



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

**No. 78/21 January 2015**

### **UN and SARC humanitarian convoy reaches Homs**

The UN spokesperson told reporters on 21 January that the United Nations and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent completed their delivery of humanitarian supplies to the Al Wa'er neighbourhood of Homs on 20 January, delivering the remaining 10 trucks of relief supplies targeting 75,000 people. The first two parts of the convoy reached the area on 15 and 18 January. In addition to planned supplies, 743 cartons of baby milk were delivered, in direct response to urgent needs identified on 15 January. The UN had not been able to deliver aid to Al Wa'er since November 2014.

<http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp>

### **UN calls for more funds to help displaced people as harsh winter hits the Middle East**

As winter conditions worsen throughout the Middle East, especially for vulnerable displaced people, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria, Yacoub El Hillo, appealed to the international community's generosity to support aid efforts. "After four years of crisis, people's ability to cope is extremely stretched, and the needs continue to grow. Though the international community has been generous, funding has not kept pace in the face of growing needs", he said on 16 January. According to Mr. El Hillo, US\$70 million is required to address the funding gap for the winter humanitarian response. In October 2014, the UN and its partners launched a US\$206 million winterization plan targeting 3.3 million people inside Syria. As part of the plan, UN agencies as well as the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and NGOs, have been able to distribute winter supplies – including blankets, winter clothing, fuel and cash – to hundreds of thousands of people across Syria.

<http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/syria-millions-risk-winter-tightens-its-grip>

### **21 January marks a year since last polio case was reported in Syria**

In a statement issued on 21 January, the UN World Health Organization announced that no new case of polio had been reported in Syria over the past 12 months. "This significant milestone is thanks to a tremendous effort by all those involved in outbreak response since the first case was confirmed in October 2013 and was followed by a series of intense vaccination activities starting that same month", noted the agency. Before this outbreak, Syria had not seen endemic cases of wild poliovirus since 1999. The civil war was devastating to public health in the country, and the level of immunization fell from 99% coverage to 52%. Spreading along with the conflict into Iraq, the polio virus had paralysed 36 children in Syria and two in Iraq by the end of April 2014.

<http://www.polioeradication.org/mediaroom/newsstories/One-Year-Since-the-Last-Case-of-Polio-In-Syria/tabid/526/news/1192/Default.aspx#>

### **UN envoy says Syria set back 40 years by war, calls for renewed push towards solution**

With the "devastating conflict" in Syria entering its fourth year, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria said on 15 January that continued fighting in the country is a "disgrace" that has set the country back 40 years. "It is a true tragedy that people all over Syria continue to be living under constant fear of barrel bombs,

mortar attacks, rockets, aerial bombing, car bombs, kidnappings, extrajudicial killings," said Staffan de Mistura.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49806>

### **Amos warns humanitarian workers facing 'increasingly complex' situations**

During a lecture delivered at the Council on Foreign Relations last week, the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator described the increasingly complex environments in which humanitarian actors work, as they deal more and more with the consequences of crises whose roots lie in poor governance, political paralysis, underdevelopment, and rising levels of poverty and inequality. "The challenges facing organizations working in the humanitarian field reflect the wider challenges facing the entire United Nations," said Valerie Amos, who heads the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49800>

<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/USG%20Amos%20Sorensen%20lecture%20CFR%20NY%2013Jan2015%20as%20delivered.pdf>

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

كرم مسألة ليست مساعدتهم إن بد كثير، ذلك من أكثر يدس تحقون ال سوربون ال لاجئون: الأزع تري من غوت يريس  
Guterres in Zaatari Camp: Syrian refugees deserve much more, helping them is not a matter of generosity

16 January 2015

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157966>

ال سلام جهود لدعم وسوريا ال بنان إلى يد توجه الدولي ال برلماني الات حد من وف د

A delegation from the Inter-Parliamentary Union heads to Lebanon and Syria to support peace efforts

16 January 2015

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/157926>

وتداعيات ال نموفي ضعفات شهد ال عرب ية ال منطقة في ل لفظ المصدرة غير الاق تصادات: ال حسن محمد مختار  
ك بيرة ال صراعات

Mukhtar Mohamed Hassan says: non-oil exporters in the Arab region are experiencing weakness in growth due to the conflicts

19 January 2015

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/158132>

### **UN Twitter**

21 January marks one year since the last case of polio in Syria <http://goo.gl/uId1w2>

<http://pic.twitter.com/RuN70Bul4i> via @WHO

Syria: UN envoy makes renewed push for peace. @UN\_DPA photo story:

<http://ow.ly/HsCIG> #politicallyspeaking <http://pic.twitter.com/H1qAtsPFH0>

Staffan de Mistura: "#Syria has now gone 40 yrs backwards from where it was."

Remarks: <http://bit.ly/1yfVv8k> <http://pic.twitter.com/Jbpw6oXTYU>

#SyriaCrisis: \$70 Mil. still needed to help displaced #Syrians cope w/ winter >

<http://bit.ly/1B8qhOz>

@ocharomena <http://pic.twitter.com/7NaEwr1MKR>

Thank you to those of you asking how to help refugees impacted by the storm. The easiest way is to go to this page: <http://trib.al/OaMYxHm>

How many Syrians are arriving in Europe? Explore new @refugees data portal

<http://trib.al/NtwNQJe>

<http://pic.twitter.com/vPJ6BabEPw>

For millions displaced in Lebanon, snow means extra hardship. <http://trib.al/tRKNbEO>

<http://pic.twitter.com/gIVetNQGpv> via @Refugees

New #UNHCR report details the level of poverty among Syrian @refugees in Jordan

<http://trib.al/WGvw2ve> <http://pic.twitter.com/s7YAyDIN7p>

## **UN 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>

## **UN Facebook**

UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura has said that continued fighting in Syria is a “disgrace” that has set the country back 40 years.

“It is a true tragedy that people all over Syria continue to be living under constant fear of barrel bombs, mortar attacks, rockets, aerial bombing, car bombs, kidnappings, extrajudicial killings,” he said.

Syrians have replaced Afghans as the world’s largest population of refugees, pointing to the 7.6 million displaced people and 3.3 million refugees created by the conflict, as well as a further 12 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Diseases like polio, typhoid and measles have returned to the country and 4,000 schools are unusable, meaning 3 million children were out of school.

Read more: <http://j.mp/1x7jPDu>

## **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://unocha.org/syria> , [twitter.com/ocha\\_syria](https://twitter.com/ocha_syria) , [facebook.com/UNOCHA.Syria](https://facebook.com/UNOCHA.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/>