Syrian Arab Republic

June 2022

On 12 and 13 June, UNHCR participated in an inter-agency crossline mission to north-west Syria. UNHCR provided 500 core relief items including mattresses, blankets, sleeping mats, plastic sheets and solar lamps.

Meanwhile, across the country, UNHCR continued to provide protection and assistance to refugees, internally displaced people, returnees, host communities and stateless people based on identified needs.

The UN estimates that 14.6 million people need humanitarian assistance in Syria, a 9 per cent increase from the previous year. The security situation in parts of the country is unpredictable and the socio-economic situation has deteriorated significantly.

HIGHLIGHTS

12,800

Students traveling to attend their national exams in May and June received core relief items

3,000

Families received shelter packages in 2022 including doors and windows

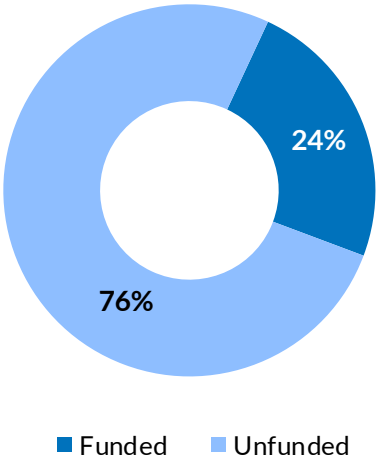
3,660

Refugee families received multi-purpose cash grants in May and June

FUNDING (AS OF 5 JULY 2022)

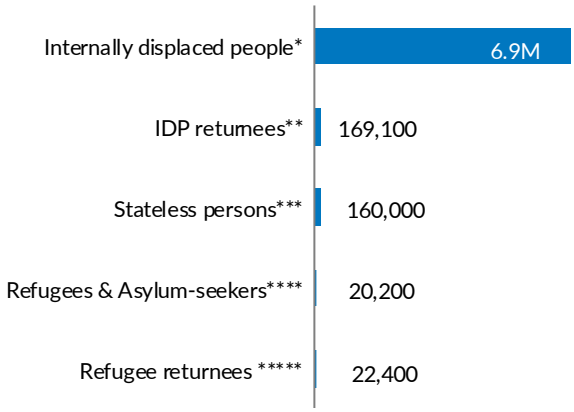
USD 465.2 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2022



POPULATION OF CONCERN

UNHCR and partners organized cultural and artistic events across the country to mark World Refugee Day on 20 June. UNHCR/O. Kabalan.



** Source: 2022 HNO*
*** Source: OCHA, December 2021*
**** Estimated*
*****Source: UNHCR June 2022*
****** Source: UNHCR verified returns in 2022 as of 30 June*

Operational Context

The 2022 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) estimates that over 14.6 million people need humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 6.9 million internally displaced Syrians. Of that number, approximately 9.6 million are in severe need of humanitarian assistance. The 2022 HNO finds that economic deterioration is now a major driver of needs even in areas which have been less directly affected by hostilities and displacement.

UNHCR supports refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees (that is, refugees and internally displaced people who have returned to their home areas) by providing assistance to those most in need following a community-based and area-based approach. UNHCR's community-based approach focuses on community mobilization and building self-reliance. It aims to reduce 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 areas where the needs are greatest and where self-organised refugee and IDP returns are taking place.

UNHCR works with 28 partners which include government ministries, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national NGOs and UN agencies.

Operational Updates

Crossline mission

- An inter-agency crossline mission to north-west Syria took place on 12 and 13 June. UNHCR provided 500 core relief items consisting of mattresses, blankets, sleeping mats, plastic sheets, jerry cans, solar lamps and kitchen sets. This is the second crossline mission that UNHCR participates in this year, with the first one having taken place on 31 March and also delivering 500 core relief items to north-west Syria.

Protection

- Two new UNHCR-supported satellite centres officially opened in early June in Palmyra, Homs Governorate, and Khan Sheikhoun, Idleb Governorate. Both satellite centres provide services related to child protection, education, prevention and response to gender-based violence, livelihoods support and services for persons with specific needs. These services benefit returnees, IDPs and host communities in these areas. For more information on UNHCR-supported community centres in Syria, please refer to the UNHCR Syria Factsheet.
- As part of ongoing capacity-building efforts, UNHCR and partners organized two training sessions in Damascus in June – one on housing, land and property issues and another on prevention and response to gender-based violence. The trainings were attended by over 100 lawyers and aimed to enhance partners' capacities to provide the needed assistance in these two thematic areas.

