



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

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UN relief agencies call for peace and immediate aid access

As the Syrian conflict enters its eighth year, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) renewed their call for peace and an immediate access to besieged population. “Every day that goes by without a resolution to this crisis is another day where we have failed the people of Syria,” said Jakob Kern, WFP Representative and Country Director in Syria on 14 March. “The single greatest priority must be an end to this conflict. History will hold us accountable.” Echoing his call, the head of WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, expressed concerns at the alarming level of attacks on health workers in the past year. “This health tragedy must come to an end”, he stressed. “The 67 verified attacks on health facilities, workers, and infrastructure recorded during the first two months of 2018 amount to more than 50% of verified attacks in all of 2017”, he said. WHO urged all parties to the conflict in Syria to immediately halt attacks on health workers, their means of transport and equipment, hospitals and other medical facilities.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/seven-years-syria-still-suffers>

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2018/seven-years-syria/en/>

Tens of thousands of people reportedly displaced in Afrin

UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters on 13 March that the United Nations is following developments in Afrin, in northern Syria, where tens of thousands of people are believed to be displaced. Between 20 January and 12 March, he said, nearly 10,000 people were reportedly displaced to Tal Refaat and surrounding villages. An additional 7,200 people were reportedly displaced to other areas of Aleppo governorate. There are also reports of civilian casualties, and restriction on movement for many civilians. People in Afrin city have also reportedly suffered from severe water shortages as a result of ongoing fighting.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2018/db180313.doc.htm>

Special Envoy to attend ministerial meeting in Astana

During a press briefing in Geneva on 13 March, Michael Contet, of the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria, said that the United Nations had been working proactively to create the conditions for cessation of hostilities in Eastern Ghouta by facilitating meetings with parties and had expressed its preparedness to act as observer. He added that Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura would respond to the invitation to attend the ministerial meeting on Syria to be held in Astana later in the week after he had consulted with the Secretary-General. Mr. Contet recalled that the Russian Federation had circulated the final declaration of the Congress of the Syrian national dialogue in Sochi, which called on the Secretary-General to task the Special Envoy to establish a Constitutional Committee. While the situation on the ground demanded much attention, and the United Nations was working towards the implementation of resolution 2401, he added that a more political horizon was necessary for the long-term.

[https://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpBriefingsLatest_en\)/66BC8C52518E84D5C125824F00613629?OpenDocument](https://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/66BC8C52518E84D5C125824F00613629?OpenDocument)

UN rights official decries “monstrous indifference” to Syrian children’s suffering

Addressing a Human Rights Council meeting on children in Syria on 12 March, Deputy Human Rights Chief Kate Gilmore said that the scale and gravity of crimes committed against children are shocking. Widespread human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law affecting or targeting children were being committed by the Syrian authorities and by armed groups. “How can it be we would allow such a cost to be borne by children, such a loss of children to be accepted? Is it not tantamount to a monstrous indifference to the suffering of children that Security Council resolutions for ceasefires are flouted”, she told members of the Human Rights Council.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22811&LangID=E>

Secretary-General says Syria is bleeding inside and out, calls on all parties to allow more aid convoys

Briefing the Security Council on 12 March on the implementation of resolution 2401(2018) on a cessation of hostilities, Secretary-General António Guterres underscored the “urgency of seeing medical evacuations, civilian protection, and full, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access as soon as possible”. Violence continues in Eastern Ghouta and beyond — including in Afrin, parts of Idlib and into Damascus and its suburbs, he told the Council. “Syria is bleeding inside and out. There should be only one agenda for all of us: to end the suffering of the Syrian people and find a political solution to the conflict”, the Secretary-General António Gutierrez noted.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-03-12/secretary-generas-oral-report-security-council-implementation>

Syrian children with disabilities at risk of exclusion, warns UNICEF

With no end in sight to the war in Syria, children with disabilities risk being excluded and forgotten, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Geert Cappelaere, warned on 12 March. “In the first two months of 2018 alone, 1,000 children were reportedly killed or injured in intensifying violence. Conflict is now the leading cause of death among adolescents in the country. As children, their needs differ from those of adults. Without access to services, schools and assistive products like wheelchairs, many children with disabilities face a very real risk of exclusion, neglect and stigmatization as the unrelenting conflict continues.”

