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NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

To: DSG,

Please find attached for your approval on behalf
of the SG, his report on the **implementation of the
resolutions by all parties to the conflict in Syria.**

The report is due to Council members tomorrow,
16 August.

AK.

Political Unit
15 August 2016

VR

Received in ODSG

15 August 2016

Seen by:

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Note to Mr. Mulet

SG report on the implementation of resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014),
2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015)

1. Please find attached the thirtieth report on the implementation of resolutions 2139(2014), paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 2191 (2014) and paragraph five of Security Council resolution 2258 (2015), in which the Council requests the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.
2. The report is due to Council members on Tuesday 16 August. I would appreciate if you could kindly assist in seeking the Secretary-General's endorsement of the report.

Stephen O'Brien

Stephen O'Brien
12 August 2016

cc: Mr. Eliasson



Hann/04/002

Approved by the Deputy Secretary-General

Jan Eliasson

Date:

August 11, 2016

Implementation of Security Council Resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015)

I. Introduction

1. This 30th report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 2191 (2014) and paragraph five of Security Council resolution 2258 (2015), in which the Council requests the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.
2. The information contained herein is based on the data available to United Nations agencies on the ground, from the government of the Syrian Arab Republic, other Syrian sources as well as open sources. Data from United Nations agencies on their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for the period from 1 to 31 July 2016. More recent data has been included when available.

II. Major developments

A. Developments on the ground

1. During the reporting period, the deteriorating security environment had a significant impact on the humanitarian situation, including further damaging civilian infrastructure such as hospitals and schools, and limiting the ability for UN agencies and its partners to deliver much needed humanitarian support. Military activities, including airstrikes, continued in Aleppo, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hassakeh, Idlib as well as in Rif Dimashq and other governorates. In line with resolution 2258 (2015), the following description of developments on the ground reports on the compliance by all parties in Syria with resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014). This information is provided without prejudice to the work of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) Ceasefire Task Force.
2. Military activity intensified in Aleppo governorate in July, including major military operations by both government and non-State armed groups in Aleppo city. On 7 July, Government forces advanced north of Aleppo city, cutting the Castello road, the only remaining supply route to non-State armed group-held areas in the eastern part of Aleppo city. On 11 July, airstrikes on a residential area in the old city area of Aleppo reportedly resulted in the killing of 18 civilians, including two children and one woman, and the injury of at least 30 others. On 16 July, various neighbourhoods in non-State armed group-held Aleppo including Al-Ferdous, Old Aleppo, and Al-Ma'adi were hit by several airstrikes that reportedly resulted in the killing and injury of at least 22 civilians. Omar Ibn Abdel Aziz hospital in Al-Ma'adi neighbourhood was also allegedly damaged and put out of service by airstrikes which hit in its vicinity. The next day, airstrikes on residential areas of Abu Al-Dohour reportedly killed 11 civilians from one family and injured five others. On 23 and 24 July,

OHCHR received reports of four makeshift hospitals - al-Bayan, Al-Daqaq, al-Hakeem and Al-Sayyeda al-Zahra - along with the Central Blood Bank being hit by airstrikes in eastern Aleppo city. According to reports, a two-day-old baby died in his incubator due to interruptions in the oxygen in al-Hakim hospital. On 25 July, airstrikes hit a residential area in Al-Mashhad neighbourhood, reportedly killing at least six civilians. On 31 July, airstrikes on three non-State armed group-controlled neighbourhoods of Aleppo - al-Mashhad, al-Ansari and Al-Sokkari - destroyed a number of residential structures and reportedly killed at least 15 civilians, including a child, and injured another ten civilians. Moreover, following an opposition advance in the southwest of the city, 25,000 people were displaced. UNICEF is providing assistance to these IDPs in temporary shelters around the city.

