

Regional Flash Update #47

Syria situation

3 October 2025



Entrepreneurship training for returnees is conducted at the UNHCR-supported Community Centre in Nabe Elsakher, Quneitra Governorate. The training aims to enhance participants' skills in project management and guide them in developing feasibility studies. ©UNHCR/Field Office Sweida

Key Highlights

- As of 2 October 2025, UNHCR estimates that since 8 December 2024, a total of 1,082,724 Syrians have returned to Syria from other countries while 1,870,049 internally displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin/choice.
- UNHCR Syria and its partners provided assistance to households willing to return to the country, including transportation, with 227 families (1,068 individuals) supported at the Joussieh border crossing point (between Syria and Lebanon) during the reporting week, while 59 refugees returned from Lebanon through the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing under the joint programme coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and Syria's General Authority for Land and Sea Ports. Since the year began, over 20,000 returnees have been supported at the key border crossing points with Türkiye and Lebanon.

- UNHCR and WFP distributed ready-to-eat food baskets and high-energy biscuits to 1,333 returnees at transit bus stations in Idlib and Aleppo, while UNFPA and UNHCR provided hygiene kits to over 431 women and girls returning to their homes.
- On 1 and 2 October, UNHCR Jordan facilitated the transportation of over 200 refugees from Jordan to Syria. Additionally, on 30 September, IOM in coordination with UNHCR, facilitated the movement of around 40 refugees from Azraq camp. Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, UNHCR Jordan has supported nearly 9,500 refugees to return to Syria.
- In Syria, 3,612 households (13,444 individuals) received financial assistance for return and reintegration, provided to enable refugee families meet immediate priority needs on return. Up to 6,421 households (25,623 individuals) have so far received this assistance this year.
- A total of 8,801 households (43,469 individuals) in Syria, the majority (7,875 households (38,939 individuals) returnees, received Core Relief Item kits comprising essential household items such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps.

Country Updates

Syria

During the past week, 54,837 individuals returned to Syria, bringing the total to 1,082,724 individuals who have returned to the country since 8 December 2024. The main governorates of intended return for refugee returnees stand as Damascus (17%), Aleppo (16%), Idlib (14%), Homs (13%) and Rural Damascus (12%). Returns of the internally displaced also continue, and during the week, 7,383 IDP returnees were recorded, 7,000 of them from IDP sites. This brings the total number of IDP returnees since December 2024 to 1,870,049 individuals, 987,899 of whom departed from IDP sites, mainly in northwest and northeast Syria.

UNHCR continued to support the return of Syrian refugees to their areas of origin. At Joussieh border crossing point, 227 families (1,068 individuals) received transportation and logistical support. Furthermore, UNHCR and WFP distributed ready-to-eat food baskets and high-energy biscuits to 1,333 returnees at transit bus stations in Idlib and Aleppo, while UNFPA and UNHCR provided hygiene kits to over 431 women and girls returning to their homes. Since the year began, over 20,000 returnees have been supported at the key border crossing points with Türkiye and Lebanon.

On 2 October, 59 refugees returned from Lebanon through the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing under the joint programme coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and Syria's General Authority for Land and Sea Ports. Returnees received transportation support, relief items, psychosocial assistance, and legal aid. UNHCR and partners continue following up on their post-return situation through monitoring and home visits and referring those in need to available services, including at the UNHCR-supported [community centres](#) in their areas of return. UNHCR currently supports 71 community centres across the 14 governorates, providing integrated protection services, and their reach is supported by 81 mobile units and a network of 1,438 outreach volunteers.

Up to 3,612 households (13,444 individuals) received return and reintegration financial assistance, provided to enable refugee families meet immediate priority needs on return to Syria. A total of 6,421 households (25,623 individuals) have so far received this assistance.

In addition, UNHCR supported families, the majority of whom were returnees, with essential household items through the distribution of Core Relief Item (CRI) kits. A total of 8,801 households (43,469 individuals) received the kits, including in Rural Damascus, Deir ez Zor, Hama and Dara'a.

