



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



A Weekly Update from the
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As Syrian conflict enters its fifth year, Secretary-General says it is the most painful example of the failure of UN collective action

Speaking at a symposium on the 70th anniversary of the UN in Japan, the Secretary-General said on 17 March that there is no more painful example of the failure of collective action of the United Nations than the conflict in Syria, now in its fifth year. "More than 220,000 people have been killed. The Syrian people are suffering unimaginable devastation and trauma", he said. The Secretary-General reiterated his call on the international community to give generously at the Pledging Conference for Syria to be hosted by Kuwait on 31 March.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8462>

International Commission of Inquiry on Syria to share the names of alleged war crimes perpetrators

The Head of the International Commission investigating war crimes in Syria, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, told reporters on 17 March that the Commission will share names and information about specific alleged perpetrators with States prosecution authorities preparing cases to be held before impartial judiciary. During a presentation to the Human Rights Council of the Commission's latest report, Mr. Pinheiro stressed that the Commission was dedicated to not only bringing forth the voice of victims, but also to finding a path to justice for them. He added that in order to address the prevailing culture of impunity, the Commission continues to advocate for a Security Council referral to the International Criminal Court or an ad hoc tribunal.

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/commission-of-inquiry-on-the-syrian-arab-republic-press-conference-geneva-17-march-2015/4116607036001>

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpNewsByYear_en%29/7D0E226C9D2157D5C1257E0B003E47FB?OpenDocument

UN humanitarian chiefs call world leaders to work together and bring change in Syria

In a joint statement issued on 13 March, the heads of UN humanitarian agencies expressed their outrage and frustration at the ongoing conflict in Syria. "We ask 'what does it take' to end this crisis? The future of a generation is at stake. The credibility of the international community is at stake", they noted.

The UN senior officials urged world leaders to put aside their differences to bring about a meaningful change in Syria by pressing the parties to end indiscriminate attacks on civilians; to secure the lifting of sieges where people have been trapped without food for months; to enable delivery of medical supplies; to restore water and power supplies; and to support the education system.

"The people of Syria – and people around the world – want the suffering to end", they stressed.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-conflict-enters-fifth-year-what-does-it-take-end-crisis-and>

UN social media campaign asks #WhatDoesItTake to end the Syrian crisis

On 11 March, UN humanitarian agencies launched a global #WhatDoesItTake social media campaign calling on the public, Member States and world leaders to express their frustration at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria and send a message of solidarity to the Syrian people. "This crisis has a tragic human cost," said UN Humanitarian Chief Valerie Amos. "Syrians need peace now – they need to know that the world is committed to securing their children's future."

People can participate by posting a picture of themselves holding up the sign #WhatDoesItTake, and posting the picture to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #WhatDoesItTake and adding a message of solidarity for Syria's people.

<http://www.syria-whatdoesittake.org/>

14 million children affected by the conflict in Syria and Iraq, says UNICEF

About 14 million children across the region are affected by the conflict in Syria and in Iraq, UNICEF reported on 12 March. In particular, the situation of more than five million children inside Syria remains most desperate. In a press statement, the UN's Children Fund stressed the need for longer-term measures to address the needs of children impacted by the conflict, including opportunities for remedial education, vocational training, and recreation for adolescents as well as certification systems that help maintain pupils' academic status.

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_81172.html

UNHCR delivers aid to Syrians in eastern Aleppo for first time in 2015

For the first time in the past five months, the UN refugee agency and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent have been able to deliver urgently needed aid to thousands of people in eastern Aleppo thanks to a temporary ceasefire. A six-hour truce between government and anti-government forces on 15 March enabled aid workers to deliver food and medical supplies to more than 7,000 people in hard-to-reach areas of the city. The temporary humanitarian truce was negotiated by UNHCR and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. "It demonstrates how good coordination with various parties can facilitate access to the most vulnerable in hard-to-reach areas," said Amin Awad, Director of UNHCR's Middle East and North Africa Bureau.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unhcr-delivers-aid-syrians-eastern-aleppo-first-time-2015>

FAO boosts food security efforts in countries affected by Syria crisis

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched on 17 March three projects aimed at improving food security in Jordan and countries in the region impacted by the Syrian crisis. "Thanks to a \$1.6 million grant from USAID, FAO will provide technical assistance to government institutions and other partners in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq to establish an inclusive food security information network that will enhance the understanding and analysis of food security issues in the region," FAO Director General José Graziano noted during a visit to Jordan.

