Syrian Arab Republic

June 2026

Syria has entered a new phase marked by large-scale returns and persistent humanitarian vulnerability.

While around 1.7 million refugees and 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned since December 2024, 15.6 million people still require humanitarian assistance.

As return movements continue, ensuring sustainable reintegration through access to housing, services, documentation, livelihoods and community support is becoming a defining priority for Syria's recovery.

In line with Syria's *National Recovery Priorities* and the Government's "No Tents, No Camps" vision, UNHCR supports this transition while maintaining protection and humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

2

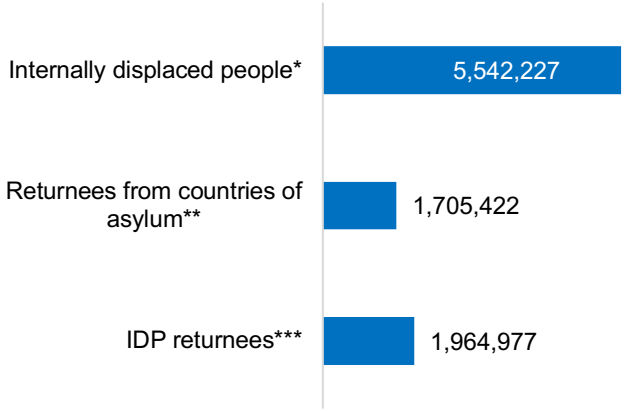
civil registry offices in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate were rehabilitated and provided with solar power systems, furniture and equipment in June

500

damaged houses have been repaired by UNHCR since the beginning of the year

2,132

individuals were supported to return from collective shelters in Qamishli to their homes in Afrin in June



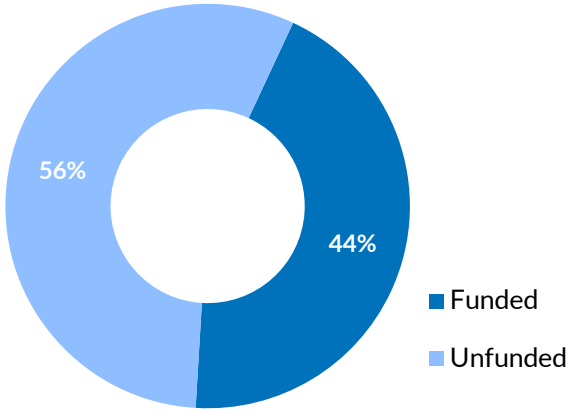
*Source: OCHA, August 2025
**Source: UNHCR, since December 2024. This is calculated by triangulating multiple data sources, including population-movement reporting and border-monitoring data.
***Source: OCHA and UNHCR, from December 2024 to June 2026

Abou Mustafa and his family gather in their repaired home after returning from years of displacement to Rabeaa, rural Latakia. With support from UNHCR, the family now has a safe place to rebuild their lives. ©UNHCR/E.Kabbas

FUNDING (AS OF 30 JUNE 2026)

USD 323.9 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2026



Operational Context

Syria is experiencing sustained refugee and IDP returns while humanitarian needs remain widespread. Conditions remain volatile in parts of the country, while damaged housing, limited access to services, documentation barriers and economic hardship continue to affect communities receiving returnees and constrain sustainable reintegration.

Recognizing that sustainable return increasingly depends on economic recovery, UNHCR participated in the Private Sector National Conference, organized by the Ministry of Economy and Industry and UNDP, to discuss economic recovery priorities. Through its side event, *From Return to Recovery: Private Sector Engagement with Returnees*, UNHCR highlighted the role of private-sector investment, employment opportunities and entrepreneurship in supporting reintegration and reducing long-term dependency on humanitarian assistance.

The second round of the Enhanced Regional Perceptions and Intentions Survey, covering Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt and published by UNHCR and the World Bank in April, found that only 14% of refugee households intend to return within the next 12 months, while 77% express a long-term aspiration to return, indicating that willingness to return remains higher than confidence in current conditions inside Syria. Those who did not intend to return cited lack of adequate housing, limited access to basic services, safety and security concerns, and lack of employment and economic opportunities as the main barriers to return.

Through community- and *area-based approaches*, UNHCR supports refugees, IDPs, returnees, host communities across Syria, focusing on protection, self-reliance, and local recovery in areas of greatest need.

In 2026, UNHCR collaborates with 26 partners, including ministries, other UN agencies and international and national non-governmental organizations in all 14 governorates.

