



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



A Weekly Update from the  
UN Department of Public Information

No. 77/14 January 2015

### **UNRWA calls for humanitarian access inside Yarmouk Palestine refugee camp**

On 13 January, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) expressed concern at the escalation of the armed conflict inside the Yarmouk refugee camp. The agency appealed for an immediate cessation of hostilities to ease the suffering of Yarmouk's civilians. "Persistent armed violence in Yarmouk has prevented UNRWA from conducting a successful distribution operation since 6 December, 2014", said UNRWA Spokesperson Chris Gunness. According to UNRWA, 400 food parcels are required each day to meet the minimum food needs of this vulnerable population. UNRWA remains deeply concerned that only 36 food parcels in total had been distributed over the previous four weeks and humanitarian needs, including health care and shelter, are similarly unmet.

<http://www.unrwa.org/crisis-in-yarmouk>

### **UNICEF steps up winter aid deliveries for children affected by harsh winter**

Amid bitterly cold weather across Syria and the region, the United Nations' Children Fund (UNICEF) has delivered warm clothing, blankets, heating supplies, cash and vouchers to more than 900,000 children in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

"Given the access constraints and extreme weather conditions, we've managed to accelerate our winter response in order to reach as many children as possible," said Maria Calivis, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa. "The contribution of our various partners – local as well as governmental – has been critical in making this happen even in such difficult conditions." UNICEF says at least 7 million internally displaced and refugee children are in desperate need of assistance. Many continue to live in unfinished buildings and inadequate shelters that expose them to sub-zero temperatures, heavy snow and strong winds.

<http://childrenofsyria.info/2014/11/13/over-seven-million-syrian-and-iraqi-children-caught-up-in-conflict-face-a-harsh-winter/>

### **UNHCR ramps up relief efforts as huge snowstorm threatens Syrian refugees**

The United Nations refugee agency has been working around the clock to help the millions of Syrian refugees and internally displaced people scattered across the Middle East endure a severe winter storm that has swept through much of the region. Heavy snowfall, rains, high winds and freezing temperatures were forecast to continue over the next several days and were expected to further disrupt the lives of the most vulnerable Syrians. Flooding had already become a problem in some low lying areas and was expected to get worse once the snow melts, said the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on 9 January.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49767>

<http://www.unhcr.org/54affcf59.html>

### **Syrian refugees in Jordan are sliding in abject poverty, says UNHCR**

Speaking at the launch of a new UNHCR study in Jordan, High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres said large numbers of Syrian refugees are sliding into abject poverty at an

alarming rate, due to the magnitude of the crisis and insufficient support from the international community. The report, entitled "Living in the Shadows", shows that two-thirds of refugees across Jordan are now living below the national poverty line, and one in six Syrian refugee households is in abject poverty, with less than \$40 per person per month. The study is based on data from almost 150,000 Syrian refugees living outside of camps in Jordan in 2014. The UNHCR Chief urged the international community to step up efforts to alleviate the suffering of the refugees. "The generosity of the Jordanian people and the Government needs to be matched by massive support from the international community", he said.

<http://www.unhcr.org/54b635b49.html>

<http://unhcr.org/jordan2014urbanreport/>

### **Security Council strongly condemns suicide attack in Lebanon**

Following the terrorist bomb attack which caused numerous deaths and injuries in Tripoli (Lebanon) on 10 January, the Security Council strongly condemned the attack for which Jabhat Al-Nusra claimed responsibility. The members of the Security Council reaffirmed in a statement that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivation, wherever and whenever and by whomsoever committed. The members of the Security Council appealed to all Lebanese people to preserve national unity in the face of attempts to undermine the country's stability, and stressed the importance for all Lebanese parties to respect Lebanon's policy of disassociation and to refrain from any involvement in the Syrian crisis.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc11731.doc.htm>

### **Secretary-General calls for more efforts to promote tolerance and understanding**

In a statement issued on 11 January, the Secretary-General welcomed the march held on the same day in Paris in memory of the victims of last week's terrorist attacks. Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura represented the United Nations at the march and joined in expressing the Organization's revulsion for terrorism. The Secretary-General reiterated his strong commitment to the essential work of countering extremism, fighting anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination, and upholding the rights to freedom of speech and expression. At the same time, he called for heightened efforts to promote tolerance and understanding. "In the past week alone, the world has seen horrific bombings and brutality, often with a sectarian dimension. The world must address this violence and division in ways that do not exacerbate the problems and that ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law", he noted.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8321>

### **Young Syrian refugees learn to sow for their supper**

Seventeen-year-old Abdallah has had "green fingers" since he was a young child in Syria, where his grandfather taught him how to grow flowers and vegetables. Today, the refugee is passing on his knowledge to other young Syrians at a community centre in the highlands of neighbouring Lebanon, where they found shelter with their families after fleeing the fighting that has torn their homeland apart. Abdallah's students also include youngsters from the local host community, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

<http://www.unhcr.org/54b3cf4b9.html>

### **UN Twitter**

New #UNHCR report details the level of poverty among Syrian @refugees in Jordan  
<http://trib.al/WGvw2ve>  
- 14 Jan 2015

Syria has changed everything. 10 million of world's @refugees & displaced are Syrian - the flow doesn't stop <http://trib.al/o7faQ84>  
- 8 Jan 2015

### **UN Facebook**

Syria Crisis - Urgent Appeal - Donate to UN Refugee Agency - UNHCR  
<http://donate.unhcr.org/international/syria>  
-12 Jan 2015

### **Instagram**

Repost from @unrefugees: --- We've had quite a few people ask how they can help the refugees impacted by the winter storm.  
Thank you for wanting to help. The easiest way is to go to this page:  
<http://donate.unhcr.org/international/syria>  
Credit: UNHCR / A. @andrewmccconnellphoto  
-12 Jan 2015

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

UNHCR Study: One out of every six Syrian refugees live in extreme poverty in Jordan  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157742/#.VLaiEfF9Q0>

A new study reveals the difficult conditions in which the Syrian refugees live in Jordan  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157722/#.VLai2EfF9Q0>

UNICEF announces the death of six Syrian refugee children due to harsh weather condition in the Middle East  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157650/#.VLaiTUfF9Q0>

Harsh winter causes casualties among the Syrian refugees in Lebanon, and UNICEF sends mobile medical teams to examine the refugees  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157654/#.VLaij0fF9Q0>

IOM in Lebanon: Refugees needs are more than the aid delivered  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157644/#.VLai6UfF9Q0>

Middle East: UNHCR is working around the clock to help millions of refugees to withstand the winter storm  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157469/#.VLbAfkfF9Q0>

Winter hits refugees in the Middle East  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157338/#.VLbA4kfF9Q0>

UNHCR welcomes Canadian announcement accepting 13,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157296/#.VLbBDUfF9Q0>

## **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/](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](http://www.unicef.org/photography/photo_2013.php#UNI82253)

IRIN: <http://www.irinnews.org/photo/>