<http://childrenofsyria.info/2018/03/12/no-end-in-sight-to-seven-years-of-war-in-syria-children-with-disabilities-at-risk-of-exclusion/>

UN humanitarian convoy reaches Douma

The United Nations and partners on 9 March reached the city of Douma, in Eastern Ghouta, to complete distribution of food aid after intense shelling cut short deliveries to the war-torn enclave earlier in the week. The assistance consisted of food baskets and wheat flour bags prepared by the World Food Programme and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). WFP called on all parties to the conflict to grant humanitarians safe access to deliver the much-needed food and other assistance.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/03/1004642>

UN Radio in Arabic

UN: 2017 is the deadliest year for children of Syria

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1004242>

UN Secretary-General: fighting in Eastern Ghouta and throughout Syria has escalated despite the Security Council resolution

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1004142>

UNICEF warns of exclusion of children with disabilities after 7 years of war in Syria

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1004092>

Filippo Grandi: It is time to end the devastating conflict in Syria

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1004012>

Humanitarian aid delivered to Douma, in Eastern Ghouta

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1003992>

Ongoing fighting deprives residents of Ghouta of humanitarian and medical aid

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1003942>

U.N. Security Council calls for implementation of resolution 2401

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1003822>

Twitter

WHO@WHO – 14 March

Seven years of #Syria's health tragedy.

Attacks on health have continued at an alarming level.

During Jan-Feb 2018, there were 67 verified attacks on health.

THIS NEEDS TO STOP.

Health workers, hospitals, facilities are #NotATarget

WFP MENA @WFP_MENA- 13 March

#Syria today in numbers, marking 7 years of conflict:

13.1 million in need of humanitarian assistance

6.5 million food insecure

6.1 million internally displaced

800% increase in basic food prices since the conflict started

#SyriaCrisis

UNFPA-Syria @UnfpaSyria- 13 March

In Tartous, thanks to our local partner #Al_Batoul NGO, we reached out to more than 8,000 women and young girls in 2017.

#ReproHealth cc @UNinSyria @UNFPA

UN in Syria - 13 March

In #DeirEzzor again pleased by the excellent partnership with #SFPA. Today marked also the start of activities in a women and girls safe space! The protection needs of women and girls in particular are daunting but we are going to work harder to provide support.

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson- 12 March

The Secretary-General's full statement to the Security Council on Syria today is available here: [https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-03-12/secretary-generas-oral-report-security-council-implementation ...](https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-03-12/secretary-generas-oral-report-security-council-implementation...)

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson- 12 March

.@antonioguterres tells the Security Council: "Syria is bleeding inside and out. There should be only one agenda for all of us: to end the suffering of the Syrian people & find a political solution to the conflict."

United Nation @UN- 12 March

"I refuse to lose my hope to see Syria rising from the ashes."

-- @AntonioGuterres to Security Council as conflict enters its 8th year with the "grimmiest" reality on the ground: <http://bit.ly/2paOSTx>

António Guterres @antonioguterres-12 March

Syria is bleeding inside and out. As the war in Syria enters its eighth year, I spoke to the Security Council today urging action to end the suffering and find a political solution to the conflict. <http://bit.ly/2FOLdW5>

Henrietta H. Fore @unicefchief- 12 March

The children of Syria continue to suffer because of actions taken by adults.

In the first two months of 2018 alone, 1,000 children were reportedly killed or injured in intensifying violence. #ChildrenUnderAttack

UNICEF @UNICEF- 12 March

7 years of heartbreak.

7 years of devastation.

7 years of hell.

Our youngest-ever Goodwill Ambassador, @muzoonrakan1, reflects on 7 years of war in Syria and being forced to flee her home.

#ChildrenUnderAttack

United Nations @UN March- 12 March

There are more than 1 million Syrians aged 7 or younger who have only known a lifetime of war. UNHCR is working to protect & assist them & their families: <http://bit.ly/2DepscO>

WFP Middle East @WFP_MENA Marc-12 March

#Syria: bread is a staple for families here, it accompanies every meal. In #Aleppo, there are 13 @WFP contracted bakeries that provide bread for more than 300k people.