3. Non-State armed groups significantly increased mortar and rocket attacks on Government forces-controlled areas in the western part of Aleppo city causing significant casualties among civilians. During the Eid al-Fitr holiday days of 8 and 9 July, non-State armed groups reportedly increased the firing of mortars and rockets into Government-held areas of the city. At least 44 civilians were allegedly killed and dozens injured including many women and children. Tens of civilians were reported as having been admitted to Al-Razi and Al-Jame'a hospitals. The strikes continued throughout July, allegedly causing further civilian deaths and injuries. For example, on 22 July, six civilians, including a child, were reportedly killed in Government-controlled Aleppo when mortars fired from eastern Aleppo hit a public park. On 25 July, a civilian woman and her child were allegedly killed by a mortar that fell on al-Khaldiyyeh neighbourhood.
4. Attacks on civilian infrastructure in Aleppo city took its toll on civilians. These include attacks on 31 July and 1 August that reportedly damaged a transmission centre resulting in an electricity blackout throughout western and eastern Aleppo. Consequently the two main water pumping stations, both located in eastern Aleppo and serving over two million people across the city, stopped functioning. In western Aleppo, humanitarian actors are scaling up alternative sources of water; however, these are not sufficient to meet the full needs of the population. In eastern Aleppo, public wells are serving a portion of the population but will require sustained access and supplies of fuel to continue operating.
5. On 10 July, airstrikes on a residential area of Ibeen reportedly killed at least 19 civilians, including 11 children and two women. The same day, seven civilians were allegedly killed by airstrikes in Shantra. Another airstrike the same day in Al-Tokhar allegedly killed eight civilians from a single family, including women and children. In the early morning hours of 19 July, numerous airstrikes again hit residential areas al-Tokhar, allegedly killing at least 70 civilians from nine families including at least 20 children. A medical unit in Al-Atareb was also allegedly hit by airstrikes on 24 July. On 30 July, a makeshift hospital was allegedly hit by an airstrike in northwest Hritan and put out of service. No casualties were reported. On 30 July, four ground strikes hit the village of Kafr Naha reportedly killing five civilians and injuring ten others.

On 31 July, a ground strike hit a residential home in Anadan allegedly killing at least three civilians and injuring seven others.

6. Fierce fighting continued between ISIL and Syrian Democratic Forces and its allies in and around the town of Manbij in the eastern countryside of Aleppo. On 18 July, at least 15 civilians from one family, including women and children, were reportedly killed when an airstrike hit their home in Al-Hazawneh neighbourhood of Manbij. On 28 July, airstrikes hit residential buildings in the ISIL-controlled town of al-Ghandourah located northwest of Manbij, and allegedly killed at least 28 civilians and injured dozens more including a number of children. On 2 August, OHCHR received a note verbale from the Government of Syria which stated that these airstrikes killed 300 civilians. Al-Hazawneh neighbourhood along with the nearby village of Shweiha were also struck, with an unknown number of civilians reportedly killed in Shweiha. Also, on 28 July, an airstrike hit the Sharia Al-Rabita neighbourhood of Manbij and reportedly killed five civilians and injured dozens of others. On 28 July, ISIL allegedly also executed at least 25 civilians including a number of women and children when they temporarily took over Al-Boueir village to the north of Manbij. Approximately 13,000 civilians were reportedly displaced from the town of Manbij due to ongoing infighting.
7. Fighting continued throughout the reporting period in Damascus and Rif Dimashq governorates, including the first attacks reported in recent months against Damascus city. On 2 July, airstrikes and artillery fire on Jairud reportedly killed at least 35 civilians including three children, four women and a doctor. On 4 July, airstrikes on a residential area in Khan al-Shihh allegedly killed two civilians and injured five others. Airstrikes on a residential area of al-Marj on 12 July reportedly killed three civilians, including a woman, and injured at least six others. A woman and a child were allegedly killed in airstrikes in Hamouria on 23 July. The next day, artillery fire reportedly killed at least six civilians in the same town. Also, on 24 July, at least five civilians were allegedly killed, including one woman and three children when airstrikes hit a local market and houses in Erbin. On 24 July, at least seven civilians were reportedly killed, including three women and one child, and at least 19 others injured when ground strikes hit the old city of Damascus, damaging houses and restaurants. On 25 July, further ground strikes in Damascus hit the Ish al-Werwer area and reportedly injured at least six civilians. On the same day mortars landed in a residential area of Al-Qaimariya neighbourhood in the old city of Damascus and allegedly injured at least four civilians.
8. A number of strikes were also reported in the towns of Douma and Darayya during the reporting period. On 2 July, airstrikes on residential areas in Douma reportedly killed three civilians, including a child, and injured two other civilians. On 22 July, airstrikes and artillery fire which hit commercial and residential areas in Douma reportedly killed three civilians. Also on 22 July, an airstrike allegedly killed a woman and her two-month-old baby in a residential area of Darayya. On 25 July, three civilians including a child were reportedly killed and at least another two

injured as a result of artillery fire and airstrikes which hit a residential area of the town.

