Syrian Arab Republic

November 2025

The UN estimates that in 2025, 16.5 million people across Syria need humanitarian assistance.

Since the political transition in December 2024 until the **end of November 2025**, up to 1.2 million Syrians have returned home from countries of asylum and over 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to their places of origin or preferred destinations in Syria.

Based on actual and projected return numbers and in response to calls from Syrian refugees for UNHCR to support their return, UNHCR is facilitating voluntary return to the country.

This gradual operational shift is anchored in the voluntary character of return and refugees' well-informed and free choices.

This effort, however, remains constrained by challenges, including funding shortfalls, limited absorption capacity in areas of return, access restrictions, and the extensive scale of humanitarian needs.

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

500

young people per year will enrol in a UNHCR-rehabilitated industrial school in Aleppo Governorate

17,229

refugee returnee families across Syria benefited from UNHCR's Return and Reintegration Cash Assistance in November

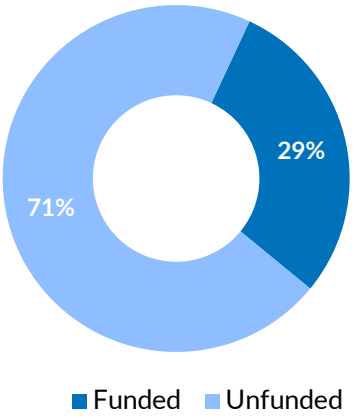
42,500

people displaced by the tension in As-Sweida in July have received protection services and participated in related assessments

FUNDING (AS OF 30 NOVEMBER 2025)

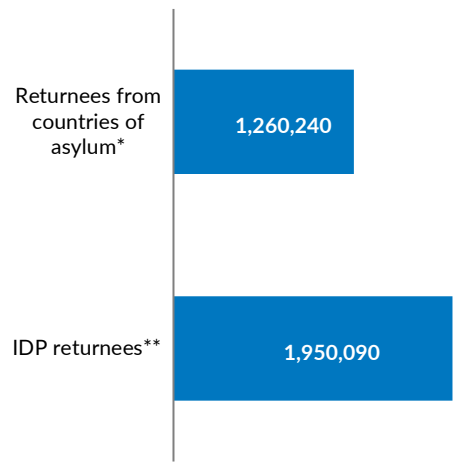
USD 575.4 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2025



RETURNEES AS OF END OF NOVEMBER 2025

Khaled Jakal's house in Qastal Ma'af, rural Latakia is rehabilitated by UNHCR and partners after suffering war-related damage. This intervention helps returnee families settle back in their areas. ©UNHCR/E.Kabbas



** Source: UNHCR, since December 2024*
*** Source: Population Movement Reporting Tool, since 27 November 2024*

Operational Context

Syria is experiencing an increase in the number of refugees and IDPs returning home, yet the number of internally displaced persons in the country remains one of the highest worldwide. The UN and humanitarian partners also estimate that in 2025 around 16.5 million people in Syria need humanitarian assistance.

The security situation in the country is still unpredictable in some areas and humanitarian and economic conditions remain dire, with limited access to basic services in many parts of the country.

UNHCR's Enhanced Refugee Perceptions and Intentions to Return to Syria Survey published in September, which analysed the intentions of Syrian refugees in the region to return to their home country, indicated that the political transition triggered a sharp and almost immediate increase in refugees who stated intentions to return within a year. Among those still residing in host countries, the survey found that 18% of respondents say they intend to return within a year, and 80% express a desire to return to Syria one day. However, housing availability and property damage, limited employment opportunities, and safety and stability within Syria remain key factors in the refugees' decision-making and are likely to influence return trends.

Through the *area-based* and *community-based approaches*, UNHCR supports refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, host community members, and returnees (refugees and IDPs who have returned to their home areas).

UNHCR's *community-based approach* focuses on community mobilization and building self-reliance. It aims at reducing vulnerabilities and protection risks by providing services through community-based structures and networks. UNHCR's *area-based approach* entails working with partners to enhance support in geographic areas where the needs are greatest. UNHCR and partners continue to reach thousands of returnee families across Syria to support their reintegration and access to basic services.

In 2025, UNHCR is collaborating with 23 partners, including international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and national NGOs in all 14 governorates.

