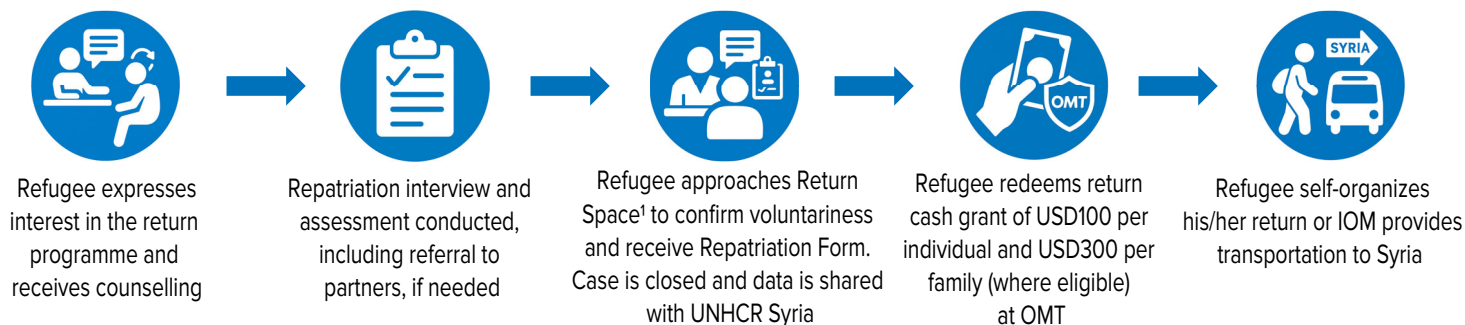




HIGHLIGHTS

672,699

Syrians known to UNHCR returned to Syria since 1 Jan 2025 (confirmed returned or inactivated due to prolonged absence/loss of contact)

588,819

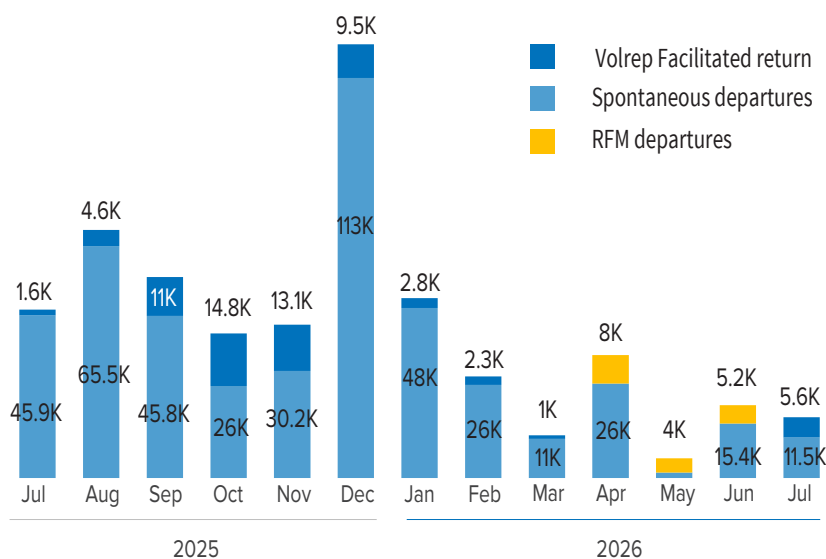
Syrians spontaneously returned to Syria (confirmed returned or inactivated due to prolonged absence/loss of contact)

83,880

Syrians directly supported by UNHCR with Voluntary Repatriation (includes those facilitated with return due to force majeure)

Since January 2025, **672,699 Syrians known to UNHCR have returned to Syria**, and have consequently been inactivated from UNHCR's records, including those confirmed to have returned² and those who were inactivated due to prolonged absence and loss of contact³. Among the 672,699 Syrians returnees, **88% (588,819 Syrians) returned spontaneously**. This includes 11% (65,500) who returned under duress in late 2024 and remained in Syria, 19% (112,372) who were identified by the General Security Office (GSO) when passing through Official Crossing Points (OCPs) without Repatriation Forms; 6% (35,903) who have so far been identified as returning due to force majeure after 2 March 2026. The remaining 64% (375,044) were inactivated either due to prolonged absence and loss of contact, or because UNHCR confirmed through interviews with their family members that they had returned to Syria. The spontaneous departure figures reflected in the chart indicate the date of inactivation from UNHCR's database, rather than the date of departure, which explains the large number of inactivations in December 2025 following the completion of the presence verification exercise.