9. In Idlib governorate, on 8 July, airstrikes struck a local market in Darkosh allegedly killing at least 22 civilians, including nine women, and injuring 20 others. The town is reported to be densely populated with internally displaced persons from other areas in the governorate. The incident, which took place during the Eid al-Fitr holiday, coincided with the last day of a 72-hour ceasefire agreement. On 11 July, airstrikes hit the town of Ihsem, in close proximity to Al-Shifa'a Hospital and allegedly killed three civilians, including one child, and injured at least three others. The hospital was severely damaged and put out of service. On 13 July, airstrikes hit a local market in Ariha and reportedly killed at least 13 civilians and injured several others. On 21 July, an airstrike hit a residential area in Talmennes and reportedly killed at least nine civilians, including two children. At least 10 other civilians were injured. On 29 July, a maternity hospital in the village of Kafr Takharim in Idleb was hit by an airstrike. Two civilians were allegedly killed in the incident and the facility put out of service.
10. In Homs governorate, on 13 July airstrikes hit a number of civilian facilities in Ar-Rastan, including a Syrian Arab Red Crescent medical unit. As a result of the strikes, at least 17 civilians including three women were reportedly killed and approximately 48 others injured.
11. On 3 July, armed clashes broke out between Kurdish Forces and National Defense Forces in Al-Hassakeh city. OHCHR received reports that at least five civilians were killed and three others injured in the crossfire. On 5 July, a suicide bomber targeted a bakery in Al-Salhya neighbourhood of Al-Hassakeh city. OHCHR received the names of 21 people - 15 men and 6 children - believed to be civilians who were reported to have died in the attack. Six others were also allegedly killed, four of those remain unidentified. In addition, 29 individuals including six women were reportedly injured in the attack. A car bomb on 27 July in Al-Qamishli close to the offices of UNHCR allegedly killed 48 civilians including women and children and the injuring of 140 more, along with the destruction of civilian homes and buildings.
12. Fighting continued between ISIL and Government forces around Deir-ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. On 8 July, ISIL fighters fired mortar rounds into Government-held areas of Deir-ez-Zor city and reportedly killed four children in the Tolaitela public garden area of al-Joura neighbourhood. In Raqqa governorate, on 12 July, airstrikes on residential areas in ar-Raqqa city allegedly killed four children, all siblings. On 19 July, at least 57 civilians, including women and children, were reportedly injured by airstrikes on a residential area of al-Tabqa.
13. OHCHR has received reports of airstrikes allegedly conducted by international actors which resulted in civilian deaths and injuries, but was unable to identify the parties responsible. The US Department of Defense confirmed that in July the US-led coalition carried out 366 strikes against ISIL targets in the governorates of Aleppo,

Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hassakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, and Homs, 80 per cent of them around the area of Manbij. During a 27 July press briefing, the US Department of Defence stated that a formal investigation had been launched into allegations of civilian casualties as a result of a coalition airstrike on 19 July in Manbij. The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation provided no information to OHCHR on its operations in July, although on 28 July the Russian Defence Minister stated that Russian Aerospace Forces were providing active support to Government troops in response to ISIL and Al-Nusra Front offensives in June and July near Aleppo.

14. My Special Envoy for Syria continued to assess the environment across Syria in order to determine the most opportune moment for the formal resumption of these political negotiations, and consistently called upon the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) co-chairs, the United States and Russian Federation, to strengthen the cessation of hostilities and take measures that enhance humanitarian access across Syria for actors providing emergency support. Bilateral discussions between the United States and Russian Federation in Moscow on 15 July paved the way for a trilateral meeting between both co-chairs and the United Nations in Geneva on 26 July. All parties agreed at this meeting to prioritize political negotiations whilst the ISSG co-chairs agreed to continue their bilateral engagement in order to strengthen the cessation of hostilities whilst pursuing counter-terrorism cooperation, and ensure the provision of humanitarian access and aid. In preparation for the resumption of formal political negotiations, my Special Envoy continued to engage the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, regional states, and Syrian civil society on topics related to political transition throughout the month of July.

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B. Human rights

16. OHCHR continued to receive reports of serious human rights violations in July. On 19 July, a video and photos emerged of members of a non-State armed group in the Al-Shaar district in the city of Aleppo taunting and mistreating a young male in the back of a pickup truck before one of the fighters beheaded him. The age of the male - who has the appearance of a child - was unknown. On 20 July, OHCHR received a note verbale from the Government of Syria in which it was stated that the boy was aged 12 years old. On the same day, the Nour Al-Din Al-Zinki Movement issued a statement condemning the incident and indicating that those responsible were detained and handed over to an investigation committee.

C. Humanitarian response

17. In July, United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners continued to reach millions of people in need through all modalities from within the Syrian Arab Republic and across borders pursuant to resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015). Non-governmental organisations also continued to deliver assistance to people in need in line with previous months. The government of Syria continued to

provide basic services to areas under its control as well as in many areas beyond its control.

