UNHCR - Facilitated Return of Syrian Refugees - Lebanon | June 2026

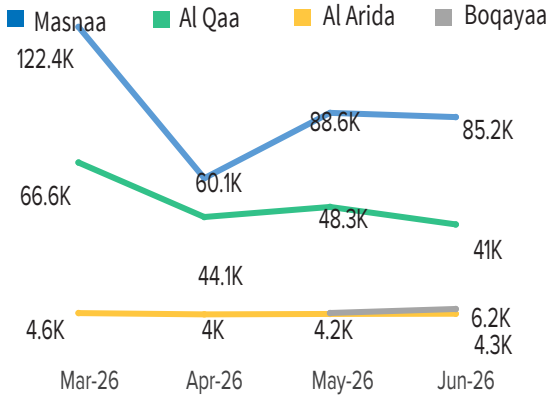
CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS

581,409
Syrians crossed from Lebanon into Syria (Syrian GABC)

491,265
Syrians crossed from Lebanon into Syria (Lebanese GSO)

Since the escalation of hostilities on 2 March 2026, and until 30 June, the Syrian General Authority for Border and Customs (GABC) estimates that 581,409 Syrians crossed from Lebanon into Syria, while the Lebanese General Security (GSO) estimates that 491,265 Syrians departed through Official Crossing Points (OCPs) between 2 March and 26 June. While some movements to Syria were driven by the conflict in Lebanon, others reflect previously planned movements. Syrians crossing include people known, and not known to UNHCR, namely both refugees and Syrians who have stayed in Lebanon under various visa and sponsorship arrangements or returning from temporary visits. During June, a slight increase was observed in daily movement to Syria, with over 4,500 Syrians crossing per day through OCPs, mainly due to the end of the school academic year and the start of the summer season. As of the end of June 2026, only 6% (29,054 individuals) of Syrians who left Lebanon through the OCPs, based on GSO and UNHCR Syria data*, have so far been verified to be known to UNHCR**. Further verification, data collection and triangulation are ongoing.

Monthly Cross-Border Movements Reported by Syrian Authorities (2 March to 30 June)



Since March 2026, UNHCR has undertaken 69 missions to OCPs, and conducted interviews with a sample of 782 Syrians both known (51%) and not known (49%) to UNHCR, as they were departing to Syria; 53% were conducted with adult men and 47% with adult women. Most Syrians (96%) were between 18 and 59 years old. Some Syrian families (48%) were observed travelling in complete male-headed households, while 30% were single adult males. Furthermore, while 55% of Syrians interviewed in March indicated they were leaving Lebanon due to the security situation, this figure dropped to only 6% citing the security situation as their main motivation in June. The majority (32%) in June indicated they were leaving for family reasons or to visit family in Syria, highlighting that movements to Syria are no longer primarily driven by the security situation in Lebanon. Among the Syrians interviewed, 19% indicated an intention to return to Damascus, 15% to (Rural) Damascus, 13% to Aleppo and 14% to Homs. These findings are based on a random sample and are not representative of the profiles and intentions of all returning Syrians, including those known to UNHCR.

RETURN HIGHLIGHTS (as of end-June 2026)

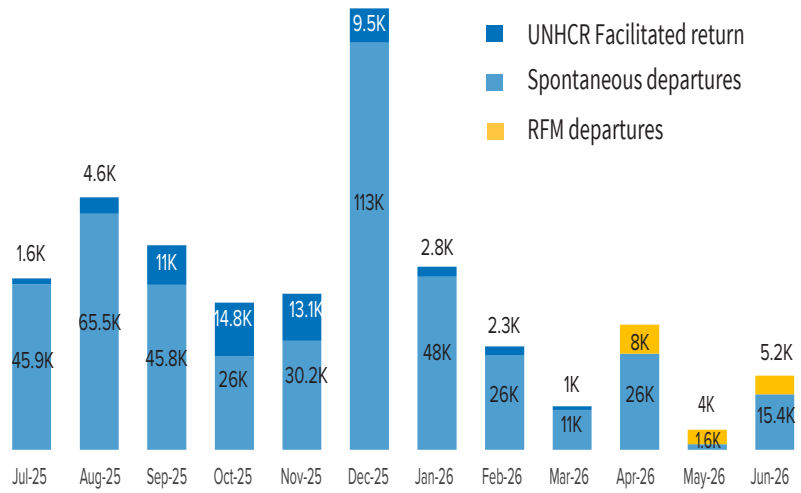
655,732
Syrians known to UNHCR returned to Syria since 1 Jan. 2025 (confirmed or presumed)