Operational Updates

Protection

- By the end of November, UNHCR supported 71 community centres and 84 mobile units across the country, including in north-west Syria, through a network of 1,570 community outreach volunteers in all 14 Syrian governorates.
- Following the recent tension in As-Sweida Governorate, UNHCR successfully advocated with the Civil Affairs Directorate to facilitate the issuance and recovery of essential documents through UNHCR-supported lawyers. Although civil documentation services in As-Sweida remain suspended, a coordination mechanism has been established allowing UNHCR's partners to process cases through the Civil Affairs Directorate in Damascus. This temporary arrangement helps affected residents have continued access to legal documentation.
- As of the end of November, over 42,500 people displaced by the tension in As-Sweida in July have received protection services and participated in related assessments. The services included legal assistance, psychosocial support, gender-based violence risk mitigation, child protection, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Eight community-led initiatives in Rural Damascus Governorate were approved in November. They include the establishment of a training room in Daraya for the benefit of around 200 individuals in the first year, as well as a local medical centre in Hammoria, which is expected to support up to 1,000 residents.
- The Syria is Home platform, created in April to help Syrian refugees make informed decisions about return to Syria, had been visited by 84,000 individuals by the end of November. The highest number of visitors were from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Türkiye, and Germany.

Shelter

- From the beginning of the year until the end of November, UNHCR completed the repair of 1,928 damaged houses, benefiting about 9,640 individuals across Syria. The repairs included fixing doors, windows, walls, roofs, electrical systems, as well as water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.
- UNHCR has also expanded its shelter repair programme by integrating cash-for-shelter for returnee families. By the end of November, 760 families (4,754 individuals) had received this assistance.
- In November, based on assessments, UNHCR replaced 1,799 tents in camps in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa Governorates, benefiting 1,680 households (6,430 individuals). From the beginning of the year until the end of November, UNHCR provided 4,761 family tents to support displaced and refugee families in camps in north-east Syria.
- In November, rehabilitation works were undertaken on collective shelters hosting IDPs in Dar'a and As-Sweida Governorates, and the rehabilitation of five collective shelters in Sahwa and Namer (Dar'a) was completed. In As-Sweida, one shelter in Salkhad was

successfully rehabilitated, while works on four shelters in the governorate proceeded. Works include partitioning for increased privacy and security particularly for vulnerable groups, energy efficiency, as well as support for persons with specific needs. A total of 5,500 individuals are expected to benefit from this assistance.

Core Relief Items

- In November, 27,535 families (135,231 individuals) across Syria received core relief items (CRIs). The kits comprised blankets, mattresses, sleeping mats, jerry cans, plastic sheets, solar lamps, and kitchen sets.
- From the beginning of the year up to November, 222,671 families (1,103,541 individuals) received CRIs. The assistance included 40,000 CRI kits to support people displaced in As-Sweida, Dar'a, and Rural Damascus due to the tension in As-Sweida. A total of 17,700 winter kits, 1,600 indoor solar devices and 139 carpets were also delivered.

Mustafa, a Syrian refugee who recently returned from Egypt to Darayya (Rural Damascus) receives UNHCR's winter items including blankets, plastic sheeting, winter jackets, and woollen clothes and socks. UNHCR's winterization programme started on 1 October and will benefit up to 60,000 families. By the end of November, UNHCR had reached around 90% of its target. ©UNHCR/V.Toumeh

Cash Assistance

- In November, 17,229 refugee returnee families (54,085 individuals) were supported with cash assistance in the form of Return and Reintegration grants to enable them meet immediate needs, bringing the total number of those who had received this grant by the end of November to 36,535 families (117,518 individuals).

Livelihoods

- A total of 512 families (2,972 individuals) received cash assistance to establish or resume small businesses in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Latakia, Rural Damascus, Homs and Aleppo. Since the beginning of the year, 1,572 households across Syria (8,916 individuals) have benefited from this type of assistance.
- In November, UNHCR completed the rehabilitation of the "Sixth Industrial Secondary School" in Bab Al-Nayrab in Aleppo Governorate, which is an area-based return support[1] location jointly supported by UNHCR and UNDP. An estimated 500 individuals aged between 14 and 18 years in Aleppo city are expected to enrol per year in the school. They will receive training in highly demanded skills to enhance their employability and engagement in the labour market.