Table 1
Number of people reached by UN Organisations in July 2016

Organisation	Number of people reached
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	26,130
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	45,561
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	175,570
United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	1.4 million
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	878,091
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	384,507
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)	450,000
World Food Programme (WFP)	4.2 million
World Health Organization (WHO)	746,334

18. Cross-border deliveries continued during the reporting period. In July, ten consignments consisting of 335 trucks crossed from Turkey and Jordan to the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015). Six of these consignments crossed from Bab al-Hawa (307 trucks), three from Bab al-Salam (13 trucks) and one from Al-Ramtha (15 trucks). This brings the total number of trucks since the beginning of operations to 9,013 (6,582 through Bab al-Hawa, 716 through Bab al-Salam and 1,715 through Al-Ramtha). More information on United Nations cross-border convoys in July can be found in Annex 1.
19. Shipments through the Al-Ramtha crossing from Jordan resumed on 28 July after they were delayed by the Jordanian Government on 21 June due to the security situation along the Syrian-Jordan border. In Turkey, shipments were suspended for two days following the 15 July failed coup attempt. They resumed without any problem on 18 July.
20. In line with Security Council resolutions, the United Nations notified the Syrian authorities in advance of each shipment, including content, destination and number of beneficiaries. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanisms for the Syrian Arab Republic (UNMM) continued its operations, monitoring 335 trucks in the ten consignments in July, confirming the humanitarian nature of each, and notifying the Syrian authorities after each shipment. The UNMM continued to benefit from excellent cooperation with the governments of Jordan and Turkey.
21. UN and partners inter-agency convoys to the besieged and hard-to-reach locations listed in table 2 below were completed in July. Moreover, WFP completed 22 airdrops, dropping a total of 405 MT of WFP food commodities and humanitarian

assistance on behalf of other UN agencies over Deir-ez-Zor city. Overall, since April, WFP has completed 87 airdrop rotations, dispatching 1,552 MT of food, nutrition, shelter as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies. In addition, the WFP/Logistic Cluster completed 39 airlifts to Qamishli from Damascus, airlifting 1,464 MT of mixed food commodities as well as WASH, nutrition and shelter assistance as of 2 August (see also para 13 as well as annex 2 for more information on access to besieged and hard-to-reach locations). United Nations agencies also undertook single agency deliveries to cross-line and hard-to-reach locations or reached these locations through their regular programmes during the reporting period.

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Table 2
Inter-Agency Convoys in July 2016

Date	Location	Requested target (number of beneficiaries)	Targeted people reached	Type of Assistance
02 July	East Harasta	21,000	10,000	Food, Nutrition, WASH, Education, Health
12 July	Sheikh Maqsoud	27,000	27,000 ¹	Food, Nutrition, WASH, education, NFIs, Health
14 and 18 July	Al Wa'er	75,000	75,000	Food; WASH; Nutrition; NFIs; Health.
19 July	Sarghaya	15,000	15,000	Food, Nutrition, WASH, NFIs, Health
21 July	Madiq Castle	32,000	32,000	Food; WASH; Nutrition; Education; NFIs; Health.
21 July	Big Orm	70,000	50,000	Nutrition; NFIs; Health; Medical
24 July	Madamiyet Elsham	45,000	40,000	Food; WASH; Education; Health.
26 July	Hajeb & Banan	7,000	7,000	Food; WASH; Nutrition; Education; NFIs; Health.
26 July	Talbiseh	84,000	84,000	Food; Nutrition; Health.
28 July	Ar-Rastan	110,000	110,000	Food; WASH; NFIs; Health.
31 July	Al Houla	71,000	71,000	Food; WASH; Nutrition; Education; NFIs; Health.

Humanitarian access

22. The delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need of assistance in the Syrian Arab Republic remained extremely challenging in many areas of the country as a

¹ This was the third of three convoys that together reached 27,000 beneficiaries. The previous two convoys reached Sheikh Maqsoud on 23 and 28 June.

result of active conflict, shifting conflict lines and deliberate restrictions by the parties to the conflict on the movement of people and goods.

23. In July, the number of people living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas stood at 5.47 million, an increase of some 900,000 people from the previous estimate of 4.6 million. As previously reported, this increase is based primarily on the inclusion of areas in parts of Aleppo, Raqqa and Hasakeh governorates as a result of insecurity, as well as constrained access for humanitarian actors both from within Syria and via cross-border operations. Moreover, the population in eastern Aleppo, where an estimated 250,000-275,000 people reside, is at serious risk of besiegement as the fighting closes in and their access to basic necessities runs out.
24. Access to the millions of people living in besieged and hard-to-reach locations remained of critical concern. Overall, the United Nations agencies and partners reached 39 of the 182 besieged and hard-to-reach areas (21 per cent) through either inter-agency convoys or single agency deliveries. Details of assistance to these areas by sector in July are contained in table 3. Meanwhile, NGOs continued to provide limited medical, education and protection services, as well as some support in other sectors, in hard-to-reach locations, under extremely challenging circumstances.