577,604
Syrians known to UNHCR spontaneously returned to Syria (confirmed or presumed)

78,128
Syrians directly supported by UNHCR with VolRep or RFM

Since January 2025, 655,732 Syrians known to UNHCR have been confirmed or presumed to have returned to Syria, and consequently inactivated from UNHCR's records. Among these, 88% (577,604 Syrians) spontaneously returned to Syria – including 11% (65,500) who returned under duress in late 2024 and remained in Syria; 19% (112,372) who were identified by GSO when passing through OCPs without Repatriation Forms; and 5% (29,054) so far identified by GSO as having returned due to force majeure after 2 March 2026. Among the 655,732 Syrians who returned, 12% (78,128 individuals) were facilitated to return by UNHCR – 60,836 under the voluntary return programme and 17,292 under the return due to force majeure programme since 1 April 2026. On 17 June 2026, UNHCR and IOM implemented the first organized voluntary return movement since the hostilities, with 30 individuals supported with transportation to return to Syria through Masnaa border crossing points. Spontaneous departure figures reflected in the chart indicate the date of inactivation from UNHCR's database and not the date of departure, accounting for the large number of inactivation in December 2025 due to the completion of the presence verification

UNHCR - Facilitated Return vs Spontaneous Departure***



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

* Compiled from information gathered by Syrian immigration authorities at the Voluntary Return desk at official border crossing points and collected by UNHCR's partners of Syrians benefiting from transport and other services inside Syria.

**Compared to 18% of those who crossed from Lebanon to Syria during the 2024 hostilities, and verified as remained in Syria six months after the November 2024 ceasefire announcement and inactivated in UNHCR's database

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UNHCR-facilitated: Return due to force majeure

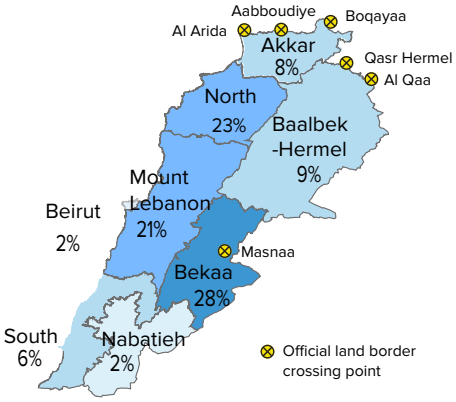
In response to the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, UNHCR launched the return due to force majeure programme on 1 April 2026, based on a humanitarian imperative to alleviate harm and support refugees who were left with no viable alternative other than to return to Syria. While returns in those adverse conditions of hostilities in Lebanon were not considered voluntary, UNHCR provided this support as a harm-reduction measure, aiming to assist and support with transportation, food and other essential items during return to Syria in volatile circumstances. The cases of returning households were shared with UNHCR in Syria for follow-up and assistance inside Syria. By the end of June, over 25,300 individuals (5,635 families) had contacted UNHCR and provided with counselling on RFM and information on services available in Syria. Among the Syrians counselled, 17,292 individuals (3,899 families) made the decision to return to Syria and were provided with a USD 100 cash grant per returning individual. Note: As of 1 July 2026, UNHCR has resumed voluntary return procedures and ceased the RFM programme.

