

Regional Flash Update #32

Syria situation crisis

19 June 2025



With the support of the UNHCR Home-based Rehabilitation program, Sami – a bright and determined nine-year-old returnee with Down's syndrome – has made remarkable strides in his independence. His parents, deeply grateful, have seen firsthand how inclusive support and tailored guidance can empower children with specific needs to flourish. ©UNHCR Syria/Julieta Hisi

Key Highlights

- Over **two million Syrian** refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned home since early December 2024, a sign of hope amid rising regional tensions.
- UNHCR estimates that **596,579** Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024, bringing the total of **957,419** Syrian individuals who have returned to the country since the beginning of 2024.
- As of 19 June, **1,472,626** IDPs have returned to their homes in Syria since early December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.
- Between 11 and 17 June, UNHCR provided **transportation assistance** to 326 families (715 individuals) returning to Syria through key border crossing points including Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salama and Jousseh. UNHCR also coordinated the return of over 750 refugees from Jordan through the Nassib border.

- UNHCR and partners provided **Core Relief Item (CRI) kits** to 13,723 families (20,069 individuals) inside Syria, the majority of whom were newly arrived returnees and **cash assistance** to 998 refugee returnee families (4,184 individuals).
- On 15 June, **178 individuals from 42 families departed Al-Hol Camp for Aleppo** marking a significant step toward voluntary and dignified returns for displaced Syrians from Al-Hol.

Country updates

Syria

As of 19 June 2025, **over two million Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)** have returned home since December, a sign of hope amid rising regional tensions.

UNHCR estimates that some **596,579** Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024. This brings the total to **957,419** Syrians who have returned since the beginning of 2024. The figure is calculated based on a triangulation of data from Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and beyond.

In terms of internal displacement, as of 19 June 2025, **1,472,626** IDPs have returned to their homes since early December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.

Between 11 and 17 June, UNHCR continued to support the voluntary, safe and dignified return of Syrian individuals to their areas of origin by providing transportation assistance at key border crossing points, including Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salama, and Joussieh. A total of **326 families (715 individuals)** benefited from this service during the week.

On 15 June, **178 individuals from 42 families departed Al-Hol Camp for Aleppo** marking a significant step toward voluntary and dignified returns for displaced Syrians from Al-Hol. The convoy, coordinated by the self-administration and the interim Government's Social Affairs and Labor Authority, with support from UNHCR and local partners, prioritized individuals with humanitarian needs and chronic illnesses.

UNHCR ensured effective border coordination, closely monitored the return process, and collected essential data to facilitate follow-up assistance through community-based services. To this aim, UNHCR continued with its cash assistance programme for refugee returnees. Only this week, 998 families (4,184 individuals) received return and reintegration cash assistance, amounting to a cumulative total of **1,568 families (6,625 individuals)** as of 17 June. Furthermore, during the reporting period, UNHCR and partners provided Core Relief Item (CRI) kits to **3,723 families (20,069 individuals)**, the majority being refugee and IDP returnees (17,873 individuals).

As part of UNHCR's comprehensive protection monitoring efforts, 226 households were reached this week, bringing the total to **25,682 households** who have successfully completed the questionnaires. Additionally, over **1,980 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** have taken place country-wide so far.

The [Syria is Home](#) platform continued to draw attention and during the week, received **4,200 visitors** (45% female and 55% male). The highest number of visitors were from Jordan followed by Syria, Lebanon, Bulgaria and Germany.

Through its network of community centres, mobile units and community outreach volunteers, UNHCR provided multisectoral assistance to communities, including Child Protection prevention activities for around 1,047 children and caregivers in Aleppo and Idlib only, and over 40 Mental

Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) awareness sessions in Dar'a benefiting 452 individuals, mostly from the IDP and refugee returnee community.

Türkiye

On 13 June, Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz announced that since 8 December, more than 273,000 Syrians have voluntarily returned to their country. Processing of voluntary returns continues in provinces and at five border crossings: Cilvegözü / Bab al-Hawa, Yayladağı / Keseb, Öncüpınar / Bab al-Salama, Karkamış / Jarablus and Akçakale / Tel Abyad. As of 18 June, Çobanbey / Al Rai, Zeytindalı / Jinderes and Yayladağı / Kessab are open for processing go-and-see visits.

UNHCR has been conducting interviews with most Syrians returning from Türkiye to ensure that their decisions are made voluntarily. Monitoring is conducted at 20 provincial offices, four southeastern border crossings, and Istanbul Airport. Preparations are also in place for monitoring at Sabiha Gökçen and Ankara Esenboğa airports once flights begin.

As more Syrians choose to return during the evening, UNHCR has expanded its voluntary return interviews to cover night-time departures.

The demographic profile of returnees has remained stable. Nearly half of the returnees are traveling alone, often because they have no dependents in Türkiye or are returning ahead of their families. Most are working-age adults, with a slight male majority, followed by young children and older adults.

People are returning for reasons such as improved security, political changes, family reunification, and challenges in Türkiye like housing and lack of support. Most are heading to northern Syria, especially Aleppo and Idlib, often to their original provinces. However, some cannot return to their former homes due to destruction, financial issues, or safety concerns.