UN Refugee Agency @Refugees- 8 March

At 7 years old, Mohamed is as old as the war in Syria. His spirit embodies the courage of Syrian refugees and reminds us why the conflict has to end. #Syria7

.@PKraehenbuehl is in #Paris to talk abt transformative power of @UNRWA education for 525K students whose aspirations & hope we preserve. Meet young Shahed, a #Palref from Yarmouk refugee camp, fled #Syria & made a new life in #France .

#DignityIsPriceless <https://youtu.be/dEIKPI9HjDY>

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/971361520771850241>

Virtual townhall going on to update @UNRWA staff on fundraising campaign. @Aynte says his fundraising trips have been more successful than he hoped. Sharing how #UNRWA is incredibly cost effective in taking care of 5 million Palestine refugees.

#DignityIsPriceless #FundUNRWA

<https://twitter.com/MohammedAAadar/status/971288131923251200>

.@UNRWA aims to reach all women and girls, like @PKraehenbuehl said: "whether it's a pregnant woman in Gaza seeking to access quality health care for herself and her child, or a Palestine refugee mother from #Syria striving to feed her family."

#Internationalwomensday

<https://twitter.com/MohammedAAdar/status/971745372107411457>

Facebook

Manar expanded her music school in Syria thanks to a micro-loan from @UNRWA. Over 3500 businesses in Syria have been supported thanks to a grant from @eu_near. And more than 35% of these entrepreneurs are female. #Pressforprogress #EU_UNRWA

<https://www.unrwa.org/.../music-times-war-female-entrepreneur...>

Social media campaigns

UNRWA Global fund-raising campaign

UNRWA launched in January 2018 the #DignityIsPriceless global campaign in response to the unprecedented funding reductions by the U.S. Government to protect the dignity of Palestine refugees by providing emergency food assistance to the most vulnerable, and by not disrupting the education of their children and healthcare for families. Through a call to action, UNRWA aims to raise five hundred million USD (500\$M). #FundUNRWA #DignityIsPriceless

<https://www.unrwa.org/donate>

#My Voice-My School is an UNRWA project launched in 2015 and implemented by Digital Explorer to connect schools in Gaza, Syria, Lebanon with schools in Europe and USA through Skype exchanges. Through live video conversations and customized teaching materials, students and teachers explore how education can help them meet their future aspirations. www.unrwa.org/myvoicemyschool

@ShareTheMeal: In April 2016, the World Food Programme launched its phone application to support fundraising efforts for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. ShareTheMeal's fundraising aims to support 1,400 refugee children. Through the app, smartphone users can join thousands of other people in making donations and support a selected community and monitor progress. Since the launch of the campaign, more than 15 million meals have been shared.

www.sharethemeal.org

#Unite4Heritage is a global movement run by UNESCO that aims to celebrate and safeguard cultural heritage and diversity around the world. Launched in response to the unprecedented attacks on world heritage sites, the campaign calls on everyone to stand up against extremism and radicalization by celebrating the places, objects and cultural traditions that make the world such a rich and vibrant place.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1254/>

#NoLostGeneration: The initiative was launched by UNICEF and partners in 2013 to focus attention on the plight of children affected by the Syrian crisis. By articulating real concerns about the possible 'loss' of a generation of children to the effects of violence and displacement, the initiative put education and child protection at the centre of the response inside Syria and across the refugee hosting countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt).

<http://nolostgeneration.org/about>

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 System 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>

UNFPA: <https://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/crisis-syria>

OHCHR: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/NewsSearch.aspx?CID=SY>

UNRWA: <http://www.unrwa.org/>

UNESCO: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/syria-crisis-response/>

UNESCO Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage Project:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/beirut/areas-of-action/culture/syria/emergency-safeguarding-of-the-syrian-heritage/>

UNESCO Observatory of Syrian Cultural Heritage <https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/>

UNESCO Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/syria-crisis-response/bridging-learning-gaps/>