3RP
REGIONAL REFUGEE
& RESILIENCE PLAN









Regional Strategic Overview 2025

ABOUT

The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan

is a strategic coordination, planning, advocacy, fundraising and programming platform with around **230** humanitarian and development partners across four countries.

has **channeled over US$ 26 billion** since its inception in 2015.

is a **regionally coherent plan** that adopts a tailored approach to bring out country-specific needs and priorities.

consists of **one regional plan and four standalone country chapters**, which align with existing government-led national response plans (e.g., JRP and LRP).

is centered on national leadership and capacities to achieve resilience for all, guided by the principle of 'leaving no one behind'.

integrates a **return preparedness component**, ensuring a structured, inter-agency approach to support voluntary, safe, dignified, and well-informed returns while maintaining critical support for refugees and host communities.

Cover photos (front and back):
Nabad for Development, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, World Vision Lebanon
Design: UNHCR / Klement

For additional information:



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The work of 3RP partners would not have been possible without the extremely generous support of donors.

As well as member states, 3RP Partners are grateful to governments, private donors, humanitarian funds, foundations, charities, and other organizations for their contributions. 3RP Partners would also like to acknowledge the huge contribution of host countries who have supported the response in many ways including by making their services available to refugee populations.

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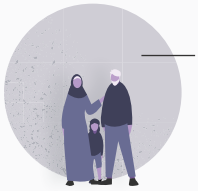
Overview: 2025 Response

Population Targeted in 2025

5,407,752
Total Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Stateless Persons





6,104,698
Total Host Community Members

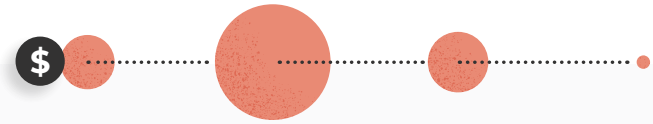
Country Breakdown	Türkiye	Lebanon	Jordan	Egypt
Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Stateless Persons	**3,166,869** including 2,900,000 Syrians	**1,598,973** including 1,400,000 Syrians	**503,948** including 503,948 Syrians	**137,962** Syrians
Host Community Members	**3,681,076**	**1,900,000**	**480,420**	**43,202**
Projected Returnees	**700,000**	**400,000**	**200,000**	**25,000**

Financial Requirements for 2025

USD 4.7 billion
Total Required



Breakdown per Country	Türkiye	Lebanon	Jordan	Egypt
Total 2025 Financial Requirements	USD **740,852,305**	USD **2,992,350,000**	USD **910,430,692**	USD **51,583,540**



	Türkiye	Lebanon	Jordan	Egypt
Including Financial Requirements for Return (Repurposed and Additional)	USD **191 mln**	USD **150 mln**	USD **69 mln**	USD **12 mln**

Regional Situation Overview

Fourteen years into the Syria crisis, the Middle East region faces increasing economic, social, and political challenges, compounded by new large-scale emergencies with regional implications that heighten the needs of both refugees and their host communities. Overall, in 2025 more than 17.1 million people in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Türkiye are in need of some form of humanitarian and development assistance provided by the international community.

The Syria situation remains one of the largest displacement crises globally, with more than 12 million Syrians forcibly displaced, including more than five million Syrian refugees hosted in neighbouring countries, amid active conflict, natural disasters, deteriorating socio-economic and humanitarian conditions. Up to nine out of ten Syrian refugees grapple with challenges in meeting their basic needs while the support needed by host communities has reached unprecedented levels.[1] In 2024, an estimated 16.7 million people inside Syria needed humanitarian assistance, including 7.2 million who were internally displaced.[2]

Following the conflict escalation in Lebanon from 23 September until the 27 November ceasefire, over 900,000 individuals were displaced internally within Lebanon, and 562,000 fled to Syria, including over 400,000 Syrians who returned under adverse circumstances. Since the 27 November ceasefire the vast majority of displaced populations inside and outside Lebanon have returned to pre-displacement areas, nonetheless, hundreds of thousands will continue to need assistance both in Lebanon and inside Syria.

Since December 2024 the unprecedented developments in Syria which led to the fall of the Assad government have dramatically impacted the lives of millions of Syrians, both within and outside the country. The new situation simultaneously presents potential opportunities for return while exacerbating risks of new displacement. Undoubtedly, there has been an increase in Syrian refugees expressing a desire to return home. As of early March, over 300,000 Syrians have already made the journey back. The most recent RPIS survey indicate that 80% of refugees hope to return one day, with 27% expressing the intention to do so within the next year. Most refugees have expressed their intention to return in the spring season and after the end of the school year. In the best-case scenario, it is estimated that up to 1.5 million Syrians may return by the end of 2025.

[1] UNHCR, Ninth Regional Survey on Syrian Refugees' Perceptions & Intentions on Return to Syria
[2] Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian Response Priorities - January to March 2025 (January 2025)

However, despite this momentum, many challenges persist. Amid a still very precarious situation, some 90,000 Syrians are estimated to have fled to Lebanon since December. Inside Syria, many returning families find their homes damaged or destroyed, due to the conflict but also as a result of the devastating earthquakes of 2023, and face significant obstacles in rebuilding their lives. Health services in frontline areas have largely ceased, and education systems have faced major interruptions throughout the years of conflict.

Multiple conflicts in the region have exacerbated economic challenges, with the economies of refugee-hosting countries projected to contract further in 2025, potentially resulting in more people falling into poverty. The economies of the 3RP countries are marked by weak growth, high public debt, hyperinflation, declining foreign investment, and rampant unemployment. These challenges limit fiscal space for services, erode household purchasing power, and push more refugees and vulnerable populations into poverty. In Lebanon, even prior to the escalation of the conflict in September, the majority of Syrian refugees struggled to cover their basic needs, driving them to adopt harmful coping mechanisms (including removing their child from school, child labour and marriage).[3] The conflict has further worsened their situation, with widespread destruction, particularly in the South, damaged shelters, and winter conditions exacerbating vulnerabilities. Many families face constraints in accessing basic services such as education, compounded by restrictive measures in some municipalities.

In Jordan, rising prices and reduced aid have worsened food security, pushing families to prioritise shelter and food over other essential services.[4] In Türkiye, similar economic challenges, notably high inflation and currency fluctuations, compounded by recovery efforts from the 2023 earthquakes have strained overburdened services. Meanwhile, Egypt has become the largest host of refugees arriving from Sudan since the conflict escalation in 2023, and the influx is severely straining national capacities and humanitarian response efforts.

Based on intentions surveys, the majority of refugees are still expected to remain in host countries by the end of 2025. Continued support to refugee-hosting countries remains critical to address life-saving humanitarian needs and maintain protection space. At the same time, it is crucial to follow the choices made by Syrian refugees, including to support those who want to return home.

In parallel, promoting the inclusion of Syrian refugees in national systems and enhancing the economic growth of host countries remains essential. For this, evidence-based advocacy efforts should focus on identifying entry points to remove legal barriers that restrict refugees' access to the labour market and social protection schemes, create employment opportunities and support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). In order to generate employment and stimulate growth, Governments should engage the private sector, employ innovative financing mechanisms and financial tools like debt swaps or concessional financing.

[3] VASyR 2022, Vulnerability Assessment ofSyrian Refugees in Lebanon
[4] UNHCR Jordan, Socio-economic situation of refugees in Jordan, Q2 2023

Regional Needs, Vulnerabilities and Trends

Socio-Economic Outlook in the 3RP Countries

The economies of 3RP countries are facing significant macroeconomic challenges, which impact individuals', communities', and institutions' resilience capacities. In 2023, weak economic growth characterized 3RP countries, with Lebanon experiencing an economic contraction of -0.8%,[5] while Jordan, Egypt, and Türkiye saw modest growth at 2.7%, 3.8%, and 5.1%, respectively.[6] 3RP countries have seen a decline in foreign direct investment (FDI). For example, in 2006, the FDI net inflow as percentage of the GDP was 23.5% in Jordan, 12.1% in Lebanon and 9.3% in Egypt. This has decreased significantly to 1.5% for Jordan, 2.5% for Egypt, and 2.9% for Lebanon in 2023.[7] Three out of the four countries carrying public debt burdens of around 90% of GDP or more[8] (reaching 283.2% in Lebanon), reducing host countries' fiscal space, i.e. limits their ability to fund social programmes and invest in essential public services, such as health, education, and other social services that benefit both host communities and refugees.

This macroeconomic stress is compounded by a high unemployment rate, accounting for 7.3% in Egypt, 18% in Jordan, 11.5% in Lebanon, and 9.4% in Türkiye, and particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as refugees, women, and youth.[9] Meanwhile, informality in the labour market is pervasive, with a significant part of employment in host countries occurring in the informal sector, impeding access to safe employment and social security schemes and resulting in lower wages.[10]

While we observe the growth of refugee-led businesses, including Syrian enterprises constituting over 25% of new foreign firms in Türkiye,[11] refugees still face barriers such as restricted access to finance, legal challenges such as obtaining residency and work permits, and limited recognition of professional qualifications and to secure employment.[12]

Inflation is also a pressing concern, with Lebanon experiencing hyperinflation at 221.3% (annual) and other countries, like Türkiye (53.9%), Egypt (33.9%), and Jordan (2.1%), seeing significant increases.[13] This has impacted the purchasing power of households in vulnerable situations, including their access to food, education, healthcare, and other basic services. In addition, poverty levels remain high. At the national level, we find high poverty rates across all the hosting counties, with poverty rate in Egypt at 29.7% (2019); Türkiye at 14.4% (2021); Lebanon at 44% (2022); and Jordan at 15.7% (2019).[14] Nevertheless, studies show that poverty levels remain comparatively

[5] World Bank, Macro Poverty Outlook, October 2024 Update: Lebanon
[6] World Bank, Macro Poverty Outlook, October 2024 Update: Egypt; Jordan; Türkiye.
[7] See: World Bank Group. Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% of GDP).; World Bank Macro Poverty Outlook.
[8] Around 1.4 times the EMDEs average in 2024.
[9] ILO Estimates 2024. Unemployment rate (Modelled estimates) for 15+ individuals.
[10] ILO Estimates. Informal employment rate (%). fa Force Survey in Egypt (2019) 67%, Employment and Unemployment Survey in Jordan (2022) 53.2%, Labor Force survey in Lebanon (2019) 55.4%, Household labor force survey in Turkiye (2022) 27.3%.
[11] Brookings, The impact of Syrian businesses in Turkey
[12] World Bank 2023: Informal employment in Egypt, Morocco, & Tunisia: What can we learn to boost inclusive growth? And World Bank (2020) The Mobility of displaced Syrians: An economic and social analysis
[13] World Bank, inflation consumer prices (annual %). (2023)
[14] Poverty headcount ratio according to national poverty lines (% of population). Data retrieved from the World Bank Poverty World Development Indicators.

higher for the Syrian refugees, with for instance, 67% of Syrian refugees in Jordan expected to fall below the poverty line by the end of 2024,[15] and with 90% of Syrian refugees living in extreme poverty in Lebanon.[16] Increased food insecurity is observed across the hosting countries, especially in Lebanon where 19% of the population faces hunger.[17] As the high cost of living exacerbates poverty and food insecurity, it forces families to adopt harmful coping strategies such as withdrawing children from school or resorting to child labour and early marriage.

Recent assessments of the effect of regional conflicts paint a worrying picture in the host countries. It is estimated that even with a cessation of hostilities is in place, Lebanon's economy will contract by an additional 2.3% in 2025, resulting in a 3.2% decline in public revenues. This contraction would further exacerbate Lebanon's fiscal challenges and undermine its ability to maintain key public services. The household welfare will also be impacted, with the consumer price index projected to increase by 6% and private consumption to drop by 14.8%.[18] The Gaza war, in turn, while having had a massive impact on the lives of people in Gaza and Lebanon, has also negatively impacted the neighbouring countries, especially through a significant decrease in tourism which affects the GDP and other productive activities including trade, with a loss estimated at 1.3% for the 2023 baseline in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon, and is likely to affect the economies even further.

[15] UNHCR Vulnerability Assessment Framework: Socio-economic survey of refugees (2024)
[16] World Bank. Lebanon Poverty Equity Assessment: Weathering a protracted crisis (2024)
[17] VASyR Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (2023).
[18] UNDP (October 2024). UNDP warns of socio-economic crisis in Lebanon amidst escalation of hostilities; and. UNDP (October 2024) Economic and social consequences of the escalating hostilities in Lebanon – Rapid Appraisal.





Click to view the full story

Photo by CARE Egypt

"No job is shameful, and any job is better than asking for charity," says Bahana Ghanem from Beheira, Egypt. Two years ago, she bought a piece of land and started farming to support her siblings. Through CARE Egypt's 'She Feeds the World' project, Bahana enhanced her skills and now produces high-quality potato harvests, contributing to economic empowerment.

