
UN Warns Syrian Refugees Desperately Need Aid

01/10/2014



Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, said during a U.N. Security Council meeting on Tuesday that the World Food Program (WFP) would have to stop issuing food within two months to Syrian refugees. She said, "without additional funds, the WFP will be obliged to halt all operations within two months ... Winter is coming and basic items are urgently needed in order to help protect people from the cold."

Amos added that the WFP had already begun decreasing the food portions in mid-September in order to reach more people. Currently, WFP food supplies reach around six million Syrian refugees and has stated it needs an extra \$352 million before the end of the year.

"Intense fighting and shifting conflict lines continue to make the delivery of aid difficult and dangerous. The parties to the conflict continue to put obstacles in the way of the sustained access that humanitarian organizations require," she stated.

"Sustained access to provide the most basic assistance to some 4.7 million people who have been hard to reach for months, some for years continues to be a major challenge. And a further 241,000 people are deliberately besieged, mostly by Government forces, and are denied assistance."

"The Government continues to use administrative procedures to hinder the rapid and sustained delivery of aid."

She also predicted that thousands of Syrians might attempt to escape Syria in fear of the Islamic State group progressing in northern Syria. Reports estimate that at least 160,000 Syrians have fled from Aleppo toward Turkey in the past few days.
