Syrian Arab Republic

October 2025

The UN estimates that in 2025 around 16.5 million people across Syria need humanitarian assistance.

Since the fall of the former government on 8 December 2024 until the **end of October 2025**, over 1,164,000 Syrian refugees have returned to the country from abroad.

Over 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) have also returned to their places of origin since the end of November 2024.

Based on actual and projected return numbers and in response to calls from Syrian refugees for UNHCR to support their return, UNHCR is facilitating the voluntary returns of Syrian refugees to the country.

This gradual operational shift is anchored by the voluntary character of return and refugees' well-informed and free choices.

UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, returnees, stateless people, and host communities based on identified needs, vulnerabilities and available resources.

HIGHLIGHTS

5,476

individuals across Syria benefited from UNHCR's livelihood and economic inclusion interventions so far in 2025

13,185

refugee returnee families have received UNHCR's Return and Reintegration Cash Assistance so far in 2025

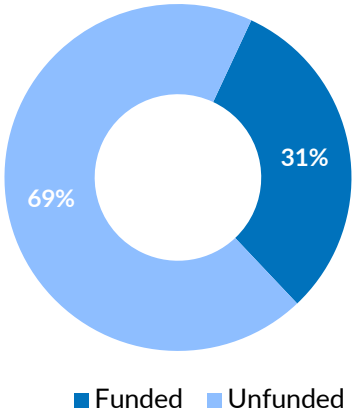
71,000

people reached the Syria is Home platform created by UNHCR to help Syrian refugees make informed decisions about return to Syria

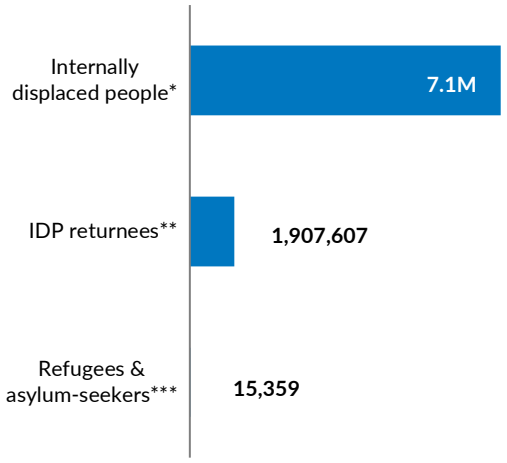
FUNDING (AS OF 31 OCTOBER 2025)

USD 575.4 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2025



PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISPLACEMENT IN THE WHOLE OF SYRIA



** Source: IDP task force, December 2024*
*** Source: Population Movement Reporting Tool, since 27 November 2024*
**** Source: UNHCR, October 2025*

UNHCR partners distribute winter kits to returnee families in Hama and Homs Governorates. ©UNHCR/A.AlKady

Operational Context

Syria is experiencing an increase in the number of refugees and IDPs returning home, with around 7 million individuals who remain internally displaced in the country - one of the highest figures worldwide. The UN and humanitarian partners also estimate that in 2025 over 16.5 million people in Syria need humanitarian assistance.

The security situation in the country is still unpredictable in some areas, and humanitarian and economic conditions remain dire, with limited access to basic services for many parts of the country.

The Enhanced Refugee Perceptions and Intentions to Return to Syria Survey published in September, analysed the intentions of Syrian refugees in the region to return to their home country and indicated that the fall of the former Syrian government triggered a sharp and almost immediate increase in refugees who stated intentions to return within a year. However, refugees' perceptions of safety and stability within Syria remain a key factor in their decision-making and are likely to influence short-term return trends in response to evolving conditions on the ground.

Through the *area-based* and *community-based approaches*, UNHCR supports refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, host community members, and returnees (refugees and IDPs who have returned to their home areas).

UNHCR's *community-based approach* focuses on community mobilization and building self-reliance. It aims at reducing 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 and partners continue to reach thousands of returnee families across Syria to support their reintegration and access to basic services.

In 2025, UNHCR is collaborating with 23 partners, including international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and national NGOs in all 14 governorates.

Operational Updates

Response to the situation in As-Sweida

- As of the end of October, over 36,680 people displaced by the recent tension in As-Sweida have received protection services and participated in related assessments since the onset of the As-Sweida situation in July 2025. The services included legal assistance, psychosocial support, gender-based violence risk mitigation, child protection, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Between 19 July and the end of October, UNHCR dispatched 22,223 core relief item (CRI) kits to As-Sweida, Dar'a, and Rural Damascus. A total of 12,273 winter kits, 760 indoor solar devices and 139 carpets were also delivered.

