

Syrian Arab Republic

September 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

6,000

Shelter packages including doors and windows have been provided so far to vulnerable people in 2022

90,600

Families received core relief items including seasonal items so far in 2022

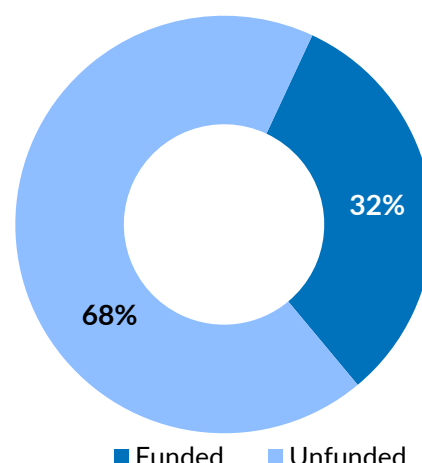
14,500

Students from 1st to 9th grade attended summer courses conducted by UNHCR and partners

FUNDING (AS OF 29 SEPTEMBER 2022)

USD 465.2 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2022



POPULATION OF CONCERN



UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi talks to Budoor, an internally displaced woman and widowed mother-of-four, during his visit to Aleppo in September.
 © UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf.

Internally displaced people*	6.9M
IDP returnees**	169,100
Stateless persons***	160,000
Refugees & Asylum-seekers****	22,800
Refugee returnees *****	38,400

* Source: 2022 HNO

** Source: OCHA, December 2021

*** Estimated

**** Source: UNHCR September 2022

***** Source: UNHCR verified returns in 2022 as of 30 September

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

Tragedy off Syrian coast

- On the evening of 22 September, a boat sank near the Lebanese-Syrian maritime border carrying around 130-170 passengers (estimates vary) of different nationalities, including Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian. As of end-September, around 100 deaths had been reported.
- UNHCR Syria provided some material support such as blankets to survivors in Tartous. UNHCR's partner also distributed adult diapers and clothing and provided psychological support for families.
- IOM, UNHCR and UNRWA issued a [joint statement](#) (23 September) on the incident calling for prompt action.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees' visit

- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi visited Syria from 11-14 September. He travelled to Aleppo where he visited a range of

UNHCR-funded field projects and met with displaced people and returnees.

- At the end of his visit, the High Commissioner [called for](#) much more support to address the staggering humanitarian needs in Syria. He highlighted everybody's right to safety and to have access to food, basic livelihoods, water, shelter and warmth, especially as winter approaches.



Protection

- In line with its community-based protection approach, UNHCR supports 126 community and satellite centres and 120 mobile units across the country. UNHCR also engages around 2,800 community outreach volunteers in all 14 governorates.
- In September, UNHCR approved 120 new community-led initiatives which will be implemented by local communities and through partners. These initiatives are identified and driven by the communities themselves. They aim to foster better community relations as well as address the needs of IDPs, returnees and host communities. The new initiatives will aim to support approximately 195,300 people in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus and Quneitra governorates. Some of the initiatives include sewing winter jackets for children, fixing playgrounds and creating safe spaces for children.
- In September, UNHCR launched a youth talent club pilot project for 90 youth and adolescents in a neighbourhood of Damascus city. The project aims to enhance youth and adolescents' physical and emotional well-being. It will offer courses such as dance and drama until the end of the year.



Core Relief Items

- So far in 2022, UNHCR assisted some 90,600 families with core relief and winter items including plastic sheets, mattresses, solar lamps, blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans and kitchen sets.
- Planning for UNHCR's winter response is ongoing with distributions of winter core relief items expected to start in November. UNHCR Syria plans to support around 842,500 people (168,500 families including 67,400 IDP, 97,730 returnee and 3,370 host community families) this winter. However, lack of resources is a serious challenge. Among the most critical needs, UNHCR Syria requires \$67.2 million for its [winter response](#).



Shelter and Infrastructure

- As of end-September, UNHCR partners installed over 6,000 shelter packages in Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Quneitra and Rural Damascus governorates. Shelter packages include doors, windows, basic water, sanitation and hygiene items as well as electrical materials such as light switches.
- So far in 2022, UNHCR and its partners completed minor shelter repairs for over 600 damaged houses in Aleppo, Dar'a, Latakia and Rural Damascus governorates. In addition, eight common areas (such as building entrances, stairs and rooftops) were repaired in Aleppo Governorate. This assistance targets the most vulnerable families to ensure basic living conditions and safety.
- In Rural Damascus Governorate, UNHCR and partners removed over 19,700 cubic meters of debris in August and September. This support helps improve safe access to public roads and will enable other small-scale infrastructure repair works.
- UNHCR and its partner completed the repair of a rainwater network in Tartous Governorate. The network provides water for irrigation, indirectly benefiting up to 60,000 people living in the area, including some 20,000 IDPs.
- In north-east Syria, as part of its emergency shelter assistance, UNHCR repaired seven collective shelters and replaced 2,100 tents in camps so far in 2022. UNHCR also completed 19 solar-powered boreholes to help facilitate the provision of water in vulnerable communities affected by electrical cuts.



