

Syrian Arab Republic

August 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 August 2025**, around 844,000 Syrian refugees have returned to the country from abroad. The overall rate of return increased over the summer months as expected.

Over 1.7 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

1,746

returnee families received UNHCR's Return and Reintegration Cash Assistance in August 2025

2,251

IDPs and refugees in camps in north-east Syria received UNHCR's tents since the beginning of the year

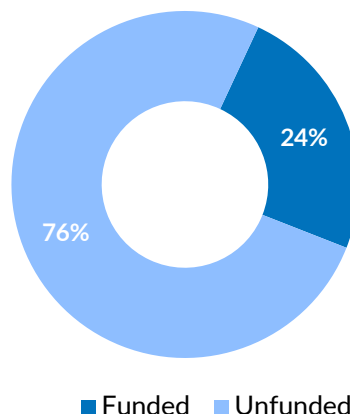
15,164

refugee returnees in need have benefited from transportation from border crossings since the beginning of the year

FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2025)

USD 575.4 million

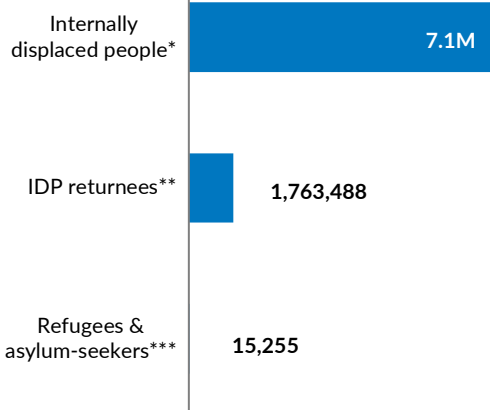
requested for the Syria Operation in 2025



PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISPLACEMENT IN THE WHOLE OF SYRIA



A convoy facilitated by UNHCR of 36 returnee families (127 individuals) with medical cases depart Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh Governorate) to their areas in Aleppo, Idleb, and Ar-Raqqa Governorates. ©UNHCR/H.Maarouf



* Source: IDP task force, December 2024

** Source: Population Movement Reporting Tool, since 27 November 2024

*** Source: UNHCR, August 2025

Operational Context

Syria is experiencing an increase in the number of refugees and IDPs returning home, with over 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.

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 August, around 20,000 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 August, UNHCR dispatched 11,444 core relief item (CRI) kits to As-Sweida (2,750 kits), Dar'a (6,402 kits), and Rural Damascus (2,292). The distribution of items is ongoing.
- As Shelter/non-food items (NFI) Sector lead, UNHCR also coordinated the response of over 15 partners, reaching 13,850 households (67,500 individuals) across Dar'a, As-Sweida, and Rural Damascus as of the end of August. Within the Sector, UNHCR delivered

63% of the distributions, the majority of which is in Dar'a, which currently hosts the largest segment of the displaced population.

- Rehabilitation works are underway in collective shelters in Dar'a and As-Sweida Governorates. These include partitioning for increased privacy and security particularly for vulnerable groups, energy efficiency to improve visibility, as well as support for persons with specific needs. UNHCR also initiated the installation of 100 solar streetlights in 50 hosting centres, which on average benefit 5,000 individuals, across Dar'a and As-Sweida Governorates to foster security and protection of displaced people through illuminating communal areas. The streetlights will remain there for future use when these facilities –including public schools– are fully operational.

For more information on the situation and response, please refer to updates on [UNHCR.org](#) and the [UNHCR Syria Data Portal](#).



UNHCR partner team visits families displaced from As-Sweida in the collective shelters to offer psychosocial support and recreational activities for children, contributing to creating an emotionally supportive environment. ©UNHCR/ Al-Baraem

Regular response



Protection

- By the end of August, UNHCR supported 69 [community centres](#) and 79 mobile units across the country, including in north-west Syria, through a network of 1,545 community outreach volunteers in all 14 Syrian governorates.
- To enhance functionality in supporting the legal needs of returnees, UNHCR distributed in August IT equipment to several public institutions. This included 68 desktop computers, 44 laptops, 58 printers, 15 archiving cameras, and two routers delivered to the Civil Registry in Ar-Rastan (Homs Governorate), the Civil Registries in Suran and Muhardeh (Hama Governorate), the Cadastral Offices in Homs, Aleppo, Salamiyah, Salhab and Masyaf (Hama Governorate), the Directorate of Cadastral Affairs in Hama, the Mental Health Hospital in Aleppo, the Department of

Social Affairs and Labour in Aleppo, and the Social Insurance Office in Aleppo.

- The [Syria is Home](#) platform was created in April to help Syrian refugees make informed decisions about return to Syria. By the end of August, it was visited by over 40,000 individuals. The highest number of website visitors are from Lebanon, followed by Syria, Jordan and Türkiye.



