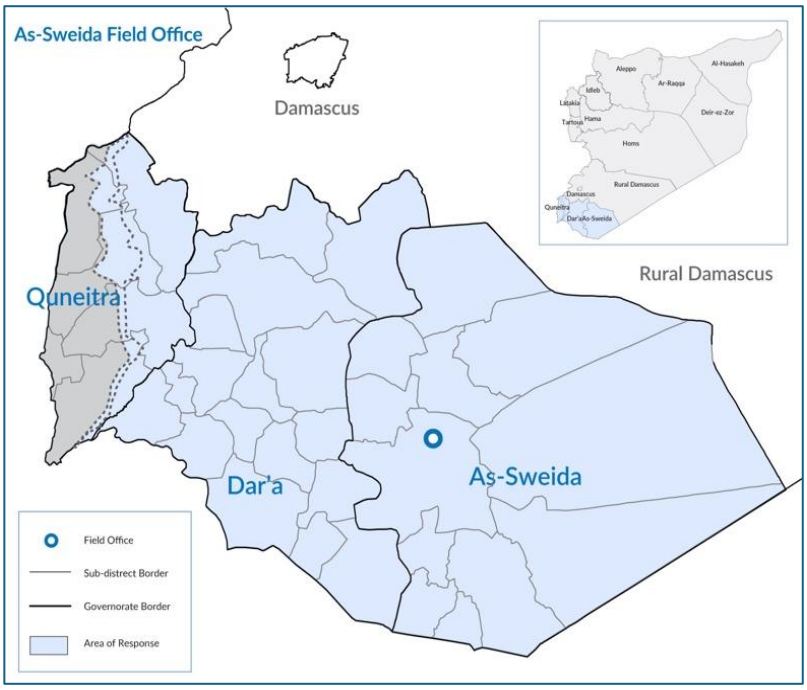
Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #5

@15:00, 29 July 2025

Overview

The situation in As-Sweida remained tense but somewhat stabilized under a ceasefire that had been brokered earlier in the month. While major hostilities subsided, sporadic clashes were still reported in rural areas, particularly around Al-Ariqah and Rimah. Both government-aligned security forces and Druze militias maintained control over key urban areas, while Bedouin fighters remained largely withdrawn under the terms of the truce.



Despite the relative lull in active fighting, the humanitarian situation deteriorated sharply. Humanitarian assistance in As-Sweida and Dar'a focused on urgently meeting basic needs following widespread displacement and collapse of public services due to intense sectarian clashes and infrastructure deterioration. For instance, local hospitals struggled to function amid electricity and water shortages, severe understaffing, and a lack of essential medical supplies.

In As-Sweida, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), in coordination with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), delivered inter-agency humanitarian convoys since 23 July. These convoys contained food supplies such as wheat flour and food baskets, water, fuel, medicines, and health supplies as well as UNHCR's core relief item kits, which were delivered for the first time to As-Sweida on 28 July by 10 trucks.