Operational Updates

Protection

- UNHCR advanced protection interventions to strengthen access to rights, documentation, services, contributing to more sustainable reintegration outcomes.
- By the end of June, UNHCR supported 55 community centres and 71 mobile units across the country, assisted by a network of 961 community outreach volunteers in all 14 Syrian governorates.
- UNHCR completed the rehabilitation of two civil registry offices in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, including repairs and provision of solar power systems, furniture and equipment. Access to civil documentation remains critical for many returnees seeking to access services, secure legal rights and rebuild their lives. The rehabilitation of these offices is expected to strengthen access to documentation services while supporting longer-term reintegration and recovery efforts
- The first interview schedules for Kurdish applicants seeking Syrian citizenship under Presidential Decree No. 13 of 2026 have been announced in Al-Hasakah and Ar-Raqqa Governorates, covering hundreds of applicants. Over 10,000 applications have reportedly been submitted nationwide since April. UNHCR engages with the Government and partners to provide legal assistance and advocacy throughout the process.
- To mark World Refugee Day on 20 June under the theme “Until Everyone Is Safe”, UNHCR and partners organized a wide range of activities across Syria promoting inclusion, social cohesion, resilience, and awareness of refugee rights. Activities included storytelling and digital campaigns highlighting refugee achievements and contributions, cultural and musical events, sports and environmental initiatives, photo exhibitions, community dialogues, legal awareness sessions, and recreational activities for children.

Cultural performances and interactive activities bring refugees and host community members together during a World Refugee Day event in Masyaf, Hama Governorate. ©UNHCR/A.Alkady

- UNHCR completed the renovation of the training hall of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour's in Dummar, Damascus. The facility will support protection and humanitarian training, contributing to the strengthening of the Ministry’s institutional capacity.
- UNHCR with other UN agencies engaged with local stakeholders in As-Sweida Governorate to advocate for enabling students in As-Sweida to sit for their national examinations due in June. While consultations contributed to ongoing dialogue, stakeholders reportedly remained divided over examination modalities and locations, affecting access for an estimated 13,000 students in the governorate.

- A UNHCR team conducted a training on standard operating procedures for the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) for partners in Ar-Raqqa, Tabqa, and Qamishli in north-east Syria. Gaps in capacity, implementation, and coordination were identified and the training contributed to improved CFM capacity, clearer operational gaps, and a jointly agreed action plan to enhance response quality and accountability.
- As of June, 943 households (4,361 individuals) returning from Al-Hol camp had been identified mainly in Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Idleb, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs and Hama Governorates. They receive legal assistance, mental health and psychosocial support, and community-based protection support.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR, in partnership with the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA) conducted 20 mine risk education sessions at Nashabiah community centre in Rural Damascus, reaching 380 children. The sessions focused on raising landmine awareness, identifying hazardous areas, and promoting safe behaviours, through interactive, child-friendly activities.
- The Syria is Home platform, launched in May 2025 to help Syrian refugees make informed decisions about return to Syria, recorded around 142,000 visits, with most new users in June being from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the UK and the USA.

Return and Reintegration Cash Assistance

- From the beginning of the year through June, 21,539 returnee families (82,348 individuals) received return and reintegration cash assistance, which was launched in 2025 to support returnees in meeting essential needs upon return.

Shelter/House Repair

- From January to June, UNHCR repaired 500 damaged houses benefitting 2,500 households.
- Over 4,000 assessments were ongoing, prioritizing vulnerable returnee families and households relocated from camps.
- In Akburhan camp (Aleppo), the rehabilitation of 1,150 shelter units and their associated cooking areas, as well as the installation of six communal latrines have been completed.

Core Relief Items

- As families return or continue to face displacement-related vulnerabilities, access to essential household items remains critical to meeting immediate needs and reducing reliance on negative coping mechanisms. In June, UNHCR and its partners provided core relief item (CRI) kits to 9,710 vulnerable families (43,576 individuals) across Syria, bringing the total number assisted since the beginning of the year to 46,349 families (230,461 individuals). The kits included essential household items such as blankets, mattresses, sleeping mats, jerry cans, plastic sheets, solar lamps, kitchen sets, and seasonal items.

Newly arrived returnees from Lebanon receive core relief item kits in Ar-Raqqa. This assistance helps families meet their immediate needs upon return. ©UNHCR

Livelihoods

- Economic opportunity is increasingly emerging as a key determinant of successful reintegration. While many returnees possess valuable skills and work experience, unemployment and limited access to markets continue to constrain recovery prospects. In June, UNHCR, in partnership with a consultancy firm, completed a market systems development initiative in high-return governorates such as Aleppo, Hama, and Ar-Raqqa to promote sustainable economic inclusion and self-reliance among returnees. A validation workshop with key stakeholders identified market opportunities, challenges, and priorities for collective action, helping lay the groundwork for market-oriented solutions and stronger partnerships in high-return areas.
- Findings from a Skills Profiling of Syrian returnees' assessment, conducted with ILO, highlighted that despite considerable prior work experience among returnees, unemployment remains high. Skills gaps, limited access to vocational training, and the lack of recognized certifications constrain economic reintegration, underscoring the need for market-driven skills development and employment support.

