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Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014)

I. Introduction

1. This ninth report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) and paragraph 10 of Council resolution 2165 (2014), in which the Council requested 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, which covers the period from 18 October to 16 November 2014, provides a review of events since the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014). The information contained in the report and its annex is based on data available to United Nations entities on the ground and on reports from open sources and sources of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

II. Major developments

A. Political and military developments

3. Widespread conflict and high levels of violence continued throughout the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period, particularly in the governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir ez-Zor, Rif Dimashq, Damascus, Hasakeh, Idlib, Dar'a, Quneitra and Raqqa. Indiscriminate aerial bombings by government forces and indiscriminate shelling by armed opposition, extremist and listed terrorist groups¹ continued to result in deaths, injuries and the displacement of civilians.

4. Government and pro-government forces continued to conduct airstrikes and shellings. According to information received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), government forces dropped hundreds of barrel bombs in Aleppo, Hasakeh, Rif Dimashq, Dar'a, Hama, Damascus, Idlib and Quneitra governorates during the reporting period. Since 20 October, at least 239 civilians have reportedly been killed by government

¹ On 30 May 2013, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the Nusra Front were designated as terrorist groups by the Security Council under resolution 1267 (1999). Both groups operate in the Syrian Arab Republic.



airstrikes, including barrel bomb attacks, which have also caused a large number of injuries, internal displacement and large-scale destruction to infrastructure.

5. In Aleppo, OHCHR estimates that approximately 42 barrel bombs were dropped between 18 October and 6 November. According to reports received by OHCHR, at least 25 civilians, including 11 children, were killed by barrel bombs dropped on Sifat, Kafr Oueid and Tal Qarah in Aleppo, between 18 and 23 October. On 23 October, in Tal Qarah, a barrel bomb was allegedly dropped on a wedding hall used by internally displaced persons for shelter, killing 14 civilians, including 11 children. On 6 November, government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Al-Shaár, a neighbourhood of opposition-controlled Aleppo, reportedly killing 14 civilians, including women and children, and injuring 23 others.

6. In Rif Dimashq, on 21 October, the government air force allegedly bombarded the districts of Jisreen and Arbine, killing four people, including two children, and injuring many civilians. Attacks were also recorded in Dar'a and Hama. On 26 October, the government air force dropped barrel bombs on Busra al-Sham, killing 15 civilians, including six children, and injuring many other civilians. On 29 October, government helicopters dropped barrel bombs on a small settlement for internally displaced persons near Hbit in northern Hama, killing many displaced persons. On 13 November, more than 7 children were killed, and 13 were injured, as a result of barrel bombs dropped on Tal Laylan primary school in Ras al-Ain, Hasakeh.

7. In Damascus, the government air force bombed the opposition-controlled neighbourhood of Al-Qaboun on 5 November, striking a primary school and killing at least 17 children and injuring a dozen others. On the same day, three mortar shells struck the Haya school in Al-Qaboun, in eastern Damascus, killing at least 11 children and injuring many others. Elsewhere, according to analysis of the Operational Satellite Applications Programme of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, extensive damage, of the kind observed from airstrikes and barrel bombs, was caused in Joubar and Yarmouk.

8. Violence in the Al-Wa'er neighbourhood of Homs continued, with OHCHR receiving information on intensified bombardment by government forces. Daily shelling between 18 and 20 October resulted in some 23 people killed and 35 injured. Further attacks on 25 October and 2 November resulted in the deaths of at least nine civilians. In one attack, three children were killed. On 2 and 3 November, mortars and rockets landed in and around an orphanage, causing extensive damage and forcing the United Nations to evacuate approximately 50 children.

9. Armed opposition and designated terrorist groups continued to shell government-controlled areas, including in civilian-populated areas, using mortars and small rockets, causing civilian deaths and casualties. Mortar fire on different government-held areas continued on a large scale, including in Damascus, Homs, Hama and Quneitra. For example, on 20 October, mortar shelling was reported on a university in Quneitra, which resulted in many injured students. Two attacks on or near schools in government-controlled Aleppo city on 27 October killed nine people, including four children. In Hama, on 12 November, two mortars hit a school, killing seven children and injuring four.

10. The use of improvised explosive devices, including vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, and suicide bombs, which have resulted in numerous casualties,

were also reported in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Aleppo, Idlib, Deir ez-Zor and Homs. For example, in Damascus, on 27 October, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device was detonated in Al-Bzuriya neighbourhood, killing one civilian and injuring six others. On 2 November, the Government reported that a suicide bomber had detonated his explosive vest in the vicinity of the College of Medicine, in the Al-Mezza area of Damascus, killing two students and injuring five others. In Homs, on 29 October, two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices were detonated in a crowded square in the Al-Zahra neighbourhood of Homs near three schools, killing 12 civilians and either killing or injuring 40 others.

11. Civilians continued to be displaced as a result of ongoing fighting and conflict. In the last two weeks of October, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) registered some 50,000 internally displaced persons who fled Inkhil in Dar'a towards Sanameen and nearby villages. Some 5,000 others were displaced recently owing to fighting in Sheikh Miskine, in Dar'a. Heavy fighting in north-eastern Quneitra forced people to flee to surrounding rural areas. Violence in the northern and eastern parts of rural Hama forced many more people to seek refuge in the cities of Hama and Salamiyyeh. To date, over 100,000 internally displaced persons have been registered in these two locations.

12. Parties to the conflict continued to target civilian facilities and objects, including vital services and infrastructure. For example, at the end of October, the water supply to Idlib city was cut for six days and the electricity supply was disrupted for three days following a Nusra Front offensive on Idlib city and western areas. Some 1.3 million people were affected by the cuts in supply, which was restored after switching to an alternative pumping station.

13. Foreign fighters continued to be involved on all sides of the fighting. According to reports that the United Nations cannot independently verify, significant numbers of foreign, mostly Shiite, militias joined the pro-government forces in Aleppo that were attempting an advance into the northern and eastern part of the city in late October and early November.

14. During the reporting period, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusra Front, both listed terrorist groups, increased efforts aimed at recruiting domestic and foreign fighters. On 4 November, the leader of the Nusra Front, Abu Mohammed al-Julani, stated that foreign fighters constituted "30 to 35 per cent" of his group's total force. It was reported that a number of Syrian fighters had defected from other groups, including the Islamist Front and groups affiliated with the Free Syrian Army, to join the Nusra Front and ISIL.

