



Statement by the UN in the Syrian Arab Republic welcoming the start of a large-scale transfer of humanitarian assistance from the UN in Jordan

DAMASCUS, 12 December 2018

The United Nations (UN) in Syria welcomes the start of a large-scale transfer of humanitarian assistance from the UN in Jordan to the UN in Syria, which is expected to provide critical support to hundreds of thousands of people in need in Syria.

On 9 December, the UN in Jordan and Syria commenced an exceptional delivery of humanitarian assistance, transferring aid from the UN and partners in Jordan to UN agencies and partners inside Syria via the Jaber-Nassib crossing. Dry food rations from the World Food Programme are the first to be transferred, with 17 trucks having crossed into Syria as of 12 December. Once inside Syria, the UN and partners will carry out distributions to vulnerable women, men, girls and boys in the coming weeks and months, taking into consideration their humanitarian needs.

“I would like to acknowledge the important roles of both the Government of Syria and the Government of Jordan in providing the necessary approvals and support to facilitate this delivery of assistance, including their efforts to overcome any challenges associated with such as large-scale aid operation,” said the **UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (a.i.), Mr. Sajjad Masood Malik**. “This exceptional delivery of assistance will provide much-needed support to families in critical need across Syria,” he added.

In total, 369 trucks are planned to cross from Jordan into Syria pending the necessary customs clearance processes. The majority of assistance consists of food and also includes shelter, agricultural, health, water, sanitation and hygiene assistance for over 650,000 people in need in Syria.

Across Syria, humanitarian needs remain high with some 13 million people estimated to be in need of assistance, including more than 6 million internally displaced people. The UN and partners are making all possible efforts to reach people in need, wherever they are, in line with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, independence, and the humanitarian imperative to save lives.

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