Inter-agency humanitarian convoy from Damascus to As-Sweida ©SARC

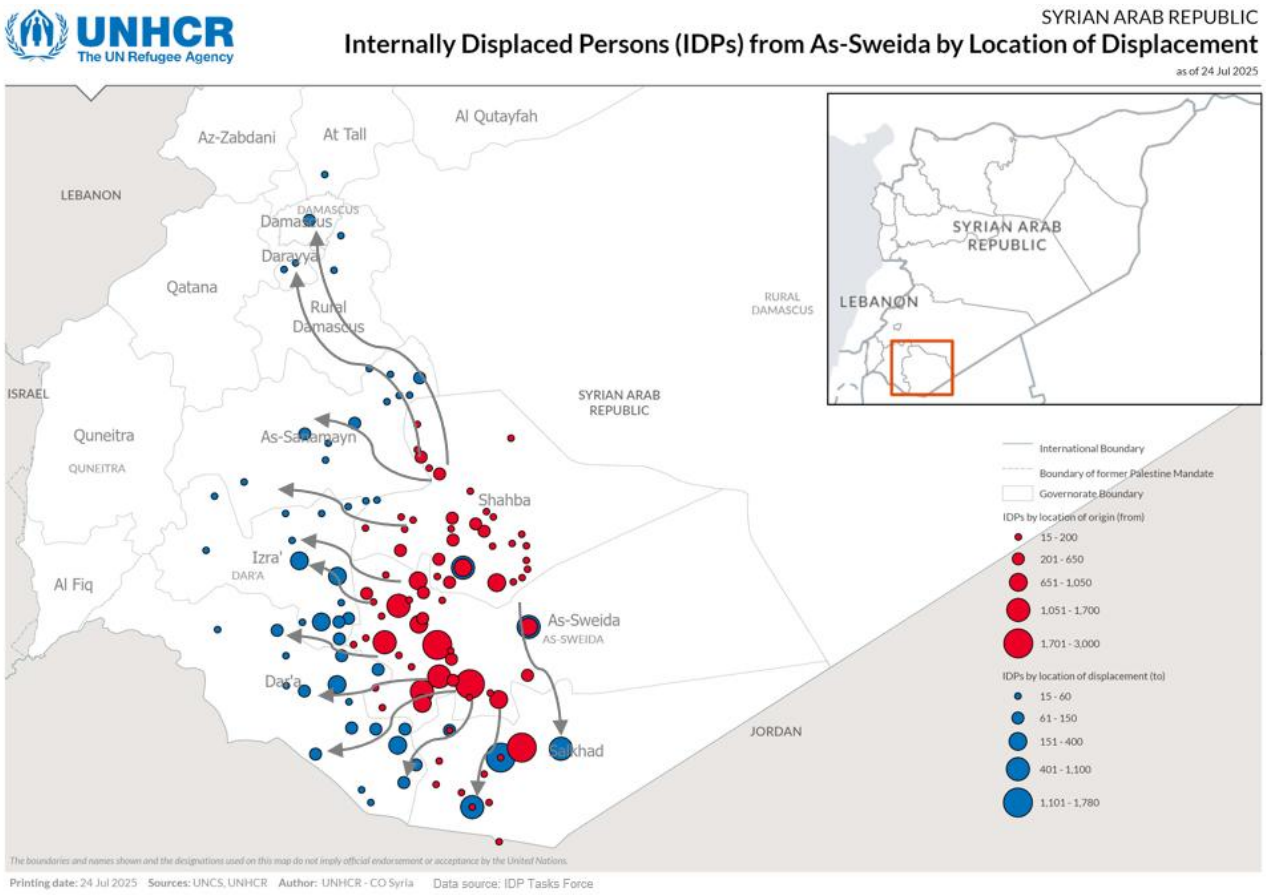
In Dar'a, the Governorate Emergency Committee, established around 18 July, coordinated with local communities and humanitarian partners to provide food, medical supplies, shelter and non-food items for displaced families arriving from As-Sweida. At the collective centres and local shelters, various agencies deliver food, nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection assistance and others.

Although access remained constrained due to security concerns, humanitarian actors continued to coordinate with the interim authorities to facilitate assistance delivery.

Displacement situation

Displacement during the past few days remained high but largely static. Many of those displaced remained in collective centres or hosted by local communities within As-Sweida and across nearby governorates.

As of 24 July, the total number of IDP movements recorded by the IDP Taskforce has reached **176,000 individuals**. Approximately 27,700 individuals have been newly displaced within As-Sweida district, bringing the total number of IDPs in As-Sweida Governorate to around 122,000. Dar'a Governorate has received an estimated 52,500 individuals, most of whom are settling in Dar'a and Izra districts.



UNHCR Response

As-Sweida and Dar'a face critical humanitarian needs. Thousands of displaced families are sheltering in schools, mosques, or unfinished buildings without basic items or access to services. At the same time, protection concerns are escalating. Civilians—especially women and children—face risks of violence, exploitation, and family separation. Many are also in need of psychosocial support, as displacement and violence have caused significant trauma. Humanitarian access remains constrained, but the scale of need demands immediate and coordinated action.

UNHCR continues its assistance delivery with no major disruption in governorates hosting displaced people. UNHCR Field Office in As-Sweida is operational and conducts frequent missions to areas with high numbers of displaced populations within As-Sweida Governorate.

Core Relief Items

As of 28 July, UNHCR has dispatched a total of **some 5,300 core relief item (CRI) kits** to As-Sweida, Dar'a and Rural Damascus since 19 July.

For As-Sweida, 2,000 CRI and dignity kits were sent for the first time with the humanitarian convoy on 28 July, and the distribution is ongoing by SARC. For Dar'a, a total of 2,950 kits were dispatched and being distributed by SARC and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA). For Rural Damascus, 427 kits were dispatched and distributed by SARC.

On 28 July, UNHCR Syria delivered 10 trucks to As-Sweida carrying 2,000 core relief items, including mattresses and blankets as well as dignity kits. ©UNHCR

An additional 20,000 non-food item kits, comprising 15,000 CRI kits and 5,000 dignity kits, are also ready for dispatch by UNHCR, when necessary. Security conditions still restrict aid convoys, hampering the assistance delivery to the most affected areas in As-Sweida.