15. The international coalition continued to carry out airstrikes against ISIL in the Syrian Arab Republic on an almost daily basis. According to reports, some 865 people have been killed, including 50 civilians, in Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Hasakeh, Idlib and Raqqah since the strikes began. In response to the attacks, ISIL placed its fighters in populated areas, raising additional concerns for the protection of civilians, and changed its main positions. It also continued to fight on multiple fronts in the country. On 1 November, ISIL took control of the second Al-Sha'ar gas field in Homs and confiscated large quantities of weapons and armed vehicles from the area. It was reported that government forces regained control of the gas field a few days later. ISIL also attacked pro-government checkpoints in Salamiyyeh, and pressed for control of the military airport north-east of Homs.

16. Starting in late October, fighting in Idlib between the Nusra Front and the Syrian Revolutionary Front, a group that is loosely defined as being part of the Free Syrian Army, resulted in significant gains by the Nusra Front. The Nusra Front began advancing towards the crossing point with Turkey at Bab al-Hawa, which is used for the provision of cross-border humanitarian assistance under Security Council resolution 2165 (2014). At the end of October, the Nusra Front and Jond al-Aqsa launched an offensive on the government-controlled city of Idlib, shelling it with mortar fire and grad rockets. United Nations humanitarian operations were suspended for three days while the main supply road could be assessed for improvised explosive devices.

17. The fight continued between ISIL and the Kurdish People's Protection Units for the city of Ayn al-Arab/Kobane, in northern Aleppo governorate. Turkey has recently allowed Iraqi Peshmerga forces to enter the town through its borders. Militants of other nationalities have allegedly joined the Units in their fight against ISIL.

18. While government forces were reported to have retaken territory inside Deir ez-Zor city, ISIL was said to have maintained positions around the city, increasing concerns about the possibility of blocking access to government-controlled neighbourhoods, where almost 150,000 people remain.

19. A number of setbacks were reported in areas of Damascus and Rif Dimashq where local agreements had been reached. Negotiations came to a stop in Al-Wa'er (Homs), Yarmouk (Damascus) and Zabadani (Rif Dimashq).

20. During his briefing to the Security Council on 30 October, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, laid out an action plan that included opportunities for an incremental, strategic de-escalation of violence in locations that could have an impact at the national level. In contrast to previous ceasefire agreements, the action plan focuses on select pockets or zones of stability that would be anchored on a "freezing of the fronts" between government and opposition forces, starting with Aleppo. These would not be a substitute for a national political process but could constitute building blocks towards one. Expressing concern that Aleppo could be the next theatre of operations for ISIL, the Special Envoy stressed the importance of averting a major humanitarian disaster and of building a credible alternative to conflict with demonstrable benefits for the average Syrian.

21. As part of ongoing diplomatic efforts, the Special Envoy engaged in regional consultations and concluded his second visit to Damascus on 11 November. Following a meeting with the President of the Syrian Arab Republic and other Syrian authorities on 10 November, the Special Envoy took note of the authorities' expressed intent to work with the United Nations on identifying concrete ways to implement a freeze in the city of Aleppo on the basis of the concept presented by the Special Envoy to the Security Council.

B. Human rights

22. On 14 November, the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic released a paper entitled "Rule of terror: living under ISIL in Syria". The paper, based on the first-hand accounts of 300 victims and witnesses,

detailed the use by ISIL of terror and brutality to subjugate Syrians living in areas under the group's control. The commission concluded that the abuses, violations and crimes committed by ISIL against Syrians were deliberate and calculated. The terror was inflicted through the systematic imposition of restrictions on basic rights and freedoms and through the widespread commission of international humanitarian law violations and war crimes.

23. During the reporting period, OHCHR continued to receive reports of ISIL attacks on civilians. It was reported that, on 2 November ISIL publicly executed three men in Deir ez-Zor on the grounds that they had collaborated with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. It was also reported that ISIL had executed eight men in Al-Bokmal for unknown reasons. There are unconfirmed allegations that ISIL continues to commit abuses against members of the Al-Shaitat tribe for refusing to recognize ISIL jurisdiction over their villages. Information received indicates that hundreds of civilian members of the tribe were abducted by ISIL and kept in detention in Deir ez-Zor.

24. OHCHR continued to receive reports of the arbitrary arrest of civilians, including peaceful activists. For example, on 18 October, information received by OHCHR indicates that civilians, including women and children, were detained en masse in the town of Sifat in northern Aleppo. The detainees, including entire families, are reportedly being held in makeshift facilities run by government security forces in Aleppo. On 20 October, a young man was arrested by the Military Intelligence Directorate (branch 215) at a checkpoint outside Madamiyet in Rif Dimashq. His fate remains unknown. Local sources informed OHCHR that many more civilians are being arbitrarily detained at that particular checkpoint on a daily basis. On 31 October, three human rights defenders were detained by a branch of the Political Security Directorate as they attempted to return from Lebanon to the Syrian Arab Republic. At the time of writing, the three activists had no access to a lawyer and at least one of them required urgent medical attention owing to pre-existing medical conditions.

25. OHCHR continued to receive reports of the use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in government detention facilities. For example, in Homs governorate, information received indicates that individuals continue to die as a result of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in detention centres run by branches of the Government's security forces. On 30 October, the Government reportedly informed the families of more than 40 detainees from the town of Al-Gariatain in rural Homs that a relative had died in detention. According to information received by OHCHR, the authorities did not provide the families with any documentation as to the cause of death.

26. The Government reported that, between 23 October and 3 November, 1,175 individuals were pardoned after they had surrendered themselves and their weapons and had pledged not to participate in hostilities. The Government did not provide any further details regarding the pardons.

27. The remaining 153 Kurdish students from Ayn al-Arab/Kobane who had been abducted by ISIL were released. Human Rights Watch reported that the students were tortured and abused while detained by ISIL, including through beatings and by being forced to watch videos of ISIL beheadings and attacks.

28. Members of the international commission of inquiry, OHCHR and United Nations human rights monitors continue to be denied access to the country.

C. Humanitarian access

29. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic has continued to deteriorate. The number of people requiring humanitarian assistance now stands at 12.2 million. Almost half of all Syrians have been displaced: 7.6 million Syrians are internally displaced and over 3.2 million Syrians are refugees.

30. United Nations agencies and partners continued to make some gains during the reporting period in terms of making deliveries both across borders and within the Syrian Arab Republic. The ability to cross borders resulted in greater access to Aleppo, Idlib, Dar'a and Quneitra, as well as to hard-to-reach areas in Idlib, Homs, Dar'a and Aleppo from within the Syrian Arab Republic. Overall, however, it remains extremely challenging to provide assistance in the country owing to violence and insecurity, shifting conflict lines, obstructive administrative procedures and continued underfunding at a time when needs continue to grow.