Protracted Displacement with Growing Vulnerabilities among Refugees and Host Communities

Forced displacement impacts both displaced individuals and the communities which host them. This impact is amplified in protracted refugee situations "in which refugees find themselves in a long-lasting and intractable state of limbo. Their lives may not be at risk, but their basic rights and essential economic, social, and psychological needs remain unfulfilled after years in exile"[19] according to UNHCR.

As of March 2025, Türkiye continues to host 2.8 million Syrian refugees, one of the largest refugee populations worldwide. Jordan (with over 560,000 Syrian refugees) and Lebanon (1.5 million Syrian refugees) are among the world's countries hosting the largest refugee populations per capita.

Egypt hosts 138,000 registered Syrian refugees, alongside refugees and asylum-seekers from 58 other nationalities.[20] On top of this, the conflict in Sudan has prompted an influx of over 1.2 million refugees into Egypt since April 2023 (according to government data), creating an urgent need for lifesaving protection and humanitarian assistance. Across the region, approximately 94% of Syrian refugees live within host communities, with the remainder residing in camps.

The vulnerability of refugees increases amidst regional or global crises that exacerbate political, economic, social, and security concerns in host countries. Refugees already face unique challenges, which intensify when conditions in host countries deteriorate, as seen in 3RP countries. Refugees are often driven to adopt harmful coping strategies, including reducing meal portions, cutting non-food expenses, accepting high-risk jobs, incurring debt, withdrawing children from school, and engaging in child labour or child marriage.

Refugees are often driven to adopt harmful coping strategies, including reducing meal portions, cutting non-food expenses, accepting high-risk jobs, incurring debt, withdrawing children from school, and engaging in child labour or child marriage. It is alarming that UNHCR's Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey showed tensions with the host community as one of the main challenges that refugees face in their daily life, a concern that was not raised in previous iterations of the Survey.

Prolonged displacement in a worsening environment also strains host governments and diverts resources that are critical to addressing both the development needs of host populations and the needs of refugees. While coping mechanisms and recovery from economic shocks may differ, both host communities and refugees encounter similar challenges, such as high unemployment rates that intensify competition for limited job opportunities and scarce resources, ultimately impacting social cohesion.

To mitigate these challenges and foster long-term stability, refugees and host communities alike require improved access to education, health, social welfare and employment opportunities to address inter-generational protection needs and achieve lasting solutions.

[19] UNHCR Standing Committee – Protracted refugee situations
[20] UNHCR Data portal

Key Cross-Cutting Challenges

Climate Impact

The wider region faces the most severe water shortages globally, with climate change significantly undermining water and energy access, food security, and ecosystems. Urgent governance, development and humanitarian challenges resulting from the Syria crisis are worsened by ecological degradation, including growing water insecurity; desertification and rising temperatures. These phenomena will negatively impact natural resources, health, and infrastructure, exacerbated by challenges including population growth, increases in multi-dimensional poverty, and the impact of displacement. Looking ahead, climate change will continue to be a key driver for heightened needs, vulnerabilities, and potential tensions among and between refugees and host communities. The 3RP partners will prioritise interventions which address climate change, energy needs and environmental degradation to offset any potential instabilities.

Policy and Regulatory Frameworks

Host governments in the region have continued to play a generous role in hosting Syrian refugees displaced over the course of the crisis. However, ensuring progress towards self-reliance or achieving durable solutions remains challenging, with persistent issues related to social cohesion and negative rhetoric towards refugees. The legal status of refugees in host countries, restrictive national policies and lack of comprehensive access to civil documentation, continue to limit the participation and the socio-economic inclusion of refugees within society. Access to basic services and decent livelihood opportunities is inconsistent, while social protection and social welfare schemes are limited and often inaccessible to refugees. The 3RP response aims at expanding local opportunities and empowering refugees and host communities to become self-reliant. Embracing inclusive policies will play a pivotal role in supporting the achievement of any durable solution to displacement.

Palestine Refugees: Needs and Response

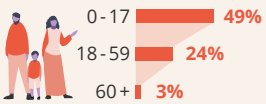
As of September 2024, Lebanon has experienced its most significant escalation of conflict since the 2006 Lebanon War, worsening the already dire humanitarian situation. By October, destruction, civilian casualties and displacement had exceeded 2006 levels, with over 20,000 Palestine refugees displaced. Some fled to Syria, despite serious humanitarian and protection risks. UNRWA, operating emergency shelters for all displaced persons in need, plays a vital role in the humanitarian response in Lebanon. Even before this escalation, Lebanon grappled with an ongoing economic collapse, profoundly affecting livelihoods. Decades of marginalization have left Palestine refugees ill-equipped to handle Lebanon's mounting crises. Approximately 250,000 Palestine refugees in Lebanon face high unemployment and extreme poverty, with 80 percent living below the poverty line, conditions expected to deteriorate as the conflict continues. As of May, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) face additional hardship due to policy changes preventing residency permit renewals, heightening protection risks. In Jordan, over 20,000 PRS continue to face vulnerabilities from high unemployment and rising living costs. Approximately a third lack Jordanian documentation, leading to severe hardships like restricted movement and limited access to employment and services. PRS in Jordan also face challenges related to civil documentation, deportation and the risk of refoulement, worsening their precarious situation.

2025 Population Overview

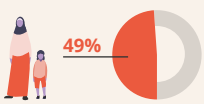
	People in Need		People Targeted	
TOTAL	**5,527,734** Total Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Stateless Persons	**11,618,196** Host community members	**5,407,752** Total Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Stateless Persons	**6,104,698** Host community members
Egypt	**137,962** Syrians	**43,202** Host community members	**137,962** Syrians	**43,202** Host community members
Jordan	**623,930** Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (including 564,079 Syrians)	**1,601,400** Host community members	**503,948** Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (including 503,948 Syrians)	**480,420** Host community members
Lebanon	**1,598,973** Displaced Syrians, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Migrants (including 1,400,000 Syrians)	**2,400,000** Vulnerable Lebanese and Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)	**1,598,973** Displaced Syrians, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Migrants (including 1,400,000 Syrians)	**1,900,000** Vulnerable Lebanese and Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)
Türkiye	**3,166,869** Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (including 2,900,000 Syrians)	**7,573,594** Host community members	**3,166,869** Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (including 2,900,000 Syrians)	**3,681,076** Host community members

Insights: Targeted Refugee Population

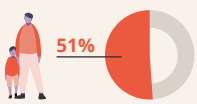
Age Breakdown*



Women & Girls*



Men & Boys*



People with Disabilities**



Estimated over 811 thousand people

Projected Returnees

Up to — **Türkiye 700,000** — **Lebanon 400,000** — **Jordan 200,000** — **Egypt 25,000**

Note: These figures may change subject to further updates from countries.

** Regional Estimation for targeted refugee population in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt, based on available data. Data Source: UNHCR data portal, as of 1 Dec 2024.*

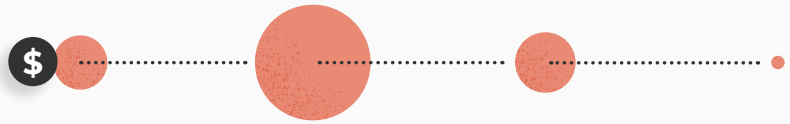
*** Note: The number of persons with disabilities in the region is an estimation. Persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15% of any population, with higher numbers expected in situations of forced displacement.*

Funding Overview

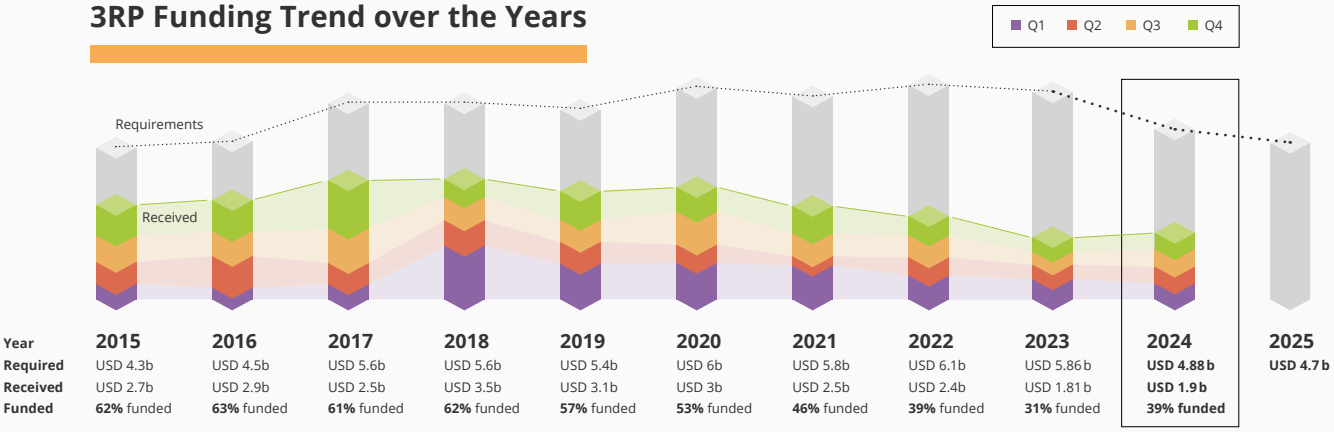
2025 Financial Requirements

USD 4,695,216,537
Total Required

Türkiye	Lebanon	Jordan	Egypt
USD 740,852,305	USD 2,992,350,000	USD 910,430,692	USD 51,583,540

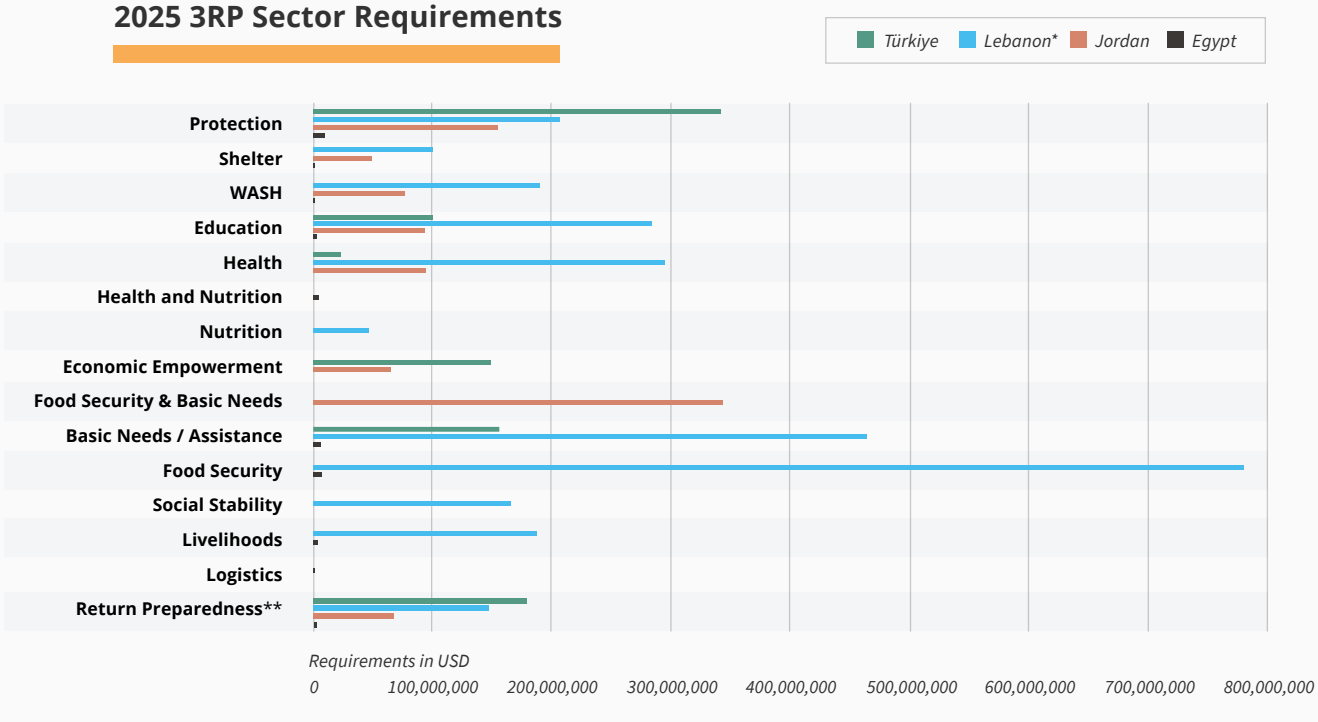


3RP Funding Trend over the Years



Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Required	USD 4.3b	USD 4.5b	USD 5.6b	USD 5.6b	USD 5.4b	USD 6b	USD 5.8b	USD 6.1b	USD 5.86 b	**USD 4.88 b**	**USD 4.7 b**
Received	USD 2.7b	USD 2.9b	USD 2.5b	USD 3.5b	USD 3.1b	USD 3b	USD 2.5b	USD 2.4b	USD 1.81 b	**USD 1.9 b**	
Funded	**62%** funded	**63%** funded	**61%** funded	**62%** funded	**57%** funded	**53%** funded	**46%** funded	**39%** funded	**31%** funded	**39% funded**	

2025 3RP Sector Requirements



** These figures are estimates based on the draft initial plan. They may change, and additional sectors may be included once the plan is finalized.*
*** Return Preparedness includes both additional and repurposed activities.*

Guiding Principles and Approaches

Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)

Recognizing that international cooperation is necessary to address displacement in a sustainable manner, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) was developed as a framework for achieving more equitable and predictable responsibility-sharing. The 3RP's innovative HDP Nexus coordination was itself an inspiration for the GCR's whole-of-society approach. The 3RP uses the GCR as a guiding principle and objective for drafting policies and strategies to support host governments' efforts in providing refugees and host communities a life in dignity. The 3RP continues to advocate for international donors' support to promote protection of and solutions for refugees and host communities by enhancing and including refugees into national services until a durable solution is found.