The [Syria is Home](#) platform, providing comprehensive information on the return process and the situation in Syria, received 1,000 visitors, with the highest number from Syria, followed by Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Türkiye.

The protection monitoring exercise continues, aimed at generating a comprehensive understanding of the protection environment, identifying obstacles to return and reintegration, as well as drivers of new displacement, and during the past week, UNHCR and its partners reached 570 households, bringing the total to 31,088 households (mainly IDP and refugee returnees) who have successfully completed the questionnaires. In addition, 29 key informant interviews were conducted, totalling 1,879 interviews that have taken place nationwide so far.

With shelter a major concern for both refugees and IDPs and therefore both an enabler and barrier to return, UNHCR progresses with the rehabilitation of damaged housing in areas of return. In Aleppo and Idleb, UNHCR has so far completed the rehabilitation of 431 houses, helping families regain safe and dignified living conditions.

Response to As-Sweida situation – At least 28,529 IDPs have received protection services and participated in related assessments since the onset of the situation in July. During the past week, 264 individuals benefited from legal services, mainly in As-Sweida governorate. Support included legal counselling on civil documentation and interventions before courts and administrative bodies. Since the start of the emergency, more than 1,592 legal consultations have been provided, 1,111 in Sweida and the remaining in Dar'a and Damascus.

Türkiye

Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya announced on 29 September that since 8 December 2024, [a total of 509,387 Syrians have returned to their country from Türkiye](#). Yerlikaya noted that since 2016, the number of Syrians who have voluntarily returned has reached 1,249,390.

Under the 36-month Project on “*Strengthening national mechanisms for voluntary, safe, dignified and orderly returns to Syria*”, funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), UNHCR and PMM began a small-scale testing phase of the cash assistance mechanism. These initial tests aim to check the process flow for troubleshooting to ensure that the established mechanism works smoothly prior to the actual implementation.

The processing of voluntary returns continues in provinces and at seven border crossings: Cilvegözü / Bab al Hawa, Yayladağı / Keseb, Öncüpınar / Bab al Salama, Karkamış / Jarablus and Akçakale / Tel Abyad as well as Zeytindalı / Jinderes and Çobanbey / Al Rai, which have been reopened for voluntary repatriation.

Since 8 December 2024, UNHCR has monitored the voluntary repatriation of nearly 365,000 Syrians. Currently, UNHCR monitors returns at 23 Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMM) offices in 22 provinces and at six border crossings in the south-east. UNHCR is also present at İstanbul and Sabiha Gökçen Airports in İstanbul and at Esenboğa Airport in Ankara. Voluntary returns from Adana Sarıçam Temporary Accommodation Centre (TAC) are also being monitored on an ad hoc basis.

Most interviews were conducted in certain border and metropolitan provinces, which were also among the key places of residence for returnees prior to departure. A small number of individuals were interviewed in TACs and at the airports. An uptick has recently been observed in approaches to PDMMs rather than border crossings. Similarly, with the changing season, dayshift is observed to be more preferred than the nightshift.

The main reasons for return have remained unchanged over time, with political developments, improved security, and family reunification or the need to attend family events being the most frequently mentioned. Other reasons include nostalgia or homesickness, challenges in accessing housing, economic difficulties, reclaiming property and the need to work.

The majority of returnees were heading to provinces in northern Syria, with Aleppo, Idlib, Damascus, and Hama among the most common destinations. Regarding accommodation, some returnees owned their homes or had property belonging to close relatives. While many reported that their houses were in good condition, others indicated partial damage or destruction. A significant portion confirmed they had valid documentation proving ownership.

A small portion of returnees lacked any Syrian-issued papers. Among those who had documents, national identity cards, family booklets and passports were the most common. Births and deaths in Türkiye were generally well-documented, but documentation rates for marriages and divorces were lower.

The demographic profile reflects a balanced gender distribution, with a significant share of children, nearly half being adults of working age, and only a small fraction aged 60 and above.

