Syrian Arab Republic

June 2025

Syria continues to face a severe humanitarian crisis, the UN estimates 7.4 million IDPs and 16.5 million people in need of aid in 2025. Security remains unstable in some parts of the country, and access to basic services is limited.

From 8 December 2024 to June 2025, after the former government's fall, around 640,000 refugees have returned, with numbers expected to rise amid ongoing challenges.

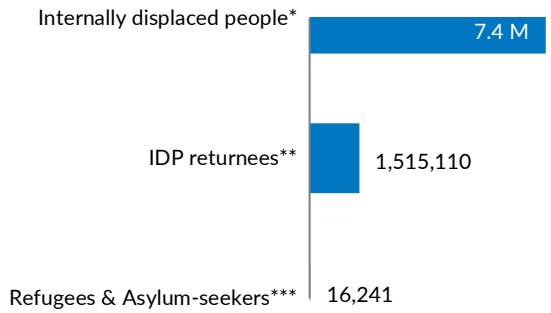
Over 1.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) have also returned to their places of origin since the end of November 2024.

Based on actual and projected returns and triggered by calls on UNHCR from Syrian refugees to support them to return, UNHCR has moved into the facilitation of voluntary returns to Syria.

The operational shift is gradual based on the voluntary character of return and refugees' well-informed and free choices.

UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, returnees, stateless people, and host communities based on identified needs, vulnerabilities and available resources.

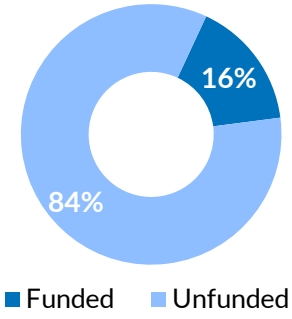
PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISPLACEMENT IN THE WHOLE OF SYRIA



** Source: OCHA, June 2024*
*** Source: Population Movement Reporting Tool, since 27 November 2024*
**** Source: UNHCR, June 2025*

FUNDING (AS OF 30 JUNE 2025)

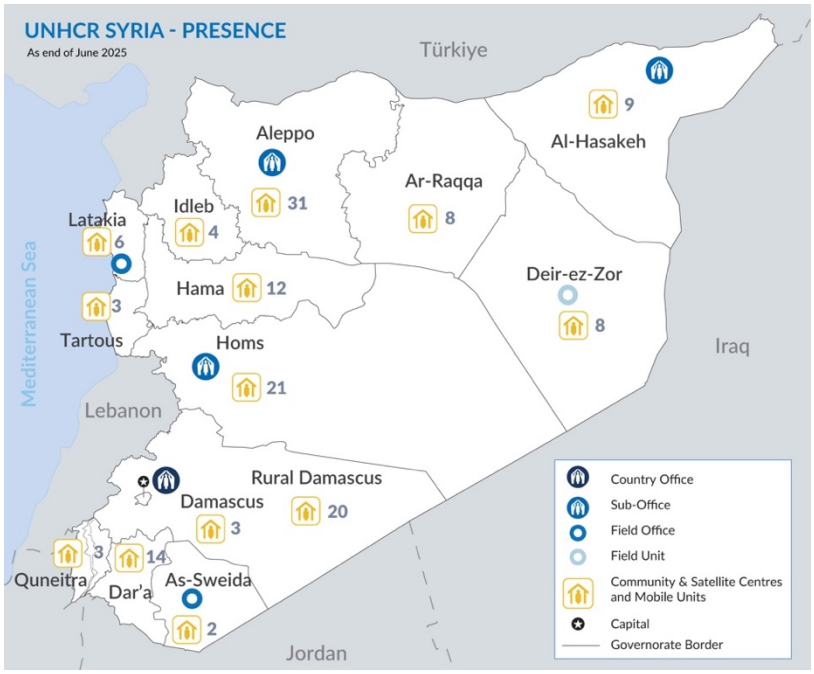
USD 575.4 million
requested for the Syria Operation in 2025



UNHCR PRESENCE

Offices: 7

1 Country Office in Damascus
3 Sub-Offices in Aleppo, Homs and Qamishli
2 Field Offices in As-Sweida and Latakia
1 Field Units in Deir-ez-Zor



Partnership and Coordination

In 2025, UNHCR is collaborating with 23 partner agencies, including government counterparts, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national NGOs, and UN agencies.

