Syrian Arab Republic

July 2022

The Syria crisis is now in its twelfth year. The UN estimates that 14.6 million people need humanitarian assistance across the country, a 9 per cent increase from the previous year.

The security situation in parts of the country is unpredictable and the economic situation is increasingly dire. Economic deterioration is a major driver of needs.

UNHCR provides protection and assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people, returnees, stateless people and host community members based on their identified needs and vulnerabilities.

HIGHLIGHTS

49,000

Families received core relief items including winter seasonal items in 2022

181,400

People received primary health care services at UNHCR-supported clinics in 2022

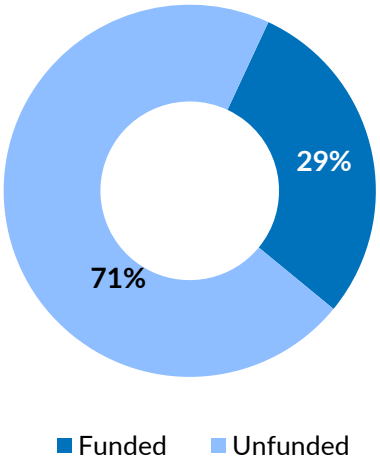
1,215

Refugees received identification cards in July

FUNDING (AS OF 03 AUGUST 2022)

USD 465.2 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2022



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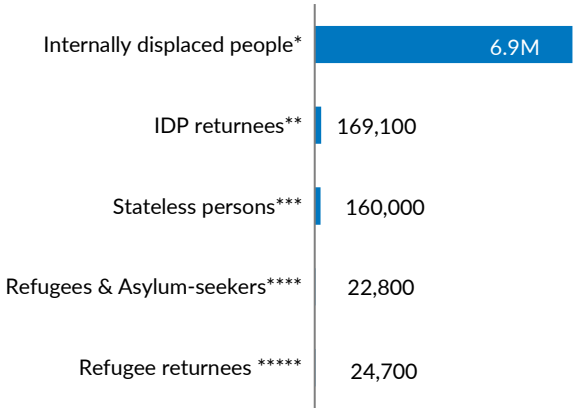


** Source: 2022 HNO*
*** Source: OCHA, December 2021*
**** Estimated*
*****Source: UNHCR July 2022*
****** Source: UNHCR verified returns in 2022 as of 15 July*

A returnee in Deir Hafer, rural Aleppo received core relief items from UNHCR . ©UNHCR/H. Maarouf.

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.

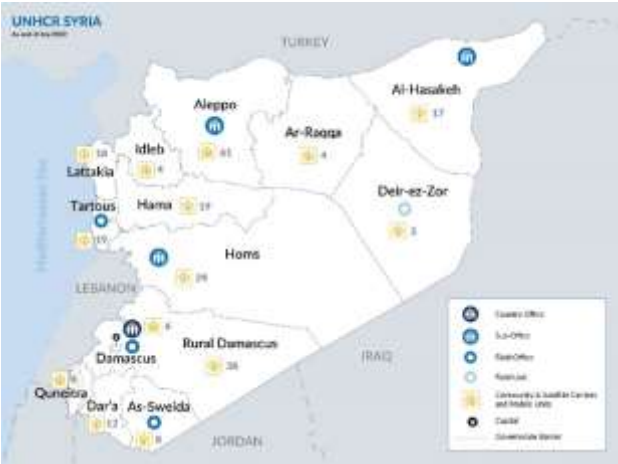
UNHCR supports refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees (refugees and internally displaced people who have returned to their home areas) by providing assistance to those most in need using a *community-based and area-based approach*. UNHCR's *community-based approach* focuses on community 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 geographic areas where the needs are greatest.

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

Operational Updates

Protection

- In line with its community-based protection approach, UNHCR supports 92 community centres, 34 satellite centres and 120 mobile units. UNHCR also engages around 2,777 community outreach volunteers in all 14 governorates.



UNHCR-supported a community-led initiative to make Eid sweets in Baba Amro neighbourhood, Homs Governorate, . ©UNHCR/S. Sawas

- In July, UNHCR supported community-led initiatives aiming to address the needs of IDPs, returnees and host communities during the Eid holiday period. This included an initiative by refugees in Qatana and Jdaydeh areas in Rural Damascus to make sweets with other members of the community. The sweets were distributed to refugee families. In Homs, two community-led initiatives were conducted in Baba Amro neighbourhood in Homs Governorate: Eid sweet cooking class for around 100 families, and decoration of clothes for about 300 children. In Aleppo Governorate, UNHCR partners implemented 20 community-led initiatives during July benefitting some 11,000 people. The initiatives included the donation of clothes to 400 vulnerable children in Karm Al-DouDou area in Aleppo Governorate.

- As part of UNHCR's efforts to strengthen gender-based violence prevention and response mechanisms, UNHCR's partner established a new gender-based violence committee in Tal Aran subdistrict (Aleppo Governorate) including 10 male community leaders. Committee members will be supported to disseminate key messages on gender-based violence prevention and response and design related community-led initiatives.

Core Relief Items

- In 2022, UNHCR assisted a total of 49,000 households with core relief items. A standard core relief items kit (plastic sheets, mattresses, solar lamps, high thermal blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans and kitchen sets) were distributed to around 12,100 households in 14 governorates. An additional 36,900 households received winter core relief items in 2022.