Many returnees own or have access to property in Syria, with varying levels of damage. Most carry some form of Syrian ID, though documentation of family changes is inconsistent. Before returning, they relied on informal work or aid in Türkiye. In Syria, they plan to seek work, rely on family support, or start small businesses. Access to essential services in return areas is limited, highlighting the need for more investment in infrastructure and basic services.

Lebanon

As of 15 June, the total number of new arrivals from Tartous, Latakia, Homs and Hama Governorates of Syria into the North and Akkar Governorates of North Lebanon is of 39,958 people.

As last reported, on 9 June, the Baalbek Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in the Bekaa is reporting 76,924 new arrivals, including approximately 19,943 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 158 informal collective shelters, and approximately 56,981 residing in the community.

Jordan

On 15 June, the Ministry of Finance [announced](#) a reduction and unification of transit and service fees for Syrian trucks and refrigerated vehicles passing through or using Jordanian free zones, lowering the rate from 5 per cent to 2 per cent, but excluding those entering or exiting Jordan directly. The move aims to enhance trade and transit flow between Jordan and Syria.

On 17 June, the Minister of Interior [conducted](#) an inspection visit to the Jaber border crossing to review operational procedures and services provided to travelers. The Minister noted increased activities at the border and stressed the need for intensified efforts to maintain security and high service standards. The Minister mentioned that around 80,000 Syrians have voluntarily returned to their country through the Jaber border crossing in recent months.

On 16 and 19 June, UNHCR facilitated transportation for **over 750 refugees returning from Jordan to Syria**. Overall, since the start of the transportation process on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported approximately **3,500 refugees** to return to Syria. Before departure, in-person interviews are conducted to ensure that returns are voluntary and well-informed, with counselling and information provided on available services inside Syria. The return process is closely coordinated with the UNHCR operation in Syria to support refugees upon arrival at their final destination.

As of 14 June, **more than 86,000 refugees registered with UNHCR** have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. The average daily number of refugee returnees during the reporting period was around 725. Demographics of returnees remained largely unchanged from previous weeks, with women and girls representing around 46 per cent of the total refugee returnees. Children accounted for around 41 per cent, and men of military age (18-40 years old) made up around 22 per cent of overall returns. The vast majority of refugees continue to return from host communities, primarily from Amman and Irbid. More details about the numbers and profile of returnees are available on [UNHCR Jordan's returns dashboard](#).

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 16 June 2025, **over 1,980 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR have returned from Iraq to Syria**. From among the registered refugees and asylum-seekers, 1,864 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 120 registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Syria via Erbil airport, with border authorities sharing a copy of their registration certificate with UNHCR. According to Al-Qaim border authorities, some 220 Syrians who verbally declared their registration status with UNHCR also crossed the border to Syria during the reporting period. Most of the registered Syrians returned to Aleppo followed by Al-Hasakeh. The improved security situation in Syria, reuniting with family, avoiding overstay fines in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and lack of livelihood opportunities are the most common reasons Syrians report for their return.

In addition, **over 19,000 Syrians who had not sought asylum in Iraq have crossed the border to Syria** since 8 December 2024. From among this group, over 8,000 crossed to Syria from Peshkhabour border crossing point while some 11,200 through Al-Qaim border crossing point.

Meanwhile, UNHCR continued to observe **arrivals from Syria to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq**, mainly from Al-Hasakeh and Aleppo. Over the previous week from 8 to 12 June, approximately 850 Syrians arrived through Peshkhabour border crossing point. This represents an increase in the inbound movement which is attributed to the Eid holidays. Family visits, returning from visits to Syria, family reunification, or transiting through the Kurdistan Region to other destinations were indicated as the main reasons for arrivals.

Egypt

As of 16 June 2025, approximately **131,800 Syrian refugees are registered in Egypt**, around 1,700 fewer than the previous week. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 13% of the total refugee population in the country.

Since the events on 8 December, there has been a significant increase in Syrians approaching UNHCR in Cairo and Alexandria to request the closure of their asylum cases. As of 16 June 2025, around **10,191 closure requests** involving around 22,378 individuals were submitted since 8 December 2024, averaging 83 requests per day – compared to just seven per day in November 2024. In addition, 16,936 individuals have been closed as spontaneous departures, reflecting a growing perception among many Syrians that return may now be viable.

On 11 June, UNHCR held a community meeting with 25 Syrian asylum-seekers and refugees at a community centre in Cairo to address concerns related to the transition from the Zamalek office to the UNHCR registration centre in 6th of October. The session aimed to clarify the implications of the move – which took place on 1 May – as well as to provide updates on UNHCR's position regarding returns to Syria, while also focusing on responding directly to community inquiries. The meeting was largely informative, offering attendees a platform to voice their questions and receive clarifications from the relevant teams.

Useful links

- [Regional Flash Update #31, Syria Situation Crisis](#)
- [UNHCR Operational Framework for Voluntary Return of Syrian Refugees and IDPs](#)
- [January 2025 Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey \(RPIS\)](#)
- [UNHCR Position on Returns to the Syrian Arab Republic \(16 December\)](#)
- [Syria Situation Data Portal](#)
- [UNHCR Help Site](#)

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