



### Overview

The recent escalation of hostilities across Asia and the Middle East has led to a marked deterioration in the humanitarian situation. The affected areas already host 24.6 million forcibly displaced people, many of whom already face significant protection risks and humanitarian needs, alongside host communities. Many countries are supporting the humanitarian needs of forcibly displaced populations with limited funding, making it harder to absorb additional needs and vulnerable populations.

Against this backdrop, the rapid escalation of hostilities is placing increased strain on humanitarian capacities and host communities, with heightened protection needs, the risk of internal displacement and possible new outflows and onward movements towards neighbouring countries. UNHCR is closely monitoring developments and strengthening preparedness efforts to support protection and the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to affected populations across these regions.

### Key figures

**312,900**<sup>1</sup> Internally displaced persons

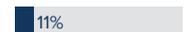
**~5,450** Lebanese<sup>2</sup> & Iranian<sup>3</sup> nationals crossing into neighbouring countries

### Context

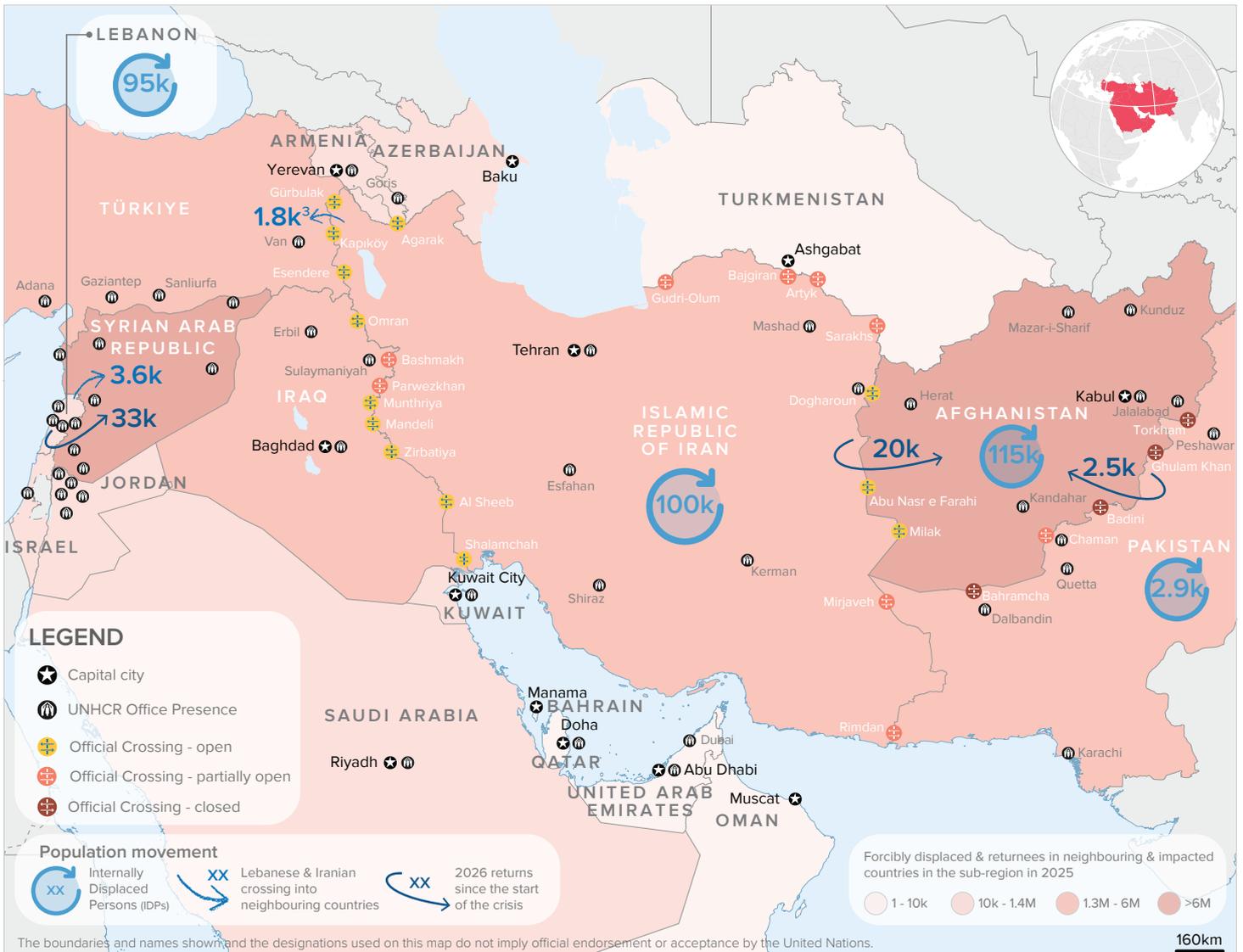
**24.3M** Forcibly displaced & returnees in neighbouring & impacted countries in the sub-region in 2025

**515,000** Returnees in 2026

**55,500** have returned since the start of the crisis



### Situation Overview



<sup>1</sup> Sources: UNAMA, Gov. of Iran, Gov. of Lebanon and Gov. Pakistan. The Iran figure refers to the estimated number of people who left Tehran during the first two days of the crisis, as reported by the Iranian road police. Actual displacement within the country is likely higher. <sup>2</sup> Source: Government of Lebanon. <sup>3</sup> Source: UNHCR. For some Iranian nationals entering Türkiye under the visa-free short-term stay regime, up to 90 days, movements may reflect routine purposes, such as visits, tourism, or transit to catch a flight, or precautionary or temporary travel while individuals assess developments in Iran.

