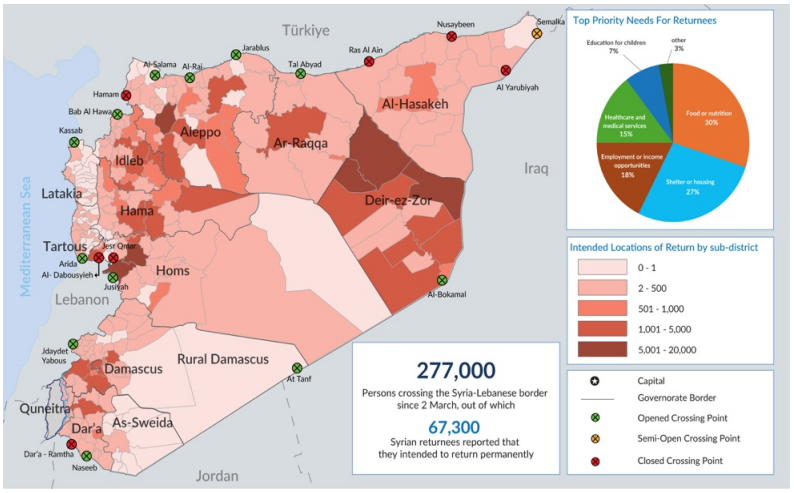
UNHCR Syria: Flash Update #2 – Middle East Situation

13 April 2026

Escalating hostilities in the region continue to impact cross-border movements from Lebanon into Syria. Between 2 March and 12 April, **277,000 individuals** crossed into Syria through three official border crossings, according to Syrian authorities. This includes **234,000 Syrians, 67,300** of whom indicated an intention to return permanently, and **43,000 Lebanese nationals,** most with family links in Syria. The Masnaa–Jdeidet Yabous border crossing accounted for around 60% of the total crossings from Lebanon, followed by Al Qaa–Joussieh (31%). Crossings through Arida remain limited to pedestrian traffic only due to a damaged bridge.



The Masnaa-Jdeidet Yabous border crossing was temporarily closed between the evening of 4 April and the morning of 9 April following the issuance of an evacuation order issued by Israel. During this period only a minor increase in traffic was observed at Joussieh, the sole road crossing to Lebanon for cars at that time. As of 13 April, all three crossings are fully operational, with cross-border movements returning to pre-hostilities levels.

Arrivals include Syrians who had planned to return, alongside those fleeing airstrikes and deteriorating security conditions in Lebanon. While many intend to remain in Syria, others are undecided or planning temporary stays depending on conditions in Lebanon. Movements are largely family-based, though some men are returning separately after losing livelihoods. Most are staying with relatives, highlighting the importance of family support networks, while others rely on their own homes, rentals, or temporary shelter.

Syrians are returning to all parts of Syria, primarily to **Aleppo, Idleb, Homs, Rural Damascus, Hama, Dar'a, Lattakia, Deir-ez-Zor, Damascus** and **Ar-Raqqa governorates.** Immediate needs are consistently **food, shelter, livelihoods, healthcare, education** and **civil documentation**. Many have experienced trauma both from the conflict in Syria and from recent shelling in Lebanon, underscoring the urgent need for **mental health** and **psychosocial support** in areas of return.

Response from the border to intended destinations

UNHCR, in coordination with national authorities, OCHA and partners, continues to provide assistance at border points, including transport, relief items, water, legal counselling and information services. Monitoring systems support referrals and ensure assistance remains responsive. Beyond the border, community centres and outreach networks are critical to supporting in supporting returnees' reintegration, with ongoing assistance across all areas of return. See UNHCR's Preliminary Protection Analysis report for more information.

Ahmad, his wife, and their four children returned permanently to Syria from Lebanon following the escalation of hostilities. They plan to reside in his father's house while the family's damaged home is being repaired. As a chef, he plans to resume work and rebuild his life with dignity. ©UNHCR/ Z.Mreyoud

UNHCR recognizes the work of all humanitarian partners responding at the border crossings

Al-Batoul | Al-Bir Charity | Child Care Society (CCS) | Elaf Association for Relief | Hand in Hand Organization | HiHFAD | IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation | Independent Doctors Association (IDA) | IOM | Mar Afram | Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) | OCHA | Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) | Syrian Association for Relief and Development (SARD) | Takaful Al Sham | The Syrian Association for the Protection of Civilians | The Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) | UNFPA | UNICEF | UNRWA | Violet organization | WFP **and others**