



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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### **First of 12 chemical weapon production facilities in Syria destroyed**

In a press statement issued on 3 February, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) announced that the destruction of an underground structure in Syria previously hosting a chemical weapon production facility was completed on 31 January. At the same time, destruction activities and preparatory work at the 11 remaining production facilities continue.

"I welcome the destruction of the first facility, which had been delayed due to some technical reasons. I am hopeful that remaining destruction activities will proceed according to the plan," said Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü.

To date, 98% of Syria's declared chemical weapons have been verified by the OPCW as destroyed.

<http://www.opcw.org/news/article/first-of-12-chemical-weapon-production-facilities-in-syria-destroyed/>

### **UN official calls for continued action for Syrian refugees in Lebanon**

Speaking at a press conference in Tripoli, Lebanon, on 3 February, UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Sigrid Kaag called for continued action to support Lebanese authorities in addressing the impact of the Syrian crisis. Among key issues she raised in her meetings with Lebanese authorities was the large number of Syrians in vulnerable Lebanese host communities and the need for continued humanitarian assistance. "The United Nations team has been working with partners to make sure both the needs of the Lebanese vulnerable communities are met as well as those of the Syrian displaced refugee population", she said.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/united-nations-special-coordinator-sigrid-kaag-transcript-remarks-press-tripoli-enar>

### **UN reaffirms support to efforts towards a political solution**

Responding to questions from journalists on the recent intra-Syrian peace talks held in Moscow, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on 2 February that the United Nations was supportive of any attempt to find a political solution to the Syrian crisis. He noted that a representative of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, attended the discussions. "In that vein, we remain in close contact with our Russian colleagues as their important efforts continue", he added.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150202.doc.htm>

### **Palestine refugees in Yarmouk face worsening conditions**

On 2 February, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) expressed grave concern at the worsening situation of some 18,000 people trapped in the Yarmouk Palestine refugee camp outside Damascus with limited access to food and water. In a statement, the agency said that there is no electricity, and most civilians cannot meet essential needs such as health care, household items, adequate shelter and heating. Furthermore, sniper fire, mortar impacts and heightened insecurity have prevented UNRWA from distributing life-saving aid. To stop the suffering of Palestine refugees, UNRWA called on all concerned parties for the immediate cessation of armed hostilities in and around Yarmouk, and to give the utmost priority to their humanitarian needs.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/features/%E2%80%98we-don%E2%80%99t-know-when-it-will-end%E2%80%99-anguish-yarmouk>

### **WFP alarmed at ISIS labels on food aid packages**

On 3 February, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) voiced great concern about images circulating on social media showing WFP food boxes bearing Islamic State in Syria (ISIS) labels. The agency said it is trying to verify the authenticity of the photographs, where they were taken and the circumstances surrounding this incident. "WFP condemns this manipulation of desperately needed food aid inside Syria. We urge all parties to the conflict to respect humanitarian principles and allow humanitarian workers including our partners to deliver food to the most vulnerable and hungry families," said Muhannad Hadi, WFP Emergency Regional Coordinator for the Syria crisis.

WFP has operated in Syria since the start of the crisis without interruption, delivering assistance to more than 4 million people every month – in addition to over 1.8 million refugees in the neighbouring countries.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/world-food-programme-alarmed-images-showing-isis-distributing-wfp-food-syria>

### **UN Twitter**

Syrians face desperation & danger trying to reach Greece #ProtectionAtSea

[http://trib.al/TALh8Gg\\_pic.twitter.com/53CSypkkRV](http://trib.al/TALh8Gg_pic.twitter.com/53CSypkkRV) via @Refugees

- 4 Feb 2015

.@UNRWA says 2015 will probably hold further displacement for Palestine refugees in Syria: <http://goo.gl/5cBaOv>

- 29 Jan 2015

Lack of funding hampering humanitarian aid to war-affected Syrians – @UNOCHA relief official <http://j.mp/1uCRgNp>

- 29 Jan 2015

### **UN FACEBOOK**

As the Syria conflict approaches its fifth year, UNRWA support to Palestine refugees affected by the crisis is more critical than ever.

At the end of 2014, more than 95 per cent of the 480,000 Palestine refugees remaining in Syria relied on UNRWA to meet their minimum daily needs, including food, cash, health care and shelter assistance.

These striking images highlight their daily lives and struggles:

<http://www.unrwa.org/galleries/photos/year-syria>

- 29 Jan 2015

### **UN Radio in Arabic:**

1 - WFP concerned about ISIS takeovers on its assistance to Syria

2015-02-03

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159626/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159626/index_search.html)

2 - Destruction of the first facility for nuclear weapon production in Syria

2015-02-03

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159614/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159614/index_search.html)

3 - King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz's memorial ceremony at the General Assembly

2015-02-02

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159452/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159452/index_search.html)

4 - Lebanon: UNRWA is committed to supporting the Palestinian refugees and calls not to forget their plight

2015-02-02

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159443/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159443/index_search.html)

5 - Members of Security Council condemn the killing of Japanese by ISIS

2015-02-01

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159438/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159438/index_search.html)

6 - Kyung-wha Kang says: There is nothing to strengthen human rights violators more than knowing they will not be held accountable for their crimes

2015-01-30

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159342/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159342/index_search.html)

7 - UNICEF humanitarian appeal to raise \$ 3 billion to reach the largest number of children in the world

2015-01-29

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159237/index\\_search.html](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/159237/index_search.html)

### **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/>