Shelter

- In August, UNHCR completed the repair of 300 damaged houses across Syria including partially damaged houses in area-based return support (ABRS)¹ locations such as Kafraya and Beit Shkuhi (Latakia Governorate). The repairs usually include fixing doors, windows, walls, roofs, electrical systems, as well as water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.
- The installation of 4,800 solar streetlights out of the planned 16,000 commenced in August in several locations across Syria.
- In August, UNHCR expanded its shelter repair programme benefiting 500 returnee families across Syrian governorates by providing additional cash-for-shelter assistance.
- From the beginning of the year until the end of August, UNHCR provided 2,251 family tents to support displaced and refugee families in Al-Hol, Areesha, Ein Al-Khadra, Tal Aswad, and Roj camps (Al-Hasakeh Governorate).



Core Relief Items

- In August, over 25,658 families (130,969 individuals) across Syria received core relief items (CRIs). The beneficiaries included people displaced due to the recent hostilities in As-Sweida Governorate as well as families affected by the wildfires in the coastal area that occurred in July 2025. 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 August, around 131,400 families (651,900 individuals) received UNHCR CRIs.



Livelihoods

- In August, 57 individuals mainly refugee returnees in Dar'a, Ar-Raqqa, Latakia, Deir-ez-Zor, Tartous and Al-Hasakeh Governorates benefited from the start-up small business support to establish or resume their businesses as well as from on-the-job training opportunities.

- In August, UNHCR started the rehabilitation of the Al-Khalil vocational training school in Bab Al-Neirab (Aleppo Governorate). The school sustained significant damage during the conflict in Syria. Once rehabilitated, it will resume the provision of technical and vocational education to young people in the area.
- From the beginning of the year until the end of August, 4,855 individuals across Syria benefited from UNHCR's livelihood and economic inclusion interventions, including business training, start-up grants, and provision of inputs for agricultural activities.



Cash Assistance

- In August, 1,746 returnee families (6,830 individuals) received Return and Reintegration Cash Assistance, bringing the total number of those who received this grant until the end of August to 4,709 families (19,194 individuals).



Refugee Response

- **Registration:** As of the end of August, 15,255 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 August, UNHCR renewed the identification cards of 190 refugees. These cards protect refugees against [refoulement](#), ensure access to basic rights and services, and facilitate freedom of movement.
- **Refugee Status Determination (RSD):** Since the beginning of the year until the end of August, 29 families (57 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:** In August, UNHCR facilitated the departure of one refugee family (4 individuals) for resettlement in the UK from Damascus International Airport. UNHCR also maintained communication with persons with and for whom it works through weekly counselling over the dedicated [helplines](#).
- **Cash assistance:** In August, UNHCR assisted 3,928 refugee and asylum-seeker families (10,348 individuals) with multi-purpose cash assistance. A total of 3,676 refugee students aged between 6 and 17 years also received unconditional education grants.

¹ The inter-agency area-based return support (ABRS) is a coordinated humanitarian strategy designed to support communities receiving returnees—through multi-sectoral, locally driven interventions. It is led by the Solutions Working Group, co-

chaired by UNHCR, UNDP and IOM – global “Solutions Champions” – and aligns with UN Secretary General’s Action Agenda.



Return

- From the beginning of 2024 until the end of August 2025, around 1.2 million Syrians returned to the country, of these around 844,000 individuals crossed into Syria between 8 December 2024 and the end of August 2025, mainly from Lebanon and Türkiye, followed by Jordan, Iraq and Egypt².
- Working in close coordination with the General Authorities for Land and Sea Ports, designated support windows³ for returnees have been established at official border crossings to provide information on available services and assistance to Syrian returnees.
- Inside Syria, UNHCR continues to facilitate the voluntary, safe, and dignified return of Syrians to their areas of origin by providing free transportation assistance to the most vulnerable returnees at the border crossing points of Bab Al-Hawa (Idleb-Türkiye), Al-Salam (Aleppo-Türkiye), and Joussieh (Homs-Lebanon). In August, 1,773 families (4,911 individuals) benefited from this support, bringing the total number of returnees supported to 15,164 individuals.
- 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 returnees. In parallel, and in collaboration with UNFPA, hygiene kits were distributed to address the needs of returnee women and girls.

- UNHCR also continued to support the return of Syrians from camps in north-east Syria. On 21 August, UNHCR facilitated the return of 20 households (107 individuals) from Areesha camp (Al-Hasakeh Governorate) to their places of origin in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. On 26 August, the first voluntary return movement from Mahmoudi camp (Ar-Raqqa Governorate) for 10 households (65 individuals) was organized. This 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.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED:

- Regional Flash Update #43 (4 September 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (3 September 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (3 September 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #42 (29 August 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (28 August 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (28 August 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #41 (22 August 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (21 August 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (21 August 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #40 (15 August 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (14 August 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (14 August 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #39 (8 August 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (7 August 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (7 August 2025)
- Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #6 (6 August 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #38 (1 August 2025)
- UNHCR refugee return overview (31 July 2025)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returnees overview (31 July 2025)
- Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #5 (29 July 2025)
- Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #4 (25 July 2025)
- Regional Flash Update #37 (25 July 2025)

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LINKS: [UNHCR Global Focus](#) | [UNHCR Syria Data Portal](#) | [UNHCR Syria Website](#) | [UNHCR Syria Twitter \(@UNHCRinSYRIA\)](#) | [UNHCR Syria Facebook](#)

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.