31. During the reporting period, assistance reached 65 (22.6 per cent) of the 287 locations identified as hard to reach. Food assistance by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reached 332,150 people in 24 hard-to-reach locations, compared to 390,050 people in 23 hard-to-reach locations during the previous reporting period. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNRWA, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) delivered non-food items to 127,195 people in 38 hard-to-reach areas compared to 148,614 people in 47 hard-to-reach locations during the previous reporting period. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF delivered health supplies and assistance to enable 231,474 treatments in hard-to-reach areas. UNICEF provided nearly 207,000 people in hard-to-reach areas with access to safe water and improved sanitation.

32. The United Nations and its partners have sent 30 shipments — 23 from Turkey and 7 from Jordan — to the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of resolution 2165 (2014). The shipments included food assistance for over 208,000 people, non-food items for almost 237,900 people, water and sanitation supplies for nearly 86,000 people and medical supplies for over 250,000 people, including reusable medical equipment and supplies that will benefit many more patients in the coming months. Other assistance has also been delivered, to almost 48,000 people. In line with resolution 2165 (2014), the United Nations notified the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in advance of each shipment, including of the details of the content, the district of destination and the number of beneficiaries.

33. The United Nations monitoring mechanism continued its activities in Jordan and Turkey. Efforts to deploy a team in Iraq continued. Operations remain pending, however, owing to continued insecurity. Monitoring mechanism teams monitored the loading of the shipments and accompanied the loaded vehicles to the respective border crossings. In addition, for each shipment, the monitoring mechanism sent a notification to the Government confirming the humanitarian nature of the shipment, in accordance with resolution 2165 (2014). The monitoring mechanism continued to

benefit from excellent cooperation and support from the Governments of Jordan and Turkey.

34. Owing to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Hasakeh governorate, relief items continue to be urgently needed. Following the consent of the respective Governments, the Nusaybin/Qamishli border crossing between Turkey and the Syrian Arab Republic remains open to United Nations agencies for the dispatch of supplies to Hasakeh governorate. WFP dispatched goods for 227,000 people and UNICEF for another 114,255 people, and UNHCR began transporting urgently needed non-food items for 75,000 people during the reporting period.

35. Ongoing fighting and the presence of armed groups along the main access routes again prevented WFP from delivering food as planned to 600,000 people in Deir ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. Widespread fighting across the country and delays in granting approvals continued to constrain humanitarian access and affect the capacity of WFP to deliver as planned, including in Hama, Rif Dimashq, rural areas in Dar'a and Quneitra governorates. Heightened insecurity since the start of international coalition airstrikes caused a slowdown of deliveries to opposition-controlled rural areas in Idlib and Aleppo. Heavy fighting in Idlib forced a suspension of operations and insecurity in Hasakeh prevented UNHCR from reaching some 4,400 internally displaced persons directly, although it was able to provide assistance through volunteers.

36. Despite the extremely difficult operating environment, United Nations agencies and partners continued to deliver assistance to people in need. In October, WFP dispatched food for some 3.9 million people across 12 governorates. WHO distributed medicines and supplies for nearly 2.9 million medical treatments in 11 governorates. An estimated 16.55 million people continued to have access to safe water thanks to the provision of chlorine by UNICEF. UNHCR reached 264,884 people with core relief items. Nearly 30,000 people received agricultural support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. UNFPA supported tens of thousands with reproductive health care.

37. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have delivered considerable assistance in the Syrian Arab Republic. Through NGOs, about 1.37 million people received food assistance and over 655,000 people received health assistance in September, among many other interventions. Over the course of the year, more than 2.5 million people received water, sanitation and hygiene support.

Besieged areas

38. Changes to conflict lines, forced displacement and new information available to humanitarian actors as a result of the needs assessments that have been conducted since the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014) have led to a revision of the areas and the number of people besieged by either government or opposition forces in the Syrian Arab Republic. Revised estimates at the end of the reporting period show that 212,000 people are besieged, a decrease from the estimate of 241,000 people at the beginning of the reporting period. After a local agreement was reached allowing some civilians to gain access to people and supplies, the town of Madamiyet Elsham is no longer besieged, but remains hard to reach. Some 163,500 people are besieged by government forces in eastern Ghouta (an increase from 150,000), 4,000 remain besieged in Darayya and 18,000 remain besieged in Yarmouk. Some 26,500 people are besieged by opposition forces in Nabul and Zahraa (a decrease from 45,000).

39. During the reporting period, food was distributed to 8,800 (3.7 per cent) of the 241,000 people in besieged areas at the beginning of the reporting period, non-food items were distributed to 8,800 people (3.7 per cent) and medical assistance was provided to 1,657 people (0.7 per cent).

40. In eastern Ghouta, some 150,000 people were besieged at the beginning of the reporting period. Duma, the only location to which it has been possible to provide humanitarian assistance so far, last received assistance in the form of medicines and water and sanitation supplies on 9 September 2014, while food and other supplies were last provided on 28 May 2014.

41. In Madamiyet Elsham, about 24,000 people were besieged at the beginning of the reporting period.

42. In Darayya (Rif Dimashq), about 4,000 people remain besieged. No assistance reached Darayya during the reporting period. The area last received assistance in October 2012.

43. In Yarmouk, about 18,000 people remain besieged. UNRWA is permitted to distribute humanitarian assistance three days a week; distribution is regularly interrupted or cancelled by clashes. During the reporting period, UNRWA was able to distribute food on 12 occasions to around 8,800 people, hygiene kits on 9 occasions to approximately 5,600 people, and additional non-food items and water on four occasions to around 3,200 people. Syrian authorities have authorized the distribution of medical supplies for a fourth consecutive month; those supplies include antibiotics and a range of medicines for chronic and non-communicable diseases, as well as standard infant and early childhood vaccines. People could access medicines at the temporary health centre, which operated nine times, allowing for 1,657 consultations. After a break of 11 days, UNRWA was permitted to reopen its temporary health centre in Yarmouk on 13 November.

44. In Nabul and Zahraa, about 45,000 people were besieged by opposition forces at the beginning of the reporting period. No humanitarian assistance has reached the two villages since 8 May.