Protection

UNHCR-supported community centres

UNHCR monitors the situation and provides assistance to displaced people through its partners and UNHCR-supported community centres. The centres across the southern region are currently operated by SARC, GOPA, and Bara'em. In As-Sweida, Bara'em runs one center in Sweida City. In Dar'a, SARC operates one center in Kherbet Ghazaleh, GOPA manages three centers in Daraa City, Izraa, and Ghabagheb, while Bara'em runs two in Sheikh-Miskeen and Qnaya, totaling six centers in the governorate. In Damascus and Rural Damascus, the UNHCR-supported community centres and partners including SARC, Tamayouz, and Al-Nada provide assistance for displaced people. Mobile units attached to community centres have been also mobilized to enhance monitoring and outreach.

As of 28 July, **at least an estimated 6,700 IDPs** have received protection services and undergone assessments since the beginning of the Sweida situation, with numbers expected to be higher.

Psychosocial Support

Since the onset of the Sweida situation, a total of 2,508 IDPs have received dedicated psychosocial support (PSS), including individual support and psychological first aid. This includes 216 individuals reached in Damascus, with the remaining 2,292 supported in Dar'a Governorate.

Gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation

A total of 769 IDP women and girls have received dignity kits since the onset of the Sweida situation, including 84 in Sayyeda Zeinab in Rural Damascus. Moreover, at least, 26 displaced women have received GBV services, including case management, since the onset of the Sweida situation.

Child Protection

Over 715 children participated in recreational activities to alleviate emotional stress caused by displacement since the start of the Sweida situation.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Since the onset of the Sweida Situation, over 1,881 IDPs received PSEA key messages and 697 IDPs participated in PSEA awareness raising sessions, bringing the total number of people benefiting from PSEA awareness raising activities to 2,579 persons. This total includes approximately 200IDPs in Damascus, with the remaining reached are in Dar'a Governorate.

Assessment mission to Dar'a

On 27 July, UNHCR conducted an inter-agency mission to Dar'a Governorate. UNHCR visited 5 IDPs sites in Dar'a and Busra al Sham, southern region of Dar'a Governorate. All five sites face critical challenges, including overcrowding, inadequate sanitation, and limited privacy, with families often sleeping outdoors under unsafe conditions. The absence of night lighting significantly compromises safety, particularly for women and children.

In addition, limited or no access to healthcare services, electricity, and food further deteriorated the situations of displaced people. Furthermore, reports indicate some residents from nearby rural areas, who were not displaced, have registered for humanitarian assistance, increasing the tensions between host communities and IDPs, particularly those who do not have legal documentation to access the assistance.

Identified protection risks and needs include;

- **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support**: high levels of psychological distress and trauma were observed, and psychosocial needs have been reported widely by men, women, boys and girls. Many children exhibit signs of trauma nightmares, aggression, and fear related to displacement experiences.
- **Gender-based violence (GBV)**: Severe shortage of gynecological hygiene supplies, absence of lighting at night and lack of privacy were reported. There is a dire need for dignity kits, including flashlights and sanitary napkins, to be distributed to all women and girls.
- **Child Protection**: Some adolescents exposed to armed conflict, including approximately 20 former child combatants aged 14–17 who have expressed willingness to rejoin fighting, require targeted psychosocial support and reintegration services. Significant number of children were reported has been never enrolled in schools even before displacement.
- **Legal Assistance**: Many displaced individuals reported having left their civil documentation behind. Current interim authorities are reportedly conditioning assistance on the presentation of valid identification, which may exclude some IDPs.