The "Sixth Industrial Secondary School" in Bab Al-Nayrab in Aleppo Governorate after rehabilitation ©UNHCR/H.Maarouf

- From the beginning of the year until the end of November, around 6,000 individuals across Syria benefited from UNHCR's livelihood and economic inclusion interventions, including business training, start-up grants, on-the-job training, referral services, and provision of inputs for agricultural activities.

Refugee Response

- **Registration:** As of the end of November, 14,023 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR in Syria. The majority of the registered refugees are from Iraq and reside primarily in urban areas in Damascus, Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Homs, Tartous, and Latakia Governorates. In November, UNHCR renewed the identification cards of 101 refugees. These cards protect refugees against *refoulement*, ensure access to basic rights and services, and facilitate freedom of movement.
- **Refugee Status Determination (RSD):** From the beginning of the year until the end of November, 33 families (89 individuals) were recognized as refugees. RSD ensures protection from *refoulement* and

[1] *The inter-agency area-based return support (ABRS) is a coordinated humanitarian strategy designed to support communities receiving returnees—through multi-sectoral, locally driven interventions. It is led by the Solutions Working Group, co-chaired by UNHCR, UNDP and IOM – global "Solutions Champions" – and aligns with UN Secretary General's Action Agenda.*

detention due to irregular stays, as well as facilitating access to basic services.

- **Durable solutions:** In November, UNHCR facilitated the departure, for resettlement, of three families (12 individuals) to the United Kingdom.
  UNHCR also maintained communication with persons with and for whom it works through weekly counselling over the dedicated helplines.

Return

- Between 8 December 2024 and the end of November 2025, over 1.2 million Syrians returned to the country mainly from Türkiye and Lebanon, followed by Jordan, Iraq and Egypt[2].
- To ensure voluntary, safe, and dignified return for Syrian refugees, UNHCR started the first stage of the repairs of the destroyed Daboussieh border bridge (Lebanon–Syria). Works include demolishing damaged concrete and removing debris along with other concrete works.
- As part of the organized voluntary return support coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and Syria's General Authority for Borders and Customs, 545 Syrian refugees returned from Lebanon in November through the Arida border crossing point (Tartous-Lebanon) and 478 through the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing point (Rural Damascus-Lebanon). The returnees were assisted with transportation to their destinations, core relief items, psychosocial assistance, and legal aid.
- In close coordination with WFP, UNHCR provided vital food assistance to refugee returnees at border points with Türkiye, helping ease their transition during the early stages of return and reintegration. At Sarmada bus station (Idleb) and at Sejjo bus station (Aleppo), UNHCR and partners distributed ready-to-eat food baskets from WFP containing canned food, date bars, bread, as well as packs of high-energy biscuits to 3,148 returnees. In collaboration with UNFPA, hygiene kits were also distributed to address the needs of over 800 returnee women and girls.
- In November, 993 families (3,898 individuals) were supported with transportation at the border crossing points of Bab Al-Hawa (Idleb-Türkiye), Al-Salam (Aleppo-Türkiye), and Joussieh (Homs-Lebanon). This brings the total number of refugee returnees that UNHCR provided transportation support to since the beginning of the year to around 28,000.
- UNHCR launched the ARRIVE call centre, which is designed to provide refugee returnees with accurate information and support. During the initial phase, the service focuses on addressing inquiries related to the return and reintegration cash assistance. The initiative aims to reduce the refugee returnees' need for visiting the community centres for updates on assistance status and contacts, thereby improving accessibility and efficiency.
- In November, UNHCR conducted two refresher training sessions in Damascus and Idleb for 48 newly recruited General Authority for Ports and Customs personnel operating the "Voluntary Return" windows at 11 border crossing points nationwide. The training aimed to strengthen the participants' understanding of key humanitarian principles and protection standards and implement various reporting mechanisms and tools at the border crossings.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

- Regional Flash Update #57 (12 December 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (11 December 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (11 December 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #56 (5 December 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (4 December 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #55 (28 November 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (27 November 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (27 November 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #54 (21 November 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (20 November 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #53 (14 November 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (13 November 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (13 November 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #52 (8 November 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (6 November 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (6 November 2025)

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[2] *This figure is calculated based on a triangulation of data from Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and beyond.*