Syrian Arab Republic

June-July 2025

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

Since the fall of the former government on 8 December 2024 until the **end of July 2025**, over 746,300 Syrian refugees had returned to the country from abroad, and the number of returnees is expected to continue rising.

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

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

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

2,168

damaged houses were under repair by UNHCR in July

1,393

refugee and asylum-seeker families benefited from multi-purpose cash assistance in June and July

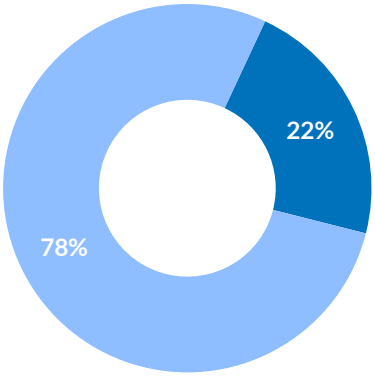
105,750

families across Syria received core relief items so far in 2025

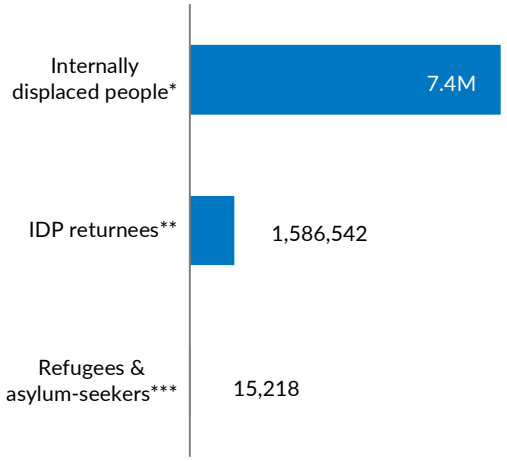
FUNDING (AS OF 31 JULY 2025)

USD 575.4 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2025



PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISPLACEMENT IN THE WHOLE OF SYRIA



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

UNHCR core relief items offloaded at the partner's warehouse in Salkhad (As-Sweida Governorate), as part of UNHCR's response to the situation in As-Sweida. ©UNHCR

Operational Context

Syria has one of the largest numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world (7.4 million IDPs). The UN and humanitarian partners also estimate that in 2025 over 16.5 million people in Syria need humanitarian assistance.

The security situation in the country remains unpredictable in some areas, and the humanitarian and economic conditions remain dire, with limited access to basic services.

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

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

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

Operational Updates

Response to the situation in As-Sweida

On 13 July, hostilities erupted in As-Sweida Governorate between Bedouin tribes and Druze gunmen. The situation escalated later into more intense clashes resulting in the death of hundreds of people including civilians. Until the end of July, it is estimated that 191,700 individuals had been displaced across As-Sweida, Dar'a, and Rural Damascus Governorates.

UNHCR-supported community centre in As-Sweida city suffered minor damage and looting, while UNHCR's team on the ground in As-Sweida continued monitoring and coordination with partners and authorities.

As of the end of July, UNHCR provided protection assistance to at least 6,700 displaced persons through its partners and UNHCR-supported community centres in As-Sweida city (As-Sweida Governorate), Kherbet Ghazaleh, Dar'a city, Izraa, Ghabagheb, Sheikh-Miskeen and Qnaya towns (Dar'a Governorate), as well as in Damascus and Rural Damascus Governorates. Mobile units attached to community centres were also mobilized to enhance monitoring and outreach.

UNHCR and its partners provided dedicated psychosocial support, including individual support and psychological first aid, for over 2,500 IDPs. Over 715 children participated in recreational activities to alleviate emotional stress caused by displacement. In addition, around 2,580 IDPs benefited from awareness raising activities on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

As of the end of July, UNHCR dispatched over 5,300 kits of core relief item (CRI) to As-Sweida, Dar'a and Rural Damascus Governorates. A total of 2,000 CRI and dignity kits were sent with a humanitarian convoy with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) on 28 July. For Dar'a, 2,950 kits were dispatched and distributed by UNHCR partners and for Rural Damascus, 427 kits were dispatched and distributed by UNHCR partner. An additional 20,000 kits, comprising 15,000 CRI kits and 5,000 dignity kits, are also ready for dispatch by UNHCR, when necessary.

On 31 July, UNHCR also participated in a UN-led inter-agency mission to As-Sweida Governorate for the first high-level assessment since permission was granted. The mission delivered life-saving assistance, visited multiple districts, and engaged with local representatives, partners, and technical agencies to assess humanitarian needs.

For more information on the situation and response, please refer to previous updates on UNHCR.org and the UNHCR Syria Data Portal.

