



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Secretary-General briefs General Assembly on humanitarian situation

On 25 February, the Secretary-General, together with the heads of three UN agencies and the Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, briefed the General Assembly on the humanitarian situation in Syria. The briefing followed the adoption by the Security Council on 22 February of a resolution demanding all parties allow unhindered access to humanitarian aid. "We need access to hundreds of thousands of people in the north-east who have received hardly any help for three years. The United Nations is already doing a tremendous amount to reach Syrians in need with food assistance, safe water, shelter and medicine. We are reaching millions and yet even that is not enough...We will do everything we can to implement the new resolution and improve the humanitarian situation", the Secretary-General stated. In his remarks, the Secretary-General reiterated his appeal to the international community to provide funding for the response inside Syria and neighbouring countries hosting refugees.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/sqspeeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2147#.Uw4hxYXyL-s

Also emphasizing the growing humanitarian needs, High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres told the General Assembly that after three years of conflict, Syrians are now about to replace Afghans as the biggest refugee population worldwide. Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt continue to receive hundreds, even thousands of Syrians every day, seeking safety from one of the worst conflicts the world has seen in a long time, he stressed.

<http://www.unhcr.org/530cc5f19.html>

No lost generation campaign launched for the Syrian children

UNICEF, UNHCR, Mercy Corps, Save the Children and World Vision launched on 24 February an appeal to the general public, urging it to voice its outrage at the devastating impact of the conflict on children. With nearly 5.5 million children affected in Syria and neighbouring countries, the five organizations warned that without an end to the suffering of children and without increased investment in their education and protection, an entire generation could be lost to Syria and the wider region. They called for the public to join in a massive call for action, hosted on <http://www.change.org>

<http://www.change.org/petitions/world-leaders-take-action-don-t-let-the-childrenofsyria-lose-another-year-to-bloodshed-and-suffering-6>

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_72703.html

Shipment of "mustard gas" removed out of Syria

On 26 February, the OPCW-UN Joint Mission announced that a stockpile of sulphur mustard, also known as "mustard gas", had been shipped out of Syria. In a press statement, Special Coordinator Sigrid Kaag welcomed the shipment as an important step in the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons programme.

<http://opcw.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=6576&ctl=Details&mid=10358&ItemID=22858&language=en-US>

Diplomatic efforts continue toward third round of peace talks

During a press briefing on 25 February, the UN Spokesperson provided an update on latest diplomatic efforts to reconvene the Geneva talks between the Syrian Government and the opposition. He told reporters that Joint Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi and others are working hard to ensure that the third round of negotiations begin as soon as possible, noting that no date had yet been set.

<http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs//2014/db140225.doc.htm>

Select UN stories

UNRWA's Commissioner General reiterates the need for unhindered humanitarian access to Yarmouk camp

25 February - UNRWA's Commissioner-General, Filippo Grandi, said he was shocked by what he saw during his visit to the Yarmouk Palestine refugee camp in Syria during the resumption of UNRWA's humanitarian aid distribution yesterday. "I am deeply disturbed and shaken by what I observed today. The Palestine refugees with whom I spoke were traumatized by what they have lived through, and many were in evident need of immediate support, particularly food and medical treatment. What I have seen and heard today underlines the timeliness of the UN Security Council resolution 2139 on humanitarian access and the need for all sides to implement the resolution without fail," he said.

<http://www.unrwa.org/crisis-in-yarmouk>

Malnutrition, a silent threat emerging among refugee children in Lebanon

GHAZIYEH, Lebanon, 25 February 2014 – Fatmeh, Mona, Siham, Tourkia, Leila and the others sit in a collective shelter in Ghaziyeh, south Lebanon. The women are talking about their lives in the Syrian Arabic Republic, before the conflict broke out. They recall beautiful stone houses surrounded by orange trees, a room for each child, university for their older children, schools for the younger ones, the food.

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_72711.html

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=>

UNICEF: <http://www.unicef.org/media/index.html>

WFP: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria>

OCHA: <http://www.unocha.org/crisis/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/>