Syrian Arab Republic

September 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 September 2025**, over 1 million Syrian refugees have returned to the country from abroad. The overall rate of return increased over the summer months as expected.

Over 1.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) have also returned to their places of origin since the end of November 2024.

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

This gradual operational shift is anchored by the 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

886

returnee families benefited from the repair of their damaged houses from the beginning of the year till the end of September

20,000

vulnerable refugee returnees were assisted with free transportation at the border crossing points

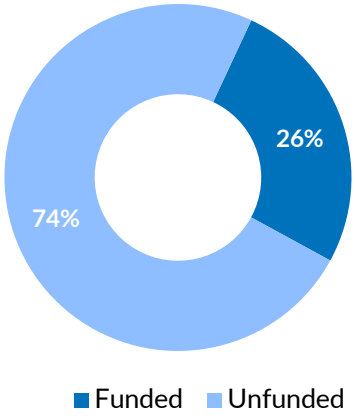
28,600

people who are displaced by the tension in As-Sweida had received protection services until the end of September

FUNDING (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2025)

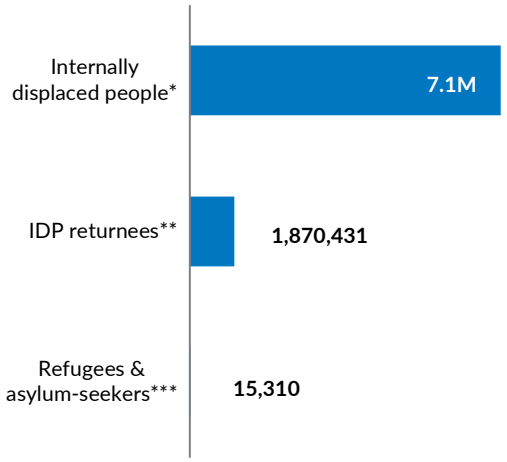
USD 575.4 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2025



PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISPLACEMENT IN THE WHOLE OF SYRIA

Zakaria Abdeen, a skilled technician and devoted father from Ma'arat Anoman (Idleb Governorate), rebuilt his life in Baniyas (Tartous Governorate) after years of displacement. With UNHCR's startup grant, he launched his own workshop—transforming hardship into opportunity and providing for his large family once again. ©UNHCR/E.Kabbas



** Source: IDP task force, December 2024*
*** Source: Population Movement Reporting Tool, since 27 November 2024*
**** Source: UNHCR, September 2025*

Operational Context

Syria is experiencing an increase in the number of refugees and IDPs returning home, with over 7 million individuals who remain internally displaced in the country - one of the highest figures worldwide. 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 is still unpredictable in some areas, and humanitarian and economic conditions remain dire, with limited access to basic services for many parts of the country.

The Enhanced Refugee Perceptions and Intentions to Return to Syria Survey published in September analysed the intentions of Syrian refugees in the region to return to their home country and indicated that the fall of the former Syrian government triggered a sharp and almost immediate increase in refugees who stated intentions to return within a year. However, refugees' perceptions of safety and stability within Syria remain a key factor in their decision-making and are likely to influence short-term return trends in response to evolving conditions on the ground.

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

- As of the end of September, over 28,600 people displaced by the recent tension in As-Sweida have received protection services and participated in related assessments since the onset of the As-Sweida situation in July 2025. The services included legal assistance, psychosocial support, gender-based violence risk mitigation, child protection, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Between 19 July and the end of September, UNHCR dispatched 16,176 core relief item (CRI) kits to As-Sweida, Dar'a, and Rural Damascus.
- As Shelter/non-food items (NFI) Sector lead, UNHCR also coordinated the response of around 20 partners, reaching over 160,000 individuals across Dar'a, As-Sweida, and Rural Damascus up to September. Within the Sector, UNHCR delivered around 65% of the distributions, the majority of which is in Dar'a, which currently hosts the largest segment of the displaced population.
- Rehabilitation works are underway in collective shelters in Dar'a and As-Sweida Governorates hosting IDPs. In Dar'a, the rehabilitation of five collective shelters in Sahwa and Namer was successfully completed in September, and the rehabilitation of one shelter in Salkhad (As Sweida) is ongoing. Works include partitioning for increased privacy and security particularly for vulnerable groups, energy efficiency to improve visibility, as well as support for persons with specific needs.
- In addition, the installation of 100 solar streetlights in 50 hosting centres in Dar'a and As-Sweida was 90% complete until the end of September. The interventions are expected to foster security and protection of displaced people through illuminating communal areas. The streetlights will remain there for future use when these facilities are back to their original function.

