



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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### **UNRWA Chief urges increased aid to beleaguered civilians in Yarmouk**

Amid deepening concerns for the safety of thousands of Palestinian refugees and displaced Syrians besieged in the Yarmouk camp, Pierre Krähenbühl, the Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) undertook a three-day mission to Syria. The UNRWA Chief visited displaced civilians in a government school in Tadamoun, on the Eastern side of Yarmouk, where UNRWA is providing humanitarian assistance, and urged all sides to respect the thousands of beleaguered civilians trapped inside the camp. Mr. Krähenbühl also reaffirmed his support for Palestine refugees across Syria. "I am deeply moved by the dignity of Palestine refugees in the face of adversity. More than ever UNRWA will stand by Palestine refugees in this most critical time." Wrapping up his visit on 14 April, he met with the Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister, Faisal Miqdad, to discuss the resumption of aid distribution to civilians in Yarmouk; ensuring the safe exit of those wishing to temporarily leave the camp and broadening the humanitarian response.

Following the consultations with Syrian authorities, UNRWA said on 14 April that it had managed to dispatch a second distribution mission to Yalda, an area adjacent to Yarmouk hosting displaced civilians, providing humanitarian assistance to 1,000 families. The UN agency remains deeply concerned for the safety and protection of some 18,000 Palestinian and Syrian civilians in Yarmouk, including 3,500 children.

<http://www.unrwa.org/galleries/photos/resilience-face-enduring-loss-unrwa-commissioner-general-pierre-kr%C3%A4henb%C3%BChl-meets>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50555#.VSwEZpPgW3Y>

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/yarmouk-situation-update-14>

### **UN Envoy to start new round of Syria peace talks**

The UN Spokesperson announced on 14 April that the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Syria, Staffan de Mistura, will hold in May a series of in-depth, separate consultations with Syrian stakeholders, as well as regional and international partners, to operationalise the Geneva communiqué. He noted that invitations had yet to be issued. Meantime, the Special Envoy and his Deputy, Ramzy Ezzeldine Ramzy, are engaging with stakeholders on the nature of this process. The Special Envoy will brief the Security Council next week.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50579#.VS54M5PgW3Y>

<http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/Syria/FinalCommuniqueActionGroupforSyria.pdf>

### **UNICEF convoy delivers humanitarian supplies in northeastern Syria**

Despite tremendous challenges in delivering aid in Syria, UNICEF said that a 43 truck-convoy had reached Qamishli, in northeastern Syria, on 14 April, with much needed humanitarian supplies. The shipments would assist 2.3 million people. According to UNICEF, about 5.6 million Syrian children are in urgent need across Syria, including more than two million children living in hard-to-reach areas with limited or no access to humanitarian assistance.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpBriefingsLatest\\_en\)/F5713C72692A61BAC1257E2700488D6F?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/F5713C72692A61BAC1257E2700488D6F?OpenDocument)  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50577#.VS5515PgW3Y>

### **More needs to be done to ease the plight of Syrian refugees, says UNHCR Chief**

On 15 April, the Head of the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), António Guterres, visited Syrian refugees living in harsh conditions in settlements in south Lebanon, near the city of Ghaziye. The visit, he noted afterwards, highlighted the dramatic needs not only of the Syrian refugees, but also the Lebanese government and communities hosting them. Lebanon is host to nearly 1.2 million Syrian refugees, representing around a quarter of the country's total population. While welcoming the US\$3.8 billion pledged last month by international donors at a conference in Kuwait, he stressed that even more would be needed due to the scale of the catastrophe. "We cannot accept that the Syrian people will go on living in these absolutely tragic circumstances, and we cannot accept that countries like Lebanon and Jordan are facing such a dramatic challenge to their own economies and to their own stability," he said.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/unhcr-chief-meets-struggling-syrian-refugees-lebanon>

### **UN Twitter:**

.@UNRWA's @PKrähenbühl on an urgent mission to besieged #Yarmouk refugee camp in Syria: <http://j.mp/1ymtJHX>  
- 11 Apr 2015

In horror that is Syria, #Yarmouk is the deepest circle of hell - Ban Ki-moon warns residents incl. children being turned into human shields  
- 9 Apr 2015

Ban Ki-moon on #YemenCrisis: The last thing the region & our world need is more of the chaos & crimes we've seen in Libya & Syria  
- 9 Apr 2015

### **UN FACEBOOK**

On Thursday, Ban Ki-moon addressed the epic humanitarian catastrophe facing the 18,000 Palestinian refugees and Syrians being held hostage by extremist militants in Yarmouk camp.

"In the horror that is Syria, the Yarmouk refugee camp is the deepest circle of hell," he said. "A refugee camp is beginning to resemble a death camp. The residents of Yarmouk – including 3,500 children – are being turned into human shields."

More at: <http://j.mp/1HXecOE>

-9 Apr 2015

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

Staffan de Mistura is holding consultations to restart peace talks in Syria  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/date/2015/04/15/>

UNRWA welcomes the response of the Syrian government to ensure help to the civilians in Yarmouk

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/166017/>

Pierre Krähenbühl salutes Palestinians in Yarmouk for their resilience and calls on the international community to act to protect civilians in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/165888/>

Chris Gunness: UNRWA completely denies allegations of not helping Palestinians in Syria  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/165707/>

Pierre Krähenbühl heads to Syria in emergency visit  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/165704/>

Chris Gunness: Civilians in Yarmouk are terrified, trapped and afraid to go out even to search for food  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/165584/>

FAO launches emergency campaign to vaccinate the cattle along the Syrian border  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/165472/>

**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/>