Table 3

United Nations deliveries to hard-to-reach, besieged and priority cross-line locations, July 2016

Sector (United Nations delivery only)	Number of people reached (percentage of 5.47 million)
Food Security	891,945 (16%)
Health (treatments)	402,433 (7.3%)
Non-food items	119,983 (2.1%)
Water, sanitation and hygiene	120,898 (2.2%)

25. Active conflict in several governorates hindered the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as people's access to essential services. Markets, schools, medical and other civilian infrastructures were damaged due to fighting in July, reducing the availability of basic and essential services in critical areas. For example, on 20 July, an airstrike reportedly hit the school yard of the Khalid Shaar examination centre in Idlib city, resulting in the death of a female student and one other adult. As a result of repeated airstrikes during the period, local education authorities decided to postpone all examination, which later resumed on 27 July. Further, an aerial bombardment on Saraqab city in Idlib, on 30 July, reportedly struck a university, resulting in partial structural damages. Elsewhere, UNRWA was not able to conduct any mission in July to Yalda due to on-going security concerns.

26. Fighting also disrupted humanitarian supply lines to communities at risk. For example, no deliveries to eastern Aleppo could take place during the month of July, as the Castello road, the only access route, has been cut off since 7 July. Prior to the access interruption, WFP had prepositioned food supplies for tens of thousands of people for July and partially for August. However, distributions are currently on hold due to ongoing fighting and volatile security conditions. Since access was cut, prices of essential supplies like fuel and fresh produce have increased. Some basic commodities are no longer available on the market. Further, UNICEF partners have identified over 170 cases of acute malnutrition in eastern Aleppo and provided essential nutrition treatments. But as doctors and facilities are increasingly scarce, humanitarian partners are having difficulties to sustain services. A lack of access to nutrition supplies has already disrupted services for 115 malnourished children who were, until recently, under treatment in eastern Aleppo.
27. On 28 July the Russian Federation announced the start of a large-scale operation to assist the civilian population of Aleppo and to ensure the exit of civilians via humanitarian corridors. The UN has been actively working on preparedness planning to assist all those in need, and held detailed discussions with Member States, including on the proposal of the Russian Federation, to ensure that key humanitarian principles would be strictly safeguarded in any possible initiative.
- 28.
29. Deliberate interference and restrictions by the parties also continued to prevent aid delivery. For example, WFP continues to be unable to access populations in need in ISIL-controlled areas of the country, as all plans to deliver assistance to these areas have been suspended due to the inability to work independently and monitor activities. This is preventing WFP from reaching Ar-Raqqah and most of Deir-ez-Zor governorates (except Deir-ez-Zor city where assistance is received via airdrops), as well as pockets of northern rural Aleppo, southern rural Hasakeh and north-western rural Hama. Meanwhile, in July, over 214,000 children, women and men from besieged and hard-to-reach areas were supported by UNICEF and partners with therapeutic foods, hygiene supplies, self-learning materials, as well as nutritional and psycho-social support.
30. The UN inter-agency convoy plan for July requested to reach 1.2 million people in 35 besieged, hard-to-reach and priority cross-line locations. 34 out of 35 locations have been approved for access, representing approximately 75 per cent of total beneficiaries targeted, given the discrepancies between approved beneficiaries. 17 locations were approved in full for 502,500 people; 17 were partially approved with restrictions on the type of assistance and/or the number of approved beneficiaries for 354,000 people; and one location (Al Qaboun) with 28,000 people was not approved. Overall, UN inter-agency convoys in July reached 484,000² beneficiaries in nine locations (40 per cent of targeted people reached). Medical items continued to be

² The total does not reflect the 10,000 beneficiaries reached on 2 July in East Harasta as part of the June plan.

removed from convoys (see para. 31). Increased insecurity, delays in administrative procedures at the national and local level, and lack of agreement of the parties of the Four Towns Agreement, prevented the UN agencies and other partners to fully implement the July plan. On 4 July, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria, Yacoub El Hillo, issued a statement expressing alarm over reports of deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the four towns (Foua, Kafraya, Zabadani and Madaya), and calling on the parties to the agreement to allow for immediate humanitarian access to avoid starvation. The statement also highlighted the detrimental impact of the tit-for-tat approach on medical evacuations, and underscored the need for a principled approach to emergency lifesaving response. While limited medical evacuations have taken place in July, several children are currently in need of immediate medical evacuation from the four towns.