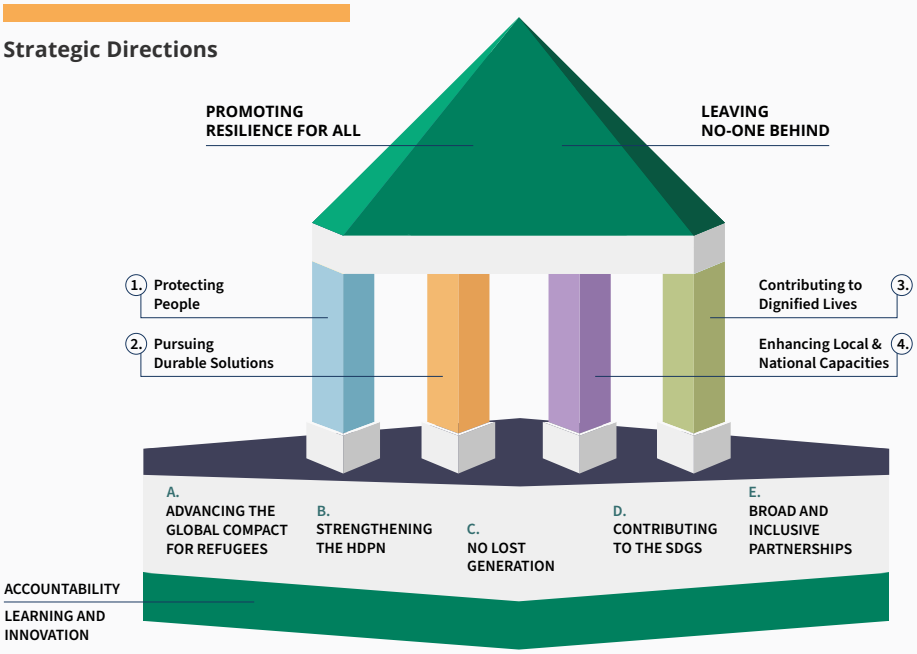
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The governments of Lebanon, Jordan, Türkiye, and Egypt remain committed to achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, the protracted Syrian crisis unavoidably impacts the capacity of host countries to fully enact this ambitious agenda.

Through its interventions, the 3RP contributes to a wide spectrum of SDGs and their associated targets, with SDGs mainstreamed in 3RP planning and monitoring processes.

Looking ahead, the 3RP will continue placing a focus on how interventions can continue to advance the implementation of the SDGs and support host governments in localizing the SDGs and meeting SDG targets.

Conceptual Framework





‘Resilience for All’

The concept of ‘resilience for all’ was introduced in 2020 to describe an approach of helping both refugees and host communities to be self-reliant and included, where possible, in local and national systems, plans and policies. The 3RP’s resilience programming strives to support host communities’ and refugees’ self-reliance and the capacities of local and national systems to guarantee access to essential services. 3RP partners have also been working with public institutions at different levels by providing support (financial and technical). While acknowledging that national systems are strained, refugees can make a positive contribution to the country in which they work and earn livelihoods while contributing to the economy (e.g., growth, employment, taxes etc.).

Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN)

The 3RP has been at the forefront in bringing humanitarian and development approaches closer to each other, contributing to drive the triple Nexus agenda globally. The resilience-based development approach adopted in the 3RP reinforces the position that the HDPN is critical in providing effective short- and longer-term solutions for host communities and refugees. The 3RP links humanitarian and resilience-based development interventions in various areas including protection, food security, education, health, basic needs, shelter, WASH, and livelihoods and economic empowerment, with an emphasis on identifying interventions and modalities that can promote sustainability. The emphasis on the promotion of social stability and cohesion and conflict sensitivity are of particular significance for the implementation of the ‘peace’ dimension of the HDPN in the 3RP.



Photo by Takaful Al Sham

Since its launch over five years ago, the Ru’ya Program of Takaful Al Sham Charity (TAS) has trained more than 2,000 adolescents. The Ru’ya Curriculum for Youth Development & Empowerment is structured around six integrated axes: Interpersonal Skills and Thinking, Values and Ethics, Identity and Mission, Career Path, Social Skills, and Community Initiatives.

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Conflict and instability heighten vulnerabilities and may hinder affected populations from accessing protection and assistance services. In this context, community outreach, empowerment, and localization are critical to supporting the identification of protection needs and risks, ensuring equal access to information, protection, and assistance, promoting engagement in protection and solutions planning and implementation, countering misinformation, and fostering social cohesion.

Between January and September 2024, contact centers in Türkiye, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Egypt handled 1,124,854 queries related to cash, registration, resettlement, return, healthcare, and legal protection. In the same period, 1,184,800 persons participated in community engagement and awareness-raising initiatives on how to seek asylum, access services, strengthen child protection, prevent GBV, and address the needs of people with disabilities or diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, expressions, and sex charac-teristics (SOGIESC).

In 2025, 3RP partners will continue to enhance community outreach and engagement through digital and face-to-face approaches. This will include expanding outreach volun-teer programs and community protection networks and strengthening community and grassroots organizations and their coordination, including through capacity development and other support.



Photo by Humanity & Inclusion

With support from Humanity & Inclusion's Early Intervention program, Ahmad, a young Syrian refugee living in Jordan, has transformed his social and developmental skills. Struggling with delays in language, social interaction, and responsiveness, he received 40 home-based sessions and targeted therapy. Now, he plays with other children, interacts with people around him, and is preparing to join kindergarten.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Risks of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) increase during crises and displacement when populations, especially women and children, rely on humanitarian assistance and existing protection mechanisms break down. The responsibility of 3RP partners to take all necessary measures to protect those affected by crises and displacement from SEA remains crucial, especially given the prolonged Syria crisis compounded by multiple emergencies in the region, as well as reduced humanitarian and development funding and livelihood opportunities.

Building on previous achievements, in 2025, 3RP partners will continue to expand efforts to strengthen SEA prevention and response measures across sectors. Priorities include responsible staff recruitment with systematic vetting and reference checks and providing PSEA training to all staff. Ongoing engagement with communities on their rights and reporting mechanisms, enhancing accessible, inclusive and safe feedback/grievance and response systems in consultation with all community groups, and ensuring survivor-centred assistance with safe referrals to GBV response services will be critical priorities, too. Moreover, aligning with core principles, capacity-building for partners to conduct investigations per global standards, reinforcing the role of PSEA Focal Points and the Inter-Agency PSEA Network, and improving coordination among humanitarian and development organisations, government agencies, local partners, and non-traditional actors will promote the prevention of and response to SEA.

Prioritisation

The 3RP is a country-led, regionally aligned plan composed of four country chapters (Lebanon, Jordan, Türkiye and Egypt) with needs-based annual appeals, developed in consultation with host governments and key stakeholders.

In preparing the 2025 appeal, the 3RP relies on the prioritisation guidance established for the 2024 planning process and adapted for 2025. While recognizing that emerging global and regional crises are increasing pressures on partners' funding and response capacities, it remains critical that sufficient resources are allocated for the Syrian situation response. Notably, the 2025 appeal stands at USD 4.7 billion, reflecting a continued and successful prioritisation effort, further streamlining requirements compared to the 2024 appeal of USD 4.9 billion and the 2023 appeal, which was at USD 5.8 billion.

The 3RP has set out four key principles to effectively integrate prioritisation into its appeal:

- Commitment and accountability by the individual agencies towards beneficiaries
- Ownership and leadership of the national/local governments and localization efforts
- Engagement of donors and fundraising perspectives
- Promotion of coherent programming across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN), encouraging partners to avoid siloed approaches and align efforts towards durable solutions.

Interagency coordinators in countries will continue to assess prioritisation parameters, including partners' operational capacity, geographical coverage, data to ascertain complementarity with other actors operating outside of the 3RP, and criticality to avoid duplication while ensuring a needs-based approach. At the regional level, the 3RP Joint Secretariat will remain vigilant in tracking funding trends and emerging challenges, maintaining accountability, and fostering donor engagement in an increasingly complex funding environment.

Strategic Directions

I. Protecting People

In a context of regional instability driving new large-scale displacement, maintaining or expanding protection space in 3RP countries is central to the response. Without a conducive protection environment, refugees face increased vulnerabilities and are unable to benefit from resilience-building or development opportunities.

Many Syrian refugees arrived without valid documents, impacting their access to civil rights in host countries. Ensuring access to civil registration and documentation is crucial for refugees' basic rights, freedom of movement, education, work services and entitlements. Birth registration is particularly important to prevent statelessness. Efforts by host countries, in cooperation with other actors, have reduced the percentage of Syrian refugee children born without documentation from 35 per cent in 2012 to between one and five per cent in recent years. Timely registration of births, deaths, and marriages is critical to achieving durable solutions.

In 3RP countries, women and girls, especially those with specific needs, are disproportionately affected by GBV, including domestic violence, child marriage, sexual violence (affecting also boys, men, and those with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC[28])), sexual exploitation, and online harassment. Stigma and cultural norms, hinder survivor's ability to seek help. In 2025, priorities include ensuring access to quality, inclusive and community-driven specialized GBV services, evidence-based prevention efforts, promoting women and girls' empowerment through skills building, education and safe livelihood opportunities, ensuring culturally sensitive approaches, and mitigating GBV risks across all sectors.

Approximately half of refugees are children and are among the most affected by conflict and displacement, many of them facing family separation, child marriage, child labour and other forms of exploitation, peer bullying, trauma and distress affecting their mental health and wellbeing, and increased vulnerability to physical and sexual abuse. Access to basic services like education, healthcare, social welfare, and birth registration remains challenging. In 2025, 3RP partners will continue their efforts to integrate refugee children and adolescents into national child protection, justice and civil registration systems, as well as formal and non-formal education, through enhanced partnerships.

[28] Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics

Mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) needs have surged due to prolonged displacement, economic hardships, active conflict and new displacement, earthquakes, increased discrimination, social tensions, and xenophobic violence. Stigma, misconceptions, and a general lack of specialized services in host countries can exacerbate these risks, with cases of increased self-harm, suicidal behaviours, and substance abuse, especially among children and adolescents. With limited access to services, in 2025, evidence-based and scalable MHPSS interventions, including community-based support and specialized mental health care, will be upheld to address these pressing needs.

3RP partners will also focus on community empowerment, promoting peaceful coexistence through digital and face-to-face solutions, for both forcibly displaced and host communities. Progress will come through inclusive learning initiatives and engagement with community and grassroots organisations.

Unaddressed protection challenges may contribute to more Syrian refugees attempting onward movement. In 2024, trends of onward movement have included attempts to cross the sea from Lebanon as well as movements from Türkiye, mostly by land. Others have moved by air to Libya and then onwards across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. Such journeys are inherently dangerous, and sustainable responses that go beyond protection and humanitarian interventions are needed in order to contribute to more dignified lives for Syrian refugees in the countries in which they have sought protection.



Lebanon, October 2024: A Syrian refugee, displaced by the hostilities, holds his head while listening to the television news about the bombings in Lebanon, at the temporary lodgings in Beirut, where he and his family are staying after being forced to flee their home.

Photo by UNHCR / Ximena Borrazas



Gender, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Conflicts, natural disasters, and economic crises have reversed development gains, including advancements in gender equality,[29] with gender gaps persisting[30] as conflicts turn into protracted humanitarian crises, disproportionately affecting women and girls. Emergency responses can either reinforce or challenge these inequalities[31] with e.g., adolescent girls and older women in humanitarian settings facing limited services and often being overlooked.[32]

Displaced and refugee women often take on new roles due to economic pressures, potentially gaining decision-making authority but increasing burden, social[33] and risks of conflicts, especially for women with disabilities. Notably, most Syrian refugee women in Jordan, Lebanon, Türkiye, and Egypt earn low incomes which may lead to more harmful coping strategies, such as withdrawing children from school and child marriage for girls. Addressing gender inequalities is crucial to better meet the needs of and empower crisis-affected women and girls.

