

**UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND
EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR, VALERIE AMOS**

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON SYRIA
NEW YORK, 30 JULY 2014

Today I briefed the Security Council on the situation of the millions of Syrians in desperate need of aid and protection, and on progress in implementing resolutions 2139 and 2165 on humanitarian access in Syria.

Attacks on civilians by all parties to the conflict and human rights abuses continue in flagrant violation of the most basic principles of international humanitarian and human rights law.

In addition attacks on medical facilities are at their highest levels since December 2012. And the targeting of vital services like the main Aleppo water pumping station has interrupted the supply of clean water and electricity. Almost one million people remain without safe drinking water, in temperatures as high as 50 degrees Celsius.

Deliveries to people in hard-to-reach areas have further dropped this month, largely due to the centralization of Government approvals of deliveries to those areas, while arbitrary restrictions by some opposition groups are also obstructing humanitarian access, especially in the eastern governorates of Syria.

After more than 20 requests, the United Nations reached the besieged town of Madamyiet El Sham - also known as Moadamiyeh - in Rural Damascus earlier this month, and delivered food and medical care. The 24,000 people living there had not had assistance since the end of 2012.

This month WFP dispatched food to 3 million people, and medicines were delivered to 2.1 million people.

Despite deliveries to Madamyiet and Yarmouk, approximately 241,000 people are still living under siege conditions.

Resolution 2165, unanimously adopted by Council members on 14 July, authorized the United Nations and our partners to use routes across four additional border crossings with Turkey, Jordan and Iraq. The resolution also authorized the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to confirm the humanitarian nature of supplies brought through those crossings points.

I confirmed to the Security Council that the monitoring mechanism has been established and, that on 24 July the first UN convoy crossed into Syria from Turkey through the Bab al-Salam border crossing. Food, shelter materials, household items and water and sanitation supplies for approximately 26,000 people in Aleppo and Idleb Governorates was transported. The Syrian authorities were notified.

In the next few days I hope to confirm the dispatch of other planned convoys through the other designated crossing points. However, given the volatile situation near the Iraqi border, we will review when we can start using the Al Yarubiyah crossing point. There are significant challenges to operating across these four border points, including ongoing fighting, existence of a multitude of armed groups, and terrorist groups, which have stated their objections to international aid and aid workers.

All parties to the conflict must uphold their obligations to protect civilians and comply with the principles of humanitarian law.

I hope that the terms of resolution 2165 will enable the step change in humanitarian access and delivery that we all seek.

The United Nations and its partners stand ready to work with all concerned to ensure people receive the assistance they so desperately need. We count on Council members for their full and sustained support.