

Regional Flash Update #21

Syria situation crisis

3 April 2025



Omar Askar, a 15-year-old Syrian refugee, comforts his little sister as he prepares to return to Syria from Jordan with his mother and siblings at Amman bus station, in March 2025. © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

Key Highlights

- As of 3 April 2025, UNHCR estimates that **some 372,550 Syrians** have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024. This figure is calculated based on a triangulation of data from Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and beyond.
- As of 27 March, **1.05 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to their homes**, including **188,121 returning from IDP sites** since early December 2024, according to the [latest data](#) of the IDP Task Force.
- On 29 March, **Syrian interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa announced the formation of a new government**, emphasizing unity to rebuild the state. Key priorities include combatting corruption, revitalizing institutions, strengthening the economy, and attracting Syrian professionals. A Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management was established to enhance crisis response.
- The hostilities in the Tartous, Latakia, Homs, and Hama governorates of Syria in early March continue to **displace families into the North and Akkar governorates of north Lebanon** reaching now nearly 30,000 individuals.
- During the week, **only in the coastal areas, UNHCR distributed over 2,730 non-food item (NFI) kits** to displaced families, while **over 210 individuals received Psychological First Aid** in Jableh (Latakia) and Banyas (Tartous).

Country updates

Syria

As of 3 March 2025, UNHCR estimates that **some 372,550 Syrians have crossed back into Syria from neighboring countries since 8 December 2024.**

With regards to internal displacement, as of 27 March, **1.05 million IDPs have returned to their homes**, including **188,121 returning from IDP sites** since early December 2024, according to the [latest data](#) of the IDP Task Force.

Regarding the latest political developments in Syria, on 29 March 2025, **Syrian interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa announced the formation of a new government**, emphasizing unity to rebuild the state. Key priorities include combatting corruption, revitalizing institutions, strengthening the economy, and attracting Syrian professionals. A Ministry of Sports and Youth and a Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management were established to support youth and crisis response.

UNHCR maintains its daily presence at border crossing points across the country, namely Joussieh, Jdaidet Yabous, Nassib, Bab Al-Hawa, and Bab Al-Salama, monitoring return trends and providing information, water, and Internet access. Addabousieh, Jesr Kamar, and Matraba border crossings are still closed due to extensive damage, with efforts underway for rehabilitation.

In the **coastal areas**, displacement tracking remained challenging, especially in rural areas, but thousands are estimated to have become IDPs. Some families fled to Lebanon through unofficial border crossings, while others relocated to safer areas within Syria. In rural Qardaha, families continue to flee to the mountains at night out of fear of armed clashes, returning home in the morning. Similarly, families who had previously returned to Al-Qusour and Al-Mruj in Banyas have fled again, fearing renewed hostilities. UNHCR continued to assist those displaced, with all 11 UNHCR-supported Community Centres in Lattakia and Tartous fully operational. This week, **UNHCR and its partners distributed over 2,730 NFI kits in the area. Moreover, psychosocial support reached over 210 individuals, and our legal partners provided more than 70 consultations to displaced families who had suffered from looting and vandalism.**

Furthermore, this week, **UNHCR and partners provided vital assistance across Syria, supporting thousands of displaced individuals and returnees.** Only in Aleppo and Idleb, over 45 GBV awareness sessions reached 466 people, while 4,500 key messages on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) were disseminated. In Homs and Hama, 1,208 Core Relief Items (CRIs) and winter supplies were provided to 5,785 individuals. In Northeast Syria, 2,217 returnee families (9,403 individuals) received winter kits, and 649 water tanks were distributed to 557 families.

Türkiye

According to the [announcement](#) by the Vice President on 17 March, **145,639 Syrians** have voluntarily returned from Türkiye following the events of 8 December 2024.

As part of Türkiye's ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with Syria, Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) **welcomed the formation of a transitional government in Syria**, while calling for the international community to support the stabilization of the country and to lift sanctions.

The **processing of voluntary returns** continues in provinces and at five border crossings: Cilvegözü / Bab al Hawa, Yayladağı / Keseb, Öncüpınar / Bab al Salama, Karkamış / Jarablus and

Akçakale / Tel Abyad. As of 2 April, Çobanbey / Al Rai and Zeytindalı / Jinderes are open for processing go-and-see visits.

UNHCR continues to monitor returns in 13 provinces and at the Cilvegözü/Bab al-Hawa, Yayladağı/Keseb, Öncüpınar/Bab al-Salama, and Karkamış/Jarablus border crossings, as well as at Istanbul Airport.

UNHCR's observations on returns remain largely **consistent with previous weeks**, with many returnees travelling alone, often to assess conditions before reuniting with family.

A **gender-focused analysis of voluntary returns** highlighted distinct challenges faced by men and women. Women expressed concerns about the lack of protection services and the inefficiency of complaint mechanisms in Syria. Another significant issue is their **limited involvement in return-related decision-making**, as male family members often hold the dominant role. Many women reported that their time in Türkiye increased their awareness of their rights and opportunities. As a result, they approach return decisions cautiously, considering risks such as legal barriers, early and forced marriages, limited job opportunities, and gender-based violence.