Persons with disabilities (PwD), including children, continue to face barriers to healthcare, shelter, and education, with risks of violence, exploitation, and discrimination heightened by displacement. Specialized support services and an inclusive environment, including participation in decision-making processes, are essential to safeguard their right.

Women and girls continue to face significant sexual and reproductive health (SRH) challenges, including limited access to maternal care, contraceptives, and menstrual health resources. These challenges are further compounded by barriers such as high costs, lack of transportation, restrictive social norms, family dynamics, and insufficient mental health support. Many healthcare systems are also under-resourced, with limited availability of trained providers and integrated SRH services.

Strengthening the localization agenda through capacity building for women-led organisations (WLOs) is critical to addressing these needs effectively. By equipping these organisations with training, resources, and funding, WLOs can be empowered to community-centered SRH services, enhance advocacy efforts, and create sustainable mechanisms to support the most vulnerable women and girls.

Refugee youth face significant protection risks as many have been displaced for years and in the absence of self-reliance opportunities may be vulnerable to exploitation, trafficking, and violence. Access to education, resilience programmes, skills development, and community engagement are essential to empower Syrian youth in 3RP countries.

[29] ESCWA: Arab States Sustainable Development Report (2020:12)
[30] Situational Analysis of Women and Girls in the MENA and Arab States Region: A Decade Review 2010 – 2020.
[31] UNFPA: Executive summary: In the aftermath Gender Considerations in Assessments of Syrian Regions Affected by the 2023 Earthquake. 2023.
[32] UNFPA: GBV Prevention and Response to Older Women in the WoS 2022 page 2
[33] UNFPA: Rapid Review. In the aftermath Gender Considerations in Assessments of Syrian Regions Affected by the 2023 Earthquake. 2023. page 8

II. Pursuing Durable Solutions

For Syrian refugees in 3RP countries, the hope for voluntary repatriation has been renewed but the perspective of returning in the short-term remains unlikely for many, while local integration has been increasingly challenging. In the meantime, the demand for resettlement and complementary pathways far exceeds the available opportunities. Many Syrian refugees continue to face significant socio-economic challenges with limited access to formal employment, making them vulnerable to a range of protection risks. Some Syrian refugees may attempt to move beyond the region, exposing themselves to multiple dangers, including drowning, trafficking, exploitation, assault and detention.

Pursuing durable solutions under the 3RP has always been grounded on the needs and intentions of Syrian refugees. Be it ultimately returning in safety and dignity to Syria, remaining in the host country or pursuing movement to a third country through resettlement or a complementary pathway, Syrian refugees must be the ones deciding on their future. The international community, 3RP countries and Syria must work together to ensure different solutions are available to Syrian refugees to suit their varying needs.

Voluntary Repatriation:

Following the collapse of the Assad government in Syria in early December 2024, refugees in neighbouring countries have expressed elation and hope, as well as caution, about the prospect of returning to their homes. As of early March 2025, over 300,000 Syrians have returned to Syria since 8 December, primarily through self-organized returns, facilitated to varying extents by host government return processes. Depending on how the situation inside Syria evolves, it is likely that returns will increase over the course of 2025, linked to key calendar events, including the end of Ramadan, the end of the school year, agricultural and weather conditions, especially at the beginning of spring. Some Syrian refugees have requested financial and transportation support to be able to return.

As per findings of UNHCR's flash refugee perception and intention survey (RPIS) conducted in January 2025[34] among Syrian refugees, 27% of Syrian refugees registered with, or known to UNHCR in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt expressed an intention to go back in the next 12 months. This represents a major shift compared to the previous RPIS conducted in April 2024, when only 1.7% of Syrian refugees interviewed expressed an intention to return in the next twelve months. In Türkiye, although not part of the Regional Survey, similar percentages have been observed.

[34] UNHCR Flash RPIS 2025

The comprehensive protection and solutions approach[35] focuses on the four solutions of: 1) Voluntary, safe, and dignified return to Syria; 2) Local solutions and opportunities, such as legal stay; 3) Resettlement to a third country 4) Access to a third country through legal means other than resettlement (complementary pathways). With a new focus on the first of these solutions, sustained support to asylum countries is essential to ensure adequate protection space for those remaining and the voluntariness of those choosing to return.

On 16 December 2024, **UNHCR released a new position on returns to Syria**, reiterating that all refugees have the fundamental right to return to their country of origin at a time of their choosing, and all returns must be voluntary, safe and dignified. The position encourages support for refugees seeking to return as conditions allow, while underlining that during such times of uncertainty, widespread destruction and continued high levels of displacement, UNHCR is not promoting large scale voluntary repatriation to Syria.

Through the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group and within the overall framework of the 3RP, the interagency community developed the Regional Interagency Preparedness Plan on Refugee[36] Returns (IAPPR).[37] The purpose of this document is to set a regional interagency framework and action plan through which country operations develop/update country-specific interagency plans for refugee returns. The IAPPR achieves this by confirming/articulating standards, policies, approaches and actions at regional and country levels. **Please see the following link for the Inter-Agency Preparedness Plan for Return to Syria**. Detailed information on country specific return plans can be found in the dedicated country chapters.[38]

Access to Local Opportunities and Solutions:

Expanding local opportunities and solutions is a vital requirement across the refugee population in 3RP countries. While these opportunities may vary in scale and scope, refugees need a supportive legal and policy framework that safeguards their rights and provides socio-economic prospects to enhance self-reliance. The 3RP will continue to advocate for supportive legal and policy frameworks and a conducive environment for sustainable service delivery that is on par with what is available to host communities. It will also promote access to formal and decent employment, financial resources, and the development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). This aims to bridge the gap between refugees' skills and the demands of the local job market. Achieving this necessitates establishing strategic partnerships, not only with the private sector but also with local governments and service delivery partners, to ensure comprehensive inclusion in service delivery systems. These partnerships will focus on training, certification, and recognition of education, qualifications, and skills while addressing gender inequalities. Exploring connections to provide access to skill development for opportunities in third countries will also be considered, as it can have positive ripple effects, benefiting those who remain in host countries.

[35] UNHCR Comprehensive protection and solutions strategy
[36] Reference to refugees and returnees throughout the IAPPR refers to any citizen or habitual resident of Syria who is currently outside the country, irrespective of their legal status in the host or asylum country, e.g. Palestine refugees, stateless persons.
[37] The IAPPR was developed through a series of consultations with Regional Durable Solutions Working Group members through the Returns Preparedness Task Force (RPTF), including a workshop in January 2025.
[38] Please find links to the country plans including return components here: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Türkiye.

Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:

For the past decade UNHCR and partners have been advocating for multi-year, predictable resettlement quotas to provide protection and vital support for Syrian refugees. Resettlement and complementary pathways remain one of the most viable durable solutions. Syrian refugees are the refugee population with the highest global resettlement needs, with over 933,000 Syrian refugees projected to be in need of resettlement in 2025.[39] Even in the wake of uncertainty and the hope and possibility that Syrians who chose to go home will be able to go home, UNHCR and partners must continue to advocate for predictable resettlement quotas for Syrian refugees. The availability of resettlement as a solution and ultimately a protection tool is a must. Without knowing how the situation will settle in Syria, in the best-case scenario of large-scale voluntary returns to Syria, there will exist Syrian refugees who will continue to face international protection needs and cannot return to Syria. Amongst those refugees, there will be many that continue to need lifesaving protection interventions, such as resettlement. Alternative pathways for the most vulnerable including humanitarian visa and admissions programmes are also needed, as they provide an additional safe pathway for those at heightened risk. This in combination with the expansion of complementary pathways, such as labour and education opportunities, remains a priority to enhance international responsibility-sharing, in line with the GCR and ensuring that refugees have agency and decision-making power in their futures. In the short term, complementary pathways involve sustained efforts to boost partnership networks and systems while advocating for the removal of obstacles over time. Having established local coordination structures across the MENA region, local working groups and partners coming together will ensure the long-term vision for equal access to pathways which relies on independent partnerships that connect with local resilience and the refugees' capacity to return to their home country. This approach also involves building the HDP Nexus to support these broader goals.



Photo by UNHCR

[39] https://www.unhcr.org/media/projected-global-resettlement-needs-2025

III. Contributing to Dignified Lives

In response to the socio-economic impacts of displacement and regional crises, the 3RP aims to promote dignified lives by supporting refugees' and vulnerable host communities' access to essential services, employability, decent work and livelihoods, and social services/ social assistance. With rising poverty and strained public systems in host countries, the 3RP emphasizes multi-purpose cash assistance and cash-for-food programmes to meet critical needs, despite shrinking international funding. Ensuring that the most vulnerable populations, including children and youth, can access quality education, vocational training, and social safety nets is central to this vision, promoting both immediate relief and long-term stability.

The provision of decent work opportunities is essential for supporting resilience of individuals and households. However, underfunding in the livelihoods sectors limits refugees' ability to achieve economic inclusion. The 3RP partners are committed to expand economic empowerment to both refugees and vulnerable host community member focussing on improving skills, and promoting employability through stronger partnerships with governments, international financial institutions, and the private sector.

Click to view the full story



With support from Anera and UNICEF, Ismail has gained the skills to farm independently, a profession that will benefit him for a lifetime.

Video by UNICEF Lebanon

These efforts aim to unlock new economic opportunities, encourage entrepreneurial activities, and leverage private sector infrastructure to facilitate responses that benefit both refugees and host communities. Building linkages between education, skills development, and employment opportunities enhances human development outcomes, ensuring a better quality of life and greater self-reliance for refugees and hosts alike. Furthermore, by making efforts towards aligning and harmonizing refugee assistance with national child protection and social protection systems, the 3RP enhances social and financial inclusion and aligns its support with national development priorities. This ensures the efficient delivery of services while strengthening institutions and fostering collaboration with civil society and private-sector entities.

With half of the Syrian refugee population under 18 years of age,[40] and rapid population growth in host countries, investments in child protection, education, family welfare services and youth development are critical. The provision of sustainable, equitable, and quality education for refugees and their host communities, and ensuring their access to these services, is vital for supporting positive human development outcomes and 'leaving no one behind'. The number of out-of-school Syrian children remains a concern in several 3RP countries, for instance with 34% of Syrian children never attending school in Türkiye[41] and 11% in Jordan.[42] The 3RP's work enhances education and upskilling, and ensures access to all education tracks, including vocational and technical education, complementary child protection, and family welfare services. Addressing the issue of out-of-school children and ensuring equitable access to all educational tracks, including vocational education, are key priorities. Through this multi-faceted approach, the 3RP remains committed to supporting refugees and vulnerable populations in living dignified lives while reinforcing the stability, capacity, and resilience of host communities and national systems



Photo of Banu Odaman, who participated in the 'I Am Trained for My Job' programme, conducted in partnership with the ILO Office for Turkiye and Youth Deal Cooperative. The initiative is aimed at increasing labour force participation in Izmir, particularly targeting youth and women who have taken a break from work due to family caregiving responsibilities.

Photo by ILO / Bülent Külfel

[40] As of 23 October 2024, 47.9% of UNHCR registered Syrians are under 18, this is around 2,385,745 children. UNHCR Operation Data Portal, Syria Regional Refugee Response, October 2024.
[41] UNICEF (2024) Report on analysis for out-of-school Syrian children.
[42] UNICEF (2020) Jordan country report on out-of-school children.

IV. Enhancing Local and National Capacities

Host governments and their national systems across the 3RP countries continue to struggle meeting the needs of the populations they serve, not least as the number of refugees and asylum seekers increases and displacement becomes more protracted. In urban settings, where more than 94% of Syrian refugees reside,[43] municipalities, among other governmental entities, face increasing challenges in ensuring equitable access to and provision of infrastructural services for both refugees and host communities. Notwithstanding, municipalities and local authorities play a crucial role in maintaining social stability and cohesion at the community level. In certain countries, they are also engaged in local economic development and fostering partnerships with private sector and development actors. Some municipalities have been providing additional services despite receiving little or no support from the central governments, which may not be sustainable.

The 3RP is committed to strengthening the support to local and national capacities to ensure the provision of quality services, sustainable and long-term impact of the refugee response. 3RP partners will continue to align programmes with national plans and priorities, working in close coordination and partnership with institutions at local, sub-national, and national levels.

Cooperation through partnerships with local and national institutions and with local and national civil society ensures that the increasingly stressed systems are supported to meet the growing needs of refugees and host communities, including through technical and human capacity building and sharing.

