

**UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND
EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR, STEPHEN O'BRIEN**

Statement on the resumption of life-saving assistance at the Jordan-Syria border

I welcome the resumption today of UN inter-agency humanitarian aid operations at the “berm” along the Syrian-Jordan border.

The resumption of humanitarian operations has opened a lifeline to an estimated 85,000 Syrians – three-quarters of them women and children – stranded in a remote, arid desert area, in desperate need of lifesaving assistance and support.

Food and essential items were delivered today to approximately 170 households in the Rukban community in preparation for the winter months. This was the beginning of a planned two-week distribution cycle, with further plans to provide basic health care services in the coming days.

I welcome the continued partnership and support of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Jordanian people, which will be needed to ensure full, safe and sustained humanitarian access to the many tens of thousands of displaced Syrians living at the “berm.”

New York, 22 November 2016

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