Lebanon

The hostilities in the Tartous, Latakia, Homs, and Hama governorates of Syria in early March continue to displace people into the North and Akkar governorates of north Lebanon **reaching now nearly 30,000 people with further arrivals expected**. Newly arrived refugees are now across 30 distinct locations, predominantly in Akkar in 27 villages near to the border with Syria. Local authority official figures from Disaster Risk Management (DRM) cite 20,553 individuals (4,105 families, including 165 Lebanese families) as of 2 April in Akkar. The highest concentrations are in Massaaoudiye (8,082 individuals/1,200 families), Hokr ed-Dahri (2,118 individuals/432 families), Hissa (1,573 individuals/340 families), Tall Hmayra (1,549 individuals/361 families) and Tall Bire (1,522 individuals/347 families).

As of 30 March, the Baalbek DRM is reporting **approximately 88,542 arrivals from Syria since 8 December**, including approximately 33,079 arrivals in Baalbek governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 195 informal collective shelters, and approximately 57,989 residing in the community. The numbers continue to fluctuate around 90,000; with increases recorded last weekend in the communities and decreases in the collective shelters. According to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the increase in community numbers is attributed to recent events in Al Qasr as some relocated families have opted to stay in urban areas with their relatives while those that had been in the collective shelters are dispersing across various locations including outside of the governorate.

Jordan

On 29 March, the **Ministry of Interior announced resumption of approvals for Syrian tourist groups to enter Jordan**. This will be in accordance with the previously established regulations and conditions, with sponsorship from licensed tourism and travel agencies. The duration of the visit will be limited to one month.

As of 29 March, **nearly 52,000 refugees registered with UNHCR have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024**. From 23 to 29 March, the number of individuals returning to Syria increased, with an average of 372 individuals crossing each day, compared to an average of 180 refugees per day in the preceding week.

Demographics of returnees remained largely unchanged from previous weeks, with women and girls representing around 45 per cent of the total refugee returnees. Children accounted for around 42 per cent, and men of military age (18-40 years old) made up around 23 per cent of overall returns. The vast majority of refugees continue to return from host communities, primarily from

Amman and Irbid. More details about the numbers and profile of returnees are available on [UNHCR Jordan's returns dashboard](#).

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 27 March 2025, **over 15,700 Syrians have returned from Iraq to Syria**, including some **860 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR**. Syrians in Iraq return through Al-Qaim and Peshkhabour border crossing points. The number of registered Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers who returned over this past week (60 registered refugees) is slightly lower than the week before (68 registered refugees). The improved security situation in Syria, reuniting with family, and avoiding overstay fines in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq are the most common reasons Syrians report for their return.

UNHCR continued to observe arrivals from Syria to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, mainly from the Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh areas. Over the past week, some 320 Syrians arrived through Peshkhabour border crossing point. Family visits, returning from visits to Syria, family reunification, or transiting through the Kurdistan Region to other destinations were indicated as the main reasons for arrivals, with most expressing their intentions to return to Syria following their visit.

Egypt

As of 30 March 2025, around **139,400 Syrian refugees** are registered in Egypt, some 300 less than a week ago. Syrians represent around 14.8% of the total refugee population in the country.

Since the fall of the Assad regime, there has been a significant increase in Syrians approaching UNHCR in Cairo and Alexandria to request the closure of their asylum cases. Since 8 December 2024 and as of 1 April 2025, almost 7,045 closure requests involving over 14,455 individuals were submitted, **averaging 91 requests per day – compared to just seven per day in November 2024**. Of those requesting closure, 65.5% are male. In addition, 8,892 individuals have been closed as spontaneous departures, reflecting a growing perception among many Syrians that return may now be viable.

The trend of **case closure requests in March 2025** shows a fluctuating pattern. In the first half of March, daily requests ranged between 21 and 51, showing moderate variations. Following a peak on 16 March, reaching 65 cases, the numbers remained relatively high, consistently exceeding 45 cases on most days until 24 March. However, by 25 March, the numbers began to decline, with 38 cases recorded on 25 March, 31 on 26 March, and 27 on 27 March, indicating a **downward trend as the month neared its end and Eid approached**. Despite this decline, a **renewed surge in case closure requests** is still anticipated in line with findings from the [Flash Regional Survey](#) on Syrian Refugees' Perceptions and Intentions on Return to Syria, conducted in January 2025. The survey projected increased return intentions after Ramadan and the end of the academic year, as more Syrians in Egypt explore the possibility of returning home. The peak around mid-March may reflect a first wave of this anticipated movement, particularly among those aiming to reunite with family and re-establish themselves in Syria ahead of Eid. The current dip may be temporary, with further increases expected in the weeks following Ramadan.

Useful links

- [Regional Flash Update #20, Syria Situation Crisis](#)
- [UNHCR Operational Framework for Voluntary Return of Syrian Refugees and IDPs](#)
- [January 2025 Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey \(RPIS\)](#)
- [UNHCR Position on Returns to the Syrian Arab Republic \(16 December\)](#)
- [Syria Situation Data Portal](#)
- [UNHCR Help Site](#)

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