Education

- In late August and September, UNHCR and its partners concluded summer courses in schools and community centres in nine Governorates. In total this summer, over 14,500 students from 1st to 9th grade attended summer courses. These classes aim to develop students' learning skills while providing cultural and talent development programmes.



Health

- An [inter-agency cholera response plan](#) was developed by the Health Sector in September.
- UNHCR is supporting the inter-agency cholera response at the community level, through its community centres and health points. UNHCR activities include raising awareness on cholera prevention through community health workers, outreach volunteers and mobile units; focus group discussions on prevention; and community-led

initiatives which support activities to improve access to clean water, wastewater management and personal hygiene.



Livelihoods

- UNHCR assessed and approved 12 livelihoods projects, including provision of agricultural inputs like seeds and livestock. The projects designed based on assessed needs will benefit more than 2,200 farmers in Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor and Latakia governorates.
- So far this year, UNHCR has provided training through its community centres to 1,600 people across the country to start up small business projects. Out of this total, 230 people received tailored material support to start up a small business.
- UNHCR continues to support small-scale repairs of public infrastructure that supports communal livelihoods by improving socioeconomic conditions and creating job opportunities. Examples include irrigation facilities and vocational training schools.



Refugee Response

- **Registration:** As of end-September, 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 September, UNHCR renewed identification cards for 1,327 refugees. The cards 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, 84 asylum seeking families (comprising 169 individuals) were interviewed to determine if they are refugees. In 2022, 68 cases comprising 176 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 September were primarily related to the status of individual cases and requests for cash assistance.
- **Cash-based assistance:** UNHCR provides regular multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) to the most vulnerable refugee families. Around 1,800 refugee families received cash grants in September. For more information on the MPCG programme, please refer to the [UNHCR Syria Factsheet](#).

UNHCR Co-led Inter-Agency Sector Updates

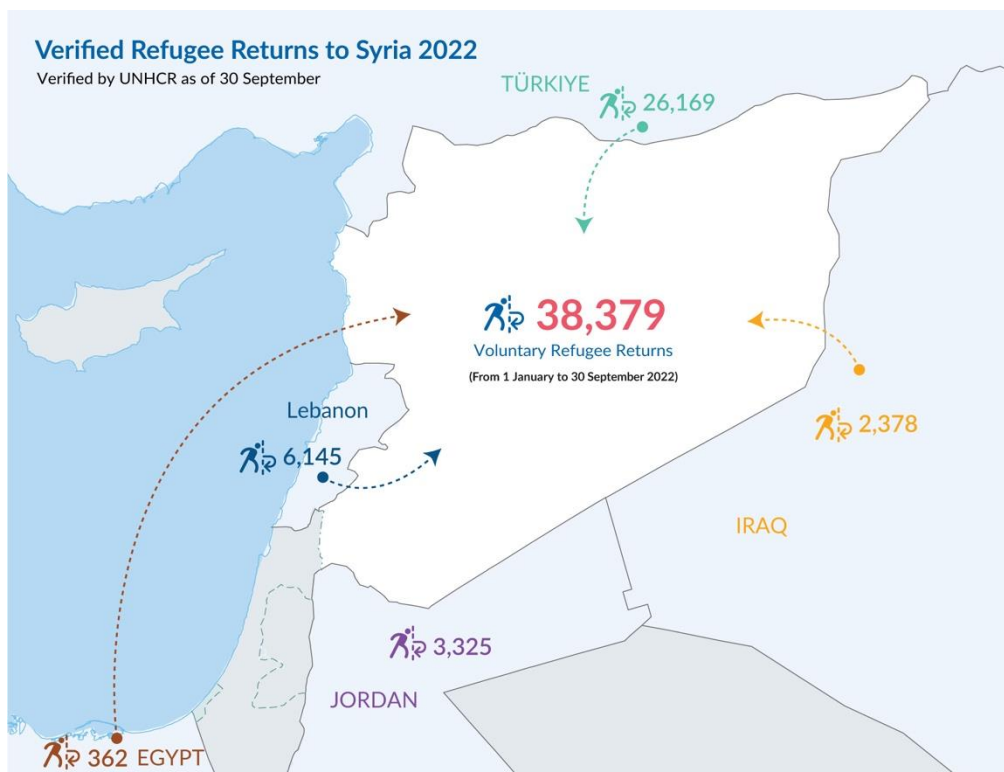
- UNHCR leads the inter-agency Protection and Shelter/Non-Food Item (NFI) Sectors as part of the Syria and Whole of Syria inter-agency response.
- So far this year, 68 protection partners (including 43 NGOs, 16 INGOs, six UN agencies, and three Governmental institutions) have carried out 2.97 million [protection interventions](#) to support people in over 2,100 communities/neighbourhoods (as of August 2022).
- Data collection for the 2022 multi-sector needs assessment and key informant protection assessment was completed, and the Protection Sector is currently analysing the information for the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview and additional specific analyses for partners.



Refugee Returns

- In September, UNHCR [verified or monitored the return](#) to Syria of around 5,600 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 38,400 (compared to 27,800 during the same period in 2021). 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 341,500 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.



RECENTLY PUBLISHED:

- [UNHCR Critical Funding Needs in the Middle East and North Africa](#) (September 2022)
- [UNHCR Regional Winterization Assistance Plan 2022-2023](#)

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