Regular response

Protection

- By the end of September, UNHCR supported 71 community centres and 81 mobile units across the country, including in north-west Syria, through a network of 1,438 community outreach volunteers in all 14 Syrian governorates.
- From January up to the end of September, 314 community-led initiatives were implemented in Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Qamishli, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Latakia, and Tartous Governorates with the support of UNHCR in collaboration with 14 local partners. Designed and led by 2,290 self-managed group members from the community, the initiatives focused on social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, life-skills development, peacebuilding, conflict resolution and poverty alleviation, among others, impacting over 850,000 individuals.
- In September, UNHCR rolled out an in-person training on Accountability to Affected Population Complaint

and Feedback Mechanisms in Damascus for 165 partner staff and outreach volunteers.

- The Syria is Home platform, which was created in April to help Syrian refugees make informed decisions about return to Syria, had been visited by over 45,000 individuals by the end of September. The highest number of website visitors are from Syria, Türkiye, Jordan and Bulgaria.

Shelter

- From the beginning of the year until the end of September, UNHCR completed the repair of 886 damaged houses across Syria. The repairs included fixing doors, windows, walls, roofs, electrical systems, as well as water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.

Rehabilitation of a water, sanitation and hygiene network in a returnee house as part of UNHCR's shelter repair project in cooperation with its partner in Barneh village (Aleppo Governorate). ©UNHCR/PUI

- In September, UNHCR expanded its shelter repair programme by integrating additional cash assistance for shelter benefiting 55 returnee families. UNHCR is planning to reach 1,018 returnee families across all Syrian governorates this year.
- From the beginning of the year until the end of September, UNHCR provided 4,138 family tents to support displaced and refugee families in Al-Hol, Areesha, Ein Al-Khadra, Tal Aswad, and Roj camps in Al-Hasakeh Governorate.

Core Relief Items

- In September, around 30,482 families (159,549 individuals) across Syria received core relief items (CRIs). The beneficiaries included people displaced due to the recent hostilities in As-Sweida Governorate as well as families affected by the wildfires in the coastal area that occurred in July 2025. The kits comprised blankets, mattresses, sleeping mats, jerry cans, plastic sheets, solar lamps, and kitchen sets.
- From the beginning of the year up to September, around 161,892 families (811,507 individuals) received UNHCR CRIs.

Livelihoods

- In September, 111 individuals mainly refugee and IDP returnees in Dar'a, Latakia, Deir-ez-Zor, Tartous, Aleppo, Homs, Hama and Al-Hasakeh Governorates benefited from the start-up small business support to establish or resume businesses as well as from on-the-job training opportunities.
- From the beginning of the year until the end of September, over 5,000 individuals across Syria benefited from UNHCR's livelihood and economic inclusion interventions, including business training, start-up grants, and provision of inputs for agricultural activities.

Cash Assistance

- In September, 1,866 returnee families (6,614 individuals) received Return and Reintegration Cash Assistance, bringing the total number of those who received this grant by the end of September to 6,421 families (25,623 individuals).