31. The Nusaybin/Qamishly crossing in Hasakeh governorate has been temporarily closed by the Turkish authorities due to security concerns since 27 December 2015. Hasakeh Governorate also remains largely inaccessible by road for UN Agencies from within Syria. On 9 July, the UN commenced airlifts from Damascus to Qamishly airport. As of 2 August, the Logistics Cluster completed 39 airlifts carrying 1,464 metric tons of mixed food commodities, nutrition, shelter and WASH assistance on behalf of other humanitarian agencies, including 24,300 food rations sufficient for 121,500 people for one month. During the month of July, 13,091 WFP food rations were dispatched to partners in Hasakeh governorate for distribution, sufficient to support 65,455 people for one month. This is the first time food assistance has reached the governorate since December 2015.
32. A total of 31 new visa requests were submitted in July. 21 requests were approved (including older applications) and ten remain pending. Moreover, a total of 43 visa renewal requests were submitted in July. 23 were approved (including older applications) and 19 remain pending while one visa renewal request was rejected.
33. A total of 17 international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) are registered with the Syrian Government to operate in the Syrian Arab Republic. Four more INGOs are in the process of completing registration. INGOs continued to face a series of administrative hurdles and restrictions that impact their ability to operate, including in gaining permission to undertake independent needs assessments.

Besieged areas

34. The number of people living in areas designated by the UN as besieged currently stands at 590,200. Humanitarian conditions in besieged areas continue to be dire. In besieged areas, the flow of commercial supplies through official routes remained largely blocked, leading to high prices for commodities reaching besieged areas through unofficial and irregular supply lines. Freedom of movement remained heavily restricted, though limited numbers are sporadically allowed to exit and re-enter some besieged areas.

35. In recent months, inter-agency convoys to besieged areas have highlighted numerous critical protection concerns beyond physical protection from on-going fighting and lack of freedom of movement. A number of families have been separated, including children from their parents. Indications of severe trauma were observed, with children being particularly affected. People in all locations expressed serious concerns about the unavailability of civil registration and documentation services. Access to education has been severely impacted and significant numbers of children appear to have been recruited into armed groups, with many boys aged under 18 – in uniform and plain clothes – brandishing weapons. Child marriage has also been documented as widespread, with families marrying their daughters at an increasingly younger age often as a coping mechanism against poverty. The situation is further compounded by lack of opportunities for young people in besieged areas.
36. In July, the United Nations assisted approximately 224,000 people in besieged areas (37.9 per cent of the total besieged population) through inter-agency operations, including airdrops to Deir-ez-Zor city. Overall, since the beginning of the year, inter-agency and UNRWA operations have reached a net total of 401,650 people in besieged areas (68 per cent of the total besieged population), many more than once.
37. Locations besieged by government forces: (i) in eastern Ghutah, Rif Dimashq, some 282,500 people remain besieged in the following locations: Duma, Eastern Harasta, Arbin, Zamalka, Ain Tarma, Hammura, Jisrein, Kafr Batna, and Saqba; (ii) in Darayya in Rif Dimashq, about 4,000 people remain besieged by government forces; (iii) in Madaya and Bquine in Rif Dimashq governorate, some 43,000 people remain besieged by government forces; (iv) in Zabadani, Rif Dimashq governorate, some 700 people remain besieged by government forces; (v) in Madamiyet Elsham in Rif Dimashq, about 45,000 people remain besieged by government forces; and (vi) in the Al-Wa'er neighborhood in Homs governorate, about 75,000 people are besieged by government forces. Some locations, including Madaya and Bquine have not received UN assistance since 30 April 2016.
38. In Foah and Kefraya in Idlib governorate, some 20,000 people remain besieged by non-State armed groups and the Al-Nusrah Front³. These locations have not received UN assistance since 30 April 2016.
39. In Yarmouk in Damascus, some 10,000 people are besieged by government forces and non-State armed groups.
40. In the government-controlled western neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor city, some 110,000 people are besieged by ISIL.

Attacks on medical facilities and free passage of medical supplies, personnel and equipment

³ On 28 July, the Al-Nusrah Front announced that it would henceforth be known as Jabhat Fatah al-Sham — or Front for the Conquest of Syria — and said it no longer owed allegiance to al-Qaeda.