Over the coming year, 3RP partners' efforts aim at scaling up social infrastructure development (e.g., schools, health facilities, waste management, and water networks), the provision of equipment (e.g., solid waste trucks, IT equipment), and the development of civil servants' capacities to deliver more effective responses. These efforts are especially relevant to enable those systems to access and absorb larger amounts of funding, particularly through loans and blended finance support from IFIs.



Photo by UNDP Türkiye

UNDP Türkiye's "Villages of Tomorrow" initiative equips local communities in Adana and Izmir with skills in smart agriculture, e-commerce, and coding. The project fosters sustainable development and aims to expand to 10 villages, benefiting over one million people by 2028.

[43] UNHCR Operation Data Portal, Syria Regional Refugee Response.





Photos by Relief International/Mazen Yammine

Relief International has been operating in Lebanon since 2007, supporting Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese communities with life-saving healthcare, education programming, and livelihoods assistance under the Lebanon Response Plan. Today local staff continue to provide regular support to those in need while expending their activities to address the heightened needs caused by the escalation of hostilities.



Social Cohesion and Tensions

Tensions with the host community came in as the second most common challenge that refugees face in their daily life in the Refugee Intentions and Perceptions Survey (June 2024), and some countries in the region have seen intensified rhetoric around refugee returns, and further restrictions such as a push towards the implementation of stricter curfews. With a trend of a decline in trust in governments across the region, as shown by the Arab Barometer,[44] there is a risk of refugees increasingly becoming "scapegoats" for deeper political, social and economic challenges.

The 3RP response integrates social cohesion across multiple initiatives, although with different approaches by country. In Türkiye and Jordan, while there is no dedicated social cohesion sector, elements of cohesion and context sensitivity are embedded across the response, including in protection, livelihoods, and education interventions. Efforts focus on language training, engaging refugees in local governance, supporting life skills, MHPSS, and violence prevention programmes, addressing peer bullying among children and adolescents, and fostering workplace inclusion through Syrian businesses and refugee employment. In Lebanon, the response includes conflict-sensitive strategies, including benefiting from the analysis of the Tensions Monitoring System (TMS). Lebanon also hosts a standalone sector on social stability, ensuring 'do-no-harm' principles are applied across all sectors.

[44] Arab Barometer survey. All available waves.



Photo of Jacky, the creative entrepreneur behind the eco-friendly brand Bougie a la Mode.

"With UNDP Lebanon's support through equipment provision, packaging, and raw materials, I managed to diversify and develop new products to attract new customers. I succeeded in reaching new markets and my profits increased."

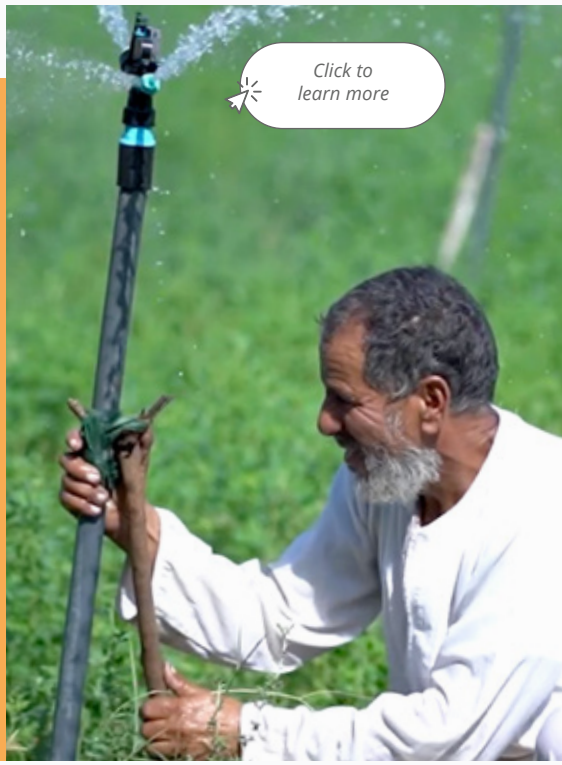
To sustain business operations and foster employment opportunities for women and youth, UNDP, in partnership with Norway, supported over 150 SMEs, cooperatives, and farmers through essential training and in-kind grants.

Photo by UNDP

Mamdouh, a farmer from Minya Governorate in Egypt, is among those who participated in training courses on modern irrigation techniques like sprinklers and drip irrigation via CARE Egypt, and was then able to boost his crop yield, expand his land, and unlock new opportunities for himself and his family.

At 58 years old, Mamdouh has spent more than half his life working his land. Yet, he remained eager to learn, grow, and evolve. Through the 'She Feeds the World' program, he successfully enhanced the quality of his crops, increased their quantity, and reduced costs. By utilizing modern irrigation techniques, farmers can conserve water and achieve sustainability.





Photos by CARE Egypt



"Summer is my favourite season because I have more time to spend outdoors running and playing with my friends. I feel upset that summer is ending and winter is approaching. Winter makes life in the camp even tougher than it is. Despite the challenges, I will study hard and achieve all my dreams," *says Ahmad, a 12-year-old Syrian refugee in Zaatari camp, Jordan.*

Photo by UNHCR / Shawkat Al Harfoush

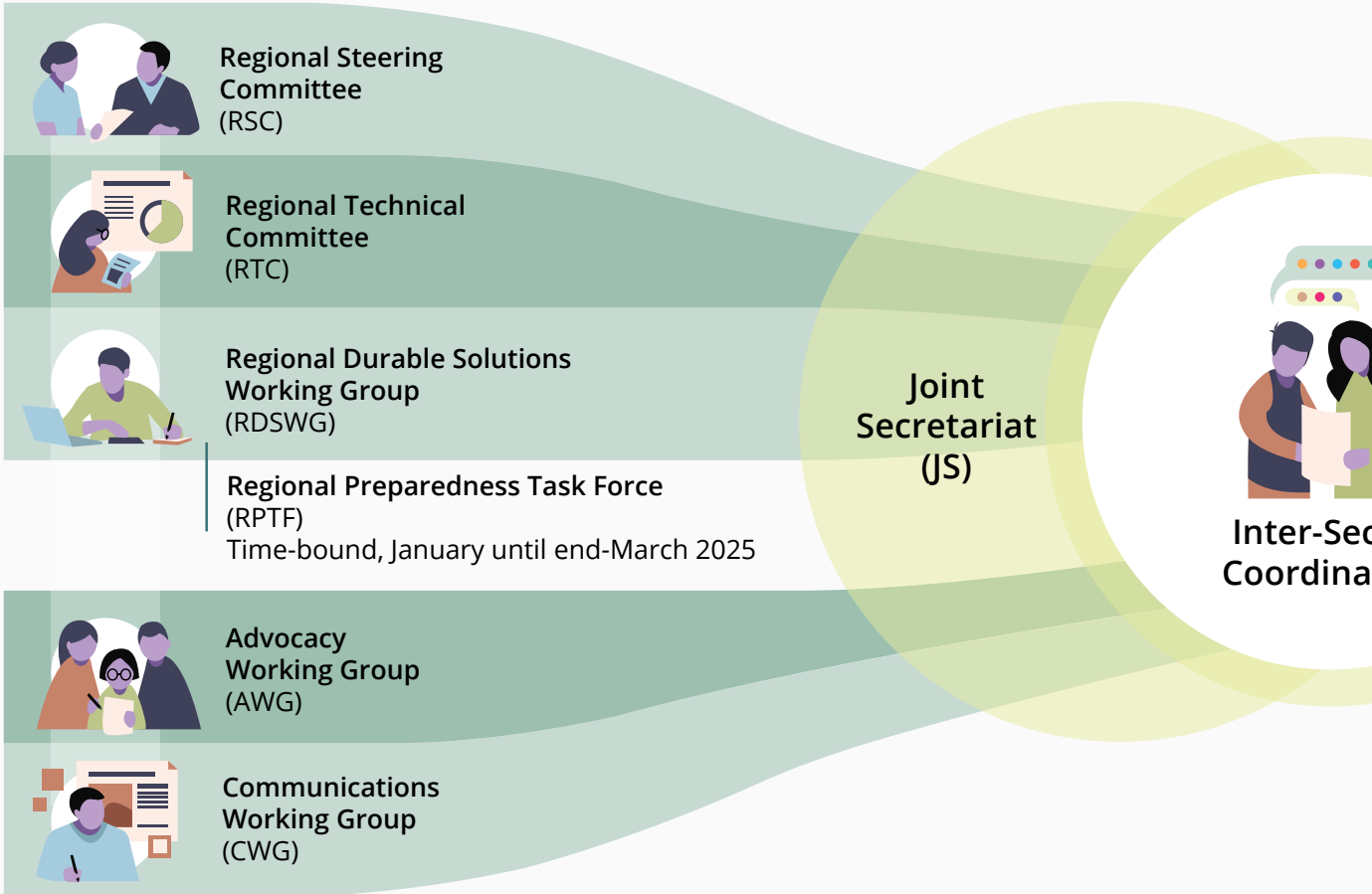
Partnership and Coordination

The 3RP is a strategic coordination, planning, advocacy, fundraising and programming platform to respond to the Syria crisis.

The 3RP is a comprehensive regional plan with four nationally led response plans, which are developed through the respective coordination structures consisting of government, UN agencies, and I/NGOs.

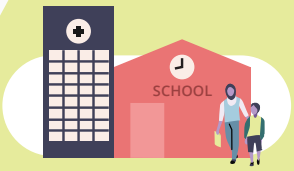
Bringing together around 230 humanitarian and development partners at the country and regional level, the 3RP's comprehensive approach has successfully channelled over USD 26 billion through the plan since its inception.

Additionally, the 3RP recognizes actors that operate beyond the 3RP structures but are involved in Syria crisis response such as International Financial Institutions and bi-lateral development partners who provide support to the host governments' efforts to ensure they can continue supporting refugees and affected host communities.



REGIONAL LEVEL

One Regional Plan



Promoting Resilience for All



Leaving No-One Behind

Country Chapters

Egypt
(Country Chapter)

Jordan
(Jordan Response Plan)

Lebanon
(Lebanon Response Plan)

Türkiye
(Country Chapter)

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COUNTRY LEVEL

Needs: Country Overview

Türkiye [45]

Protection:
Protection challenges for Syrian refugees include language barriers: only 15% fluent in Turkish; health issues: 27% of households experiencing chronic medical needs, and 20% encountering barriers to healthcare access, primarily due to financial constraints (15%) and language (14%); a persisting education gaps: with approximately 250,000 children out of school and 20% not enrolled in formal education; and vulnerable housing -70% of households livening in substandard housing.

Livelihood:
National unemployment is a concern, standing at 8.8% overall and 16.3% for Turkish youth aged 15-24, while 66% of Syrians under temporary protection are out of the labour force and only 10% of active Syrian refugees have formal employment.

Basic Needs: [46, 47, 48]
Syrian refugee households have urgent needs, with 91% unable to cover expenses, 83% reporting worsening financial conditions, and 82% adopting food coping strategies. There is a significantly high multi-dimensional poverty, particularly among female-headed households (60%). Additionally, 14.4% of Turkish people are at risk of poverty, with household debt reaching 11% of GDP.

Earthquake Impact:
In the post-earthquake assessment,[49] 83% reported worsened finances and the damages are estimated at $8.2 billion, leaving only 20% of SMEs operational in affected areas (IAPNA[50]). Additionally, 37% found food assistance insufficient, and 64% of households reported major mental health impacts from the disaster.



Photo by UNHCR / Antoine Tardy

Aicha, 33, fled Syria to Türkiye in 2013, interrupting her civil engineering studies. Learning Turkish and supported by a DAFI scholarship, she completed her degree in 2017. After gaining Turkish citizenship in 2018, she worked with organizations like the Red Crescent. Now a case manager at Relief International, she is pursuing a Master's in Civil Engineering at Yıldız Teknik University.

[45] Source: Türkiye: 3RP Country Chapter - 2024 Update (ENG) and Inter-Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment Round 7 (refugeeinfoturkey.org)
[46] World Bank poverty and equity brief.
[47] Türkiye Household Debt.
[48] ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOSTAT, 2024).
[49] Which surveyed Syrians and individuals of other nationalities, reveals significant financial and structural challenges.
[50] The post-earthquake needs assessment interviewed 3,802 individuals, of which 78% Syrians, followed by Turkish, Afghan, Iraqi, Iranian and individuals of other nationalities: IAPNA Round 7 - August 2023, (November 2022).

Lebanon[51]

Protection:
The main protection risks for Syrians include limited documentation (only 20% with valid residency, 14% for women and 24.5% for men), limited access to education (30% illiteracy, 57% primary attendance, 18% secondary), high rates of child labour (7%) and child marriage (girls 15–19) (22%), inadequate housing (over 50% in substandard conditions, 15% at risk of collapse), and restricted access to healthcare (18% unable to afford care).