Inter-agency coordination

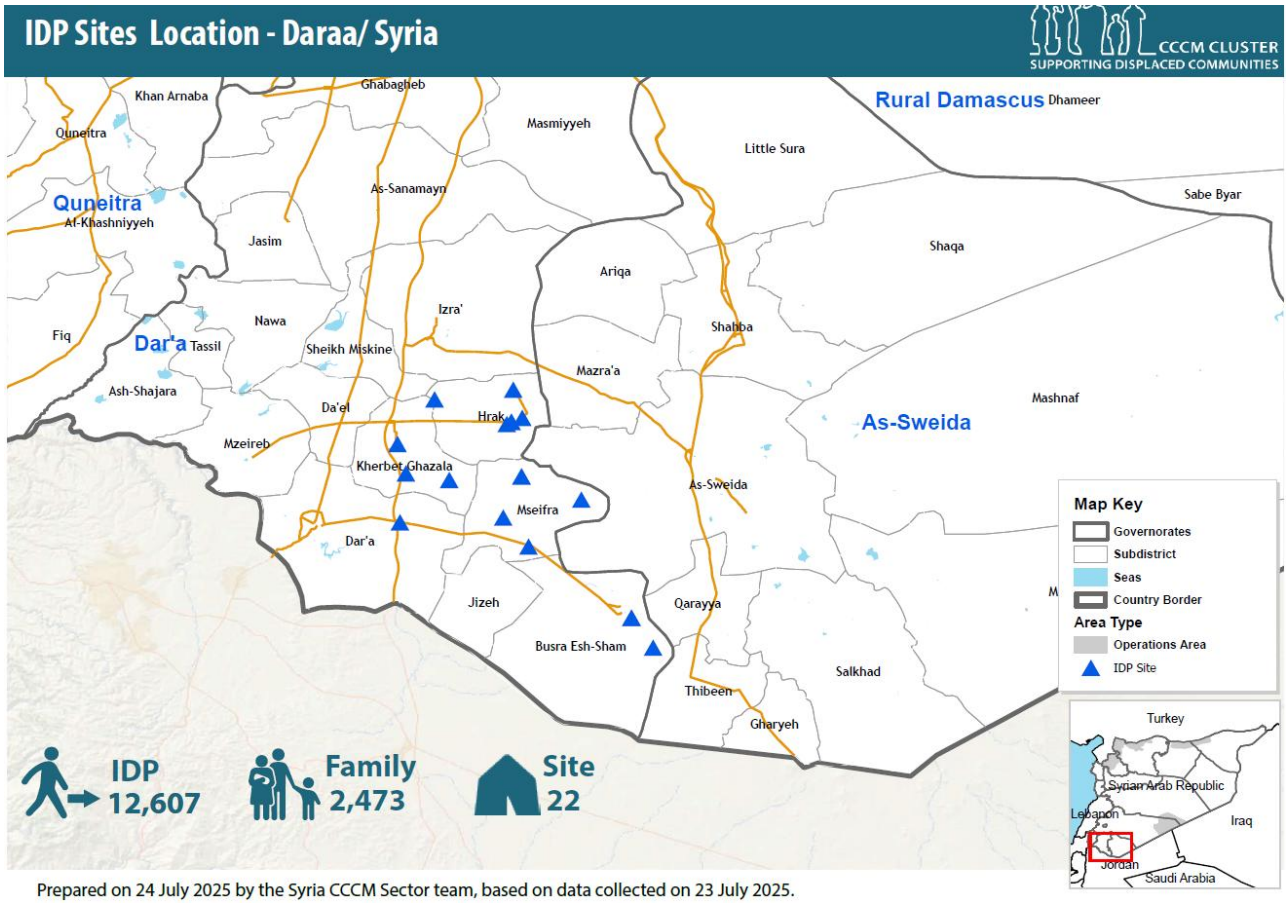
As the lead agency of **Protection Sector**, UNHCR is coordinating the protection response, and partner capacity mapping and response tracking, particularly for the collective centres and communities receiving IDPs, is ongoing. On 29 July, an approval was granted for the UN to access As-Sweida. UNHCR in coordination with OCHA and the Residence Coordinator Office is planning to conduct the inter-agency mission to As-Sweida in the coming days.

The UNHCR-led **Shelter/NFI Sector** is actively coordinating partner mobilization in response to the scale of displacement and the urgent, unmet shelter and NFI needs. Partners with available in-country stocks or rapid procurement capacity are being encouraged to contribute

to the response and to participate in upcoming shelter damage assessments and so far 12 organizations are participating in the Shelter/NFI response.

As of 29 July 2025, 10 Shelter/NFI Sector partners—including UNHCR and its implementing partners—have distributed a total of **3,566 CRI kits**, reaching approximately 18,303 individuals across Dar'a and Rural Damascus Governorates. This includes a mix of complete kits—containing blankets, mattresses, plastic sheets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, and other core items—as well as partial kits, distributed based on stock availability and localized needs. Additional interventions have included: Provision of solar energy systems (solar panels, LED lights, batteries, and control panels) in schools used as collective shelters in Eastern Maliha, Cash assistance for NFIs in select shelters in Izra' District and Upgrades and light improvements to collective shelters to enhance safety and living conditions.

The Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) Sector is monitoring displacement movements to collective centres and informal sites hosting the IDPs through UNHCR's partner. As of 24 July 2025, **12,607 IDPs (2,473 households) are accommodated in 22 collective sites**, schools and government buildings in Dar'a.



Prepared on 24 July 2025 by the Syria CCCM Sector team, based on data collected on 23 July 2025.