Regular response

On 20 June, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees visited Syria to commemorate World Refugee Day.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi meets Mohamed and Waleeda Sayadi's family at the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing in Idleb, when they return to Syria after 12 years as refugees in Türkiye. ©UNHCR/A.McConnell

During his visit, he met with a number of Syrian returnees at the borders as well as held discussions with the interim government in Damascus on efforts to establish a conducive environment for the voluntary, safe and sustainable return of refugees. The High Commissioner also called for increased international support to accelerate reconstruction and ensure sustainable reintegration, stressing that without such efforts, returns may be short-lived.

Protection

- As of 31 July, UNHCR phased out from 35 of its supported community centres across Syria as part of a prioritization exercise driven by funding constraints. The selection of centres for phasing out was based on a set of criteria, including operational capacity, the needs of returnee populations, and proximity to those populations. This downsizing led to a reduction of outreach volunteers. By the end of July, UNHCR continued to support 69 community centres and 75 mobile units —including in north-west Syria— through a network of 1,542 outreach volunteers.
- To support the delivery of legal services, UNHCR installed 19 prefabricated units at the Jarablus and Hamam border crossing points between Syria and Türkiye (Aleppo Governorate). Three prefabricated units were also provided to the Jobet Berghal civil registry in Latakia Governorate.
- UNHCR continued its protection monitoring exercise to identify needs and vulnerabilities among returnees, enabling UNHCR and partners to provide the needed assistance. As of end of July, over 27,800 households responded to the monitoring questionnaires.
- Since the Syria is Home platform was created to help Syrian refugees make informed decisions about return to Syria till the end of July, it was visited by over 35,000 individuals. The highest number of visitors were from Lebanon followed by Syria, Jordan and Türkiye.

Shelter

- In July, the repair of 2,168 damaged houses in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus, Dar'a, and Deir-ez-Zor Governorates was ongoing. Works include the restoration of water, sanitation, electricity, doors, windows, walls, and roofs. Meanwhile, the assessment of additional 1,395 houses continued in the 14 governorates.
- In June and July, UNHCR provided 1,914 family tents to support displaced and refugee families in Al-Hol camp, Al-Hasakeh Governorate.

Core Relief Items

- In June and July, over 29,250 families (151,400 individuals) across Syria received core relief items (CRIs). The beneficiaries included people displaced due to the recent violent incidents in As-Sweida Governorate as well as families affected by the wildfires in the coastal area. The kits comprised blankets, mattresses, sleeping mats, jerry cans, plastic sheets, solar lamps, and kitchen sets.
  Since the beginning of the year and up to July, over 105,750 families (520,980 individuals) received UNHCR CRIs.

Livelihoods

- In July, UNHCR supported around 590 households in Rural Damascus, Homs, Tartous, Al-Hasakeh, Hama, Dar'a, Latakia and Deir-ez-Zor Governorates through the cash-for-livelihoods programme to establish or resume business. The majority of families are returnees who had completed entrepreneurship/business training and became eligible for the small business start-up support.
- Since the beginning of the year until the end of July, 4,798 individuals across Syria benefited from UNHCR's livelihood and economic inclusion interventions.

Cash Assistance

- In June and July, 2,791 returnee families (12,092 individuals) received Return and Reintegration Cash Assistance ($400 per family), bringing the total number of those who received this grant until the end of July to 2,963 families (12,910 individuals).

Hussein, a father of three who returned to Syria after 12 years in Jordan, is receiving UNHCR cash assistance at a bank in Damascus. ©UNHCR/V.Toumeh

Refugee Response

- **Registration:** As of the end of July, 15,218 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR in Syria. The majority of the registered refugees are from Iraq and reside primarily in urban areas in Damascus, Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Homs, Tartous, and Latakia Governorates. In June and July, UNHCR renewed the identification cards of 418 refugees. These cards protect refugees against *refoulement*, ensure access to basic rights and services, and facilitate freedom of movement.
- **Refugee Status Determination (RSD):** Since the beginning of the year until the end of July, 26 families (57 individuals) were recognized as refugees. RSD ensures protection from *refoulement* and detention due to irregular stays, as well as facilitates access to basic services.
- **Durable solutions:** In July, UNHCR facilitated departure arrangements for two refugee families (5 individuals) for resettlement in the UK from Damascus International Airport. UNHCR also maintained communication with persons with and for whom it works through weekly counselling over the dedicated helplines.
- **Cash assistance:** In June and July, UNHCR assisted 1,393 refugee and asylum-seeker families (4,433 individuals) with multi-purpose cash assistance.