Basic Needs: [52,53,54,55]
Lebanese people face severe economic and food security challenges and a poverty rate of 44%, up from 12% in 2012. Debt, primarily for food and rent, affects 88% of Syrian households and 75% fall below the SMEB[56], and 83% below the MEB,[57] with food (52%) and rent (9%) being their largest expenses. Nearly half the population are food insecure, of which 42% of Syrian refugees experience food insecurity, relying on WFP e-cards (36%) and informal credit (29%). Food insecurity acutely (IPC Phase 3 or above) affects 21% of the host population.



Photo by UNHCR / Ximena Borrazas

Livelihoods:
Prior to the hostilities in September 2024, employment among refugees has been noted to have increased from 33% to 39%, with important disparities remaining (male participation in the labour force reaching 75%, while female participation remaining at 19%). A UNDP rapid appraisal estimates that rising unemployment will affect approximately 1.2 million workers across the country, and the unemployment rate may increase to a staggering 32.6 percent by the end of the year.[58]

Current Situation: [59]
While active hostilities in the South of Lebanon have ceased following a ceasefire agreement in November 2024, the conflict resulted in the loss of 2,412 lives and 11,285 injured as of 17 October 2024, with GDP projected to decline by 9.2% compared to a no-war scenario. Economic damages are estimated at $2.5–$3.6 billion (8–10% of GDP). At the height of the conflict, over 20% of the resident population was displaced, including 329,386 Syrian refugees and 126,842 Lebanese who crossed into Syria. While many Lebanese have since returned, significant challenges remain, particularly in areas where housing and infrastructure were heavily damaged. Damage to public schools has left approximately 1.2 million children without access to education. As of November 2024, there were 191,759 registered IDPs in 1,017 collective shelters. The most urgent needs are access to safe shelters, core relief items, healthcare, food, cash assistance, and protection services.[60]

[51] UNHCR 2025 Flash Intentions Survey; and 2023 Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR)
[52] Macro Trends
[53] World Bank (May 2024)
[54] IPC
[55] WFP
[56] Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket
[57] Minimum Expenditure Basket
[58] UNDP (2024). Economic and Social Consequences of the Escalating Hostilities in Lebanon - October 2024 - Rapid Appraisal
[59] Ibid
[60] UNHCR November 2024.

Jordan [61]

Protection:
69% of Syrian refugees live in sub-standard conditions, with 16% in informal shelters and 44% lacking formal rental agreements. Child labour reached 11%, with 21% of families relying on at least one working child. While 78% of school-aged children are enrolled, 11% have never attended school (because of financial constraints and limited access).

Basic Needs:
Syrian refugees experience worsen food security with 20% having poor and 26% borderline food consumption scores. While 16% of the Jordanians live below the national poverty line, refugee poverty has climbed to 67% in 2023, up from 57% in 2021, far exceeding the national poverty rate, with refugee households prioritizing spending on rent and food.

Livelihood: [62,63]
The unemployment rate among Syrians stands at 28% (22.3% for Jordanians) and 51.6% of the workforce are engaged in informal labour. In 2024, labour market access for Syrians has declined due to the removal of waivers for work permits, forcing many refugees back into informal employment. The prospects for self-reliance through employment are challenging in the current socio-economic environment for both refugees and resident Jordanian citizens.

[61] Source: 2024 VAF Socio-Economic Survey on Refugees in Host Communities https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109074
[62] World Bank Poverty and Equity brief Jordan
[63] OECD



Photo by Relief International Jordan

Diana, a 15-year-old Syrian refugee in Za'atari camp, was on the verge of dropping out of school, feeling hopeless and unmotivated. Surrounded by cases of early marriage, she believed that getting married was her only option. However, with support from her counselor at Relief International, Diana regained her confidence and decided to stay in school. "I want to become a photographer," she said. "My counselor helped me focus on my dreams and believe in my ability to succeed."

Mental health support plays a crucial role in addressing challenges like these and ensuring children stay in school, avoiding harmful coping mechanisms.

Egypt [64]

Protection:
82% of Syrians needing healthcare accessed services in 2023, an improvement from 73% in 2022, though high costs remain a significant barrier to specialized care. In education, 50,753 Syrian children are school-aged, but the influx of refugees from Sudan has strained school capacities.

Basic Needs: [65,66]
29.7% of Egyptians live below the poverty line. 14.4% of the host population experiences food insecurity. In turn, 42% of Syrian refugees are food insecure, down from 56% in 2022, but 45% of those receiving cash assistance still report high food insecurity. Only 25% of Syrian families receiving aid meet essential needs, with transfers covering just 35% of the SMEB, which significantly rose because of the high inflation (46%) since early 2022. As a result, 75% of refugee households fall below the SMEB, and 83% below the MEB, with most spending allocated to food (52%) and rent (9%).

Livelihoods:
The share of workers in the informal economy has reached 62.5% in 2024 (from 55.9% in 2012) and is prevalent among youth (90% of 15-24 years old) and the elderly (93%). Nearly all working refugees are employed informally, lacking work contracts due to legal restrictions on obtaining work permits.

[64] Source: 2024 Egypt Country Chapter
[65] WFP
[66] WFP



Photo by WFP Egypt

"With the cash assistance I receive, I am able to buy healthy food for my family, and I try to also buy other necessities for my children," said Khaled, a Syrian father striving for a better life for his family in Egypt, one of the many crisis affected families supported by WFP Egypt.

Türkiye

Population in 2025

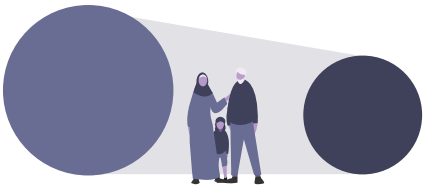
Total Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Stateless Persons



3,166,869
In Need
including
2,900,000 Syrians

3,166,869
Targeted
including
2,900,000 Syrians

Host Community Members



7,573,594
In Need

3,681,076
Targeted

Projected Returnees

Up to  **700,000** returnees

2025 Financial Requirements

Total Requirements
740,852,305 USD

Protection	223,589,202 US$
Basic Needs	54,510,443 US$
Economic Empowerment	146,557,822 US$
Education	99,878,051 US$
Health	24,999,862 US$
Return Preparedness	191,316,925 US$

Overview

As of January 2025, Türkiye hosts nearly 2.9 million Syrians under temporary protection and approximately 195,000 international protection applicants and status holders from countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran. Most live alongside the host community in urban areas, with a small number of refugees residing in Temporary Accommodation Centres. Refugees benefit from inclusive access to national services such as education, healthcare, and social services. The consequences of the 2023 earthquakes continue to affect refugees and host communities residing in impacted areas, with residual humanitarian needs persisting while local capacities and resources remain strained.

Since 8 December 2024, gradual voluntary return movements have been observed (some 133,000 in up to the end of 6 March 2025) while the Government of Türkiye has maintained the Temporary Protection Regulation, also indicating that returns to Syria should take place in a voluntary, informed, safe, and dignified manner. Despite economic challenges in Türkiye and shifting conditions in Syria, refugees still access public services, though system capacity remains strained, sometimes creating barriers. Rising living costs and limited livelihoods hinder self-reliance, increasing dependence on aid and the risk of harmful coping strategies.

Strategic Objectives & Response Priorities

3RP partners in Türkiye continue to work towards the following strategic objectives, ensuring a balanced approach that strengthens resilience, promotes self-reliance, and supports voluntary returns where appropriate:

1. **Contribute to the protection of Syrians under temporary protection and international protection applicants and status holders;**
2. **Support inclusion and access to services, including health, education, social services, and municipal services, ensuring refugees and host communities benefit equally;**
3. **Promote harmonisation, self-reliance, and durable and other solutions including voluntary returns.**

Partners are guided by the Global Compact on Refugees as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the commitment to 'leave no one behind'. Age, gender, and diversity-sensitive approaches are integrated across programmes.



Ru'ya Program of Takaful Al Sham Charity (TAS), Photo by Takaful Al Sham

- The **Protection Sector** will continue to support access to registration, gender-based violence prevention, and child protection by strengthening national services, legal aid, and community participation. Partners also support voluntary returns through monitoring, documentation assistance, and tailored support.
- The **Basic Needs Sector** focuses on essential aid, including shelter, food, and hygiene, prioritizing earthquake-affected populations and vulnerable groups. Cash assistance will help cover voluntary return transportation costs for the most vulnerable.
- With approximately 250,000 refugee children out of school, the **Education Sector** aims to expand access, improve infrastructure, and support diploma recognition and Arabic classes for returnees.
- The **Health Sector** efforts address language barriers, limited-service awareness, and medication access, particularly in earthquake-affected areas.
- The **Economic Empowerment Sector** promotes decent work, food security, and sustainability, supporting businesses, job creation, and skills development, including reintegration programs for returnees.

Overall, 3RP partners remain committed to strengthening the resilience of both refugee and host communities, complementing national services where needed, and enhancing coordination with public institutions for sustainable service delivery.

Return Planning

Planning for voluntary returns of Syrian refugees from Türkiye in 2025 is led by the Government of Türkiye and based on a coordinated inter-agency approach led through the Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG), involving all Sectors. The key objective is for self-organized returns to be informed, voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable.

Current projections estimate that up to **700,000 individuals** may opt to return in 2025. The financial requirements for this process are estimated at USD 191 million, primarily allocated toward:

- Pre-departure counseling, legal assistance, and documentation support.
- Enhancing border infrastructure to manage return movements.
- Transportation assistance and targeted cash support for vulnerable returnees.
- Skills development and reintegration initiatives to improve return sustainability.
- Monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance with protection standards.

The approach assumes continued protection under the Temporary Protection Regulation, a lack of pressure to return in Türkiye, sufficient financial resources to support voluntary returns, and gradual progress in recovery inside all areas of Syria. A key challenge is the lack of essential civil documentation and legal recognition of Turkish-issued documents, which may impact access to services and property claims.

Coordination with the Government of Türkiye is central. Agreements have been reached to strengthen voluntary return procedures, increase staffing at border crossings, develop legal referral mechanisms, and monitor the voluntary nature of returns.

Consultations with refugee communities show that security improvements in Syria and family reunifications are key return motivations. However, economic challenges in Türkiye, such as rising living costs and limited employment opportunities, are also influencing return decisions. Many returnees report owning property in Syria but lack the necessary documentation to reclaim it. To date refugees have primarily relied on informal networks for return information, highlighting the need for enhanced official communication.

In line with the framework developed by the Presidency for Migration Management, the DSWG and relevant sectors, through consultations with have identified a comprehensive set of potential interventions.

Pre-departure Support:

- Counseling and legal aid on return procedures, documentation, and services.
- Go & See visits, for those wishing to assess conditions before making a return-decision are enabled by the Government of Türkiye, allowing one adult refugee family member to visit Syria and return to Türkiye between 1 January and 1 July 2025.
- Community engagement to ensure accessible and reliable return information.

Logistical Support and Transportation Assistance:

- Transport assistance for those unable to relocate of their own means, prioritizing those enrolled in government social protection programmes.
- Jointly with the Presidency for Migration Management, select partners will enhance border infrastructure to manage the increasing number of returnees.

Monitoring and Protection:

- UNHCR will deploy additional staff to support the efficient processing of voluntary returns in accordance with Turkish law.
- Close coordination with humanitarian partners in Syria aims to ensure continuity of assistance, while collaboration in monitoring of the return and reintegration process will enhance the effectiveness of support provided in Türkiye.

Ultimately, the success of the voluntary returns depends on continued collaboration between the Government of Türkiye and the caretaker authorities in Syria, 3RP and other humanitarian partners, as well as international stakeholders. To avoid any premature returns which are likely unsustainable – resulting in attempts to return to Türkiye or dependence on humanitarian assistance inside Syria – continued support will be required for those who choose to remain under Temporary Protection in Türkiye.

Lebanon

Population in 2025

Total Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Stateless Persons



1,598,973
In Need
including
1,400,000 Syrians

1,598,973
Targeted
including
1,400,000 Syrians

Host Community Members



2,400,000
In Need

1,900,000
Targeted

Projected Returnees

Up to  **400,000** returnees

2025 Financial Requirements

Total Requirements
2,992,350,000 USD

NOTE: *The total LRP appeal amounts to **USD 2.99 billion**, which includes all sector budgets as well as the **additional USD 87.3 million top-up for return-related needs**.*

Basic Assistance	501,760,000 US$
Education	247,320,000 US$
Food Security and Agriculture	830,000,000 US$
Health	278,000,000 US$
Protection, Child Protection, GBV	183,000,000 US$
Shelter	104,630,000 US$
WaSH	285,000,000 US$
Social Stability	200,640,000 US$
Livelihoods	193,460,000 US$
Energy	50,000,000 US$
Nutrition	31,240,000 US$
Return Preparedness*	150,000,000 US$

* ***This figure is an estimate based on the draft Initial Return Plan and is subject to change upon finalization.***
*It currently reflects **USD 87.3 million in additional requirements** and **USD 62.7 million in repurposed return-related funding needs**.*

Overview

Since 2019, Lebanon has faced compounding crises, straining its social, economic, financial and environmental stability. The hostilities in the south Lebanon, which began October 2023 and escalated from September to November 2024, led to widespread mass displacement, destruction of infrastructure, housing, businesses, and government buildings in many regions, further deteriorating and impeding access to essential services. Most vulnerable groups including older people, persons with disabilities, and female headed households faced the most challenging conditions. In this context, Lebanon continued to host up to 1.5 million refugees.