UNHCR - Facilitated Return vs Spontaneous Departure⁴



By the end of July 2026, **12% or 83,880 individuals had been assisted by UNHCR to return, including 66,588 under the voluntary repatriation and 17,292 under the return due to force majeure (RFM) programmes**. The RFM programme was run from 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026 in response to the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees returning to Syria without a viable alternative for safety. Among those assisted under the RFM programme, 72% returned to their areas of origin in Syria; 19% were women and 59% were children and 96% returned in complete families. As of 1 July 2026, **UNHCR has resumed its voluntary repatriation procedures**.

2026 ESCALATION OF HOSTILITIES: During the hostilities in Lebanon between 2 March and 30 June 2026, Syrian General Authority for Border and Custom (GABC) estimated 581,409 Syrians crossed from Lebanon into Syria, or 491,265 according to Lebanese GSO. Among these, only 6% (29,054 individuals) are known to UNHCR, based on GSO and UNHCR Syria data and are considered to have returned due to force majeure.

¹ Interview areas in UNHCR's Case Processing Center or one of the UNHCR-supported Community Development Centres in Lebanon.

² Confirmed returns refers to Syrians identified through UNHCR-facilitated processes such as Voluntary Repatriation (VolRep) and Return due to Force Majeure (RFM) and returns reported by family members, departures confirmed by GSO ("GSO list") and returns confirmed by UNHCR Syria ("Syria list").

³ Inactivated due to prolonged absence and loss of contact refers to Syrians who did not confirm their physical presence in Lebanon during UNHCR's presence verification exercise that took place between April and December 2025, or through ongoing continuous verification activities.

⁴ An additional 120,000 individuals were also inactivated prior to 1 July 2025 before the launch of the facilitated voluntary return programme.



Returns: Demographic

UNHCR - Facilitated Return



Complete families **87%**



Women **24%**

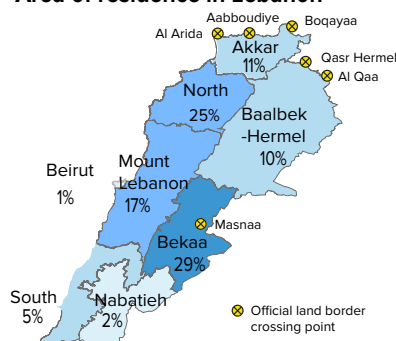


Children **58%**

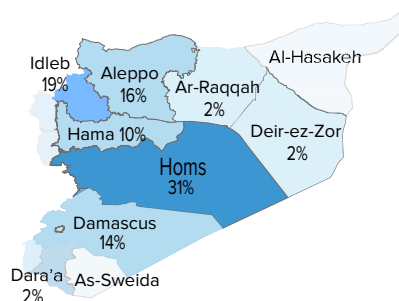


Specific needs **25%**

Area of residence in Lebanon



Intended area of return in Syria



Overall, among the 83,880 Syrians assisted by UNHCR for return, 39% resided in Bekaa, Baalbek and Hermel, 36% in North and Akkar, 18% in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, and 7% in South and Nabatiyeh. Among those assessed for facilitated return, 82% returned to their areas of origin in Syria - 31% to Homs, 19% to Idlib, 16% to Aleppo, 14% to Damascus and Rural Damascus, 10% to Hama, and the remaining 10% to other locations. Among the households who returned through voluntary repatriation⁵, 37% self-organized their return through Arida official crossing point, 34% through Qaa, 28% through Masnaa, and 1% through Boqayaa. Between July 2025 and February 2026, UNHCR and IOM facilitated **16 organized voluntary return movements for 2,990 Syrians** through the Arida and Masnaa official crossing points. Following the hostilities, UNHCR and IOM implemented the first organized voluntary return movement on 17 June 2026, with 30 individuals leaving through Masnaa OCP.

