, and there are indications that some attacks may have been deliberate.
<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/new-year-syria-offers-little-chance-childrens-education-schools-remain>

UNICEF and WFP launch winter cash assistance programme for Syrian refugees in Jordan

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) launched on 7 January a cash assistance programme to provide winter clothes to 41,000 Syrian refugee children under the age of 14 in Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps. The one-time cash assistance from UNICEF will target children from nearly 13,000 vulnerable families in the two camps through the existing WFP electronic food voucher programme (e-cards). Refugee families are being informed through SMS, posters, flyers and awareness sessions with camp community leaders. The UNICEF winterization programme in Jordan is reaching over 102,000 vulnerable children in partnership with UNHCR, WFP and NGO partners.
<http://reliefweb.int/report/jordan/unicef-and-wfp-partner-help-vulnerable-syrian-families-za-atari-and-azraq-camps>

UN Twitter

2015 offers little chance for children's education in Syria, warns @UNICEF
<http://ow.ly/GSX7k>
- 6 Jan 2015

Health partners in Syria Response Plan 2015 are requesting US\$318m incl 182m for inside Syria <http://goo.gl/uaTKvW> via @WHO
- 2 Jan 2015

Meet a 9-year-old refugee from Syria who found safe harbour in Sweden. His story is here: <http://j.mp/1y4gASz>
- 1 Jan 2015

UN Instagram

#Repost from @unrefugees:
#SyriaCrisis: Many Syrian #refugees are facing freezing temperatures & #food shortages in their fourth #winter away from home, after 3 years of persistent conflict in the country.

A population of #children as big as the entire population of #Manhattan has been forced to flee #Syria.
#unhcr #un #unitednations #nyc
<http://instagram.com/p/xclVvk2zDOa/?modal=true>
-4 Jan 2015

UN Radio

UNHCR: Syrian refugees are the biggest group of refugees in the world

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157257/#.VK2dEivF9Q0>

UNICEF is using e-card to provide winter clothing for Syrian children in Jordan
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157225/#.VK2ZGyvF9Q0>

UNICEF and its partners launch winter financial aid for Syrian refugees in Jordan
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157195/#.VK2ZICvF9Q0>

United Nations provides winter aid for children in Zaatari and Azraq camps
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157169/#.VK2Z1CvF9Q0>

Security Council hears briefing about the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157123/#.VK2aICvF9Q0>

International Organization for Migration (IOM) confirms the arrival of more Syrian refugees to Italy
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157098/#.VK2ajCvF9Q0>

The boat, Ezadeen, carries Syrian refugees to Europe
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157106/#.VK2auyvF9Q0>

UNICEF expresses concern about reports of ISIS amendment of school curriculum in areas under its control in Syria
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157109/#.VK2bHivF9Q0>

Valerie Amos heads to Lebanon to discuss the situation of Syrian refugees
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157082/#.VK2bbCvF9Q0>

UNICEF: Reports of ISIS modifying school curricula in Syria cause for closure of some schools
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157064/#.VK2byivF9Q0>

UNHCR provides support to thousands of Syrian families in Lebanon under difficult weather conditions
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157059/#.VK2cKivF9Q0>

UNHCR welcomes allocation of part of the proceeds of Abu Dhabi festivals to the Syrian refugees
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/156970/#.VK2ccCvF9Q0>

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/>