Refugee Response

- **Registration:** As of the end of September, 15,310 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 September, UNHCR renewed the identification cards of 131 refugees. These cards protect refugees against *refoulement*, ensure access to basic rights and services, and facilitate freedom of movement.
- **Refugee Status Determination (RSD):** In September, three families (15 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 September, UNHCR facilitated the departure of three families (10 individuals) to the United Kingdom from Damascus International Airport. In addition, under the private sponsorship complementary pathway arrangement[1], three refugee families (nine individuals) departed to Canada.

[1] *Complementary pathways are safe and regulated avenues for persons in need of international protection that provide for a lawful stay in a third country where international protection needs are met.*

UNHCR also maintained communication with persons with and for whom it works through weekly counselling over the dedicated helplines.

- **Cash assistance:** In September, UNHCR assisted 4,576 refugee and asylum-seeker families (11,916 individuals) with multi-purpose cash assistance. A total of 4,309 refugee students aged between 6 and 17 years also received unconditional education grants.

Return

- Between 8 December 2024 and the end of September 2025, over 1 million Syrians returned to the country mainly from Lebanon and Türkiye, followed by Jordan, Iraq and Egypt[2].
- On 11 September, 281 Syrian refugees returned from Lebanon through the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing (Rural Damascus-Lebanon), as part of the organized voluntary return coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and the General Authority for Land and Sea Ports in Syria. UNHCR assisted the returnees with the provision of transportation, basic services including relief items, psychosocial support, and legal aid. This is the second convoy following the first batch of over 70 Syrian refugees who returned to Syria in July under the same programme.
- In September, UNHCR Jordan organized 30 convoys to facilitate the voluntary return of over 1,200 Syrian refugees to the country. The returnees were received by UNHCR Syria at the Nassib border crossing (Dar'a-Jordan) and were transported to the governorates of Dar'a, Homs, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Ar-Raqqa, Idleb, and Aleppo.
- In close coordination with WFP, UNHCR provided vital food assistance to returnees at border points with Türkiye, helping ease their transition during the early stages of return and reintegration. At Sarmada bus station (Idleb) and at Sejjo bus station (Aleppo), UNHCR and partners distributed ready-to-eat food baskets from WFP containing canned food, date bars, bread, as well as packs of high-energy biscuits to 19,840 returnees. In collaboration with UNFPA, hygiene kits were also distributed to address the needs of 3,089 returnee women and girls.
- In September, 1,045 vulnerable returnee families (4,321 individuals) benefited from free transportation assistance at the border crossing points of Bab Al-Hawa (Idleb-Türkiye), Al-Salam (Aleppo-Türkiye), and Joussieh (Homs-Lebanon). This brings the total number of returnees supported since the beginning of the year to over 20,000.
- In September, 3,641 returnee families (14,451 individuals) consented to share their basic information through the Designated Support Windows [3] established in coordination with the General Authority for Land and Sea Ports at official border crossings to advise returnees on available services and assistance.
- UNHCR also continued to support the return of Syrians from camps in north-east Syria. On 16 September, a voluntary return movement was organized from Mahmoudli camp (Ar-Raqqa Governorate) for 15 households (56 individuals) to their areas of origin in Homs, Hama and Aleppo Governorates. This process involves providing camp residents with reliable information about return to make informed and voluntary decisions on returning home, conducting registration for those wishing to return and identifying vulnerable cases, working with camp administration and partners on pre-departure arrangements, and organizing the actual transportation from the camps. Since the beginning of the year, the movements of 591 families (2,985 individuals) were facilitated from Areesha, and Mahmoudli camps to areas of origin. Additional return movements will continue in the coming weeks.
- UNHCR and partners continue following-up on the post-return situations of returnees, through a range of monitoring activities and home visits, and actively referring those in need to available services, including to those provided at UNHCR-supported community centres most accessible to their locations of return.
- The inter-agency Area-Based Return Support (ABRS) approach continues to be implemented across in areas experiencing significant returns in nine governorates (Latakia, Damascus, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo and Idleb). Moving forward, UNHCR and UNDP, with other members of the Area Humanitarian Country Teams (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.

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

[3] 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.

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