Free passage of medical supplies, personnel and equipment

45. During the reporting period, WHO distributed medicines and supplies for nearly 2.9 million medical treatments throughout the country, of which 171,474 were in hard-to-reach areas in Aleppo, Hasakeh, Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor governorates. UNICEF reached 77,263 people with health support, including 60,000 people in hard-to-reach areas from within the country.

46. WHO and partners continue to press for people in need to have comprehensive access to medicines and medical supplies. Access, however, continues to be hampered by the deteriorating security environment, recurring displacement and constraints imposed on humanitarian operations by parties to the conflict.

47. Since the beginning of October, 10 WHO requests to deliver medical assistance have been rejected or gone unanswered by the Government. The Government rejected four WHO requests to provide support to hard-to-reach areas in Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor and Rif Dimashq and to the besieged area of Duma, thereby preventing the distribution of medical assistance, including surgical supplies and medicines for chronic diseases, for 479,000 treatments. Six other requests submitted

to the Ministry of Health since the beginning of October to gain access to 17 opposition-controlled areas in Aleppo, Hasakeh, Raqqa, Dar'a, Deir ez-Zor and Idlib governorates in order to distribute drugs and medical supplies have gone unanswered. In addition, the Government did not authorize the provision of surgical supplies and equipment for 1,100 treatments being delivered by an inter-agency convoy to a village in opposition-controlled Rif Dimashq.

48. Despite having given approval previously, on 12 November security forces removed all medical assistance, including surgical supplies, from an inter-agency convoy on its way to Al-Wa'er in Homs, preventing supplies for 47,701 medical treatments from reaching the area.

49. Attacks on medical facilities and personnel continued during the reporting period. In October, Physicians for Human Rights documented five attacks on medical facilities. Of the attacks, four were carried out by government forces and one by unidentified forces. Two attacks occurred in Rif Dimashq, one in Dar'a, one in Deir ez-Zor and one in Idlib. One attack was carried out with a car bomb, two with barrel bombs, one with barrel bombs and rockets, and one with rockets. In October, Physicians for Human Rights documented the deaths of 19 medical personnel, of whom nine were targeted or killed in the line of duty. All 19 of them were killed by government forces. Of the total, 16 were killed by shellings and bombings, one by torture, one by execution and one was shot.

50. The ninth polio immunization campaign took place between 19 and 23 October. Of the 2.9 million children under 5 years of age who were targeted, 2.7 million were vaccinated.

Administrative procedures

51. No changes in administrative procedures were made during the reporting period. On 26 August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the United Nations that agencies could send biweekly or monthly loading plans, as weekly notification was causing constraints. The movement of supplies to hard-to-reach areas continued to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis centrally through meetings of the joint committee established following the adoption of resolution 2139 (2014). The committee includes representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs, security personnel, SARC and the United Nations. Despite a verbal communication from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 7 September that governors in Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Idlib could authorize inter-agency cross-line convoys, central approval continued to be sought. This led to significant delays in the approval of some convoys.

52. UNHCR reports that negotiations with the Syrian authorities for the facilitation of deliveries of core relief items led to 48 requests for facilitation being approved during the reporting period, 34 of which were for delivered to hard-to-reach areas.

53. As at 16 November, 19 United Nations visas or visa renewal requests remained pending, of which six were within the 15-working-day limit and 13 exceeded the 15-working-day limit. As at the same date, eight visas for international NGOs were pending.

54. Nine national NGOs were authorized to partner with agencies of the United Nations system in Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Hama, Latakia and Sweida during the

reporting period. One national NGO based in Damascus was removed from the list of authorized NGOs. There are 107 national NGOs operating through 165 branches throughout the Syrian Arab Republic.

55. International NGOs continue to be unable to conduct independent (or joint) needs assessments, nor are they authorized to partner with national NGOs or participate in inter-agency cross-line convoys or United Nations field missions. Moreover, most international NGOs cannot open sub-offices.

Safety and security of staff and premises

56. On 7 November, two SARC volunteers were killed when a mortar shell hit a civilian area of Homs. The two volunteers were transporting supplies for a joint SARC-UNICEF project that provides children traumatized by the conflict with psychosocial support.

57. On 13 November, a truck hired by the United Nations and SARC to deliver humanitarian assistance to the Al-Wa'er neighbourhood of Homs city was fired upon; the driver suffered minor injuries.

58. On 16 November, ISIL released a video of the execution of an American aid worker.

59. Twenty-seven United Nations staff members, 24 of whom are UNRWA staff, continue to be detained or missing. The total number of humanitarian workers killed in the conflict since March 2011 is 69. This includes 17 United Nations staff members, 40 SARC staff members and volunteers, 7 Palestinian Red Crescent Society volunteers and staff members and 5 international NGO staff members.

Trends since the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014)

60. More hard-to-reach locations have been reached by United Nations agencies and partners since the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014). United Nations organizations and partners reached an average of 38 hard-to-reach areas per month in the four months leading to the adoption of that resolution compared with a monthly average of 66 since adoption. In addition, NGO partners have reached 144 hard-to-reach locations through their cross-border operations since adoption.

61. In the four governorates most often reached by cross-border operations (Aleppo, Idlib, Quneitra and Dar'a), a majority of locations classified as hard-to-reach have been accessed. Since the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014), the United Nations and NGO partners have collectively reached 15 of the 15 hard-to-reach locations in Idlib, 21 of the 24 hard-to-reach locations in Aleppo, 69 of the 70 hard-to-reach locations in Dar'a and 13 of the 13 hard-to-reach locations in Quneitra. Some 80 per cent of this assistance has been delivered — mostly by NGOs — by crossing borders; the remaining 20 per cent has been delivered from within the Syrian Arab Republic. Needs continue to outpace the response, however. For example, of the approximately 2 million people in need in the four governorates, on average 38 per cent are receiving food support each month and 16 per cent are receiving health support.

62. While the United Nations and partners have been able to reach the locations in these governorates, access to hard-to-reach locations in other parts of the country remains extremely challenging and needs far exceed the response. For example, on

average, 20 percent of people in hard-to-reach areas throughout the country have received food assistance from the United Nations and NGOs each month since the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014) and 11 per cent have received health supplies.

63. Parties to the conflict continue to restrict access to besieged areas. No more than two besieged locations have been reached in any month since the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014) and only one location has been reached in each of the past two months. In the four months preceding the adoption of the resolution, on average 8 per cent of people besieged received food each month, 6.1 per cent received non-food items and 1.6 per cent received medical support. In the four months since the adoption of the resolution on average 4.3 per cent of people besieged have received food each month, 2.2 per cent have received non-food items and 10.9 per cent have received medical support, although medical assistance has been provided to only 1,115 people and 1,657 people over the past two months.