UNHCR with its partner distribute solar energy kits to families in Mazra'a (As-Sweida Governorate), promoting sustainable energy solutions for displaced communities. ©UNHCR/SARC

- In October, rehabilitation works were underway in collective shelters in Dar'a and As-Sweida Governorates hosting IDPs. In Dar'a, the rehabilitation of five collective shelters in Sahwa and Namer were successfully completed. In As Sweida, the rehabilitation of one collective shelter in Salkhad was completed, while works are ongoing in four shelters in the governorate. Around 5,500 individuals are expected to benefit from this assistance.
- In addition, UNHCR completed the installation of 100 solar streetlights in 50 hosting centres across Dar'a and As Sweida Governorates. The interventions are expected to foster security and protection of displaced people through illuminating communal areas. The streetlights will remain there for future use when these facilities are back to their original function.

Regular response

Protection

- By the end of October, UNHCR supported 71 community centres and 83 mobile units across the country, including in north-west Syria, through a network of 1,492 community outreach volunteers in all 14 Syrian governorates. Through meetings with the interim government, UNHCR successfully advocated for strengthening coordination and referral mechanisms between Sharia courts and partners' legal teams. Partners will accordingly provide the Ministry of Justice with a list of lawyers, enabling judges to

refer individuals in need of legal assistance to document their civil events.

- Several community-led initiatives were initiated in October including creating safe learning spaces for young people at risk and supporting small businesses for displaced and returnee families. In the meantime, 22 initiatives were approved by UNHCR and partners addressing social inclusion, gender mainstreaming, peacebuilding, life skills development, poverty reduction, and social cohesion.
- From 19 to 23 October, UNHCR conducted a training course for 33 focal points working with UN partners on gender-based violence prevention and response in Damascus in Homs, Quneitra, Dar'a, Damascus and Rural Damascus. The training aimed to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of the Girl Shine GBV curriculum-based prevention programme, covering its overview, design, implementation, and experience sharing. This initiative is part of UNHCR's broader effort to strengthen partner capacity and expand the programme's reach to more communities, particularly those hosting vulnerable adolescent girls.
- The Protection Sector led by UNHCR finalized the data collection phase of Protection Monitoring and is currently working on the dashboard and analysis. During the reporting period, 253 households, mainly IDP and refugee returnees were reached, bringing the total to 31,773 households who have successfully completed the protection questionnaires. Additionally, three key informant interviews were
- The Syria is Home platform, which was created in April to help Syrian refugees make informed decisions about return to Syria, had been visited by around 71,000 individuals by the end of October. The highest number of website visitors are from Syria, Türkiye, Jordan and Bulgaria.

Shelter

- From the beginning of the year until the end of October, UNHCR completed the repair of 1,398 damaged houses across Syria. The repairs included fixing doors, windows, walls, roofs, electrical systems, as well as water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.
- UNHCR has also expanded its shelter repair programme by integrating cash for shelter for returnee families. By the end of October, 174 families (994 individuals) received this assistance.
- From the beginning of the year until the end of October, UNHCR provided 4,260 family tents to support displaced and refugee families in Al-Hol, Areesha, Ein Al-Khadra, Tal Aswad, Roj and Serekaniye camps in Al-Hasakeh Governorate.

Core Relief Items

- In October, around 33,244 families (156,803 individuals) across Syria received core relief items (CRIs). The beneficiaries included people displaced due to the recent hostilities in As-Sweida Governorate. The kits comprised blankets, mattresses, sleeping mats, jerry cans, plastic sheets, solar lamps, and kitchen sets.
- From the beginning of the year and up to October, around 195,136 families (968,310 individuals) received UNHCR CRIs.

Livelihoods

- In October, 422 families (2,611 individuals) received cash assistance to establish or resume small businesses in Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, Latakia, Tartous, Aleppo, Homs, and Hama Governorates. An additional 52 individuals in Tartous and Rural Damascus Governorates received equipment, tools, and in-kind support to launch new businesses across various sectors tailored to local skills and market needs.
- The rehabilitation of four vocational training centres and schools in Aleppo and Hama Governorates, and a public market in Latakia Governorate were ongoing in October and are expected to be operational by the end of the year.
- From the beginning of the year until the end of October, around 5,476 individuals across Syria benefited from UNHCR's livelihood and economic inclusion interventions, including business training, start-up grants, on-the-job training, referral services, and provision of inputs for agricultural activities.

Cash Assistance

- In October, 6,239 returnee families (17,312 individuals) received Return and Reintegration Cash Assistance, bringing the total number of those who received this grant by the end of October to 13,185 families (44,904 individuals).

Refugee Response

- **Registration:** As of the end of October, 15,359 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR in Syria. The majority of the registered refugees are from Iraq and reside primarily in urban areas in Damascus, Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Homs, Tartous, and Latakia Governorates. In October, UNHCR renewed the identification cards of 135 refugees. These cards protect refugees against *refoulement*, ensure access to basic rights and services, and facilitate freedom of movement.