With the 27 November 2024 ceasefire, along with the election of a new president and the nomination of a new prime Minister, 2025 has begun with a renewed sense of cautious optimism. There is hope for stability across Lebanon, with a focus on implementing reforms, achieving a full end to hostilities, and initiating recovery and reconstruction. At the same time, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria on 8 December 2024, has shifted the geo-political regional landscape, with complex movements including new displacement from Syria, spontaneous returns to Syria and protracted displacement of Syrians in Lebanon.

Since 8 December 2024, an estimated 120,000 Syrians have crossed from Lebanon to Syria, however many are transiting through Lebanon or are documented Syrians with residency in Lebanon engaging in temporary or pendular movements. Tens of thousands additional Syrians known to UNHCR are estimated to have crossed back into Syria through unofficial crossing points. It is noted that many Syrians who travelled to Syria may have conducted temporary visits and may have returned back to Lebanon.

Strategic Objectives & Response Priorities

The Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) is an integrated humanitarian and stabilization response framework co-led by the Government of Lebanon (GoL) and the UN, with support from international and national partners. The LRP addresses challenges holistically, providing immediate assistance, ensuring protection, and enhancing Lebanon's social, economic, and environmental resilience. The LRP's objectives include:

1. **Providing humanitarian assistance to meet critical needs**
2. **Enhancing protection for vulnerable populations**
3. **Supporting national systems in service provision**
4. **Reinforcing stability**

The LRP incorporates emergency preparedness and flexibility for scaled responses when needed. Protection, localization, accountability to affected people, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and gender considerations are mainstreamed throughout LRP planning and operational delivery.

Return Planning

In 2025, an estimated 400,000 Syrian refugees are projected to return to Syria from Lebanon and be assisted by the inter-agency community, in addition to Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS). The projected planning figure is based on a best-case scenario of further stabilization in Syria with improvements on shelter availability, livelihood opportunities and delivery of basic services. It is premised on the results of UNHCR's January 2025 Regional Perceptions and Intentions Survey (RPIS) of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, it takes into account both verified data of Syrian refugees who returned under duress and have remained in Syria and analysis of ongoing movements of Syrians from Lebanon since December 8 2024. The voluntary return program for Syrian refugees, including PRS, will be carefully guided by the voices of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and informed by the evolving protection and socio-economic circumstances in Syria.



Photo by UNHCR

- The RPIS highlights that 24% of refugees intend to return to Syria from Lebanon within the next 12 months (compared to only 1.2% in April 2024). 60% of refugees highlighted the importance of Go-and-See visits to Syria to make a well-informed decision on return. A cross-sectoral inter-agency return plan anchored in protection principles and standards will be implemented, premised on:

- Ensuring that returns are **voluntary**, through protection monitoring and voluntariness assessments with adults (including women), children and refugees with specific needs.

- Ensuring that decisions to return are **well-informed**, through enhancement of community engagement, communication with communities, access to and provision of up to date information and facilitation of "go-and-see" visits to Syria without prejudice to refugees' legal status in Lebanon.

- Ensuring that returns are carried out in a safe and dignified manner, through advocacy with the Government, capacity building of local authorities and national NGOs, protection against exploitation and abuse, legal support to fast-track access to civil documentation and education transcripts, return cash grants, provision of transportation and movement through official border crossing points, and consistent border presence for protection monitoring. Additional services related to livelihood and education, and coordination with the response inside Syria will also be provided to strengthen return sustainability.

The Lebanon Operational Framework for Voluntary Return implements activities and mobilizes partners in support of three main operational modalities, including support to structured and General Security Office (GSO)-facilitated “Go and See” visits, support to GSO-facilitated voluntary, safe, dignified, well informed return and support to voluntary self-organized return. Return Centers will be identified across Lebanon where partner will provide a wide range of services. UNRWA will provide PRS with legal support and will assess the possibility of cash support to support voluntary returns, including developing specialized arrangements for vulnerable groups. Capacity building of local authorities and local NGOs

The UNHCR-led Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) in Lebanon, established under the 3RP regional and LRP national framework, promotes and ensures respect for international standards on protection of refugees in Lebanon and their attainment of durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation. The DSWG, guided by UNHCR’s Operational Framework for Voluntary Return of Syrian Refugees and IDPs, will be the primary forum for operationalizing a voluntary return program in Lebanon, linking with the Syrian coordination architecture, and ensuring that returns to Syria are anchored on international protection standards and principles.



Photo by UNHCR

Jordan

Population in 2025

Total Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Stateless Persons



623,930
In Need
including
564,079 Syrians

503,948
Targeted
including
503,948 Syrians

Host Community Members



1,601,400
In Need

480,420
Targeted

Projected Returnees

Up to  **200,000** returnees

2025 Financial Requirements

Total Requirements
910,430,692 USD

Protection (Incl. CP, GBV, Disability, Age & Gender)	145,518,341	US$
Shelter	39,416,456	US$
Wash	77,607,080	US$
Economic Empowerement	52,613,056	US$
Education	93,007,757	US$
Health	90,565,784	US$
Food Security & Basic Needs	342,952,218	US$
Return Preparedness	68,750,000	US$

Overview

14 years into the Syrian conflict, Jordan continues to be one of the largest refugee populations in the Middle East. The country has a long history of supporting refugees despite not being a signatory of the 1951 Refugee Convention. It currently hosts 1.3 million refugees, with 623,930 under UNHCR's mandate, including 564,106 Syrians. Over 81% of these refugees live in urban areas. Since the start of the crisis, Jordan has demonstrated hospitality towards Syrian refugees, granting access to healthcare and education through its national systems, showcasing its commitment to human rights.

As the Syrian crisis extends beyond its thirteenth year, Jordan has moved beyond the initial humanitarian emergency. However, significant needs remain for Syrian refugees, including in the areas of shelter, nutrition/food security and livelihoods. Population growth, compounded by challenging economic conditions, regional instability, and trade disruptions, creates challenges in accommodating refugees within healthcare, education, and job market systems. To address these ongoing challenges, Jordan is working in close collaboration with 3RP partners to implement a solutions-oriented approach that aligns with broader development goals and the Economic Modernization Vision.

Strategic Objectives & Response Priorities

The response in Jordan focuses on a unified humanitarian - development approach, promoting sustainable solutions aligned with Jordan's long-term vision. Key strategic priorities include:

1. **Protection:**
   Placing protection at the core of planning and implementation ensures all interventions address the needs of vulnerable groups, including pursuing durable solutions for refugees.

2. **Live-saving Assistance:**
   The need to sustain life-saving assistance for refugees living in camps (including food, shelter and health) and for refugees living among the host communities (including basic needs and food cash assistance).

3. **Self-Reliance:**
   Enhancing refugee access to national systems, livelihoods, and services to foster long-term self-reliance.

4. **Sustaining Support to the National Health and Education Systems:**
   Strengthening local institutions to sustain service delivery in health, education, and social protection, aligning with Jordan's national development goals.



Photo by UNHCR

5. **Integrated Response:**
Enhancing cross-sectoral linkages to ensure cohesive strategies and minimize isolated approaches.

6. **Resilience-Based Approach:**
Prioritising resilience across interventions, strengthening both refugee and host community capacities, and aligning humanitarian and development efforts for long-term impact, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. **Voluntary Return:**
Assisting refugees who wish to return to their home country to do so.



Video by CARE Jordan

"Feeling proud to be a part of CARE Jordan's Economic Empowerment team, where we're transforming lives through local production. As a Syrian volunteer on the sewing production line, my confidence and skills have grown, and it's inspiring to see how this initiative is creating opportunities and improving lives for many." Watch the full video to learn more about the sewing department at CARE Jordan.

Return Planning

In 2025, UNHCR estimates that as many as 200,000 registered refugees in Jordan may return to Syria, with around 150,000 receiving assistance. This projection follows recent return trends, notably the return of 40,000 registered refugees from Jordan to Syria between December 8, 2024, and February 15, 2025. UNHCR's Flash Regional Intention Survey (January 2025) conducted among Syrian refugees in Jordan indicates a significant rise in return intentions, with 40% expressing a desire to return within the next 12 months (compared to 1.8% recorded in Jordan's October 2024 survey). However, up to 60% of the respondents were either undecided or did not want to return to Syria in the next 12 months due to concerns over safety and security, housing, basic services and livelihoods. These concerns underscore the necessity to continue supporting refugees in their host country while supporting refugees who intend to return to do so in a voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable manner. Beyond conditions in Syria, refugees also face barriers to return in Jordan that require a coordinated intervention.

Under an operational framework and in collaboration with partners through various coordination fora, including the recently established Jordan Operational Durable Solutions Working Group (Ops-DSWG), efforts will focus on coordinating key activities and support for refugees deciding on return. Such activities can include robust information and counselling services, support and coordination with authorities at the Jaber border, targeted legal support and preparedness (including access to civil documentation, counselling on housing, land, and property (HLP) in Syria, and document/credential ratification), child protection services (including support for custody arrangements, travel documents, and best interest procedures), return cash grants, transportation assistance, complaints and feedback mechanisms, and measures to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in Jordan and along the return route. Close cooperation with the Government of Jordan, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and refugee communities will be critical in addressing challenges and leveraging opportunities.

Support and programming for refugee return will be implemented in phases, based on the conditions inside Syria and refugees' stated intentions and needs. The initial phase will focus on scaling up preparatory activities to support voluntary return from Jordan, followed by a phase of facilitated returns programming, linking activities in Jordan with reintegration efforts inside Syria. These phases will emphasize safety, dignity, and sustainability, with planning assumptions based on relative stability and improved security in Syria. There will be constant dialogue with refugees and stakeholders to ensure informed decision-making as well as on return estimates, assistance targets, and conditions in Syria in order to maintain a principled approach that upholds safety, dignity, and sustainability in all return efforts.

Throughout all phases, UNHCR and partners will continue advocating for the rights of refugees who remain in Jordan. Planning and preparation activities will involve a network of engaged partners, recognizing that participation may vary among 3RP members.

Egypt

Population in 2025

Total Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Stateless Persons



137,962
In Need
including
137,962 Syrians

137,962
Targeted
including
137,962 Syrians

Host Community Members



43,202
In Need

43,202
Targeted

Projected Returnees

Up to  **25,000** returnees

2025 Financial Requirements

Total Requirements
51,583,540 USD

Basic Needs	7,206,477 US$
Education	2,772,717 US$
Food Security and Agriculture	7,132,443 US$
Health and Nutrition	4,779,567 US$
Livelihoods and Social Cohesion	3,700,222 US$
Logistics	1,106,612 US$
Protection	9,741,473 US$
Shelter	2,195,290 US$
WASH	1,080,000 US$
Return Preparedness	11,868,740 US$

Overview

Over the last few years, Egypt's economy has been severely impacted by multiple global shocks, including conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and the broader Middle East. The cumulative impact of these crises affects refugees, asylum seekers, and host communities. In addition to the registered Syrian refugees and asylum seekers, IOM Egypt estimates that around 1.5 million Syrians reside in Egypt, including those who were living and working in the country before and after the war in their country of origin, the majority of whom did not need to seek international protection.

As of 28 February 2025, 926,412 refugees and asylum-seekers from 59 nationalities are officially registered with UNHCR, the largest number of registered refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt's history and nearly a three-fold increase in less than two years. Out of this total figure, about 138,000 are Syrian refugees - the second largest refugee population in Egypt – mostly residing in urban areas such as Cairo and Greater Cairo, as well as in the North of Egypt, primarily in Alexandria, Damietta, and Port Said.

Despite the drastic increase in overall refugee and asylum seekers since the Sudan crisis in 2023, Egypt continues to adopt an open-door policy and to grant access to rights and services, including access to education and healthcare services, to refugees and asylum-seekers. Egypt is also implementing some key principles of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) including the "out-of-camp policy". Nonetheless, the growing influxes are straining public services and exacerbating the pressure on national resources, highlighting the pressing need for wider support from the international community, in line with the principle of burden and responsibility sharing.

In Egypt's bid to ensure all foreigners are residing regularly on its territory and continue to enjoy full access to public services, new procedures were introduced in June 2024, requiring foreigners without valid residence permits to legalize their status by September 2024.

Building inclusive societies starts with investing in women.

