



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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International Pledging Conference on Syria raises USD 2.4 billion

The Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria in Kuwait City, chaired by the Secretary-General today, raised USD 2.4 billion. It had sought USD 6.5 billion in funds to help people in Syria and neighbouring countries in 2014 -- an unprecedented amount for a single humanitarian emergency. Expressing his heartfelt gratitude, the Secretary-General said in closing remarks that by raising this money for Syria, the world has said loudly and clearly to the Syrian people that they have not been forgotten. Ahead of the 22 January Geneva Conference on Syria, he also urged all those concerned to step up efforts to bring the parties to the conflict together.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7398>

UN Humanitarian Chief reiterates appeal for unhindered humanitarian access

Also addressing the Kuwait conference, USG for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos noted that while humanitarian activities across Syria had increased throughout 2013, all those who desperately need help cannot be reached. She said that she was deeply troubled by the persistent reports of people running out of food in besieged communities, where some 245,000 people live. Ms. Amos also reiterated her call for an end to indiscriminate attacks and for the unhindered passage of humanitarian aid.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/under-secretary-general-valerie-amos-remarks-pledging-conference-syria>

Secretary-General visits Syrian refugees in northern Iraq

Prior to the conference, the Secretary-General travelled to Iraq where he met with Prime Minister al-Maliki and other senior Iraqi officials to discuss the situation in Iraq, including the humanitarian impact of the Syrian conflict. The Secretary-General thanked the Iraqi Government for hosting Syrian refugees and asked Iraq to maintain open border access for them. During the visit, the Secretary-General, along with USG Valerie Amos and High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, visited a camp for Syrian refugees near Erbil, in the Kurdistan region. Speaking to the media afterwards, he said he was there to show solidarity and support from the United Nations and the international community.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3238>

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3240>

UNRWA aid convoy to Yarmouk camp hampered by gunfire

UNRWA, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, expressed its profound disappointment that a six-truck convoy was unable to deliver assistance to the Yarmouk refugee camp in Syria on 13 January. The convoy had to turn back after a bulldozer clearing the road was fired upon. UNRWA said it will continue to work with the Syrian authorities and liaise with other groups to seek access to that camp. It is primarily in the Syrian authorities' hands to allow access to Yarmouk Camp.

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

Select UN stories

Conference of Syrian women, convened by UN Women and the Netherlands, ends with strong recommendations for upcoming peace talks

A UN Women-sponsored conference to support women's participation in the Syrian peace process concluded on 13 January in Geneva with the adoption of a press statement by Syrian women civil society members and activists. The Outcome Document called for a participation of women of at least 30 percent on all negotiating teams, a committee for the duration of the Geneva negotiation process, and the appointment of a senior gender advisor to the mediation team. The participants also demanded that the constitution guarantee equality of women and men and penalize all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/1/press-release-on-syrian-women-meeting>

UNICEF and WHO in Syria condemn the interruption of a polio immunization campaign in Al-Raqa

Damascus, 13 January 2014 - The representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in Syria strongly condemned the interruption of a polio immunization campaign in Al-Raqa Syrian governorate due to intense fighting. WHO and UNICEF are helping to ensure that every child in Syria is vaccinated, wherever they are and wherever they live. They called on all parties to cease fighting immediately and permit completion of the life-saving polio campaign and delivery of other life-saving humanitarian interventions.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unicef-and-who-syria-condemn-interruption-polio-immunization-campaign-al>

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/>