64. Since the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014), the ability of agencies to deliver medical assistance to people in hard-to-reach locations continues to be hindered by the lack of approvals from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. During the reporting period, WHO continued to negotiate with the Government, including the Office of the President, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health, and advocated for an equitable distribution of health interventions, including vaccines, medicines and medical supplies and equipment. While deliveries have been made to hard-to-reach areas from both within the Syrian Arab Republic and across borders since the adoption of the resolution, concerns remain as the Government continues to withdraw medicines, medical equipment and supplies such as antibiotics and injectable medicines, including for surgical interventions, from WHO deliveries and United Nations inter-agency convoys.

65. Humanitarian staff continue to face grave risks in carrying out their duties. Since the end of July, eight humanitarians have been killed, as have 49 health workers. Premises, including schools, hospitals, offices and residences, have also been attacked. Some 21 medical facilities were attacked between August and October, compared with 27 during the period from May to July.

III. Observations

66. The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic continues to deteriorate. Attacks with barrel bomb attacks and explosive weapons continue to be carried out in civilian areas. Schools, hospitals, basic services and humanitarian deliveries have not been spared from attack. The number of people killed, injured, displaced and in need of assistance continues to increase.

67. In its report on ISIL, the international commission of inquiry details harrowing examples of the punishment inflicted upon those not confirming to ISIL mores. The testimonies of those who are victims of the violence are a constant reminder of the urgent need to protect people, particularly minorities, from ISIL brutality. I appreciate that the international community is acting to address the grave threat to international peace and security posed by ISIL and other Al-Qaeda-affiliated groups. ISIL must be defeated. I remain concerned, however, that a military campaign alone could lead to further radicalization and spark a cycle of renewed violence. The violence in the Syrian Arab Republic is escalating, more people are suffering every

day and groups on all sides are profiting from the deteriorating security and governance environment.

68. Government forces, armed opposition groups and designated terrorists continue to attack, kill and injure civilians with impunity. Other actions, such as locating military positions in populated areas or placing populations under siege as a tactic of war, are unacceptable and should be condemned. Those responsible must be held accountable.

69. There are now 12.2 million people in need of assistance and 7.6 million people who have been internally displaced. Another 3.2 million people have fled to neighbouring countries. Humanitarian workers aiming to save lives must be given every opportunity to reach people who are desperate for assistance.

70. The adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2165 (2014) has enabled United Nations agencies and partners to reach more locations where assistance is urgently needed and to complement the cross-border assistance that NGOs have been delivering for years. But needs continue to rise and the situation on the ground continues to deteriorate.

71. United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners plan to continue to scale up aid deliveries in the weeks and months ahead, both from within the country and across borders. The new routes that opened up following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014) have allowed improved assessments and coordination of the response in key governorates where significant needs remain. The use of additional border-crossing points means that agencies can increase the humanitarian assistance they provide in opposition-controlled areas.

72. The monitoring mechanism has fulfilled the mandate it was given by the Security Council, ensuring the strictly humanitarian nature of United Nations operations. The scale of the mechanism will continue to be adapted to ensure that it has the capacity to do the job required while remaining light and flexible.

73. While some progress has been made, over 12 million people still urgently need help. Nearly 5 million of them live in areas that remain hard to reach despite the additional access granted through resolution 2165 (2014) and only a portion are receiving humanitarian assistance. Some 212,000 people remain besieged and in desperate conditions. They all must be protected, have their rights respected, be allowed access to aid and be allowed to live in dignity.

74. While the international community must do whatever it can to make sure that the rights of people in the Syrian Arab Republic are respected and that their needs are met, ultimate responsibility lies with the parties to the conflict. They must immediately reduce the violence and end the conflict. The proposal made by my Special Envoy to establish incremental freezes, beginning with the city of Aleppo, is first and foremost intended to lead to a strategic de-escalation of violence, starting from specific areas with a national impact. They could also serve as building blocks to arrive at a national, all-inclusive political process. I count on the continued support of the Security Council for my Special Envoy's efforts.

Annex

Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014)^a

1. Protection of civilians^b

Examples of attacks on civilian facilities (schools, hospitals, camps, places of worship)

- On 13 November, more than 7 children were killed and 13 injured as a result of barrel bombs on Tal Laylan primary school in Ras al-Ain, Hasakeh.
- On 12 November, two mortars landed on the Karnaz primary school, north-west of Hama city, which resulted in 7 children killed and 4 injured.
- On 5 November, Al-Hayat school in the Al-Qaboun neighbourhood of Damascus was hit by a mortar, which resulted in 11 children killed and many others injured.
- On 29 October, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near Sanaa Muhaydaly school in the Al-Zahra neighbourhood of Homs city; according to reports 1 child was killed and some 40 people were injured.
- On 29 October, barrel bombs were dropped on a small settlement for internally displaced persons near Hbit in northern Hama, which reportedly resulted in the deaths of 13 people, including children.
- On 28 October, an explosion detonated in Yarmouk camp, Damascus, reportedly killing 4 people.
- On 28 October, two barrel bombs were reportedly dropped on a house and on a school in the village of Sheikh Miskine, Dar'a, killing 5 civilians, including 3 children, and critically injuring 11 others.
- On 27 October, a mortar landed near Al-Kamal private school and Ebla University in the government-controlled area of Hamiduniyeh in Aleppo city, which resulted in 6 people killed, including 4 children, and around 30 injured.
- On 23 October, in Tal Qarah, Rif Dimashq, a barrel bomb was allegedly dropped on a wedding hall used by internally displaced persons as a shelter. As a result, 14 civilians, including 11 children, were reportedly killed.
- On 20 October, reported shelling (with mortars) on Quneitra University in Baath city during class hours resulted in 17 people injured, 1 of whom critically.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that, in the first nine months of 2014, the United Nations in Syria had verified at least 35 attacks on or near schools that killed 105 children and injured 293. The actual numbers

^a The data contained in the present annex are based on contributions received from United Nations agencies and other partners during the reporting period. The data may be revised and updated as more information becomes available.

^b The United Nations has a distinct and regular mechanism of reporting on the six grave violations against children in armed conflict that has set verification standards and periodicity of reporting to identify trends.

are likely to be higher and there are indications that attacks in some areas may have been deliberate.