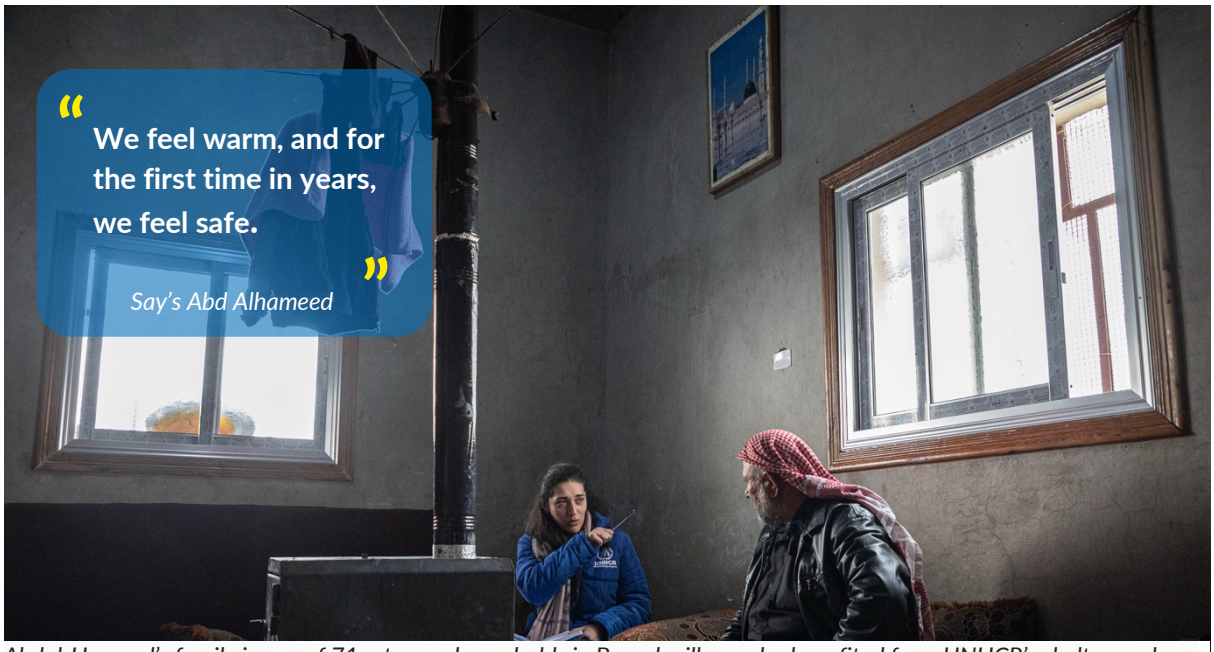
In the context of the inter-agency coordination framework in Syria, UNHCR leads the Protection and Community Services sector and co-leads the Shelter sector with the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment and the Non-Food Items sector with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC). UNHCR also participates in the work of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Area Humanitarian Country Teams (AHCTs), with several heads of field offices acting as Area Humanitarian Coordinators. Furthermore, UNHCR has been co-chairing the In-Country Network on Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) together with UNICEF since 2022. The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) sector in Syria led by UNHCR and co-led by Global Communities, coordinates the efforts of 30 active partners across approximately 1,700 camps and informal sites.

UNHCR co-leads inter-agency efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation in areas with high numbers of spontaneous refugee and IDP returns, using multi-stakeholder, multi-sector, area-based approaches. For broader collaboration, the Solutions Work Group, co-led by UNHCR, UNDP, and IOM, will provide a unified platform for UN agencies, INGOs, local NGOs, and the Syrian government to support the sustainable return and reintegration of displaced populations, in alignment with global policies and operational frameworks.