Refugee Response

- **Registration:** As of the end of June, 14,143 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 June, UNHCR also renewed the

identification cards of 923 refugees. These cards protect refugees against *refoulement*, ensure access to basic rights and services, and facilitate freedom of movement.

- **Durable solutions:** UNHCR maintained communication with persons with and for whom it works regarding resettlement opportunities, through weekly counselling over the dedicated helplines.

Return

- Between 2 March and 30 June, 734,378 individuals (581,409 Syrians and 152,969 Lebanese) crossed into Syria amid hostilities affecting southern Lebanon. While 139,590 Syrians indicated intentions to remain in Syria, the majority expressed plans to return to Lebanon once conditions improve. At border crossing points, assistance to returnees focused on immediate protection and basic needs, including transportation for the most vulnerable, legal counselling, and referrals. In return areas, UNHCR and partners continued post-return monitoring and facilitated access to services, notably through community centres, with rising demand placing additional strain on available resources.
- UNHCR facilitates voluntary return based on informed decision-making. However, return intentions and actual movements are shaped by structural constraints inside Syria. Field observations indicate that damaged housing, limited access to basic services, documentation barriers and livelihood shortfalls affect returnees' ability to reintegrate. In many areas, basic services, including health and education, remain overstretched, while shortages of adequate housing persist due to widespread damage and slow rehabilitation. At the same time, economic vulnerability, high levels of debt, and limited income-generating opportunities are increasing reliance on humanitarian assistance and raising the risk of negative coping mechanisms, ultimately affecting the sustainability of returns.
- Organized convoys from Lebanon resumed on 17 June, with 30 Syrian refugees returning through Jdaidet Yabous border crossing point (Rural Damascus-Lebanon), coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and Syria's General Authority for Borders and Customs. Since July 2025, 16 organized return convoys have been facilitated from Lebanon. UNHCR provided transportation, psychosocial support, legal aid, and information on community centres and services in return areas.
- In June, UNHCR received eight organized convoys consisting of 681 returnees from Azraq camp and urban areas in Jordan, who crossed into Syria through Nassib border crossing (Dar'a-Jordan). UNHCR informed the returnees of the community centres in return areas that could provide assistance upon needs.
- In June, 2,280 vulnerable Syrians received transportation support at the border crossing points of Joussieh (Homs-Lebanon) and Bab Al-Hawa (Idleb-Türkiye). This brings the number of refugee returnees provided with UNHCR's transportation support since the beginning of 2025 to around 45,000.
- In June, 1,619 returnee families (7,183 individuals) consented to share their basic information through the Returnee Support Windows [1] established in coordination with Syria's General Authority for Borders and Customs at official border crossings to advise returnees on available services and assistance. This brings the total of consented families to around 34,000 families (140,000 individuals) since June 2025, allowing UNHCR to follow up on their situation in their areas.
- UNHCR also supports multiple organized returns from camps and emergency collective shelters inside the country to areas of origin, ensuring that movements were conducted in a safe and dignified manner. On 10 June, 527 families (2,132 individuals) were supported to return from collective shelters in Qamishli to Afrin (Aleppo) bringing the total number of households supported by UNHCR since May to 911 households (4,052 individuals). In parallel, on 25 June, UNHCR facilitated a convoy of 17 households (99 individuals) returning from Al-Koush displacement camp in Menbij (Aleppo) to their areas of origin in Maskana (Aleppo), in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Sector partner Muzun. UNHCR provided families with transportation and trucks to help them move their belongings and household items, in addition to protection services, information on community centres' services in their areas as well as CRIs to support them in the first phase of return.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

- UNHCR refugee returnees overview (2 July 2026)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returns overview (2 July 2026)
- UNHCR refugee returnees overview (25 June 2026)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returns overview (25 June 2026)

1 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, Tell Abyad (Syria–Türkiye); and Alboukamal (Syria–Iraq) borders.

- UNHCR refugee returnees overview (18 June 2026)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returns overview (18 June 2026)
- UNHCR refugee returns overview (11 June 2026)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returns overview (11 June 2026)
- UNHCR refugee returnees overview (4 June 2026)
- UNHCR IDPs and IDP returns overview (4 June 2026)
- Shelter and Infrastructure Factsheet (June 2025)
- UNHCR Preliminary Protection Analysis on New Arrivals from Lebanon (April 2026)
- UNHCR Syria Protection and Reintegration Insights Q1 2026
- Refugee Protection Factsheet (Q1)
- Legal Aid Factsheet (Q1)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Factsheet (Q1)
- Child Protection, Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Factsheet (Q1)

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