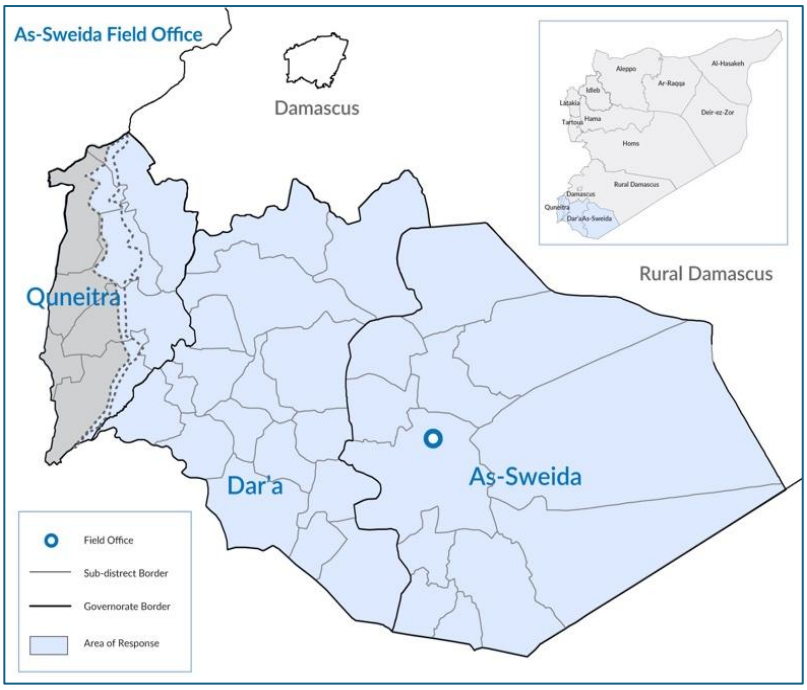
Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #3

@15:00, 21 July 2025

Overview

On the night of 18 July, a ceasefire mediated by the US was reached between Syria and Israel, following the intense infighting in As-Sweida as well as Israel's airstrikes targeted government sites in Damascus on 16 July. After the announcement of the ceasefire, the local actors engaged in the hostilities were instructed to leave the areas.



While the death toll estimates vary, a U.K.-based monitoring group, on 20 July the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), reported that 1,120 people had been killed since 13 July, including civilians.

Power outages, unstable internet and mobile connection, and severe shortage in water supply and medical services continue to be major challenges. The closure of local markets, coupled with widespread shop damage and looting, severely restricts access to essential goods including food, increasing food insecurity.

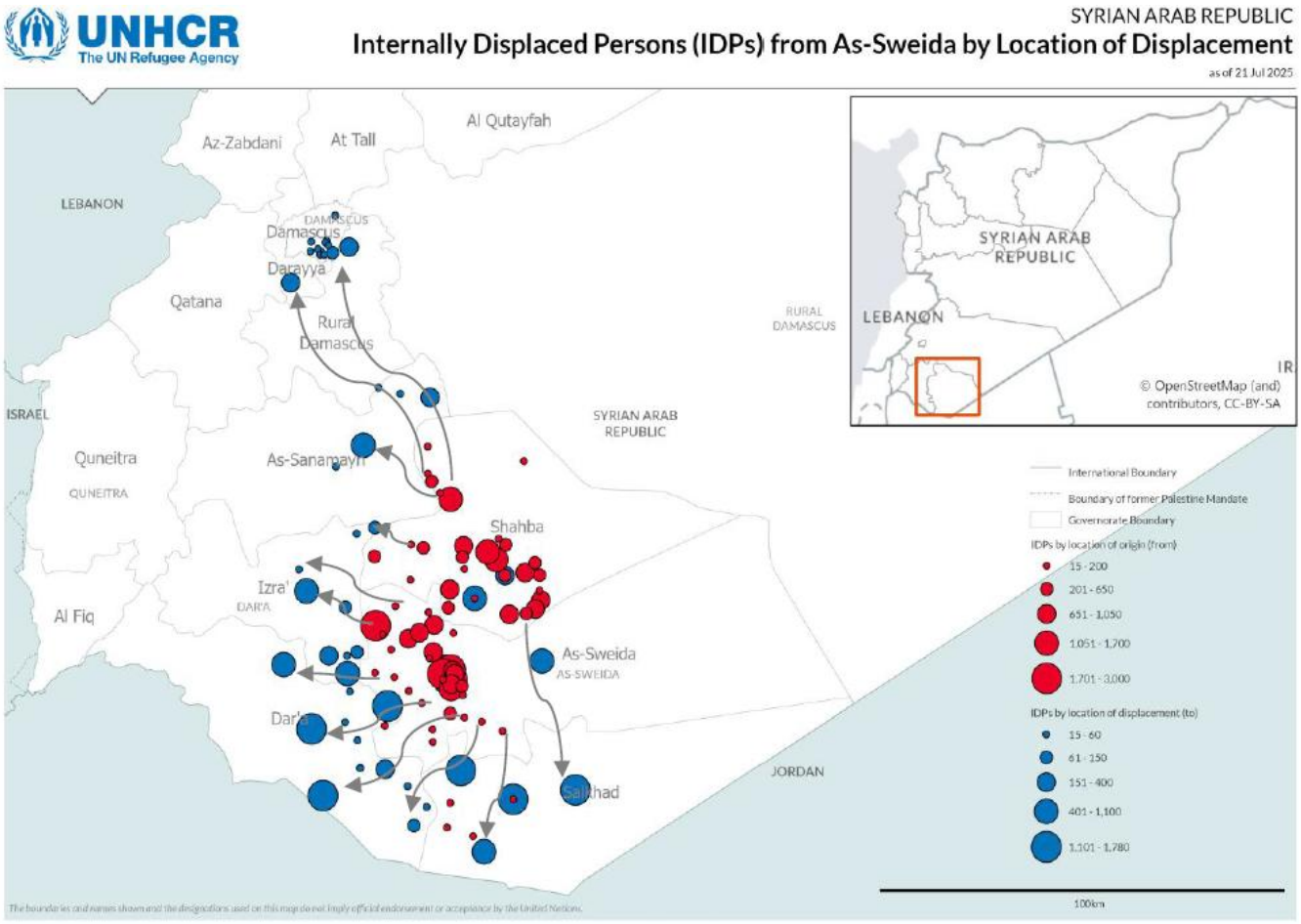
The National Hospital in Sweida is operating beyond capacity, with insufficient medical staff and supplies, and without access to water, electricity, and fuel for generators. An excess of patients occupies the hospital hallways, concurrently, the morgue is over capacity, with hundreds of deceased individuals, including women, children, and the elderly.

