

Regional Flash Update #22

Syria situation crisis

10 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 10 April 2025, UNHCR estimates that **some 401,262 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 3 April, **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.
- **UN Special Envoy for Syria met with interim President al-Sharaa** to discuss political, security, economic and diplomatic challenges facing Syrian people, while deepening cooperation between the United Nations and the Interim Authorities.
- 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 **33,442 individuals**.
- During the week, UNHCR concluded the distribution of winter items to returnees in Deir-ez-Zor. **A total of 2,547 families (10,837 individuals) received around 2,800 kits. In addition, 779 water tanks were distributed to 664 returnee families (3,654) from Lebanon.**

Country updates

Syria

As of 10 April 2025, UNHCR estimates that **some 401,262 Syrians have crossed back into Syria from neighboring countries since 8 December 2024.**

With regard to internal displacement, **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.

UN Special Envoy for Syria met with interim President al-Sharaa to discuss political, security, economic and diplomatic challenges facing Syrian people, while deepening cooperation between the United Nations and the Interim Authorities.

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.

The Kassab border crossing between Syria and Türkiye, which was closed after 7 March 2025, reopened earlier this week, and approximately **300 families have conducted "go-and-see" visits** since the reopening.

Furthermore, this week, **UNHCR and partners provided vital assistance across Syria, supporting thousands of displaced individuals and returnees.** In **Aleppo** governorate, UNHCR provided mental health and psychosocial support services including case management, counselling, psychological first aid, and structured interventions in 107 sites. In **Homs**, UNHCR completed the delivery, inspection and installation of 25 solar streetlights as part of its support to rehabilitate the Joussieh BCP between Syria and Lebanon. In **As-Sweida, Dar'a, and Quneitra** Governorates, UNHCR distributed 1,075 school bags through 13 community centres to support the most vulnerable children. Finally, in **Deir-ez-Zor**, UNHCR concluded the distribution of 2,800 winter item kits to returnees to a total of 2,547 families (10,837 individuals). In addition, 779 water tanks were distributed to 664 returnee families (3,654) from Lebanon.

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 **33,442 people with further arrivals expected.** To date, 9 out of 27 targeted villages in Akkar have received core relief items, covering over 80 per cent of the targeted population.

As of 7 April, the Baalbek Disaster Risk Management (DRM) reported approximately **87,526 arrivals from Syria since 8 December**, including approximately 29,537 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 191 informal collective shelters (CS), and approximately 57,989 residing in the community.

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.

The Presidency of Migration Management declared **Yayladağı / Keseb border crossing as the third border crossing that Syrians undertaking go-and-see visits can depart**, in addition to Zeytindalı and Çobanbey border crossings.

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.

Currently, **UNHCR monitors returns in 13 provinces** and at the Cilvegözü/Bab al-Hawa, Yayladağı/Keseb, Öncüpınar/Bab al-Salama, and Karkamış/Jarablus border crossings in the southeast, as well as at Istanbul Airport, capturing diverse demographic trends and motivations.

UNHCR's observations on returns remain largely **consistent with previous weeks**. Many individuals return alone, often due to a lack of dependents in Türkiye or to assess conditions before facilitating their families' return. Improved security and political changes remain key drivers, while family reunification, nostalgia, and economic factors also influence decisions. Most returnees aim to go back to their province of origin, primarily due to family ties, but some relocate elsewhere due to property damage, lack of infrastructure, security concerns, or economic challenges. Property ownership is relatively common, but a significant portion of returnees report damage or destruction, with varying levels of documentation available to support ownership claims. Many returnees lack essential civil documentation, including marriage and divorce registrations, potentially complicating their legal status upon return. In terms of livelihoods, a significant number of returnees anticipate economic hardship in Syria, with many planning to seek employment or rely on family support. Access to services in return areas remains inconsistent, with some returnees reporting availability while others cite gaps or a complete lack of access.

A recent analysis of monitored returns to Syria highlights **a complex mix of motivations driving Syrian nationals to voluntarily go back, beyond just political changes or improved security**. Many cite strong personal and emotional pull factors such as family ties, ownership of land or property, and cultural connections—particularly in relatively stable, government-controlled areas. For example, Turkmen-origin individuals have returned to Aleppo due to shared language and heritage. Others are influenced by a longing for home, the desire to rebuild their communities, or to contribute to the country's reconstruction. Family reunification and marriage plans are also significant, especially for those with support networks in Syria. Additionally, future economic opportunities—like work or restarting businesses—are prompting some to return and rebuild their lives in Syria.

Jordan

From 26 March to 7 April, passenger movements at the Jaber crossing border fluctuated, especially during the Eid holidays. The busiest passenger movement was observed from 28 to 30 March, while the borders were notably calmer on 3 and 6 April. Commercial truck movement remained high overall.