Return

- From the beginning of 2024 until the end of July, around 1.1 million Syrians returned to the country, of these around 746,360 individuals crossed into Syria between 8 December 2024 and 31 July 2025, mainly from Lebanon and Türkiye, followed by Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.[1]
- On 29 July, UNHCR jointly-facilitated with IOM the first voluntary return convoy from Lebanon to Syria for 71 individuals under the Organized Voluntary Return Programme in Lebanon. UNHCR and partners received the convoy at the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing and at arrival points in Homs, Damascus and Rural Damascus Governorates, where they were also connected to UNHCR-supported community centres and other services available.
- Inside Syria, UNHCR continues to facilitate the voluntary, safe, and dignified return of Syrian nationals to their areas of origin by providing free transportation assistance to the most vulnerable returnees. In June and July, 2,630 families (7,069 individuals) benefited from this support, bringing the total number of returnees supported to 4,455 families (11,414 individuals) as of the end of July.
- UNHCR also continued to support the return of Syrians from camps in north-east Syria. As of July, UNHCR facilitated the return of around 594 IDPs families (3,000 individuals) from Areesha camp (Al-Hasakeh Governorate) to their places of origin in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. UNHCR provides camp residents with reliable information about return for their informed and voluntary decision-making, works with camp administration and partners on pre-departure arrangements, and facilitates the actual transportation from the camps. Additional return movements from Areesha camp will continue in the coming weeks.
- In June and July, UNHCR facilitated the departure of two groups with urgent medical needs and their dependants – 77 families (305 individuals)– from Al-Hol camp to Aleppo, Homs, and Ar-Raqqa Governorates. UNHCR also provided non-food items to support their reintegration at destinations.
- For all return movements, UNHCR and partners continue following up on their post-return situations, through monitoring and home visits, and actively referring those in need to available services including at UNHCR-supported community centres in their areas of return.
- In coordination with the General Authority for Land and Sea Ports (GALSP), UNHCR ensures that return movements at border crossings are systematically monitored, and critical data are collected to inform prompt and targeted community-level interventions at the areas of return. The interventions include gender-based violence and child case management services, mental health and psychosocial support, legal assistance, shelter repairs and livelihood support. From January to July 2025, UNHCR referred around 59,200 returnees in need identified at various border crossings to humanitarian services inside Syria.
- Designated Support Windows [2] for Syrian returnees were activated in the immigration halls of 10 border crossings. A total of 4,527 returning families (17,348 individuals) consented to share their basic information, such as contact details through those windows. With the information, UNHCR is following up on the situation of returnee families.
- UNHCR conducted training sessions and refresher training sessions in June and July for newly recruited personnel of GALSP for their capacity-building. The training covered key humanitarian principles and standards related to protection from exploitation and abuse, and technical instruction on how to effectively implement reporting mechanisms.

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

[2] These windows are currently operating at the following border crossings: Nassib (Syria–Jordan); Jdaidet Yabous, Arida, Joussieh (Syria–Lebanon); Kassab, Bab Al-Hawa, Al-Salama, Jarablus, Al Ra'ee (Syria–Türkiye); and Alboukamal (Syria–Iraq) borders.

- In June and July, UNHCR Jordan organized 36 convoys to facilitate the voluntary return of approximately 4,121 Syrian refugees to the country. The returnees were received by UNHCR Syria at the Nassib border crossing and were transported to the governorates of Dar'a, Homs, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Ar-Raqqa, Idleb, and Aleppo. For a family with a child requiring extensive medical care, UNHCR provided a fully equipped ambulance to ensure the child's safe transfer. UNHCR also ensured effective cross-border coordination, monitored the return process, and collected essential information of returnees.
- UNHCR continues to conduct focus group discussions with affected population groups at UNHCR-supported community centres and in areas of return to capture their needs. UNHCR and partners provided multi-sectoral assistance, including case management and referrals to specialized services and assistance, and shared the needs with the Area Humanitarian Country Teams (AHCTs) and Inter-Sector Groups for prioritized planning and response.
- The inter-agency Area-Based Return Support (ABRS) approach is currently being implemented across in areas of high returns in nine governorates (Latakia, Damascus, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo and Idleb). Moving forward, UNHCR and UNDP, together with other members of the AHCTs, will continue to expand this approach to additional locations, subject to conflict sensitivity and protection risk assessments with a gender and social cohesion approach.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED:

- Regional Flash Update #39 (8 August 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (7 August 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (7 August 2025)
- Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #6 (6 August 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #38 (1 August 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (31 July 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (31 July 2025)
- Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #5 (29 July 2025)
- Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #4 (25 July 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #37 (25 July 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (24 July 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (24 July 2025)
- Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #3 (21 July 2025)
- Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #2 (18 July)
- Regional Flash Update #36 (18 July 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (17 July 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (17 July 2025)
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- UNHCR refugee return overview (10 July 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (10 July 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #34 (4 July)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (3 July 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (26 June 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (26 June 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #33 (26 June)
- Regional Flash Update #32 (19 June)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (19 June 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (19 June 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #31 (13 June)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (12 June 2025)
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- Regional Flash Update #30 (6 June)

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