Shelter and Infrastructure

- In July, UNHCR's partner started distributing shelter packages to improve living conditions of returnee families in Zerbe village in rural areas of Aleppo Governorate. The project supports installation of external/internal doors and windows, water and sanitation facilities and electrical works. The project which will benefit around 70 families is expected to be completed by the end-September. UNHCR and its partner also installed 220 shelter packages consisting of doors and windows in Mujeidel, Najeh, Kim El Romman, Bowair, and Mulzumeh subdistricts in Dar'a Governorate, southern Syria.
- UNHCR's partner has started repair works of a sewage system and water network in Deir Hafer village in rural Aleppo. More than 20,000 returnees in the area will be benefitted once the project is completed by the end of August.

UNHCR team monitoring the repair works of sewage system in Deir Hafer village, rural Aleppo. ©UNHCR/H. Maarouf.

- Light repair works for 25 houses out of 100 planned are ongoing by UNHCR's partner in Bustan Al Kasser and Dahret Awad neighbourhoods in Aleppo city. The project is planned to be completed by end-August.
- Repair work of the rainwater network in Alramel Jnobi and 24 damaged houses in Shemesat in Lattakia Governorate is ongoing by UNHCR and partners. UNHCR also provides solid waste bins in Wata Al-Khan in rural Lattakia.

Education

- UNHCR and its partners started supplementary summer classes for students from 1st to 12th grades in Rural Damascus and Tartous Governorates. Besides supporting their studies, the classes provide entertainment and cultural activities and talent development programmes.

Health

- In July, UNHCR provided primary health care services for 21,400 people (refugees, IDPs, returnees and host community members) in 13 primary health care clinics in Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama and Homs governorates. In addition, medical treatment was provided to around 14,700 people in July. In total in 2022, some 181,400 people received primary health care services at UNHCR-supported clinics.
- In July, UNHCR supported the referral of around 350 refugees and asylum-seekers for secondary health care assistance. They received specialized care including surgeries at hospitals free of charge.
- Some 15,500 IDPs, returnees, refugees and host community members benefited from community-based health services, including medical consultations, at 39 health counselling offices in community centres. In addition, the community volunteer team received training on the use of medical devices, such as blood pressure manometers and oxygen cylinders, to provide the required support to the community.
- As part of the COVID-19 response, UNHCR provided 1,600 oxygen cylinders to the Ministry of Health to enhance preparedness and resilience of the national health system.

Livelihoods

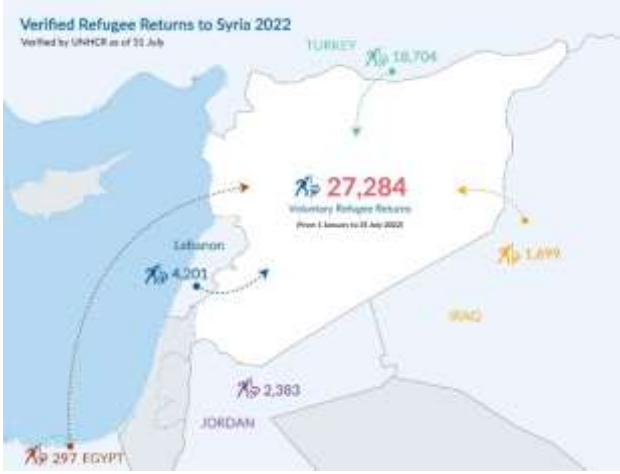
- UNHCR and its partners launched an entrepreneurship and small business training course in five community centres in Lattakia Governorate and one community centre in Tartous Governorate. Some 150 participants attended the course. The participants were identified based on vulnerability and economic situation.
- UNHCR continues to assess agriculture related projects identified by partners to assist vulnerable people in rural areas. These projects include technical support and capacity building to improve agricultural practices such as veterinary support and promoting climate friendly agricultural practices.
- In July, UNHCR in collaboration with UNDP completed the repair of a vocational training centre in Aleppo city. The project aims to re-activate the centre's services through light infrastructure repairs to the premises and provision of equipment. UNHCR and UNDP also developed a new curriculum in line with the needs of the current labour market. The centre is expected to provide vocational training courses to over 500 people annually.

Refugee Response

- **Registration**: As of end-July, some 22,800 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR. The majority of the registered refugees are from Iraq and reside primarily in urban areas in Damascus, Aleppo, Tartous, Homs and Qamishli Governorates. In July, UNHCR renewed identification cards for over 1,200 refugees. The card will protect them against *refoulement*, ensure access to basic rights and services, and facilitate freedom of movement.
- **Refugee Status Determination (RSD)**: So far in 2022, 61 asylum seeking families (comprising 126 individuals) were interviewed to determine if they are refugees. In 2022, 52 cases comprising 142 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 July primarily related to the status of individual cases and requests for cash assistance.
- **Resettlement:** In July, UNHCR facilitated the departure of an Afghan refugee family comprising four individuals accepted for resettlement in the United Kingdom through Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Manila, the Philippines.
- **Cash-Based Assistance:** In July, UNHCR continued to provide regular multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) to the most vulnerable refugee families. Around 1,170 refugee families received the cash grants in July 2022. For more information on the MPCG programme, please refer to the UNHCR Syria Factsheet.

Refugee Returns

- In July, UNHCR verified or monitored the return of around 5,000 individual Syrian refugees to Syria from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. This brought the total number of refugee returnees verified by UNHCR in 2022 to approximately 27,300 (compared to 22,000 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 330,440 individual refugees[1].



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CONTACT: Alessia Pignatti, Reporting Officer, UNHCR Syria, Email: pignatti@unhcr.org

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