As of 5 April, nearly **53,500 refugees registered with UNHCR have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024**, with a total of approximately 6,600 refugees returning in March.

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 41 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](#).

UNHCR did not coordinate any transportation for refugees between 20 March and 7 April, as most people delayed their return until after the Eid holiday. **After Ramadan, UNHCR observed an increased interest in UNHCR provided transportation**, though the requests are not at the same levels yet as in February. While previously most refugees asked about UNHCR's transportation to Dara'a, during the reporting period there have been more requests for return to Damascus or Aleppo. From 8 to 10 April, UNHCR facilitated transportation for **nearly 110 refugees**. Overall, since the start of the transportation pilot project on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported approximately 1,480 refugees to return to Syria. Before departure, in-person interviews are conducted to ensure that returns are voluntary and well-informed, with counselling and information provided on available services inside Syria. The return process is closely coordinated with the UNHCR operation in Syria to support refugees upon arrival at their final destination.

During a recent focus group discussion, **refugees continued expressing concerns about current and feared reductions in services from humanitarian actors in Jordan, particularly in education and cash assistance**. Refugees consider this as an effort to compel them to return before they are ready. Participants from southern areas of Syria shared **growing concerns about return due to the deteriorating security situation**. Generally, perceptions of safety inside Syria are shifting, with most now describing the situation as 'somewhat unsafe' instead of 'somewhat safe' as was the case in previous weeks. Participants from other areas, such as Homs and Aleppo, did not report significant security concerns regarding return.

In addition to security concerns, **refugees are worried about the economic situation in Syria**, expressing fears that they will not be able to find work. Many refugees hear from their relatives in Syria that the cost of living is increasing, and that refugees should only return when they have sufficient savings to not only support their return journey back but also cover the first few months of expenses inside Syria. Participants requested that UNHCR and other humanitarian actors support returnees with cash assistance and livelihoods programming to ensure the sustainability of their return. Many refugees worry that returning to Syria would mean losing the ability to re-enter Jordan, making them hesitant to take the risk.

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 3 April 2025, **12,263 Syrians returned from Iraq to Syria, including 1,047 registered refugees**. This includes 4,958 Syrians who have returned through the Peshkhabour border crossing point and 7,305 through the Al-Qaim border crossing.

Last week, **76 registered Syrian refugees returned from Iraq**, an increase from the 60 registered refugees who returned the previous week. The improved security situation in Syria, reuniting with family, and avoiding overstay fines in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq are cited as the most common reasons Syrians report for their return.

Egypt

As of 7 April 2025, **approximately 138,750 Syrian refugees are registered in Egypt, around 650 fewer than the previous week, reflecting a consistent weekly decline**. This marks a significant decrease of over 10,000 individuals since the regime change in Syria. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 14.7% of the total refugee population in the country.

Additionally, 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**. Between then and 7 April 2025, **almost 7,435 closure requests involving over 15,341 individuals were submitted, averaging 92 requests per day** – compared to just seven per day in November 2024.

In addition, 9,592 individuals have been closed as spontaneous departures, reflecting a growing perception among many Syrians that return may now be viable.

Following the end of Ramadan, a significant spike in case closure requests among Syrian refugees in Egypt has been observed, aligning with projections from the January 2025 Flash Regional Survey on Syrian Refugees' Perceptions and Intentions on Return to Syria, conducted in January 2025. The survey anticipated an increase in return intentions after Ramadan, and current trends support this, with **daily closure requests rising from an average of 41 during March to 146 and 153 recorded on 6 and 7 April alone, respectively**. This surge is likely a spillover effect from a backlog accumulated during Ramadan, when service demand typically decreases. In response to the increased demand and restored post-Ramadan capacity, on-the-spot closure processing has now been implemented, alongside the previous system that involved a one-week appointment wait, enabling faster and more efficient service delivery.

UNHCR Egypt actively monitors major social media pages and community groups to better understand refugees' priorities and interests regarding available services provided by UNHCR and its partners. Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in online discussions among Syrian refugees in Egypt about returning to Syria. These conversations focus on practical concerns such as the best routes to take, steps to follow upon return, and whether any fees are required at the airport. The surge in such posts reflects a growing interest in voluntary repatriation and provides valuable insight into the information needs and intentions of the Syrian community.

Useful links

- [Regional Flash Update #21, 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](#)

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of donors who contributed to its operations in the Middle East in 2025, including:

Australia | Austria | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Luxembourg | Monaco | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Central Emergency Response Fund | Islamic Development Bank

CONTACTS

UNHCR Syria

SYRIAreporting@unhcr.org

For more information, please visit:

[UNHCR Global Focus – Syria Situation](#)