By improving analysis and data sharing between UN agencies, NGOs and governments on food security, the new information network will allow better informed interventions for vulnerable populations.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/280576/icode/>

UN TWITTER:

#WhatDoesItTake? See latest @UNFPA Regional Situation Report for the #SyriaCrisis here <http://bit.ly/1DfnNBL>

- 17 Mar 2015

.@FAOnews boosts food security efforts in countries affected by #Syria crisis
<http://buff.ly/1Em9Z3O> pic.twitter.com/NbSRNqc6jS #WhatDoesItTake
- 17 Mar 2015

365 days of development response during #SyriaCrisis. New @UndpSyria results:
<http://ow.ly/Koumr> #WhatDoesItTake
- 16 Mar 2015

23,000+ tweets in 5 days calling for an end to crisis in Syria. Join: <http://bit.ly/WDiTake>
<http://j.mp/1GJaAik>
- 15 Mar 2015 UNOCHA

There are more Syrians under #UNHCR's care today than any other nationality
<http://trib.al/gGvuQel> pic.twitter.com/5wFMg6lYwJ #WhatDoesItTake
- 15 Mar 2015

UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie asks #WhatDoesItTake: intl response needed to end
Syria conflict falls short <http://bit.ly/1FIDMOg>
- 14 Mar 2015

What happened at the UN this week? See video highlights here on #CSW59, #IWD2015,
Syria & more <https://youtu.be/pCWIEGbeMWY> #WhatDoesItTake
- 14 Mar 2015

Humanitarian leaders plead for an end to suffering in Syria. Joint statement:
<http://j.mp/1CcOK9e> #WhatDoesItTake
- 13 Mar 2015

Turkey has now become the world's biggest refugee hosting country due to #SyriaCrisis.
#WhatDoesItTake. <http://trib.al/P5Hftzf> via @refugees
- 13 Mar 2015

.@WHO & partners delivered 13.8 million treatments across Syria in 2014
#WhatDoesItTake <http://bit.ly/WDiTake>
- 12 Mar 2015

#WhatDoesItTake? Colleagues at UNHQ stand in solidarity with Syrians. Join us:
<http://bit.ly/WDiTake>
- 12 Mar 2015

Ban Ki-moon's statement as #Syriacrisis enters 5th year <http://bit.ly/1BzJwRL>
#WhatDoesItTake
- 12 Mar 2015

#UNHCR says @refugees endure worsening conditions as Syria's conflict enters 5th year
pic.twitter.com/vBHfpJoKvq #WhatDoesItTake @refugeesmedia
- 12 Mar 2015

#WhatDoesItTake. Add your voice to stand in solidarity with Syrians. Info here:
<http://bit.ly/WDiTake>
- 12 Mar 2015

UN FACEBOOK:

#WhatDoesItTake to put an end to the senseless violence in Syria?
It's been four years of suffering for millions of women, children and men.

As the conflict in Syria enters its fifth year, take a stand and send a message of solidarity to the people of Syria.

Join the movement at: <http://bit.ly/WDiTake>

- 11 March 2015

UN Radio in Arabic:

FAO enhances food security in the countries affected by the Syrian crisis

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/163441/#.VQmHj47F9Q0>

Elizabeth Hoff: There is no humanitarian or military solution to the Syrian crisis, only a political one could solve it

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/163430/#.VQmH647F9Q0>

Commission of Inquiry on Syria: We will not disclose now the confidential list of those accused of violations in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/163399/#.VQmIPY7F9Q0>

UNRWA Commissioner: Another generation of Palestinian refugees in Syria is exposed to traumas of loss and deprivation

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/163128/#.VQmI1o7F9Q0>

Pierre Krähenbühl: The situation in Yarmouk reflects the real cost endured by civilians in conflicts

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/163120/#.VQmJHo7F9Q0>

Secretary-General: The Syrians feel that the world is abandoning them

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/163018/#.VQmJso7F9Q0>

UNICEF: Syrian children are showing courage and determination to build a better life

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/162986/#.VQmJ6o7F9Q0>

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](https://www.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/>