UNHCR Syria
Emergency Response Brief
8 December 2024

Long queues to cross the Jdaidet Yabous border from Syria into Lebanon on 7 December | ©UNHCR Syria

Population Movement

Movement into Lebanon

40,000
Estimated Lebanese refugees
who crossed into Lebanon from Syria through the Jdaidet Yabous, Joussieh and Al-Arida border crossing points since the ceasefire on 27 November, as of 7 December

Reverse population movements from Syria to Lebanon continued following the ceasefire announcement between Israel and Hezbollah on 27 November 2024, mainly through the Jdaidet Yabous (Rural Damascus) border crossing. The Al Arida border crossing (Tartous) reopened on 2 December with limited capacity, but was again put out of commission following airstrikes on 6 December. Jesr Qmar and Joussieh (Homs) border crossings were also hit, but the latter continued to allow pedestrians to cross.

Rural Damascus Governorate

From November 27 to 7 December, some 42,000 people have returned to Lebanon via the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing. The majority of those crossing into Lebanon were Lebanese families, but the past few days has seen a marked uptick in the number of Syrian families making the crossing through this border point (17,051 Syrian individuals since 27 November).

Homs Governorate

Around 16,000 individuals crossed back into Lebanon through the Joussieh border crossing between 27 November and 7 December, the vast majority being Lebanese (some 14,500 individuals). UNHCR notes that the Joussieh border crossing saw minimal movement either way despite remaining open following the airstrike on 6 December.

Tartous Governorate

Although the Al-Arida border crossing briefly reopened on December 2 with limited functionality, it was hit with another airstrike on 6 December and is no longer functional.

Al-Arida border crossing after being hit by another airstrike on 6 December| ©UNHCR Syria

Movement into Syria

20,000
Estimated Individuals
who arrived in **Syria from Lebanon** since the 27 November ceasefire (including non-Lebanese third-country nationals) as of 4 December

7,600
Estimated Lebanese
individuals who crossed into **Syria from Lebanon** since the ceasefire

12,000
Estimated Syrians
individuals who crossed into **Syria from Lebanon** since the ceasefire

Following the ceasefire announcement, arrivals into Syria by both Syrian and Lebanese nationals have continued. It is notable that while Lebanese seeking to reunite with and accompany their families back to Lebanon was the main group for entry, progressively more and more Syrians were reported to have crossed via into Syria from Lebanon. Both the Nassib and Abu-Kamal's border crossings are now closed following capture of the areas by Non-State Armed Groups on 6 December 2024.

Movement within Syria

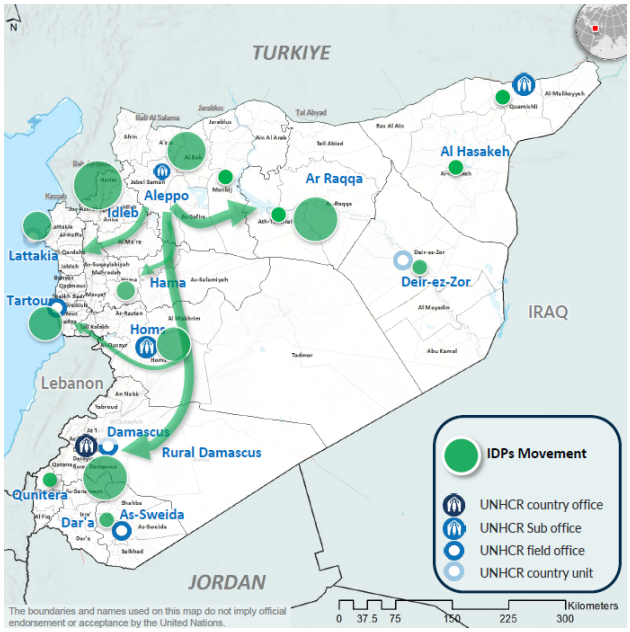
The wave of hostilities that originated in Aleppo continued spread rapidly across the country, engulfing Idleb, Hama and Homs. As of 6 December, an estimated **365,000 individuals** have been forced to flee their homes.

Of those, the majority are in **Idleb**, around 81,000 individuals. Some 62,700 individuals are being temporarily sheltered by UNHCR and its partners in northeast Syria (NES). Most of the families are hosted in **Ar-Raqqa**, in two stadiums that have rapidly been **refashioned** to host 54,300 individuals, while others have arrived in Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hassakeh. On 7 December, heavy clashes between NSAGs and SDF were reported in Maskhana, in close proximity of Al-Tabqa town where thousands of IDPs from Aleppo are hosted.

Transit centre temporarily established by UNHCR and its partnerts in Al-Tabqa, 6 December | ©UNHCR Syria

Another 62,000 individuals have been displaced in **Aleppo**, where UNHCR and its partners are now gradually able to resume its humanitarian programmes and services, including the dsitribution of food, water and other essential non-food items (NFI). Despite the challenging context, on 6 December four UNHCR-supported community centres in Aleppo city reopened, offering health services, counselling and case management activities, as well as referring individuals in need to available food, relief items, and other humanitarian support within the community.

Internal displacement in Syria, 6 December



In **Damascus and Rural Damascus**, some 52,000 individuals have arrived fleeing violence thus far. They are mainly being accomodated in hosting centres in Sayyeda Zeinab, were UNHCR and its partners are providing food, NFI kits, blankets and matresses.

In **Hama**, IDPs in hosting communities and hosting centres have began to return to their homes, while in **Homs**, some 30,500 individuals have arrived seeking refuge. At the same time, a few thousand displaced that had arrived in the past week had left to find refuge in other parts of the country, mostly in Tartous and Latakia and some in Damascus, hence leaving the city deserted.

Since 27 November until today, the coastal area remained a relatively safe and stable destination for thousands escaping the recent escalations of fighting. In **Tartous**, some 43,300 IDPs are now being hosted either in collective shelters or with their relatives. In **Latakia**, some 15,600 displaced individuals have arrived, and the numbers are rapidly increasing.

Despite the rapid response by UNHCR and its partners on the ground, the needs are growing, and it is estimated that, as of 7 December, there is a need for additional 8,000 NFI kist to be urgently distributed to those displaced.