## Population Movements

UNHCR is closely monitoring the situation with other UN agencies and partners, in both Iran and countries in the region, including any impact on displacement and possible humanitarian emergency needs.

### Asia & the Pacific Regional Bureau

**IRAN**  
 6 Offices  
 **1.65M**

UNHCR Iran continues assisting refugees in person and via its hotline. Refugees mainly reported financial hardship, difficulties affording medical treatment, increased psychosocial needs linked to stress, anxiety, depression, and chronic conditions, as well as GBV-related concerns. Legal counselling continues.

**AFGHANISTAN**  
 6 Offices  
 **6.1M**

Returnees from Iran report that following the recent escalation of conflict in Iran, arrests of Afghans in Iranian cities have decreased, and movement within Iran has become highly restricted, limiting access of Afghan nationals to employment, essential services, and daily necessities, while food prices have increased significantly. Restrictions at the Pakistan borders remain in place with Chaman-Spin Boldak remaining the only open border crossing for Afghans entering Afghanistan. According to OCHA, some 16,400 households have been newly displaced across Khost (2,500), Kunar (3,500), Nangarhar (2,500), Paktika (470), Paktia (7,000) and Nuristan (400).

**PAKISTAN**  
 8 Offices  
 **1.9M**

Punjab authorities have ordered an accelerated evacuation of all Afghan nationals from the province, warning of strict legal measures against those providing shelter or employment to undocumented Afghans. Undocumented Afghans continued to be moved to holding centres. In view of the border closure and the prevailing uncertainty, the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Police decided to temporarily suspend the ongoing crackdown and new arrests of undocumented Afghans. Due to ongoing security issues and conflict in Arandu, the number of registered internal displaced persons increased to some 2,900 and two IDP centers have been set up by the district administration.

**TURKMENISTAN**  
 **3k**

No Iranian new arrivals are reported to Turkmenistan. All border crossings are open only for evacuation of third country nationals.

### MENA Regional Bureau

**IRAQ**  
 3 Offices  
 **1.3M**

No significant population movements have been reported at Iran-Iraq border crossings. Official crossings remain open with restrictions, generally permitting nationals to enter their respective countries. UNHCR continues to monitor in coordination with border authorities and maintains preparedness plans for potential outflows from Iran, with the Government of Iraq expected to lead any emergency response. UNHCR operations continue across Iraq with some adjustments. Registration centres in Baghdad, Dohuk, and Sulaymaniyah remain open; activities in Erbil are temporarily suspended. Core protection activities and community outreach continue where possible, despite a challenging operating environment.

**LEBANON**  
 4 Offices  
 **1M**

Displacement is rising sharply following Israeli evacuation orders and ongoing hostilities. As of 4 March, over 95,000 people are sheltering across nearly 440 collective sites, with figures expected to climb further. UNHCR and partners are delivering emergency assistance and core relief items to over 6,000 displaced people across 26 shelters. Protection monitoring highlights critical shelter constraints, limited safe accommodation, and emerging communal tensions — with some host communities reluctant to receive new arrivals, including refugees and migrants. A number of refugees are expressing intentions to return to Syria. UNHCR is coordinating closely with authorities as the situation evolves.

**SYRIA**  
 8 Offices  
 **8.4M**

Cross-border movements from Lebanon into Syria continue to rise, with Syrian authorities reporting 33,000 arrivals between 1-4 March and 3,600 Lebanese since 2 March - a significant increase from daily averages during Ramadan. Most arrivals are Syrian families, ranging from those with trucks of household belongings to others arriving with nothing. Border crossings remain operational. UNHCR maintains a presence at Jdeidet Yabous and Joussieh crossings, monitoring arrivals and coordinating with authorities. Transportation support, blankets, and water are being provided to vulnerable families, with people of specific needs referred to UNHCR community centres. Pre-positioned supplies and community-based programmes provide additional support.