- **Refugee Status Determination (RSD):** In October, four families (17 individuals) were recognized as refugees. RSD ensures protection from *refoulement* and detention due to irregular stays, as well as facilitates access to basic services.
- **Durable solutions:** Since the beginning of the year until the end of October, UNHCR facilitated the departure of 10 families (30 individuals) to the United Kingdom from Damascus International Airport. In addition, under the private sponsorship complementary pathway arrangement[1], four refugee families (12 individuals) departed to Canada.
  UNHCR also maintained communication with persons with and for whom it works through weekly counselling over the dedicated helplines.

Return

- Between 8 December 2024 and the end of October 2025, over 1.1 million Syrians returned to the country mainly from Lebanon and Türkiye, followed by Jordan, Iraq and Egypt[2].
- As part of the organized voluntary return coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and Syria's General Authority for Land and Sea Ports, 525 Syrian refugees returned from Lebanon in October through the Arida border crossing point (Tartous-Lebanon) and 600 Syrian refugees from the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing point (Rural Damascus-Lebanon). The returnees received transportation support, core relief items, psychosocial assistance, and legal aid.

UNHCR team supports the convoy of 13 buses of Syrian refugees who returned from Lebanon via the Arida crossing point and ensures coordination and assistance during the journey. The returnees headed to Idleb and Homs Governorates. ©UNHCR/E.Kabbas

- In October, UNHCR Jordan organized 13 convoys to facilitate the voluntary return of over 900 Syrian refugees to the country. The returnees were received by UNHCR Syria at the Nassib border crossing (Dar'a-Jordan) and were transported to the governorates of Dar'a, Homs, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Ar-Raqqa, Idleb, and Aleppo.
- In close coordination with WFP, UNHCR provided vital food assistance to returnees at border points with Türkiye, helping ease their transition during the early stages of return and reintegration. At Sarmada bus station (Idleb) and at Sejjo bus station (Aleppo), UNHCR and partners distributed ready-to-eat food baskets from WFP containing canned food, date bars, bread, as well as packs of high-energy biscuits to 5,127 returnees. In collaboration with UNFPA, hygiene kits were also distributed to address the needs of 1,780 returnee women and girls.
- In October, 802 families (4,198 individuals) benefited from free transportation assistance at the border crossing points of Bab Al-Hawa (Idleb-Türkiye), Al-Salam (Aleppo-Türkiye), and Joussieh (Homs-Lebanon). This brings the total number of returnees supported since the beginning of the year to over 24,000.
- In October, 3,720 returnee families (14,892 individuals) consented to share their basic information through the Designated Support Windows[3] established in coordination with the General Authority for Land and Sea Ports at official border crossings to advise returnees on available services and assistance. This brings the total of consented families to 16,766 families (65,231 individuals).
- UNHCR also continued to support the return of Syrians from camps in north-east Syria. On 7 October, a voluntary return movement was organized in coordination with the Directorate of Social Affairs and Labor in Idleb for the first time for 165 families (689 individuals) residing in 21 camps in the Dana area (Idleb Governorate) to their areas of origin. UNHCR supported the movement by providing transportation, core relief items, and winter assistance. On 26 October, UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities in north-east Syria also facilitated the return of 12 Syrian families (54 individuals) - medical cases - from Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh Governorate) to their original homes in several governorates.
  In addition, UNHCR supported the third voluntary return movement organized from Mahmoudli camp (Ar-Raqqa Governorate) for 27 families (131 individuals) to their areas of origin in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, and Deir-ez-Zor Governorates. Since the beginning of the year, the movements of 703 families (3,526 individuals) were facilitated from Areesha, and Mahmoudli camps to areas of origin.

[1] *Complementary pathways are safe and regulated avenues for persons in need of international protection that provide for a lawful stay in a third country where international protection needs are met.*
[2] *This figure is calculated based on a triangulation of data from Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and beyond.*
[3] *These windows are currently operating at the following border crossings: Nassib (Syria–Jordan); Jdaidet Yabous, Arida, Joussieh (Syria–Lebanon); Kassab, Bab Al-Hawa, Al-Salama, Jarablus, Al Ra'ee (Syria–Türkiye); and Alboukamal (Syria–Iraq) borders.*

The process involves providing camp residents with reliable information about return to make informed and voluntary decisions on returning home, conducting registration for those wishing to return and identifying vulnerable cases, working with camp administration and partners on pre-departure arrangements, and organizing the actual transportation from the camps.

- UNHCR and partners continue following-up on the post-return situations of returnees, through a range of monitoring activities and home visits, and actively referring those in need to available services, including to those provided at UNHCR-supported community centres most accessible to their locations of return.
- In October, UNHCR conducted training for immigration staff at Al-Hamam border crossing point (Aleppo-Türkiye). The training focused on the use of the Kobo tool for registering returnees, covering registration objectives, procedures, and referral pathways to community centres and legal services.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED:

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- UNHCR refugee return overview (13 November 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #52 (8 November 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (6 November 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (6 November 2025)
- Overview of refugee and asylum-seeker population (31 October 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #51 (31 October 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (30 October 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (30 October 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #50 (24 October 2025)
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- UNHCR refugee return overview (23 October 2025)
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