



PRESS RELEASE

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Statement zu den Syrien-Friedensgesprächen in Wien Syrian children desperately need Vienna talks to succeed

Spokespeople are available upon request.

- Around one million Syrian children were denied aid in the past year.
- There are still more than 2 million people in 'hard to reach' or 'besieged' areas across Syria where no inter-agency aid convoys could enter in the past year - around half of them children
- In 2017, the Syrian government only approved 27 percent of all aid convoy requests
- In the last six weeks 250,000 people have been displaced in Idlib due to renewed fighting.
- 50,000 people – more than 250 every hour - were displaced there in the last week alone.
- Heavy rains are causing mass flooding in makeshift camps for the displaced (Photos of the situation are available)
- Around 400,000 people in Eastern Ghouta remain under siege and daily bombing, cut off from aid.

Sonia Khush, Save the Children's Syria Director said:

"It is imperative that the talks in Vienna work to stem the violence that has ravaged Syria for almost seven years. There is a growing complacency among the international community about the crisis, but the humanitarian need has not gone away. Syrian children are still being subjected to the horrors of war every day.

Our partners on the ground are seeing desperately malnourished and sick children in urgent need of food and medicine, but instead of aid all they see is more fighting and bombs raining down on them. The international community has failed to stop this violence for far too long and it is imperative that they seize the opportunity at Vienna to alleviate the suffering of millions of children who are still exposed to fighting and displacement.

Save the Children and its partners are doing everything they can and we are providing children and families with food and shelter but we urgently need the fighting to stop and more funding to keep pace with the crisis."

Notes to editors:

- Inter-agency convoys in 2017 were able to reach only 820,200 of the estimated 3 million people living in hard-to-reach or besieged areas across Syria – around 30% - according to UN figures. Of the 172 convoy requests submitted to the Syrian government in 2017, only 47 (27.3%) were approved in full.
- As of 22nd January, there have been at least 247,000 displacements in the southern Idlib area since mid-December, according to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster.

For interview requests, please contact

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