



## **Syrian Crisis** **United Nations Response**



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

**No. 88/ 1 April 2015**

### **Donors pledge US\$ 3.8 billion in aid at humanitarian conference for Syria**

At the opening of the Third Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria held in Kuwait, the Secretary-General described the situation in Syria as the worst humanitarian crisis of our time. "Four out of five Syrians live in poverty, misery and deprivation. The country has lost nearly four decades of human development", he said. The Secretary-General reiterated his call for a political settlement to end the conflict: "The best humanitarian solution to end the human suffering of this crisis is well known: a political solution must be found". "It is time to forge an inclusive, Syrian-led political transition based on the Geneva Communique and which meets the aspirations of the Syrian people", he added.

In an ensuing press conference with the heads of UN agencies, the Secretary-General announced that international donors had pledged US\$ 3.8 billion at the conference. "The international community has come together in solidarity with the people of Syria and neighbouring countries bearing the heavy burden of hosting millions of Syrian refugees". The UN Humanitarian Chief, Valerie Amos, added that this funding will help humanitarian organizations deliver life-saving food, water, shelter, health services and other relief to millions of people in urgent need.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8505>

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3903>

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/donors-pledge-38-billion-help-people-affected-constantly-deteriorating>

### **Secretary-General voices frustration over lack of decisive action to end the conflict**

Addressing the Council of the League of Arab States in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, on 28 March, the Secretary-General expressed "anger at observing the Syrian government, extremist and terrorist groups relentlessly destroy their country and shame at sharing in the collective failure of international and regional communities to decisively act to stop the carnage" in Syria. The Secretary-General said he had instructed his Special Envoy, Staffan de Mistura, to intensify political efforts and to consult widely with Security Council members as well as throughout the region, including with the Syrian parties, to operationalize the Geneva communique.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8500>

### **UNRWA calls for end of fighting in Yarmouk refugee camp**

In response to a media query on the situation in Yarmouk at the UN Headquarters daily briefing, the UN Deputy Spokesperson said the UN Relief and Works agency (UNRWA) is extremely concerned about the safety and protection of Syrian and Palestinian civilians in the Palestine refugee camp, where since early afternoon on 1 April, intensive armed conflict was reported between armed groups in the area. "Credible information from public sources indicates that a variety of armed groups are engaged in fierce fighting in areas where Yarmouk's 18,000 civilians, including a large number of children, reside, placing them at extreme risk of death, serious injury, trauma and displacement", he said. The Deputy Spokesperson noted that the agency is anxiously continuing to

monitor the situation closely and demands in the strongest possible terms from all parties to comply with their obligations to ensure the protection of civilians in Yarmouk. "UNRWA further demands an end to the fighting and a return to conditions that will enable its staff to support and assist Yarmouk's civilians", he stressed.

### **UN Humanitarian Coordinator expresses concerns at ongoing fighting in Idlib**

As violence escalated in the northwestern city of Idlib, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria Yacoub El Hillo voiced grave concern at the fighting and urged all parties to adhere to their obligations to protect civilians. In a press statement on 27 March, he said that the fighting between the Government and non-state armed groups has led to numerous deaths and injuries and about 30,000 displaced people. "Should the fighting continue to intensify, the United Nations and partners are worried that large scale displacement could take place in neighbouring governorates and across the border to Turkey", he warned.

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Statement%20by%20HC%20El%20Hillo%20on%20situation%20in%20Idlib%20-%20FINAL%20%28English%29.pdf>  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50471#.VRwlpuHgW3Y>

### **Commission of Inquiry on Syria extended for one year**

In a resolution adopted on 27 March, the Human Rights Council extended for one year the mandate of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria and demanded that Syrian authorities cooperate fully with the Commission, including by granting immediate and unfettered access throughout the country. The Human Rights Council also strongly condemned the practices of abductions, hostage-taking, incommunicado detention, torture, sexual violence, the brutal killing of civilians and summary executions carried out by regime forces and affiliated militias, non-State armed groups, as well as terrorist groups, and underlined that such acts may amount to crimes against humanity.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15768&LangID=E#sthash.nrrcwSxX.dpuf>

### **UN TWITTER**

@UndpSyria delivers complex response during active Syria conflict:

<http://on.undp.org/KWtXz> #WhatDoesItTake

- 30 Mar 2015

Syria: @FAOnews says funds needed to prevent further deterioration of #foodsecurity situation <http://buff.ly/1BVte2l>

- 30 Mar 2015

Syria crisis worsening amid humanitarian funding shortfall, warns @UNOCHA relief official <http://ow.ly/KRbVc>

- 28 Mar 2015

See Ban Ki-moon's speech in #SharmElSheikh on Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Darfur + more <http://bit.ly/1xmG9yG>

- 28 Mar 2015

Now: @UNOCHA Humanitarian Chief @ValerieAmos briefs Security Council on humanitarian situation in #Syria. [Watch: http://webtv.un.org/live](http://webtv.un.org/live)

- 26 Mar 2015

## **UN FACEBOOK**

Meet Sundus, the 11-year-old Syrian girl who has miraculously survived serious injuries caused by the ongoing conflict. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgRSVwwuGD4>  
#WhatDoesItTake to end the suffering in Syria? As the conflict there enters its fifth year, join the movement of solidarity with the people of Syria at: <http://bit.ly/WDiTake>  
-30 March 2015

The Syrian crisis has entered its fifth year. The consequences of the war have been devastating and millions of Syrians refugees have fled their homes to seek safety – more than 3.8 million in neighbouring countries alone.

This powerful photo gallery from UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) illustrates the harsh reality of a war that has created one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time:

<http://bit.ly/1MO7HyU>

-28 March 2015

## **UN Radio in Arabic**

USA pledges \$ 57.4 million to support Palestinian refugees affected by the Syrian crisis  
[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164762/#.VRwH8\\_nF9Q0](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164762/#.VRwH8_nF9Q0)

UN appeals to provide \$ 8.4 billion to help Syria at the donors' conference in Kuwait  
[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164733/#.VRwIV\\_nF9Q0](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164733/#.VRwIV_nF9Q0)

Kuwait: Donors pledged \$ 3.8 billion to help those affected by the Syrian crisis  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164715/#.VRwIjPnF9Q0>

From Kuwait Ban Ki-moon calls to help the Syrian people and emphasizes on the political solution to end the conflict

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164693/#.VRwIv\\_nF9Q0](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164693/#.VRwIv_nF9Q0)

Ban Ki-moon stresses the United Nations support for Lebanon at the donors' conference for Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164677/#.VRwI9PnF9Q0>

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expresses concerns about the human rights situation in Idlib, Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164664/#.VRwJSvnF9Q0>

Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria expresses concern about the impact of the fighting on civilians in Idlib

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164643/#.VRwJpvnF9Q0>

UNICEF thanks Kuwait for its generous contribution to help the children of Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164612/#.VRwJ0PnF9Q0>

FAO need \$ 121 million to the rescue of livelihoods affected by the crisis in Syria

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164569/#.VRwJ\\_nF9Q0](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164569/#.VRwJ_nF9Q0)

WFP Executive Director calls on donors to provide more funding to Syria at Kuwait Conference

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/164562/#.VRwKKvnF9Q0>

## **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/>