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**Subject:** Fw: Reuters -- About 40 percent of Syrians need humanitarian aid -U.N. // DPA -- UN: 9.3 million Syrians need humanitarian aid

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**From:** Douglas T. Coffman [mailto:coffmand@un.org]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 05, 2013 03:03 AM

**Subject:** Reuters -- About 40 percent of Syrians need humanitarian aid -U.N. // DPA -- UN: 9.3 million Syrians need humanitarian aid

11/04/2013 14:08:13

## **About 40 percent of Syrians need humanitarian aid -U.N.**

Louis Charbonneau

Source: Reuters World Service Date: November 04, 2013

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 4 (Reuters) - The United Nations estimates that around 9.3 million people in Syria or about 40 percent of the population need humanitarian assistance due to the country's 2-1/2-year, the U.N. humanitarian office said on Monday.

"The humanitarian situation in Syria continues to deteriorate rapidly and inexorably," U.N. humanitarian chief **Valerie Amos** told the U.N. Security Council behind closed doors, according to her spokeswoman **Amanda Pitt**.

"The number of people we estimate to be in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria has now risen to some 9.3 million," Pitt said, summarizing Amos' remarks to the 15-nation council. "Of them, 6.5 million people are displaced from their homes, within the country."

The population of Syria is around 23 million.

"Amos continues to press the council for their help and influence over those parties who can ensure the protection of civilians and civilian facilities; the safe passage of medical personnel and supplies; the safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance; and can facilitate progress in expanding critical, life-saving relief operations," Pitt said.

Amos' plea to the council follows the Syrian government's promise on Monday to ensure delivery of vaccinations and humanitarian aid across the country, after an outbreak of polio in the Northeast and warnings of malnutrition in areas under military siege.

Twenty-two children in Deir al-Zor province bordering Iraq were left paralyzed last month. The polio virus has been confirmed so far in 10 of them, and experts say it could spread quickly across the region.

Last month Amos demanded stronger action by the Security Council to get desperately needed aid into Syria, where millions of people in need have not received any help for almost a year.

Violence and excessive red tape have slowed aid delivery to a trickle in Syria. More than 100,000 people have been killed in the civil war and millions have fled the country. After months of talks, the 15-member Security Council approved a non-binding statement on Oct. 2 urging increased humanitarian access.

Amos has complained that that statement has had little impact on the ground. Western diplomats say they would like the council to adopt a legally binding resolution but worry Russia would veto it.

Senior U.N. diplomats say that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov previously dismissed the possibility of a legally binding resolution on aid access in Syria.

Russia, a close ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and China have vetoed three Security Council resolutions since October 2011 that would have condemned the government and threatened it with sanctions.

(Reporting by Louis Charbonneau; Editing by Cynthia Osterman)

11/04/2013 15:25:00

## **UN: 9.3 million Syrians need humanitarian aid**

Source: dpa Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH Date: November 04, 2013

New York (dpa) - The number of Syrians needing humanitarian assistance because of the continuing conflict has risen to 9.5 million, including 6.5 million inside their own country, the UN said.

"The humanitarian situation in Syria continues to deteriorate rapidly and inexorably," **Valerie Amos**, the chief coordinator for UN humanitarian assistance, told the UN Security Council.

Amos urged the 15-nation council to use its influence over Syrian warring parties to protect civilians and ensure the safe delivery of relief aid to those in need.

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