



United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM)

1. Mandate

The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM) was established pursuant to Security Council (SC) resolution 2165, which, in operative paragraph three, stipulates: *“decides to establish a monitoring mechanism, under the authority of the United Nations Secretary-General, to monitor, with the consent of the relevant neighbouring countries of Syria, the loading of all humanitarian relief consignments of the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners at the relevant United Nations facilities, and any subsequent opening of the consignments by the customs authorities of the relevant neighbouring countries, for passage into Syria across the border crossings of Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa, Al Yarubiyah and Al-Ramtha, and with notification by the United Nations to the Syrian authorities, in order to confirm the humanitarian nature of these relief consignments.”*

The UNMM works exclusively on the territory of the relevant neighbouring states to Syria (Turkey, Jordan and Iraq). Operations subsequent to the crossing of the Syrian border are undertaken by the UN Agencies, if present on the ground, or their implementing partners. The UNMM does not have any mandate related to the monitoring of the delivery of assistance within Syria.

2. Set-up of the UNMM

The Office of the Chief of the UNMM is in Gaziantep, Turkey. The Chief oversees the operations of monitoring teams in Jordan and Turkey. He works in close consultation with the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (RHC), who provides strategic direction to the UNMM.

The monitoring team in Jordan operates at the Al-Ramtha border crossing. It includes a Team Leader/Head of Office, four international Monitoring Officers (MO) and a Security Officer. In Turkey, the monitoring team operates at the Öncüpınar / Bab al-Salam and Cilvegözü / Bab al-Hawa border crossings. It has a Team Leader, nine international MOs, a national Monitoring Support Officer and a Security Officer. In each country, the monitoring teams are supported by administrative personnel.

In Iraq, as cross-border operations through Al Yarubiyah are pending appropriate conditions, the UNMM has deployed one staff to ensure preparedness for establishing a team, should it be required.

The UNMM monitoring teams are solely accountable to the Chief of the UNMM. They do not receive instructions from any other UN or national authority. The teams work in coordination with, but are not accountable to, customs authorities of the neighbouring countries in performing their tasks. They also maintain close collaboration with OCHA, the Logistics Cluster, UN agencies and UN security officials.

The UNMM is funded through the UN Regular Budget and it is administered by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). While it operates independently, it receives administrative support from OCHA and UNDP, as required.

3. Notifications and Activation of the UNMM

The UNMM is activated upon issuance of Notification One, which informs the Syrian authorities of an upcoming UN cross-border shipment, in conformity with Security Council Resolution 2165. Notification One is submitted by the Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (Turkey) or the Humanitarian Coordinator (Jordan) through the UN Resident Coordinator /Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) in Syria, with a copy to the UNMM.

When a shipment has crossed the border and monitoring procedures have been completed, the Chief of the UNMM, on behalf of the UN Secretary-General, notifies the Syrian authorities of the humanitarian nature of the consignment through Notification Two. The notification, which is submitted through the Syria RC/HC, contains the following message:

In line with United Nations Security Council resolution 2165, the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism would like to notify the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic of the delivery of humanitarian assistance from the authorized border crossing of [insert].

The monitoring team in [insert] monitored the consignment UN/BBB/CC/XXX in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 2165 and herewith confirms its humanitarian nature.

*Signature of the Chief of the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism
[Official Stamp]*

4. Monitoring Modality

The ‘humanitarian nature’ of relief consignments is confirmed based on the following three criteria:

- a. The consignment owner is a humanitarian UN agency or an implementing partner;
- b. The consignment is related to a humanitarian relief activity;
- c. The consignment is not manipulated by a third party.

The MOs are present during the loading of all consignments. After comparing the cargos with the items specified in Notification One, they check the consignment visually and physically and perform random verifications. Where applicable, they use technology, such as metal detectors. All observations are recorded on a standard monitoring form for each truck.

Throughout the operation, the MOs work closely with local customs officials and are present during inspections by the customs.

When loading is completed, the MOs ensure that the trucks are properly closed, together with the customs officials, whenever applicable. Seals may be applied as needed. There should be no further opening of the consignments by the consignment owners or the implementing partners. Should there be need to reopen a consignment for any reason, this should be done in presence of a Monitoring Officer.

At the end of the operation, the UNMM team monitors the convoy of loaded trucks up to the border, ensuring that no manipulation of the consignments or reopening of the trucks is taking place. Once the trucks have crossed the border, the Team Leader notifies the Chief of the UNMM of the crossing and confirms the humanitarian nature of the consignment, based on which the Chief issues Notification Two.