Reports from the afternoon of19 July indicated continued gunfire, with smoke from the western entrance of Sweida city observed from UNHCR Field Office Sweida ©UNHCR Syria

Displacement situation

Movements of affected people continue, as many frequently change their locations in search of safety or better conditions.

As of 20 July, the IDP Taskforce, co-led by UNHCR and OCHA, reported 51,300 displaced within As-Sweida Governorate, 40,350 displaced from As-Swieda to Dar'a Govenorate, and 950 displaced to Rural Damascus Governorate, bringing the estimated total number of displaced people to approximately **92,600**.



In Salkhad District in southern As-Swieda countryside, an estimated 25,750 displaced people had arrived by 17 July. The majority are being hosted by their relatives or in public facilities, such as schools.

By 18 July, a large number of displaced people started leaving Salkhad (As-Sweida Governorate) to Al-Taybeh (Dar'a Governorate) and Damascus due to the deteriorating security situation and lack of services. In Dar'a, as of 20 July, approximately 3,245 displaced families were accommodated in 27 informal collective centres, such as schools and religious facilities. SARC has also started evacuating the Bedouin families from As-Swaida to Dar'a through the humanitarian safe corridors in coordination with the authorities. UNHCR and its partners

continue monitoring the displacement situation in both As-Sweida and Dar'a, access and security considerations permitting.

The displacement affecting As-Sweida, Dar'a, and Rural Damascus Governorates has severely strained the already limited resources of host communities. The increasing need for shelter exerted further constraints on host communities.

UNHCR Response

On 19 July, UNHCR dispatched the first batch of 500 core relief item kits (CRI kits) from Damascus to Dar'a. Moreover, 84 CRI kits and dignity kits were sent to Rural Damascus and distributed to 450 women and girls displaced from Dar'a.

On 19 July, 500 core relief items departed from UNHCR warehouse in Damascus to Dar'a ©UNHCR Sryia

On 20 July, UNHCR partner, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) distributed the newly arrived 500 CRI kits in Busra Esh-Sham and Eastern Maliha in Dar'a. Additional 700 CRI kits were also dispatched to Dar'a to be distributed by SARC and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA). UNHCR is currently processing the third dispatch of 1,000 CRI kits to Dar'a, scheduled on 22 July.

On 20 July, 500 core relief items arrive at the warehouse of SARC in As-Sweida. The distribution in Busra Esh-Sham and Eastern Maliha conducted on the same day. © SARC Sryia

In parallel, late in the evening on 20 July, approval for the inter-agency humanitarian convoy to As-Sweida was granted, after pending for a few days. Items delivered by the convoy will be distributed by SARC. The transportation of the first batch of 2,000 CRI kits is currently being processed. An additional 20,000 non-food item kits, comprising 15,000 CRI kits and 5,000 dignity kits, are also ready for dispatch by UNHCR, when necessary.

Due to the security situation, all activities at the UNHCR-supported community center in Sweida city, which suffered minor damage and looting, remain suspended while UNHCR's team on the ground in As-Sweida continues monitoring and coordinating with partners and

authorities, including the Emergency Committee led by the Governor, which is in charge of coordination of inter-agency humanitarian response.

The UNHCR-supported community centres in Dara'a are fully operational and are providing integrated protection services to the affected population in their areas of coverage. To support them, UNHCR is preparing to deploy staff from Damascus. Through the mobile teams attached to the community centres, UNHCR partners are also conducting monitoring visits to collective centres and other sites accommodating displaced people. For example, on 20 July GOPA conducted visits to three IDP sites and provided psychosocial support. On 21 July, UNHCR partner Bara'em conducted monitoring visits to collective centres in Salkhad, in the southern part of As-Sweida Governorate.

The UNHCR-led Shelter/NFI Sector is coordinating partner mobilization in response to the scale of displacement and critical unmet needs. Partners with available stocks or rapid procurement capacity are being urged to contribute to the response and engage in upcoming shelter damage assessments. As the lead agency, UNHCR is coordinating the protection response, and partner capacity mapping and response tracking, particularly for the collective centres, is ongoing.