Shelter and Infrastructure

- In north-east Syria (in Al-Hassakeh Governorate), UNHCR has repaired seven collective shelters (communal structures such as mosques and schools hosting IDP families) supporting 510 internally displaced families, since the beginning of the year. In addition, so far this year, UNHCR has distributed and installed 1,500 tents (mostly replacements) in nine camps benefitting around 1,560 families.
- From January to June, over 3,000 families received shelter packages (materials for doors and windows) in Aleppo Hama, Homs, and Rural Damascus Governorates.
- UNHCR's programme to repair damaged apartments is underway in Aleppo and Rural Damascus. In 2022, 56 apartments have been repaired supporting 280 vulnerable individuals in Aleppo and Damascus. The assistance aims to make the apartment habitable and varies depending on its condition, but generally includes the repair of water networks, tiling, electricity systems, cracks in walls, painting and installing doors and windows.

Education

- Almost 5,100 students who took the national exams in May and June received legal counselling through UNHCR partner lawyers in Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa and Rural Damascus Governorates. Out of these students, 4,340 received identity and other personal documentation required to take the exams. In addition, UNHCR supported students and their families with other types of documentation such as family booklets (a document recording all members of the family). UNHCR provided stationery kits (including pencils and notebooks) to around 950 students in Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Rural Damascus

Governorates. In addition, UNHCR provided transportation support to students in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Hama and Rural Damascus Governorates to reach their examination centres. UNHCR also distributed core relief items including blankets, mattresses, pillows and fans to 12,800 students in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir Ez-Zor and Rural Damascus Governorates. The items helped provide basic lodging essentials to students hosted in temporary accommodation centres.

Health

- In June, UNHCR supported 27,000 people (refugees, IDPs, returnees and host community members) with primary health care services such as medical consultations and check-ups in 13 primary health care clinics supported by UNHCR in Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama and Homs Governorates. In addition, medical treatment courses were provided to around 19,300 people in June. In total in 2022, some 160,000 people received primary health care services at UNHCR-supported clinics.
- In June, around 450 refugees and asylum-seekers in need of secondary health care assistance were referred by UNHCR partners to hospitals and received free of charge secondary care services such as surgeries and specialized treatment.

Livelihoods

- In June, UNHCR provided 230 people with entrepreneurship/business training in Aleppo, As-Sweida, Homs, Lattakia and Rural Damascus Governorates. UNHCR plans on providing these trainings to more than 1,500 people in 2022 to help them establish or operate small businesses. In total so far this year, 630 people received such entrepreneurship/business trainings.
- UNHCR continues to support persons who benefited from livelihood support in 2021 by linking them up to local markets. For example on International Widows' Day on 23 June, a UNHCR partner in Lattakia held a bazaar to support a group of women who had received small start-up business support. The participants displayed products such as pastries, decoration, handicrafts and cosmetics.

Refugee Response

- **World Refugee Day**: For World Refugee Day on 20 June, UNHCR partners organized events around the country, including recreational activities in Aleppo, Qamishli and Homs; cultural and artistic activities in Damascus and Al-Hassakeh; and a football match between a refugee team and a joint team of UNHCR and partners in Qamishli city. In Damascus, UNHCR organized a dance show for 250 refugee children from different nationalities.
- **Registration**: As of end-June, some 20,200 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR. Most registered refugees are from Iraq and reside primarily in urban areas in Damascus, Aleppo, Tartous, Homs and Qamishli Governorates. In June, UNHCR renewed identification cards for over 2,000 refugees as a means to protect them against *refoulement*, ensure access to basic rights and services, and facilitate freedom of movement.
- **Refugee status determination (RSD):** So far in 2022, 51 asylum seeking families (comprising 110 individuals) were interviewed to determine if they are refugees. In 2022, 46 cases comprising 122 individuals were recognized as refugees, ensuring that they can be protected from *refoulement* and detention due to irregular stay and can access basic services. UNHCR also provided counselling on the RSD process and individual cases through its hotline. Inquiries received during June primarily related to the status of individual cases and requests for cash assistance.
- **Resettlement:** In June, UNHCR facilitated the departure of one family comprising four refugees accepted for resettlement in Australia through Damascus International Airport.
- **Cash-Based Assistance**: In June, UNHCR continued to provide regular multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) to the most vulnerable refugee families. Around 3,660 refugee families received the cash grants in May and June 2022. For more information on the MPCG programme, please refer to the UNHCR Syria Factsheet.