Large-scale impact of conflict on public services

- The conflict continued to disrupt health-care services throughout the country:
 - o Hospitals have been damaged in 12 of the country's 14 governorates. By the end of September 2014, of the 109 assessed public hospitals 43 per cent were reported to be fully functioning, 35 per cent were reported to be partially functioning (i.e. there was a shortage of staff, equipment and medicines and some buildings were damaged) and 22 per cent were reported to be non-functioning (completely out of service).
 - o Public health clinics have been damaged in every governorate. By the end of June 2014, of the 1,514 public health clinics 51 per cent were reported to be fully functioning, 21 per cent were reported to be partially functioning (i.e. there was a shortage of staff, equipment and medicines and some buildings were damaged) and 18 per cent were reported to be non-functioning (completely out of service), while the functionality status of 10 per cent of the health centres was undetermined.
- The electricity supply continued to be unstable in Aleppo city, with up to 36 hours of total blackout reported from 18 October caused by damage to Zeyzoun station, affecting 1.5 million people. The electricity supply has since been restored, albeit on a rationing schedule, including in western Aleppo, where the supply was reportedly of only six hours per day.
- From 27 October, the water supply to Idlib city was cut for six days and the electricity supply for three days, affecting some 1.3 million people, after an electricity cable was broken as a result of fighting. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and local authorities continue to be prevented from accessing the area for repairs. Electricity and water supply were restored through an alternative source from Zeyzoun station.

2. Safe and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need

Hard-to-reach areas:

- Food assistance was provided to 332,150 people during the reporting period in hard-to-reach areas, 323,350 by the World Food Programme (WFP) and 8,800 by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).
- Non-food items were provided to 127,195 people in hard-to-reach areas by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- Water and sanitation assistance was provided to 226,416 people by UNICEF.
- Medical assistance was provided to 231,474 people (171,474 by the World Health Organization (WHO), 60,000 by UNICEF and 1,657 by UNRWA).
- Nutrition supplies were provided to 18,547 children.
- Education support was provided to 41,145 children by UNICEF.

- Agriculture assistance was provided to 26,369 beneficiaries by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Inter-agency cross-line convoys

- Three inter-agency convoys took place during the reporting period:
 - o On 26 October, a 22-truck inter-agency convoy was dispatched to western Aleppo (Big Orem, Afrin, Nubul and Zahra) to deliver food and non-food items for 47,500 people, education supplies for 2,570 children and medicines for 230,000 patients, including six inter-agency health kits. The assistance delivered also targeted families displaced from Ayn al-Arab/Kobane to Afrin. Deliveries to Nubul and Zahra have not taken place, as armed opposition groups in control of the area have yet to allow access.
 - o Two inter-agency convoys were dispatched to Homs:
 - From 11 to 13 November, a United Nations-SARC inter-agency convoy reached the Al-Wa'er neighbourhood of Homs city with food and non-food items for 60,000 people, including hygiene supplies, nutrition assistance and winter clothing. Although a letter to facilitate operations had been received, Syrian security forces removed all medical assistance, including surgical supplies, on 13 November, thereby preventing supplies for 47,701 medical treatments from reaching the area. Also on 13 November, one SARC truck was shelled; no injuries were reported.
 - On 21 October, an inter-agency convoy reached Krad Dasnieh and Tir Maallah, northern rural Homs. Food, non-food items and water, sanitation and hygiene assistance for 10,000 people were delivered in Tir Maallah, while food, non-food items and water, sanitation and hygiene assistance for 4,500 people was delivered in Krad Dasnieh. Midwifery kits were removed from the convoy by the Syrian authorities. On 22 October, the Governor of Homs requested the United Nations hub to send a new request so that midwifery kits could be delivered to SARC.
- Four inter-agency convoys could not be dispatched during the reporting period:
 - o A convoy to eastern Ghouta, Rif Dimashq, targeting 5,000 people on 19 October was not dispatched because no feedback was received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 - o A convoy to As-Zabadani, Rif Dimashq, targeting 5,000 people on 20 and 21 October was not dispatched because of a lack of response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 - o A convoy to Madaya, Rif Dimashq, targeting 5,000 people on 22 and 23 October was not dispatched because of a lack of response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- An inter-agency convoy to Khan Shaykun, Idlib governorate, for the provision of multisectoral assistance for 15,000 people from 1 to 5 November could not be dispatched. Although the Governor of Idlib had approved the convoy and submitted a request to the Ministry of Social Affairs, no formal approval was received. On 30 October, the relief committee of Idlib reviewed and endorsed

the revised plan for inter-agency convoys in Idlib. The revised plan has been approved by the newly appointed Governor and is awaiting approval by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

- On 2 November, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs communicated that the Government would permit medical supplies to reach Duma, Erbin, Zamalka, Zabadani and Madayya in Rif Dimashq, provided that delivery of those supplies was coordinated with the Ministry of Health and SARC. WHO is coordinating with the Ministry of Health and SARC and the United Nations has reiterated its request to deliver food, non-food, and water and sanitation supplies.

Besieged areas

- A total of 241,000 people remained besieged at the beginning of the reporting period.
- During the reporting period, Yarmouk was the only besieged location reached. Food assistance was distributed to 8,800 people (3.7 per cent of those besieged), non-food items and water were distributed to 8,800 people (3.7 per cent) and medical assistance was distributed to 1,657 people (0.7 per cent of people in besieged areas).

Cross-border assistance

- According to the Turkish Red Crescent Society, humanitarian actors have channelled about \$9 million into humanitarian assistance in October from Turkey into the Syrian Arab Republic through the zero-point delivery system administered by the Society. The monthly average does not include assistance delivered by commercial or other channels.

Pursuant to resolution 2165 (2014)

- The United Nations and its partners have sent 30 shipments — 23 from Turkey and 7 from Jordan — to the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) to locations in Aleppo, Idlib, Latakia, Hama, Quneitra and Dar'a governorates. The shipments contained food assistance for over 208,000 people, non-food items for around 237,900 people, water and sanitation supplies for nearly 86,000 people and medical supplies for over 250,000 people. Many of the medical supplies that were shipped are reusable and will benefit many more patients in the coming months. Other assistance for almost 48,000 people has also been delivered.

Safety of humanitarian workers

- On 16 November, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) released a video in which it executed an American aid worker.
- On 13 November, a truck hired by the United Nations and SARC to transport relief supplies as part of an inter-agency convoy to the Al-Wa'er neighbourhood of Homs city was hit by gunfire, causing a minor injury to the driver.