Furthermore, 24% of those assisted with facilitated return were women and 58% were children. 25% had a specific protection need, notably 12% with a serious medical condition and 4% living with disabilities. Importantly, 87% returned in complete families. Among those who did not return in complete families in 74% of cases adult men remained in Lebanon for livelihood purposes. While **96% of returning adults had Syrian identification documents**, for the children born in Lebanon 34% had birth certificates issued by a Mukhtar, 29% had birth certificates issued by the nofous⁶ and 27% were in possession of an updated Syrian family booklet or civil registry extract. Among adults who returned to Syria under the voluntary repatriation programme, 57% cited conditions in Syria, such as improved security and access to education and healthcare, as the primary reason for their decision to return, while 36% cited conditions in Lebanon as the main factor influencing their decision. Although return decisions are complex and influenced by a range of individual factors, these findings suggest that conditions in Syria were still the primary driver of voluntary return.

Following the resumption of UNHCR's voluntary return programme on 1 July 2026, UNHCR began implementing a return top-up cash grant, providing a one-time payment of USD 300 to vulnerable families returning to Syria, in addition to the USD 100 provided for each returning individual. The eligibility for the top-up includes families with at least one individual with a disability, or serious medical condition, families with a single parent or caregiver, a child at risk or a large family. The grant is intended to help vulnerable families cover additional expenses associated with their return. Since its introduction on 14 July 2026, 45% of returning families (386 households; 1,816 individuals) received the return top-up grant.

Spontaneous Departure



Complete families **77%**



Women **29%**

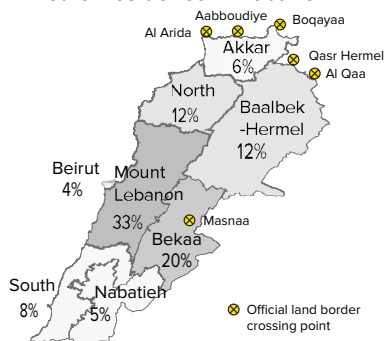


Children **41%**

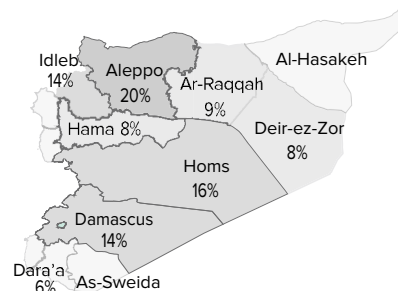


Specific needs **23%**

Area of residence in Lebanon



Presumed area of return in Syria



Among the 588,819 Syrian individuals who returned spontaneously, **fewer families (77%) returned as complete families**. Prior to spontaneous return, 37% resided in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, 32% in Bekaa, Baalbek and Hermel, 18% in North and Akkar, and 13% in South and Nabatiyeh. Those who returned spontaneously are **presumed to have returned to their areas of origin** - 20% to Aleppo, 16% to Homs, 14% to Damascus and Rural Damascus and 14% to Idlib. Furthermore, 41% of spontaneous returnees were children and 29% were women. 23% had specific protection needs.

⁵ No comparable data are available for returns through RFM, as intended OCPs are not captured in the RFM assessment.

⁶ As part of the five-step birth registration process in Lebanon, the mukhtar at the local/community level records the birth and prepares an initial birth certificate based on the hospital notification, which is not yet legally valid. The certificate only becomes official once it is registered with the nofous (Personal Status Department), to be followed by certification by the Foreigners Registry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support provided by donors who contributed to the Lebanon operation and specifically, the facilitated return programme.