### Europe Regional Bureau

**TÜRKIYE**  
 8 Offices  
 **2.4M**

On 5 March, reports indicated that 2,200 people of various nationalities entered Türkiye from Iran, while over 2,400 exited Türkiye to Iran – the majority being Iranian nationals returning to Iran. For some Iranian nationals entering Türkiye under the visa-free short-term stay regime, up to 90 days, movements may reflect routine purposes, such as visits, or transit to catch a flight, or precautionary or temporary travel while individuals assess developments in Iran. On 4 March, UNHCR and partners mapped response capacities and strengthened data coordination to support the possible activation of the contingency plan should the Turkish authorities request for assistance in the event of increased movements.

**ARMENIA**  
 2 Offices  
 **148k**

As of 6 March, the Agarak border crossing point continues to function normally. UNHCR and partners observed low levels of movement, mostly involving small groups and families and commercial vehicles/trucks.

 Forcibly displaced & returnees in neighbouring & impacted countries in the sub-region in 2025.

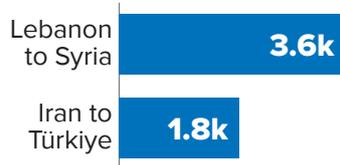
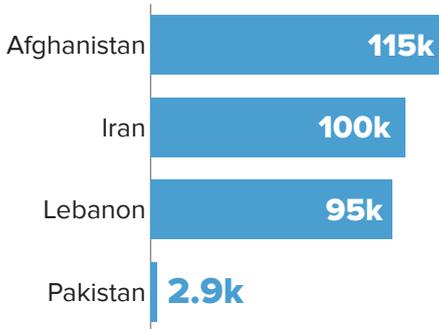
## Population Movements

numbers are in thousands

**New Internally Displaced Persons** **312,900**

**Lebanese & Iranian nationals crossing into neighbouring countries** **5,450**

**Returnees** **515,000**



Overall returns in 2026  
Returns since the start of the crisis

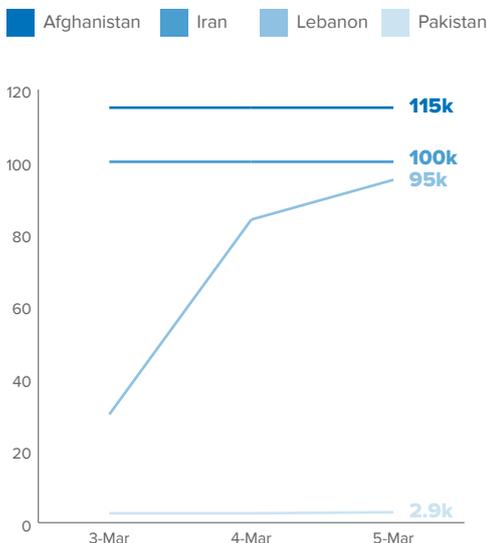
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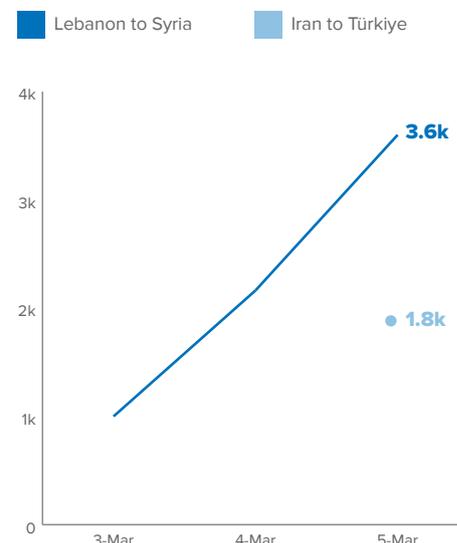
## Trends

numbers are cumulative and in thousands

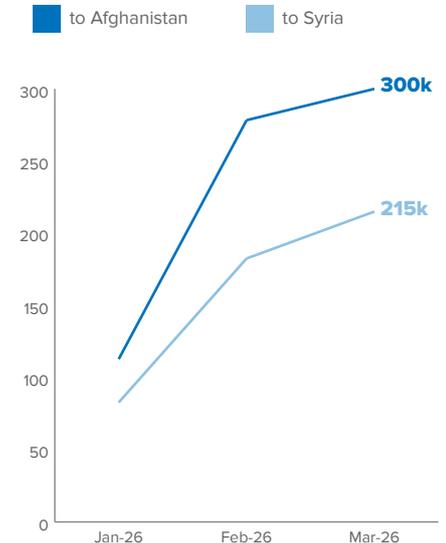
### New IDPs per country



### Lebanese & Iranian nationals crossing into neighbouring countries



### Returnees



## UNHCR Preparedness and Coordination

UNHCR is leading cross-regional preparedness and response coordination for potential cross-border refugee movements, working with authorities, UN agencies and humanitarian partners. The Regional Bureaux for Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, and Europe are working closely with country operations to monitor developments and advance preparedness and response planning.

Should a response be required, emergency financial aid would be the primary assistance modality, supported by systems already in place in Afghanistan, Armenia, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and Türkiye through our global stockpiles and UNHCR mechanism to reinforce staffing capacity.