41. Primary, secondary and tertiary health care services continue to experience severe gaps in performance and service delivery, due to the extensive damages caused to health facilities, the rapid turn-over of health staff, and the lack of qualified professionals in the different medical specialties. Pediatric and maternal health services, including routine vaccinations, remain negatively affected, particularly in the Governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Dara'a as well as in the besieged areas of Rural Damascus.
42. In blatant disregard for the special protected status of health care facilities under international humanitarian law, and in light of Security Council resolution 2286 (2016), adopted on 3 May, medical facilities continued to be damaged or destroyed as a result of fighting in Syria. The United Nations and health partners received credible reports – which are in the process of being verified by the United Nations and partner organisations – of 44 attacks against health facilities in July alone. For example, in July, five out of nine hospitals in eastern Aleppo were repeatedly attacked, severely disrupting and limiting life-saving health services for children and their families. This includes attacks on Al-Bayan, Al-Hakim, Al-Daqaq, Al-Sayyeda al-Zahraa and Omar Ibn Abdel Aziz hospital, with patients killed and medical staff reportedly injured. According to reports, a two-day-old baby died in his incubator due to oxygen interruptions following the attack. Three additional babies reportedly died the next day due to respiratory problems caused by the fallout of the bombardment. These medical facilities are severely damaged. The remaining hospitals in eastern Aleppo cannot cater to the needs of the approximately 250,000-275,000 people. The few staff that remain are overstretched and working in shifts. Lack of health workers is compounded since many health workers are no longer able to make the daily journey from their homes in the west of the city to the eastern area. Power and water shortages are severely affecting the delivery of health services.
43. Moreover, a hospital in Andana (Aleppo governorate), a blood bank in Atareb (Aleppo governorate), as well as a field hospital in Jasim (Dara'a governorate) were hit by airstrikes on 31 July. The previous day, a maternity hospital in Idleb was struck by airstrikes, rendering the facility out of service and killing at least two people in addition to injuring a number of patients, including several babies and three female staff. This was the only maternity facility of its kind in the area, serving more than 1,000 women and children a month and delivering hundreds of newborns. Local health authorities reported that the facility was specifically targeted, as three out of six airstrikes on that morning were against the hospital. Dozens of casualties and injuries resulting from these strikes have been reported, including pregnant women and children as well as health staff. Prior to the reported strikes, these medical facilities provided life-saving healthcare to tens of thousands of people. Many of the locations are now inoperable. Moreover, according to verified reports, Raqqa National Hospital continues to be used by ISIL for military purposes with armed combatants – including children – posted outside as guards to control access to the facility.

44. WHO and UNICEF continued with the implementation of the nationwide vaccination campaign. To date, the first round of the cross-border component of the campaign has reached about 1,070,245 children, equivalent to a coverage rate of 86 per cent. Moreover, from Damascus, the UN has reached 1.2 million children out of which 476,000 live in hard-to-reach and besieged location. In July, WHO, UNICEF and partners launched the second round of the campaign from within Syria targeting under the age of five with a focus on hard-to-reach and besieged locations.
45. Since the beginning of 2016, WHO has filed with the Syrian government 29 requests to access 93 locations in eleven governorates (four requests were submitted in July). The Syrian government has approved eight of the 29 requests. No approvals were received in July. 21 requests remain unanswered for which WHO has sent many reminders.
46. The removal of life-saving medicines and medical supplies from humanitarian aid convoys continued. Serum drugs, renewable items (razors, scalpels blades, gauzes) and surgical equipment (forceps, scissors, needles) are consistently removed from midwifery kits, inter-agency emergency health kits, pediatric kits, and diarrheal disease sets. The following treatments and supplies removed from convoys during July⁴:

Location	Number of Treatments	Type of Treatments
Arbin	343	Burn kits, medicine for the treatment and prophylaxis of heart failure, angina, and reduction of the pneumonia kit B.
Al-Wa'er	2,104	Italian trauma A and B, steam sterilizer, psychotropic medicines, atropine and lidocaine, surgical items.
Sarghaya	509	Psychotropic medications, burn kits, items removed from IEHK supplementary kits and pneumonia B, in addition to reducing the quantities of kits.
Madq Castle	1,572	Pneumonia kit B, IEHK supplementary and basic kits (IV fluid, psychotropic medicines, anesthetic and lifesaving medicines) and antiseptics.
Talbiseh	660	Antiseptics and IV sets

47. Fears about targeting of health facilities remain a driver of home deliveries among pregnant women in southern Syria. This trend is further exacerbated by the desire to obtain proper notification documents that a birth has occurred – a service which is increasingly available only from government salaried midwives who are fearful of

⁴ Medical, health and surgical items have also been removed from convoys to Ar-Rastan and Al-Houla. The number of removed items is currently being verified.

retaliation by the government if they are detected as practicing within unauthorised or unofficial health facilities. An assessment of civil documentation conducted by IRC from April-June 2016 reported that the proportion of births where a birth notification was issued was only 35% in Dar'a, and 15% in Quneitra. Furthermore, participants in Rural Damascus, Quneitra and Dar'a ranked "lack or loss of personal civil documents" as their main protection threat.

