



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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UNRWA Chief visits Palestine refugees in Syria

The Relief and Works Agency for Palestine in the Near East (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl visited Syria from 9 to 11 March to demonstrate solidarity with Palestine refugees and UNRWA staff, and to advocate for increased humanitarian access. In meetings with Government officials, the UNRWA Chief acknowledged the facilitation by Syrian authorities in enabling the agency to provide humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees across Syria and sought increased and sustained support for UNRWA work. Noting that more should be done, the Commissioner-General stressed in particular that in Yarmouk, safe, uninterrupted, substantial humanitarian distributions must become the norm. During a visit to Yarmouk, the Commissioner-General welcomed the resumption since 4 March of UNRWA humanitarian assistance to trapped civilians, through a new distribution point established with support from Syrian authorities. This followed a prolonged period of interruption in humanitarian distributions, lasting for over three months from early December 2014 to early March 2015, with reports of widespread deprivation and malnutrition among Yarmouk residents.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/visit-unrwa-commissioner-general-syria>

Syrian conflict has catastrophic socioeconomic impact, says UN-backed report

According to a report produced by the Syrian Centre for Policy Research, with the support of UNDP and UNRWA, the four-year armed conflict in Syria has caused dramatic setbacks in human and economic development. Entitled "*Syria: Alienation and Violence, Impact of the Syria Crisis Report*", it says that the human geography of the country has been transformed as the population was hollowed by 15 percent. It details the tragic context facing all people in Syria, including the 460,000 Palestine refugees, who are wholly dependent on the humanitarian aid delivered by UNRWA to meet minimum daily needs. The report also found that since the start of the conflict, the Syrian economy has lost \$202.6 billion. As a result of this contraction, the country is plagued with 58 per cent joblessness and unemployment, as almost three million people have lost their jobs and more than 12 million dependents have lost their means of living. It is estimated that four out of every five Syrians currently live below the national poverty line, with almost two-thirds of the population surviving in extreme poverty as they struggle to meet their basic needs.

http://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/alienation_and_violence_impact_of_the_syria_crisis_in_2014_eng.pdf

WHO donates 30 mobile clinics to Syrian health authorities

The World Health Organization (WHO) said on 10 March that it donated 30 mobile clinics to alleviate the impact of the conflict on the Syrian population. At a handover ceremony in Damascus, the WHO Representative, Elizabeth Hoff, said that the mobile clinics had been donated as part of WHO's strategic support to the Syrian health authorities in order to make health services available to all Syrians especially those in hard-to-reach areas. She noted the worsening impact of the current crisis on the health sector in Syria, stating that WHO will continue to support the health authorities by providing technical expertise to strengthen the entire health system, providing medicines and supporting treatments for various kinds of injuries.

<http://www.emro.who.int/syr/syria-news/who-boosts-health-services-in-syria-with-30-mobile-clinics.html>

Security Council condemns the use of chemical weapons in Syria

On 6 March, the Security Council adopted a resolution strongly condemning the use of any toxic chemical, such as chlorine, as a weapon in Syria. Reaffirming that the use of chemical weapons constitutes a serious violation of international law and reiterating that those individuals responsible for any use of chemical weapons must be held accountable, Council members expressed deep concern that toxic chemicals have been used as a weapon in Syria, as concluded with a high degree of confidence by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission. In the resolution, the Council reiterated that no party in Syria should use, develop, produce, acquire, stockpile, retain, or transfer chemical weapons. It also recalled the decisions made in resolution 2118 (2013) and decided, in this context, to impose measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter in the event of future non-compliance with resolution 2118.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50266>

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2209%20\(2015\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2209%20(2015))

WFP forced to cut its aid to Syrian refugees in Turkey

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) announced on 6 March that due to critical shortage of funding it has been forced to reduce its assistance to Syrian refugees in Turkey through an electronic voucher system. WFP spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs told reporters in Geneva that in January 2015, the agency had been able to assist 220,000 refugees in 20 camps throughout Turkey, but that last month, it had been forced to reduce that number to 154,000 after having to withdraw from nine camps.

WFP requires \$9 million each month for its assistance to Syrian refugees and a funding shortfall of \$71 million in donations is being projected for all of 2015.

Turkey hosts the highest number of Syrian refugees, estimated at 1.7 million in 20 camps across the country.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpBriefingsLatest_en\)/40B6A8EC C76C3769C1257E00004017A8?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/40B6A8EC C76C3769C1257E00004017A8?OpenDocument)

UN Twitter:

\$1billion needed to tackle soaring needs in #CARcrisis, Syria, Iraq #SouthSudan -
@WHO <http://ow.ly/JDNcc>
- 28 Feb 2015

UN Radio in Arabic

New report on Syria shows decline in life expectancy and warns of economic collapse in the country

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/162686/#.VQBTvfnF9Q0>

Dr. Mona Ghanem: Syrian women have suffered a lot because they are women, because of the absence of democracy and because of men

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/162681/#.VQBUD_nF9Q0

WHO donates 30 medical mobile clinics to Syria

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/162675/#.VQBUn_nF9Q0

Jordan votes in favor of resolution on the use of chemical weapons in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/162365/#.VQBVDvnF9Q0>

Venezuela abstains from voting on Security Council resolution related to the use of chemical weapons in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/162354/#.VQBVTfnF9Q0>

Security Council adopts a resolution condemning the use of chlorine as a weapon in Syria
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/162336/#.VQBVwfnF9Q0>

Arab League condemns the situation in Syria, Daesh crimes and Israel's violations of human rights
http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/162236/#.VQBWC_nF9Q0

Turkish Prime Minister: We oppose the presence of terrorist groups or foreign fighters in Syria
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/162223/#.VQBWUvnF9Q0>

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 , 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/

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/>