



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



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

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### **New round of Geneva consultations on Syria begins**

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, has started a new series of consultations with Syrian and other parties in Geneva on 5 May. Speaking to reporters on the same day, he emphasized that the consultations were intended to be low-key, separate, structured discussions with the different parties on the crisis and on ways of implementing the 2012 Geneva Communiqué. "This is the necessary ground work before we even get to a negotiating table," he said, noting that while meetings were expected to last for five or six weeks, there was no cut-off date and consultations might be expanded, as necessary. "As challenging as the process may be, we do not have the luxury not to try," he pointed out.

Mr. de Mistura said more than 40 Syrian groups, in addition to the Government of Syria, will participate, along with about 20 regional and international actors, including neighboring countries and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear\\_en\)/AAF27769205A21E8C1257E3C004097F5?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/AAF27769205A21E8C1257E3C004097F5?OpenDocument)  
<http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp>

### **UNRWA expands its relief operations for displaced civilians from Yarmouk**

As fighting continued unabated in Yarmouk, Special Envoy de Mistura, along with the UN Works and Relief Agency (UNRWA) Director in Syria, Michael Kingsley-Nyinah, updated the Security Council on 4 May on the situation in the Palestine refugee camp. In the past three weeks, UNRWA had broadened its humanitarian response to serve the displaced Palestine refugees and Syrians south-east of Yarmouk, Mr. Kingsley-Nyinah told the Council. Since 13 April, when it first gained access to Yalda, Babila and Beit Sahem with the facilitation of Syrian authorities, UNRWA has delivered over 5,000 family parcels of food, and over 13,000 packets of fresh bread.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150504.doc.htm>

### **OPCW mission ready to travel to Damascus to investigate use of chemical weapons**

In his latest report to the Security Council on the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons programme, the Secretary-General said that out of 12 remaining production facilities, four had been verified as destroyed by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Following recent allegations of multiple incidents involving the use of chlorine gas, he stressed that a fact-finding team was ready to travel to Damascus once it received approval from Syrian authorities. Regarding reports of the use of toxic chemicals in Idlib, he added that the OPCW Director-General had expressed serious concerns and the fact-finding team was examining all available information.

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/295](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/295)

## **UN agencies launch new guide to help people suffering from mental health issues in emergencies**

The World Health Organization (WHO), together with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), released on 5 May a new guide to address the needs of millions of people suffering from mental health disorders in humanitarian emergencies. The "mhGAP Humanitarian Intervention Guide" is specifically intended for generalist health professionals working in humanitarian emergencies. "This simple, practical tool will help scale up the support that we can provide to people suffering from mental distress in the Syrian Arab Republic. It is eagerly awaited," says Elizabeth Hoff, the WHO Representative in Syria. Worldwide, close to 80 million people are currently impacted by humanitarian emergencies arising from natural disasters and armed conflicts. WHO estimates that 5-10% of these people suffer from a mental health condition such as depression as a result of the emergency.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-builds-capacity-mental-health-care-during-conflict>

[http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/publications/mhgap\\_hig/en/](http://www.who.int/mental_health/publications/mhgap_hig/en/)

### **UN Twitter:**

Video: Syria Envoy Staffan de Mistura briefing at start of Geneva consultations on Syria:

<http://ow.ly/MxWIw>

- 5 May 2015

Special Envoy to Syria starts 1-on-1 consultations saying UN "will never abandon the Syrian people" - @UN Radio: <http://j.mp/1c1uZpk>

- 5 May 2015

Footage taken by Syrian family gives insight into boat journey on the Mediterranean

<http://trib.al/Fk9cfrr> pic.twitter.com/0cJwzcPDb8 @Refugees

- 4 May 2015

Four years of the #Syria conflict observed through @UNOSAT satellite imagery, see:

<http://ow.ly/Mc11f>

- 3 May 2015

Ban Ki-moon strongly condemns shelling and aerial bombardment of #Yarmouk refugee camp <http://bit.ly/1Kua6PH> via @UN\_Spokesperson

- 29 Apr 2015

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

Matthew Hollingworth: Humanitarian assistance inside Syria and in surrounding countries is only a Band-Aid

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/167711/#.VUoINCHBzRZ>

De Mistura meets the Syrian ambassador in Geneva

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/167700/#.VUomMSHBzRY>

De Mistura: The United Nations will never abandon the Syrian people

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/167681/#.VUomXiHBzRY>

UNICEF was able to deliver aid for displaced people from the Yarmouk

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/167656/#.VUomryHBzRY>

De Mistura begins consultations with the Syrian and regional and international parties in Geneva

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/167652/#.VUom9SHBzRY>

Security Council heard a briefing on the situation in Yarmouk

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/167590/#.VUonPyHBzRY>

Women Syrian refugees in Jordan demand post-abortion services

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/167532/#.VUonnSHBzRY>

From Homs to Italy: either we live together or we die together

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/167269/#.VUooziHBzRY>

### **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/>