Safety and security of staff and premises

48. A total of 27 United Nations staff members, 25 of whom are UNRWA area staff, one from UNDP, and one from UNICEF, continue to be detained or missing. Since the start of the conflict, dozens of humanitarian workers have been killed including 18 staff members of the United Nations, 53 staff members and volunteers of SARC, and eight volunteers and staff members of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS). This includes Mr. Yaser Mahmoud Shuaeeb, UNRWA staff, who died on 17 July after being struck by shrapnel fragments. In addition, scores of international NGO and national NGO staff members are reported to have been killed.

III. Observations

49. There are few words left to convey the suffering being endured by Syrians, more than five years into the conflict. In addition to the ongoing civilian deaths and injuries, the destruction of property and cultural heritage and the displacement of tens of thousands of people, many Syrians are also facing severe water and fuel shortages, causing increased levels of disease and hardship, in particular in besieged and hard-to-reach areas.
50. In besieged areas, Syrian suffering continues largely unabated. In particular areas which are part of the Four Towns Agreement – Madaya, Zabadani, Foah and Kefraya – Syrians in dire need of medical evacuation continue to be denied the right to access the necessary medical treatment due to the tit-for-tat nature of the agreement. This includes children, mothers, the elderly, and other vulnerable people. Moreover, these areas have not received UN assistance since 30 April 2016, raising concerns about cases of malnutrition possibly leading to starvation. These illegal practices of holding civilians hostage to the fighting must stop.
51. In Aleppo, over two million people across the city are in fear of besiegement and in an uncertain and dangerous situation as fighting rages around them. The situation is growing worse for those 250,000 to 275,000 trapped in eastern Aleppo since 7 July, and it is extremely precarious for those in the west. The conduct of hostilities continues to be characterized by a prevailing disrespect for the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law. All parties to the conflict are failing to uphold their obligation to protect civilians. The fight for territory and resources is being

undertaken through indiscriminate attacks on residential areas, including through the use of barrel bombs, killing hundreds of civilians, including dozens of children. In Aleppo we risk seeing a humanitarian catastrophe unprecedented in the over five years of bloodshed and suffering in the Syrian conflict. I cannot stress strongly enough the need for a 48-hour pause in fighting, as well as safe and sustained humanitarian access in all areas of Aleppo. I also urge the two ISSG co-chairs, the United States and the Russian Federation, to rapidly reach agreement for a cease-fire to the fighting in Aleppo, and elsewhere. Not only would such an agreement ease the suffering of the Syrian people, it could also facilitate a more conducive environment for the resumption of the intra-Syrian talks.

52. In July, tens of thousands of people were forced from their homes in search of safety. Fighting continued to punish civilians across the country: in Aleppo, in Menbij, eastern Ghouta, in Dar'a and elsewhere. Attacks on hospitals, schools, basic services and humanitarian deliveries have continued unabated. The United Nations and health partners received credible reports – which are in the process of being verified by the United Nations and partner organisations – of 44 attacks against health facilities in July alone. What was inconceivable more than five years ago has become the norm for Syrian families and communities. The fighting must stop for humanitarian actors to be able to deliver aid and save lives. But most importantly the fighting must be halted to ease the suffering of those who already have lost so much.

53. As my Special Envoy prepares to convene the next round of political negotiations, I reiterate my call to the international community, and to the ISSG members in particular, to strengthen the cessation of hostilities and take measures that enhance humanitarian access across Syria. I commend the continued efforts by the Russian Federation and the United States to maintain the momentum and spearhead international support for the Syrian parties to works towards reaching a political agreement on the basis of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015). The people of Syria should not be forced to wait any longer for Syrian, regional and international parties to settle their scores. They have suffered enough and deserve our full attention, genuine effort, vision and leadership to end what has become one of the worst humanitarian tragedies of our times.

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Moved up [1]: <=>My Special Envoy continues to assess the environment across Syria in order to determine the most opportune moment for the formal resumption of these political negotiations. Special Envoy de Mistura has consistently called upon the ISSG co-chairs, the United States and Russian Federation, to strengthen the cessation of hostilities and take measures that enhance humanitarian access across Syria for actors providing emergency support. Bilateral discussions between the United States and Russian Federation in Moscow on 15 July paved the way for a trilateral meeting between both co-chairs and the United Nations in Geneva on 26 July. All parties agreed at this meeting to prioritize political negotiations whilst the ISSG co-chairs agreed to continue their bilateral engagement in order to strengthen the cessation of hostilities whilst pursuing counter-terrorism cooperation, and ensure the provision of humanitarian access and aid. In preparation for the resumption of formal political negotiations, Special Envoy de Mistura and Deputy Special Envoy Ramzy continued to engage the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, regional states, and Syrian civil society on topics related to political transition throughout the month of July.