Returns: Demographic

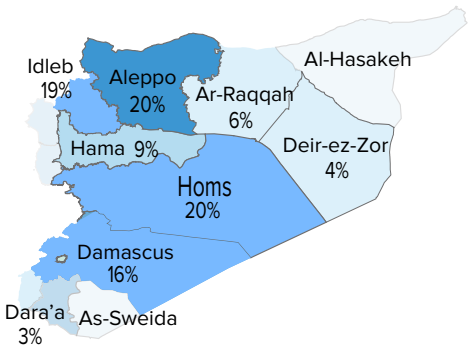
UNHCR - Facilitated Return: RFM

Complete families	96%
Women	19%
Children	59%
Specific needs	22%

Area of residence in Lebanon



Intended area of return in Syria



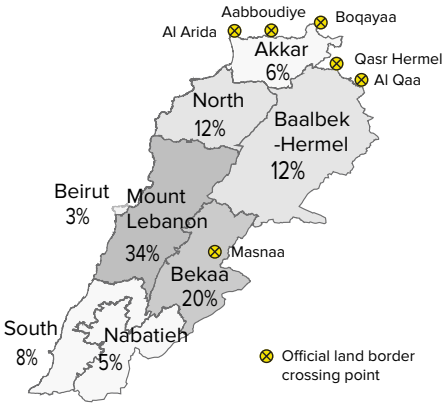
Among the 17,292 individuals assisted under the RFM programme, 38% resided in Bekaa, Baalbek and Hermel, 31% in North and Akkar, 23% in Beirut and Mt. Lebanon, and 8% in South and Nabatieh. Refugees internally displaced prior to return to Syria reduced to only 6% in June, compared to 15% in May, further indicating that hostilities now have a lesser impact on return decision-making. Only 72% of the households indicated that they planned to return to their areas of origin in Syria, compared to 84% of households who previously returned under the voluntary return programme, suggesting an urgency to return due to the ongoing conflict. Among the RFM, 20% indicated planned return to Aleppo, 20% to Homs, 19% to Idlib, and 13% to Rural Damascus.

19% of those assisted with RFM were women and 59% were children, making 78% of returnees women and children. 22% of those who were assisted to return due to force majeure have a protection need, notably 11% with a serious medical condition and 4% having a disability. Importantly, 96% returned in complete families – substantially higher than the 85% who returned in complete families under the voluntary return programme. Of the adults who returned due to force majeure, 72% cited poor living conditions in Lebanon while 14% cited the insecurity and conflict in Lebanon (down from 28% in May) as the main drivers for their return.

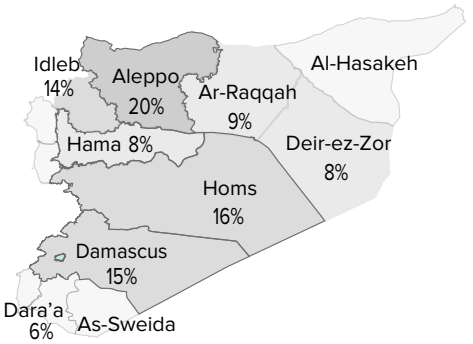
Spontaneous Departure

Complete families	78%
Women	29%
Children	41%
Specific needs	24%

Area of residence in Lebanon



Presumed area of return in Syria



Among the 577,604 Syrian individuals who spontaneously returned, fewer families (78%) returned in complete families compared to the 85% returning in complete families of those facilitated with VolRep and 96% returning in complete families of those facilitated with RFM. 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 Nabatieh. 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 Idleb. Furthermore, 29% of those who returned spontaneously are women and 41% are children – 70% of spontaneous returnees being women and children. 24% of individuals who returned spontaneously have identified specific protection needs.

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.

For more information on the UNHCR-supported voluntary programme, please visit UNHCRHelp – Voluntary Return page.