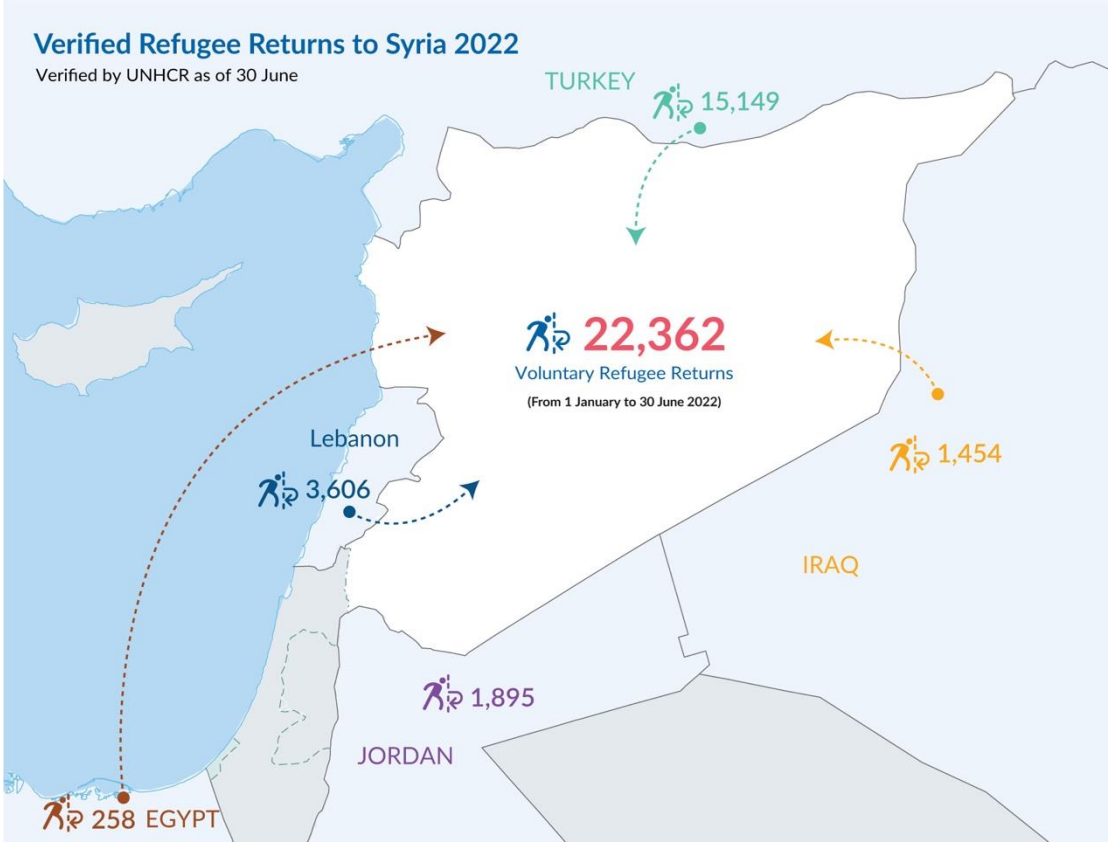
UNHCR Co-led Inter-Agency Sector Updates

- UNHCR leads the inter-agency Protection and Shelter/Non-Food Item (NFI) Sectors as part of the Syria and Whole of Syria inter-agency response.
- In June, the Protection Sector coordinated and delivered training sessions for partners on topics including Accountability to Affected People, cash-based interventions, response to gender-based

violence, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and gender mainstreaming (applying a gender equality perspective in all partners' work). More than 200 protection and humanitarian partners (including Syria Humanitarian Fund partners) participated in these training sessions.

Returns

- In June, UNHCR verified or monitored the return to Syria of around 5,700 individual refugees from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. This brought the total number of refugee returnees verified by UNHCR in 2022 to approximately 22,400 (compared to 18,300 during the same period last year). In 2021, UNHCR verified or monitored the return to Syria of a total of 35,700 individual refugees from Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt. In total between 2016 and 2022, UNHCR has verified or monitored the return to Syria of some 325,500 individual refugees[1].
- In June, a meeting of the Technical Working Group of the Return and Reintegration Working Group[2] took place in Damascus. The meeting was co-chaired by UNHCR and UNDP and attended by UN agencies and international NGOs. It provided an update on the roll-out of the Area-Based Return Support (ABRS)[3] approach in Syria and discussed related next steps.



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[1] *The numbers reported are only those verified or monitored by UNHCR and do not reflect the entire number of returns, which may be significantly higher.*

[2] *The Syria Return and Reintegration Working Group (RRWG) and its Technical Working Group (TWG) are the main fora for developing and implementing the concept of Area-Based Return Support (ABRS). UNHCR serves as Secretariat of the RRWG and as Co-Chair (with UNDP) and Secretariat of its TWG.*

[3] *The ABRS aims to enhance the impact of inter-agency support to returnees and their communities through multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral "packages" of interventions which address immediate needs while supporting early recovery and resilience, and social cohesion.*