Strategic Directions

UNHCR's Strategic Directions 2023-2025 for Syria, validated in a consultative planning process, are threefold and in line with the UN Syria Strategic Framework for the Syrian Arab Republic 2022-2024:

- **Support solutions:** UNHCR will further enhance its engagement with partners to facilitate solutions for IDPs and those who have spontaneously returned, including through the UN's area-based return support approach, to strengthen humanitarian early recovery and resilience of communities, and therefore the sustainability of return and reintegration.
- **Maintain emergency preparedness and response capacity:** UNHCR will preserve its readiness to respond to new and protracted emergencies. In addition, the Office is prepared to scale up crossline assistance.
- **Enhance refugee protection, inclusion, and solutions:** UNHCR will step up its involvement and engagement in refugee protection, enhance the inclusion of refugees into services and assistance provided by other actors (such as livelihoods support), and advocate for solutions.



Abdul-Hameed's family is one of 71 returnee households in Barneh village who benefited from UNHCR's shelter package support. With sturdy doors, windows, and a solar-powered light, their home now shines bright, providing stability in a village with unreliable electricity. ©H.Maarouf /UNHCR

Main Activities

Protection

UNHCR-supported community centres provide protection services such as child protection activities, non-formal education including catch-up classes for children, psychosocial services, and support to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. UNHCR and partners also provide legal assistance, for instance to obtain civil documentation and register vital events such as births and marriages. The services provided at the community centres are available for all population groups including refugees and asylum-seekers, IDPs, returnees (i.e., refugees and IDPs having returned to their home areas), and host communities. The priority is given based on the needs and risks.

Besides the community centres, mobile units also offer protection services based on identified needs in underserved or remote locations. The latter respond flexibly to population movements and increase outreach to the most vulnerable populations who do not have easy access to the community centres.

A network of outreach volunteers supports the community centres. These outreach volunteers who are selected from the returnees, IDPs, refugees, asylum-seekers and affected communities, are the first responders and assist those in need in a timely manner. They inform communities of the services available, identify needs, provide initial support, and refer cases to community centres for specialized assistance.

As end of June 2025, UNHCR and its partners managed 69 community centres linked with 75 mobile units. These facilities are supported by a network of 1,682 male and female outreach volunteers (ORVs) from different age groups and diverse social backgrounds.

For refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR conducts refugee status determination, registration, and resettlement, when applicable. Some refugees and asylum-seekers may also benefit from additional protection services such as multi-purpose cash grants, education cash grants and scholarships for students.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBIs)

UNHCR implements two main cash-based assistance programmes in Syria — one targeting refugees and asylum-seekers in the country, and another targeting Syrian refugee returnees who have recently come back from countries of asylum.

Return and Reintegration Financial Assistance for Refugee Returnees helps Syrian refugee returnees cover immediate expenses such as rent, food, transport, and household essentials during their first months back. UNHCR provides one-time unrestricted financial support of **USD 600 per family** to returnees who have had their case closed or inactivated in the country of asylum due to voluntary return and were eligible for regular cash assistance in the county of asylum. Non-eligible cases will be assessed individually using a scoring system.

The scoring system is a tool used by UNHCR and partners to identify households in urgent need of cash assistance. It combines various indicators including household composition, coping strategies, and access to basic needs which helps prioritize support. This approach improves transparency and ensures that aid reaches the most vulnerable families efficiently.

Between January and mid-June 2025, 1,824 returnee families (7,505 individuals) received assistance with a target of reaching 15,000 families by year-end. Distributions were active in nine governorates, serving returnees in all governorates.

Regular Cash Assistance for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers programme supports the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers to meet urgent basic needs. Vulnerability is determined using a scoring system or a panel review of individual protection risks, with eligibility reviewed every two months.

From January to June 2025, UNHCR provided Multi-Purpose Cash Grant (MPCG) to 11,497 individuals (4,291 households), delivering over USD 1.4 million to vulnerable families. Each eligible household received on average USD 160 per eligible household every two months. Due to funding constraints, UNHCR reduced the transfer value in 2025.

To help refugee students cover transportation and education materials, UNHCR maintained its education grant programme, with values ranging from USD 50 to USD 80 per student. Public schools in Syria remain free of charge for refugees.

