



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No 51/ 16 July 2014

Security Council authorizes UN and partners to use most direct routes to deliver aid

The Security Council unanimously adopted on 14 July a resolution authorizing UN humanitarian agencies and their partners to use routes across conflict lines and four additional border crossings to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches Syrian civilians through the most direct routes. The Council also decided to set up a monitoring mechanism, under the authority of the Secretary-General, to monitor the loading of all humanitarian relief consignments of UN agencies and their partners at the relevant UN facilities.

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2165%282014%29

SG urges parties to the conflict to enable aid delivery to all people in need

Welcoming the adoption of the resolution, the Secretary-General said that the United Nations will proceed immediately with putting in place the mechanisms mandated to that end. According to latest UN estimates, more than 10.8 million people inside Syria are in urgent need of assistance, half of whom live in communities that are hard to reach by humanitarian agencies. The Secretary-General reiterated his call on all parties to the conflict to enable unconditional humanitarian access to all people in need without discrimination, using all available routes; to lift the sieges illegally imposed by all parties on civilians; to end violations of international humanitarian law by all parties; and to ensure the safety of humanitarian staff.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7858>

UN Humanitarian Chief Valerie Amos also hailed the resolution as a “breakthrough”, stressing that insecurity remains one of the main challenges for the United Nations to reach people in need of assistance. “If we are able to use all of [the border crossings], and if insecurity is not a problem on the other side, we could reach another additional 2.9 million people that we have not been able to reach”, she said in a statement.

<http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/syria-un-welcomes-security-council-resolution-humanitarian-access>

Lebanon faces national calamity - UN official

Speaking to the media in Geneva on 14 July, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon, Ross Mountain, warned that the country faces a “national calamity” as a result of the worsening refugee crisis. He said that about 12,000 new Syrian refugees are entering Lebanon each week and the number is expected to reach 1.5 million by the end of 2014, accounting for one-third of the country’s population. “Amid the carnage that we are seeing in Gaza, the continuing carnage in Syria and new dimensions in Iraq, Lebanon is facing increasing tension and is in danger of seeing it worsen,” he added.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48264#.U8Vi6rF5Dkc>

Aid reaches besieged area in Rural Damascus for the first time in two years

On 15 July, the UN spokesperson said that for the first time in nearly two years, UN agencies and partners from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent were able to deliver food and other relief supplies to the besieged town of Madamiyet Elsham in Rural Damascus. The

humanitarian assistance is to benefit 20,000 people. Two mobile clinics also provided medical services until supplies ran out.

<http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp>

**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=>

OPCW-UN Joint Mission

<http://opcw.unmissions.org/>

UN humanitarian agencies

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/>