Through UNDP Egypt's local development project "ENID", women and youth in rural Upper Egypt are empowered and given opportunities with access to jobs and skills. In 2022, 4,000 new jobs created, benefiting 25,000 women.



Photo by UNDP Egypt

Strategic Objectives & Response Priorities

Per the 2025 Egypt Country Strategic Objectives, 3RP partners aim to support the Government of Egypt (GoE) in maintaining asylum space and access to territory and asylum for Syrian refugees and asylum seekers, upholding to the principle of non-refoulement and other international obligations. These objectives also include supporting the GoE with technical expertise to build a robust national asylum system since the adoption of the new asylum law in December 2024. The 3RP partners will collaborate to develop integrated strategies, ensuring their efforts are aligned and mutually reinforcing in close coordination with local and regional authorities as well as with development actors. They will provide essential humanitarian assistance and protection services to Syrian refugees, asylum seekers, and impacted host communities, with special attention to persons in vulnerable situations. Additionally, they will support the GoE efforts to enhance the inclusion of Syrian refugees into national services, including health and education.

Furthermore, partners will promote self-reliance, livelihood opportunities, and economic inclusion for Syrian refugees and their host communities, enabling them to meet their needs in safety and dignity through more sustainable and development-oriented interventions. The strategic objectives also aim to strengthen resilience and social cohesion by promoting a long-term and localized response in collaboration with the Government, ensuring a community-based approach that includes Refugee Led Organizations, women, youth, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The 3RP partners will also continue to advocate for more support from the international community to the GoE to ensure the sustainability of services provided to forcibly displaced people, while also advocating for increased resettlement opportunities and complementary pathways for refugees residing in Egypt, as an effective burden-sharing mechanism.



Photo by UNHCR

Return Planning

An estimated planning figure of 25,000 returnees (including 20% highly vulnerable individuals) has been taken into consideration. This is based on the existing registered active Syrian population in Egypt, 138,000 individuals as of March 2025 (almost 15.5% of the total registered population in Egypt), the outcome of the Regional Perception and Intention Survey on returns to Syria, conducted mid-January 2025, where 42% expressed an intention to return to Syria in 2025, and the current return trends.

Between 8 December 2024 and 20 February 2025, almost 6,000 closure requests involving over 12,000 individuals have been submitted in the Alexandria and Zamalek offices, averaging 114 requests per day compared to the November 2024 average of just 7. Notably, 68% of the applicants are males. 39% of the total are registered as originating from Damascus, 24% from Rural Damascus, 10% from Homs, 7% from Aleppo, and the remaining 20% to other locations within Syria. Currently, most of these individuals are registered as residing in Giza (31%), followed by Cairo (17%), Qalyoubia (18%), Alexandria (14%) and the remaining 20% to other locations within Egypt. Among those who underwent the closure of their files, 61% indicated their intention to return to Damascus, 11% to Homs, 8% to Damascus Rural, 4% to Aleppo, and the remaining 16% to other locations within the country. 98% identified these locations as their original home areas, while 76% plan to travel directly to Syria, 24% intend to transit through other countries, presenting logistical challenges that require coordination.

According to the first of a series Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with the Syrian community regarding voluntary return in January, it revealed that many refugees are hesitant to return to Syria due to safety concerns, political instability, and deteriorated infrastructure. However, high flight costs, residency permit fines, and the absence of a UNHCR repatriation assistance at this time pose significant obstacles in addition to external factors such as weather conditions, lack of direct flights from Cairo and school year considerations. Overall, while many Syrians in Egypt wish to return, they face significant challenges that require support from UNHCR, partners and community initiatives.

Refugees return preparedness phase will be coordinated through the Refugees Coordination Model (RCM) under the existing 3RP coordination structure. Within the Protection Working Group, detailing activities related to return such as protection, counseling, monitoring, post-monitoring, flash intention surveys, transportation, and cash grants have been agreed upon among four organizations, including most vulnerable cases. The revised 3RP addresses both refugees remaining in asylum and those projected to return.

Annexes

Annex I: Advocacy
Annex II: Options Paper
Annex III: Definitions



Photo by UNHCR

Annex I

Advocacy

About

The independent evaluation of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), released in June 2022, shed light on areas of success and potential improvement for the 3RP. It highlighted the significance of unified advocacy efforts that are both holistic in its regional approach while being attuned to national sensitivities and requirements. The subsequent activation of the time-bound 3RP Advocacy Taskforce marked a step towards achieving this unity and clarity of purpose in advocacy efforts. To continue the 3RP advocacy efforts, the 3RP Advocacy Working Group (AWG) was established in October 2023 to assume the advocacy responsibilities previously held by the taskforce. The AWG is an active technical working group under the Regional Technical Committee (RTC) including UN, international and national CSOs and CSO fora.

Vision and Purpose

The 3RP advocacy efforts aim to support **resource mobilization**, including flexible funds given the volatile situation in the region, **inform decision-making and inclusive policies**, and **sustain global commitment to the Syria crisis**. The overarching vision is to ensure the ongoing needs of Syrian refugees and host communities are met through sustained donor support, while fostering resilience-building and socio-economic inclusion for a dignified future. The AWG's advocacy efforts will be guided by an advocacy plan, developed in consultation with UN agencies and CSOs as members of the AWG. These stakeholders play a pivotal role in shaping advocacy strategies, contributing data and analysis from country-level operations, and amplifying unified messages through their networks to ensure coherence and impact across regional and national levels.

Advocacy in 2025 - Strategic Focus

The 3RP continues to play a vital role in ensuring sustained international attention on the Syria crisis, advocating for both immediate humanitarian needs and resilience-based development. The 3RP's advocacy approach for 2025 focuses on strengthening regional and national coherence, especially considering the changed context in Syria, ensuring that the challenges faced by Syrian refugees and host communities remain at the forefront of global, regional, and national agendas.

Advocacy Key Messages

To support advocacy efforts, the AWG is regularly developing and publishing updated key messages. The most recent set of messages focuses on the protracted nature of the Syria crisis, the critical need for sustained funding, and the importance of socio-economic inclusion for refugees and host communities. These key messages are available for download on the public 3RP website and serve as a foundation for all advocacy-related actions, ensuring consistent and coherent communication across all 3RP partners.

Annex II

Options Paper

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is in a complex crisis stage exacerbated by the protracted Syrian conflict, emerging crises, regional instability, economic downturns, and declining international funding. Hosting over five million Syrian refugees in countries such as Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, the countries in the region struggle with pressure on national systems and public services with little perspectives for durable solutions for the refugees.

The 3RP was developed ten years ago as a comprehensive response plan to the Syria crisis, integrating humanitarian and resilience components to support refugees and host communities.

In the course of the last four years, however, the scope of the 3RP has expanded as several additional crises have emerged in MENA, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, and the effects of the 2020 Beirut Port Blast. Recent conflicts in Sudan, Gaza and Lebanon have also impacted 3RP countries. In some countries, existing 3RP coordination systems were able to adapt to incorporate additional people in need, often coexisting with new humanitarian structures put in place to respond to emergencies. However, the growing humanitarian needs, donor fatigue, and overlap with frameworks like the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) have created an urgent need to reconfigure the 3RP mechanism.

A reassessment of its structure is thus essential to ensure it remains effective in addressing the complex and evolving challenges in the region while better aligning with 3RP countries' needs. In this context, three possible scenarios for the future of the 3RP were developed in an **Options Paper**, which was part of the recommendations issued by the 3RP Independent evaluation in 2022.[67]

The first option looks at maintaining the current configuration of the 3RP, which relies on established regional and country-level coordination systems. While this approach would ensure continuity and leverage the 3RP's strong advocacy strategies and established partnerships, it risks becoming increasingly ineffective due to misalignment with the shifting dynamics of the crisis. The current framework may struggle to respond to new challenges, and the overlap with the UNSDCF raises questions about efficiency.

The second option centers on tailoring the scope of the 3RP's regional mechanism to better align it with current country-specific realities. This approach emphasizes a lighter, more flexible coordination framework that focuses on streamlining reporting requirements. By strengthening partnerships with development actors, this option promotes refugee inclusion in national systems. Tailoring strategies to the unique needs of each host country ensures that critical gaps are addressed more effectively while maintaining the regional coherence on key regional trends. Moreover, this approach fosters the integration of resilience initiatives with development goals without prematurely abandoning the critical regional crisis management response capacity.

[67] 3RP Evaluation Report – 3RP Syria Crisis

The third option considers phasing out the 3RP and fully integrating its functions into the UNSDCF. While this option offers the potential for a unified development-oriented framework, it poses significant risks, including the loss of flexibility and effectiveness in managing crises. Additionally, host governments have expressed skepticism about this approach, fearing reduced focus on refugees and a potential rollback of international support. In some countries, the integration of the 3RP into the UNSDCF could compromise the ability to address ongoing humanitarian needs while weakening the overall response to emergencies.

After extensive consultations, partners agreed that the second option, reducing and tailoring the 3RP's regional mechanism, is the most practical and strategic choice for managing the evolving crisis. This approach ensures that the 3RP adapts to the shifting dynamics of the region while addressing resource constraints and enhancing its relevance. A streamlined and focused coordination framework would strengthen the 3RP's capacity to support host countries with targeted strategies, emphasizing humanitarian response and crisis management, refugee inclusion, resilience-building, and partnerships with development actors. This recommendation also highlights the need to enhance regional advocacy and communication strategies, particularly around durable solutions. The 3RP must continue to advocate for sustainable solutions that benefit both refugees and host communities while addressing bottlenecks that hinder progress. Tailored national frameworks would allow for a more responsive and efficient use of resources, ensuring that humanitarian and development needs are balanced effectively.

This balanced approach ensures that the 3RP continues to serve as an indispensable tool for addressing the diverse and complex challenges facing refugees and host communities in the region. In light of the recent developments in Syria and the emerging possibility for refugees to return home, the 3RP needs to continue to re-imagine its future configuration for the medium to long term, including vis-a-vis the transitional coordination response framework inside Syria.

Annex III

Definitions

Syrian Returnees:

All citizens or habitual residents of Syria who have or will return to Syria from both neighbouring and non-neighbouring countries, including Europe and other parts of the world, and who may hold refugee or asylum-seeker status, or may have multiple nationalities or be outside of Syria on the basis of other legal status.

Syrian Refugee Returnees:

Syrian individuals known to UNHCR by being registered in proGres (regardless of the status within proGres) or recorded by an operation (in the situation of Lebanon). In addition, those Syrian refugees registered by the Turkish authorities.

Self-Organized Return:

Self-organized voluntary repatriation or spontaneous return is at the refugees' own initiative and through their own travel arrangements. UNHCR must ensure through monitoring that refugees' wish to return is indeed voluntary, and some support can be provided to certain categories of returnees. UNHCR has responsibilities for refugee protection and assistance, including in case of self-organized returns. This includes establishing and documenting on an ongoing basis the factors motivating self-organized returns. UNHCR's support for such returns is based on respect for the refugees' decision to repatriate. Self-organized voluntary returns can occur alongside facilitated returns affecting the same refugee population in one or in different countries of asylum.

Organized Return:

Where UNHCR or host governments organize the voluntary repatriation for and with refugees. Organized return would happen under facilitation and/or promotion of return at different scales.

Support to Return Procedures/ Facilitation of Return:

Where UNHCR organizes or supports groups or individuals who freely express the wish to repatriate. Support/ Facilitation (as opposed to promotion) may occur even when UNHCR considers that, in principle, it is only safe for some refugee groups or profiles to return. Support/ Facilitation can include provision of a repatriation grant/package or assistance with transport and should include an assessment of voluntariness of the return and the provision of a voluntary repatriation form (VRF).[25]

Promotion of Return:

UNHCR engages in promotion of voluntary repatriation where refugees freely express a wish to return, many have already returned, and UNHCR's assessment of the conditions in the country of origin foresees that most refugees will be able to continue returning in safety and with dignity. Promotion of return would see an expansion of activities under facilitation of return, including arranging transportation and provision of repatriation grants for larger groups and possibly in line with a tri-partite agreement.

Temporary Visits / Go and See Visits:

Some refugees return for short periods of time for a variety of reasons, including to check on property, assess the situation, visit elderly family members and accompany family members to the country of origin. These types of movement are normally allowed under a specific legal framework and do not constitute voluntary repatriation and should not impact their refugee status or other legal status in the country of asylum.

Repatriation:

The voluntary return of refugees to their country of origin in safety and dignity. It is one of the three durable solutions for refugees, alongside local integration and resettlement.

[25] For further information, see: UNHCR, Operational Guidelines on Voluntary Repatriation – Internal and Provisional Release, 2022, or refer to UNHCR's external voluntary repatriation section.

Further Information

Information Products

Financial Dashboard



quarterly update

Durable Solutions Dashboard



monthly update

Strategic Directions Dashboard



quarterly update

2023 Annual Report



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