Syrian Arab Republic
August 2022

The Syria crisis is now in its twelfth year. The UN estimates that 14.6 million people need humanitarian assistance across the country, a 9 per cent increase from the previous year. The security situation in parts of the country is unpredictable, and the economic situation is increasingly dire. Economic deterioration is a major driver of needs.

UNHCR provides protection and assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people, returnees, stateless people and host community members based on their identified needs and vulnerabilities.

HIGHLIGHTS

69,500
Families received core relief items including seasonal items in 2022

1,000
People received entrepreneurship or business training in 2022

4,100
Refugees received multi-purpose cash assistance in August 2022

FUNDING (AS OF 30 AUGUST 2022)
USD 465.2 million requested for the Syria Operation in 2022

POPULATION OF CONCERN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internally displaced people*</td>
<td>6.9M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP returnees**</td>
<td>169,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stateless persons**</td>
<td>160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees &amp; Asylum-seekers****</td>
<td>22,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee returnees *****</td>
<td>33,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Source: 2022 HNO
** Source: OCHA, December 2021
*** Estimated
****Source: UNHCR August 2022
***** Source: UNHCR verified returns in 2022 as of 31 August

UNHCR provided agriculture support including seeds to a returnee in Homs Governorate. ©UNHCR/S.Sawas.
Operational Context

The 2022 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) estimates that over 14.6 million people need humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 6.9 million internally displaced Syrians. Of that number, approximately 9.6 million are in severe need of humanitarian assistance. The 2022 HNO finds that economic deterioration is now a major driver of needs even in areas which have been less directly affected by hostilities and displacement.

UNHCR supports refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees (refugees and internally displaced people who have returned to their home areas) by providing assistance to those most in need using a community-based and area-based approach. UNHCR’s community-based approach focuses on community mobilization and building self-reliance. It aims to reduce 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 works with 28 partners which include government ministries, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national NGOs and UN agencies.

Operational Updates

- As part of UNHCR’s efforts to strengthen gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response mechanisms, a five-day training on GBV case management was conducted with UNHCR partners at the beginning of August. The training aimed to equip participants from across the country with knowledge and skills to support GBV case managers.

Core Relief Items

- So far in 2022, UNHCR assisted some 69,500 families with core relief and winter items including plastic sheets, mattresses, solar lamps, blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans and kitchen sets.

- UNHCR is distributing solar fans to help people cope with the high summer temperatures. As of end-August, UNHCR had completed the distribution of solar fans in most of the camps in north-east Syria, with around 31,000 solar fans distributed.

S. Sawas

Distribution of core relief items in August to IDP and returnee families in Hama Governorate. ©UNHCR/S. Sawas

Shelter and Infrastructure

- UNHCR’s partners installed a total of 760 shelter packages in Quneitra, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Idlib governorates. Shelter packages include doors, windows, basic WASH services and electrical materials. In total from January to August, almost 5,300 families have been supported with shelter packages.

- In Aleppo Governorate, 22 damaged houses were repaired this month benefitting over 260 people. In Rural Damascus Governorate, UNHCR also helped repair 90 apartments benefitting approximately 450 people. Around 20 apartments out of a planned 80 have also been repaired in Lattakia Governorate.
UNHCR and partners removed 10,000 cubic meters of debris in Rural Damascus Governorate which helped improve access to public roads and will enable other small-scale infrastructure repair works. In August, UNHCR and partners repaired a total of 1,140 meters of a sewage network in Lattakia and 890 meters in Aleppo Governorate. In addition, UNHCR and partners helped repair 300 meters of the water network in Aleppo, providing potable water and improved access to sanitation services to an estimated 16,000 people in the area. UNHCR and its partner completed the repair of the rainwater network in Tartous Governorate. The project will help provide water for irrigation, indirectly benefiting an estimated 60,000 people living in the area, including some 20,000 IDPs. In north-east Syria, UNHCR replaced 70 tents in camps in August. Construction works including the upgrade of accommodation facilities in Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh Governorate) are also ongoing and aim to benefit over 6,000 families once completed.

UNHCR helped people repair damaged houses in Aleppo city by providing materials such as doors and windows. ©UNHCR/H. Maarouf

**Education**

- In August, UNHCR and partners provided capacity building and training to almost 400 teachers and social counsellors working in public schools. The training focused on topics related to learning and psychosocial support.

**Livelihoods**

- So far in 2022, UNHCR has supported 1,020 people with entrepreneurship/business training across 12 governorates. Of this total, around 90 participants also received tools, equipment and supplies to establish or operate a small business.
- Around 100 families in Rural Damascus received livestock to help them generate income.
- In north-east Syria, a small group of vulnerable refugees and IDPs (all female heads of household) received training and temporary employment in a sewing workshop that repairs tents in camps.
- UNHCR and partners also initiated the repair of four infrastructure projects that will help generate livelihood opportunities. These include the installation of irrigation pumps in two villages in rural Lattakia Governorate and the repair of a vocational training school in Aleppo Governorate.

**Refugee Response**

- **Registration:** As of end-August, some 22,800 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR. The majority of the registered refugees are from Iraq and reside primarily in urban areas in Damascus, Aleppo, Tartous, Homs and Qamishli governorates. In August, UNHCR renewed identification cards for 2,060 refugees. The card will protect them against *refoulement*, ensure access to basic rights and services, and facilitate freedom of movement.
- **Refugee Status Determination (RSD):** So far in 2022, 75 asylum seeking families (comprising 147 individuals) were interviewed to determine if they are refugees. In 2022, 60 cases comprising 160 individuals were recognized as refugees, ensuring that they could be protected from *refoulement* and detention due to irregular stay and could access basic services. UNHCR also provided counselling on the RSD process and individual cases through its hotline. Inquiries received during August were primarily related to the status of individual cases and requests for cash assistance.
- **Resettlement:** In August, UNHCR facilitated the evacuation of two families comprising five individuals to the United Kingdom through the Emergency Transit Centre in Romania.
- **Cash-Based Assistance:** UNHCR continues to provide regular multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) to the most vulnerable refugee families. Around 4,100 refugee families received cash grants in August. For more information on the MPCG programme, please refer to the UNHCR Syria Factsheet.
Refugee Returns

- In August, UNHCR verified or monitored the return to Syria of around 6,300 individual refugees from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. This brought the total number of refugee returnees verified or monitored by UNHCR in 2022 to approximately 33,370 (compared to 24,875 during the same period last year). In 2021, UNHCR verified or monitored the return to Syria of a total of 35,600 individual refugees from Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt. In total, between 2016 and 2022, UNHCR verified or monitored the return to Syria of some 336,500 individual refugees\(^{[1]}\).

\(^{[1]}\) The numbers reported are only those refugee returns verified or monitored by UNHCR and do not reflect the entire number of refugee returns, which may be significantly higher.

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CONTACT: Alessia Pignatti, Reporting Officer, UNHCR Syria, Email: pignatti@unhcr.org

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