Other Targeted Cash Assistance includes Cash for Shelter Repair: 87 households (525 individuals) received an average of USD 1,193 per household; Cash for Livelihoods: 148 households (790 individuals) received an average of USD 1,346 per household; and MPC for IDPs: 471 IDP households (2,209 individuals) received an average of USD 390 per household.

By end of June 2025, UNHCR had delivered a total of USD 2.7 million in cash assistance to 22,526 individuals (6,821 households) across all programmes. UNHCR continues to coordinate with the Central Bank of Syria, local financial service providers, and partners to ensure secure, efficient, and transparent delivery of assistance including exploring digital payment systems and biometric authentication.

Core Relief Items (CRIs)

UNHCR provides CRIs including blankets, sleeping mats, mattresses, jerry cans, plastic sheets, kitchen sets, and solar lamps to IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable host community members in emergency situations. Supplementary seasonal items such as winter clothing, high thermal blankets, plastic sheets, rechargeable fans, boots, heating fuel (bio-wood or firewood), heaters, plastic buckets, carpets and indoor solar lights are also distributed to IDPs, returnees, and host community members, based on needs. As end of June 2025 around 449,231 individuals received CRIs in Syria.

Shelter Interventions

In camps in north-east Syria which mainly host Iraqis and Syrian displaced persons, UNHCR distributes tents and emergency shelter kits and helps maintain camp infrastructure. UNHCR also works on the rehabilitation of collective shelters for refugees and IDPs in protracted situations such as the rehabilitation of hosting centres where Lebanese refugees were residing during the hostilities in Lebanon which resulted in a refugee influx to Syria on 27 September 2024.

In urban and rural areas, UNHCR facilitates the repair of damaged houses by offering permanent shelter solutions, which involve distributing and installing shelter materials such as doors, windows, electrical equipment, water and sanitation facilities at the household level. UNHCR also provides cash for shelter to assist families in repairing their homes affected by the crisis

By end of June 2025, UNHCR assisted some 11,795 individuals with shelter and housing assistance since the beginning of the year.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

UNHCR supports vulnerable people, including displaced persons, returnees, refugees, and host communities, to reintegrate, increase their self-reliance, reduce their dependency on humanitarian assistance and mitigate the risks of engaging in harmful coping strategies. This is achieved this by restoring access to socioeconomic infrastructure, such as vocational training schools and irrigation systems, and supporting small business creation through training and grants. Additionally, support is extended to facilitate access to national and financial services. Since the beginning of the year until the end of June 2025, 4,209 individuals across Syria benefited from UNHCR's livelihood and economic inclusion interventions including business training, start-up grants, and referrals to training, jobs and financing opportunities identified through the community centres.

Health

UNHCR offers comprehensive primary health care (PHC) services, including mental health and psychosocial support at no cost through primary health care clinics operated by partners. Additionally, UNHCR facilitates access to secondary and tertiary health care services for refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria through designated public, charitable, and private contracted hospitals.

Funding Update | 2025

As of 30 June 2024

UNHCR Syria is grateful to all donors providing critical financial support to address the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, returnees, stateless people, and host communities.

CONTRIBUTIONS | US$

Donor earmarked contributions and indicative allocation of funds for the operation in 2025 (as of 30 June) amounted to **$ 94,380,028.**

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | US$

Denmark 9.1 million | Sweden 8.6 million | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe 4.6 million | Australia for UNHCR 4.4 million | Canada 3.6 million | Finland 3.2 million | Norway 2.8 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | US$

Sweden 74.1 million | Norway 56.9 million | Denmark 37.8 million | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) 36.3 million | España con ACNUR 31.3 million | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 28.5 million | Switzerland 20.4 million | Japan for UNHCR 19.3 million | Republic of Korea 16.8 million | Australia 14.3 million | France 13.9 million | Ireland 13.6 million | Private donors in the Republic of Korea 13.4 million | Germany 10.8 million | Belgium 10.7 million

CONTACT

UNHCR Syria External Relations Unit
Email: SYRDAREPORTING@unhcr.org

LINKS

https://reporting.unhcr.org/syria
https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/syr
www.unhcr.org/sy
UNHCR Syria Twitter (@UNHCRinSYRIA)
UNHCR Syria Facebook