- On 7 November, two SARC volunteers were killed when a mortar shell hit a civilian area of Homs. The two were transporting supplies to be used as part of a joint SARC-UNICEF project that provides children traumatized by the conflict with psychosocial assistance.
- The number of humanitarian workers killed since March 2011 stands at 69. Of that total, 17 were United Nations staff, 40 were SARC staff and volunteers, 7 were Palestine Red Crescent Society volunteers and staff, and 5 were international non-governmental organization (NGO) staff.
- A total of 27 United Nations national staff members continue to be detained or missing, of whom 24 are UNRWA staff.

Declaration of commitment

- A total of 24 armed opposition groups have signed a declaration of commitment affirming their core responsibilities under international humanitarian law and their commitment to facilitate action to meet the needs of civilians on the basis of need alone. There were no new signatories during the reporting period.

3. Safe passage of medical personnel and supplies

Attacks on medical facilities during the reporting period

- Physicians for Human Rights documented five attacks on medical facilities in October. Four were by government forces and one by unidentified forces. Two attacks were in Rif Dimashq, one in Dar'a, one in Deir ez-Zor and one in Idlib governorates. One attack was carried out with a car bomb, two with barrel bombs, one with barrel bombs and rockets, and one with rockets.
- In total, Physicians for Human Rights has documented 207 attacks on 166 separate medical facilities throughout the Syrian Arab Republic since the start of the conflict. Of the total, 186 (89.9 per cent) were by government forces, 14 (6.8 per cent) by non-State armed groups (the Free Syrian Army, ISIL, the Nusra Front and the Islamic Liberation Front), and 7 (3.4 per cent) by unknown forces.
- In October, Physicians for Human Rights documented the deaths of 19 medical personnel, of whom 9 were targeted or killed in the line of duty. All of them were killed by government forces. Of the total, 16 were killed by shellings and bombings, one by torture, one by execution and one was shot.
- In total, Physicians for Human Rights has documented the deaths of 578^c medical personnel as at 31 October 2014. Of the total, 569 deaths were by government forces, 7 by forces of non-State armed groups and 2 by unknown forces. The most common cause of death continues to be shelling and bombing (272 deaths, or 47.1 per cent), followed by shooting (156 deaths, or 27.0 per cent), torture (82 deaths, or 14.2 per cent) and execution (53 deaths, or 9.2 per cent).

^c While conducting regular data cleaning, Physicians for Human Rights identified and corrected a total of 12 duplicate or non-civilian entries.

Removal of medicines and medical supplies from convoys

- Although a letter to facilitate operations had been received, on 12 November security forces removed all medical assistance, including surgical supplies, from an inter-agency convoy to Al-Wa'er in Homs, preventing supplies for 47,701 medical treatments from reaching the area.
- Since the beginning of October, 10 requests made by WHO have been rejected or gone unanswered by the Government:
 - o Four of the requests, for the provision of support to hard-to-reach areas in Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor, Rif Dimashq and the besieged area of Duma, were not approved by the Government, preventing the distribution of 479,000 medical treatments,^d including surgical supplies and chronic disease medicines.
 - o Six requests to the Ministry of Health submitted since the beginning of October to access 17 opposition-controlled areas in Aleppo, Hasakeh, Raqqa, Dar'a, Deir ez-Zor and Idlib governorates with drugs and medical supplies have gone unanswered.
- One inter-agency request to deliver surgical supplies and equipment for 1,100 treatments in a village in opposition-controlled Rif Dimashq was not approved by the Government.

Polio vaccination campaign

- There have been no new confirmed cases of polio during the reporting period. There are still 36 confirmed polio cases (35 cases in 2013 and 1 case in 2014).
- The ninth polio immunization campaign occurred between 19 and 23 October 2014. Of the 2.9 million children under 5 years of age who were targeted, approximately 2.7 million were vaccinated, including in hard-to-reach and opposition-controlled areas. Coverage rates exceeded 90 per cent in most governorates, except Deir ez-Zor (69 per cent), Idlib (84 per cent), Rif Dimashq (84 per cent) and Aleppo (89 per cent). Since the campaign began in late 2013, UNICEF has provided 34 million doses of oral polio vaccine to contain the outbreak in the Syrian Arab Republic.
- An additional campaign is planned for the last week of November in high-risk districts throughout the country.

4. Administrative hurdles

- On 9 June, the Ministry of Social Affairs communicated to governors that all convoys or missions required the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the High Relief Committee and the National Security Office to travel to "hot-spot areas".^e Previously, the governors would coordinate and authorize

^d One standard treatment course (for example, a course of antibiotics for eight days) is considered as treatment for one person. Treatment courses are determined for each medicine distribution on the basis of international WHO standards.

^e The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic refers to "hot spots". Clarification was requested by the United Nations on 16 July for the definition and criteria of "hot spots" but such clarification has not been received. For the purpose of the present report, and until clarification has been received, they are understood to be hard-to-reach because of the difficulty of reaching these locations.

delivery of assistance within their respective governorates, including across lines of conflict. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs communicated verbally to the United Nations on 7 September that this requirement had been removed and that governors had been empowered to authorize inter-agency cross-line convoys. Delivery of assistance to hard-to-reach locations, however, continues to be hampered as a result of the directive.

- On 7 July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs communicated a time frame for submitting the weekly loading plans in accordance with the truck-sealing procedures rolled out for the movement of trucks for regular programmes: loading plans are to be submitted by United Nations agencies each Monday during working hours. The Government has committed to clear the weekly loading plans on Thursday for distribution to start on Saturdays. On 26 August, the Ministry stated that agencies could send the loading plans on a biweekly or monthly basis to simplify procedures, as weekly loading plans were creating constraints.
- An exemption was obtained with respect to the distribution of medicines and medical equipment and water, sanitation and hygiene items for regular programmes. The distribution of such items will be exempted from some of the new procedures rolled out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April and May.
- On 11 September, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs notified the United Nations that the regular importation of goods through the official border crossings, namely Jdaidet Yabous, Tartus port, Ladhikiyah port, Naseeb and Nusaybin, could proceed to United Nations or international NGO warehouses directly from the crossing upon authorization by the official in charge of the crossing rather than requiring an additional facilitation letter from the Governor. Other administrative procedures continue to apply.

Empowered interlocutors

- Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. The joint United Nations-Government of the Syrian Arab Republic committee established following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) includes a security focal point. Regular meetings take place between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator on an almost daily basis.
- The opposition is still unable to designate empowered interlocutors. The fragmented nature of the opposition makes it difficult to clearly identify an interlocutor for armed opposition groups. Ad hoc local engagement is ongoing to negotiate access. Interlocutors vary depending on the localities where access is being negotiated.

Visas

- The revised visa policy established by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on 4 March continued to be implemented. As at 16 November, a total of 19 United Nations visas or renewal requests remained pending, of which 6 were within the 15-working-day limit and 13 exceeded the 15-working-day limit.

- As at 16 November, the number of pending visas for international NGOs dropped from 17 to 8.

International non-governmental organization partners

- The number of international NGOs approved to work in the Syrian Arab Republic stands at 16.
- International NGOs are still not authorized to work directly with national NGOs and are not allowed to accompany United Nations convoys.
- There was no progress in the revision of the standard memorandum of understanding for international NGOs with SARC and line ministries.

National non-governmental organization partners

- Nine national NGOs were authorized to partner with agencies of the United Nations system in Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Hama, Lattakia and Sweida during the reporting period. One national NGO based in Damascus, but not working with United Nations organizations, was removed from the list of authorized NGOs.
- The number of national NGOs authorized to partner with the United Nations stands at 107; they are operating through 165 branches.

5. Funding

- A total of \$35.5 million in funding for the Syrian crisis was registered during the reporting period. Of that amount, \$12.6 million was for activities inside the Syrian Arab Republic and \$22.8 million was for support to Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.
- Of the total amount reported for the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period, 30.2 per cent (\$3.8 million) was for activities included in the Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan. For neighbouring countries, 69.8 per cent (\$8.8 million) of the amount reported was for activities included in the Syrian Arab Republic Regional Refugee Response Plan.
- As at 16 November, the total funding for the Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan and the Syrian Arab Republic Regional Refugee Response Plan stood at 48 per cent (\$6.02 billion requested, \$2.87 billion received). The Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan is 39 per cent funded and the Syrian Arab Republic Regional Refugee Response Plan is 53 per cent funded.

6. Overview of United Nations humanitarian response

Food assistance

- In October, WFP dispatched food for over 3.9 million people in 12 of 14 governorates, reaching 92 per cent of the overall monthly target.
- As at 12 November, WFP had reached close to 1.8 million beneficiaries in 11 governorates as part of the November dispatch cycle.

- Widespread fighting across the country and subsequent delays in approval continued to constrain humanitarian access and affect WFP capacity to deliver at planned scale to Deir ez-Zor and Raqqa, Rif Dimashq, rural areas in Dar'a and Quneitra governorates, while heightened insecurity caused a slowdown of deliveries to opposition-controlled rural areas in Idlib and Aleppo.
- On 11 November, WFP initiated a planned shipment of 46,000 family food rations to Quamishli through Nusaybin, marking the second consecutive month in which WFP has been able to deliver sufficient supplies to Hasakeh to meet the monthly target of 227,000 beneficiaries.

Core relief items and shelter

- UNHCR dispatched core relief items for 264,884 people overall during the reporting period. As at 12 November 2014, UNHCR had delivered 14.08 million core relief items to 3.97 million beneficiaries in 13 out of 14 governorates.
- So far in 2014, UNHCR has completed the planned rehabilitation of collective shelters in 9 of 11 governorates, benefitting 19,266 people. Furthermore, private shelters were upgraded for 36,023 beneficiaries in Homs, Rif Dimashq, Dar'a and Aleppo.

Health

- Through its regular programme, WHO distributed medicines and supplies for nearly 2.9 million medical treatments in 11 governorates.
- UNICEF reached 77,263 people with health support, including 60,000 people with access to primary health-care services in rural Aleppo, including with inter-agency emergency health kits, as part of the inter-agency convoy of 23 October.
- UNFPA continued to support its implementing partners in the delivery of lifesaving reproductive health services through 28 mobile clinics, 27 static clinics and 13 medical points in 10 governorates. During the reporting period, 39,810 women received reproductive health services; of that total, 6,125 benefited from family planning services. Furthermore, 4,709 pregnant women received antenatal care and 553 women were referred for emergency obstetric care services through reproductive health vouchers.
- As at 4 November 2014, the 13 primary health-care clinics of UNHCR in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Homs, Tartous, Aleppo and Hasakeh have provided 433,919 beneficiaries with access to primary health care.

Nutrition

- UNICEF and partners provided nutrition supplies for 18,547 children in rural and eastern Aleppo and in Homs.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

- UNICEF continued to support water treatment nationwide through the provision of chlorine to 16.55 million people, 42 per cent of whom were in hard-to-reach areas. During the reporting period, UNICEF improved access to water and sanitation for 226,416 people through regular programming.

- UNICEF has also airlifted a total of 120 metric tons of chlorine for water treatment to Hasakeh, as well as 30 metric tons of sodium hypochlorite and 10 metric tons of water purification tabs, covering needs for five months for 800,000 people.

Education

- UNICEF continued to implement its 2014/15 “Back to learning campaign”, which aims to provide 1 million children with school bags and essential stationery, such as pens and notebooks, in nearly 300 sub-districts in all 14 governorates. During the reporting period, UNICEF, through its partners, distributed a total of 81,872 school-bag kits and supplies overall. This included 37,506 school-bag kits and supplies in hard-to-reach locations in Aleppo and Dar’a and Idlib governorates. Since the start of the campaign in September, UNICEF and partners have reached 180,000 of the 395,000 children in hard-to-reach locations targeted. UNICEF airlifted text books for 49,360 school children in Hasakeh governorate.

Palestine refugees

- Through emergency programming, UNRWA provided food assistance to 308,080 people, cash assistance to 44,686 people, hygiene kits to approximately 10,064 people and additional non-food items to around 16,620 people. Through its regular programming, the Agency delivered health consultations to 77,357 people, education to 39,975 students, 598 new microfinance loans and water and sanitation assistance to 8,405 people.

Agriculture

- FAO, with support from partners, provided agricultural support (wheat, barley seeds and animal feed) to almost 30,000 people in Raqqa, Homs and Hama governorates.

Protection and community services

- UNHCR continued to extend protection support through seven offices, 17 community centres, partner organizations and outreach volunteers. Since the beginning of 2014, UNHCR has provided 312,881 vulnerable persons with protection and community services support activities.
- UNFPA supported partners to provide medical examinations and psychosocial support for approximately 13,740 women in five governorates. In addition, 3,035 women and girls were screened for gender-based violence; the 802 who were found to be survivors of such violence received specialized services, including medical counselling and legal advice.
- UNICEF provided psychosocial support to 9,420 children in Damascus and Homs governorates, including 1,080 Iraqi refugee children in Nerwoz camp.