Before leaving Türkiye, many returnees were unemployed, while others worked in skilled trades, construction, agriculture, or trade. A considerable number expected to be without income initially in Syria, and planned to look for work, including informal daily labour. Other anticipated sources of income included family or community support, assistance from spouses, or self-employment. Finally, almost one-third of returnees reported that at least one family member had attended school in Türkiye, with most obtaining official proof of the education received.

Lebanon

As of today, 25,934 Syrians have been monitored as still remaining in Akkar and North, having arrived since March 2025. Some new arrivals are reported in other areas, including due to onward internal movements from place of first arrival in Lebanon due to limited infrastructure, shelter and livelihoods options in overcrowded villages, making increasingly long term stay difficult.

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Bekaa reports 78,095 new arrivals since December 2024, including approximately 23,238 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 155 informal collective shelters.

UNHCR and IOM, in collaboration with the General Security Office (GSO), facilitated the third return convoy of around 70 individuals wishing to voluntarily return to Syria who had requested transportation support. A further ten convoy departure dates are scheduled departing from Beirut, the north and Bekaa areas of Lebanon. To date, over 400 people have benefitted from this transportation support component, with the majority of people still opting to self-organize their return with a grant provided by UNHCR.

On 25 September, the GSO extended the current administrative facilitation measures in place since 1 July to the end of the year. The measures are for Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria, which inter alia waive certain fees that would otherwise hinder return, as well as waiving re-entry bans for the period of the circular.

Jordan

As of 27 September, over 157,000 refugees registered with UNHCR have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. Since the last report, over 3,100 refugees returned, representing an expected 24 per cent decrease compared to some 4,100 refugees who had returned the previous

week. The demographics of returnees remained similar to previous weeks, with women and girls representing around 49 per cent of the total refugee returnees. Children accounted for around 43 per cent, and men aged 18-40 years made up around 19 per cent of overall returns. The majority of refugees continue to return from host communities, primarily from Amman and Irbid. More details about the numbers and profile of returnees, including a section with insights on the skills level, are available on [UNHCR Jordan's returns dashboard](#).

On 1 and 2 October, UNHCR facilitated the transportation of over 200 refugees from Jordan to Syria. Additionally, on 30 September, IOM in coordination with UNHCR, facilitated a movement for around 40 refugees from Azraq camp. Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported nearly 9,500 refugees to return to Syria.

The first group of refugees who have signed up for UNHCR's pilot cash assistance for voluntary return, comprising 140 cases (738 individuals), have received the assistance, and some have already returned. The initiative will continue in the months to come and, with the currently available funding, will support a total 10,000 refugees. Before departure, in-person interviews are conducted to ensure that returns are voluntary and well-informed, with counselling and information provided on available services inside Syria. Exit formalities for refugees at the Jaber border continue to be efficient, while a UNHCR team is present to support as needed. The return process is closely coordinated with UNHCR Syria to support the refugees upon arrival at their final destination.

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 25 September 2025, over 6,200 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR have returned from Iraq to Syria. Men represent around 38% of the total of returnees, followed by women (23%), boys (20%) and girls (19%). Among them, over 6,000 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 220 registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Syria via Erbil airport, with border authorities sharing a copy of their registration certificates with UNHCR. Most registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Aleppo, followed by Al-Hassakeh and Damascus.

Over the past week, the return of registered Syrian refugees through Peshkhabour border crossing point decreased slightly compared to the previous week (from 113 to 93 individuals). Most registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Aleppo, followed by Al-Hasakeh and Damascus. Registered refugees mentioned the Kurdistan Region's Ministry of Interior instruction on the waiver for overstay fines, improved security situation in their areas of origin and family reunification as main reasons to return to Syria.

Egypt

As of 29 September 2025, approximately 123,431 Syrian refugees were registered in Egypt. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 12% of the total refugee population in the country. Since the fall of the former Government of Syria, Syrians started approaching UNHCR in greater numbers to request the closure of their asylum cases. Between 8 December 2024 and 29 September 2025, around 11,049 closure requests involving 24,594 individuals were submitted, including on-the-spot closures. Among applicants who closed their files, 63% were male. In terms of origin, 40% came from Damascus, 27% from Rural Damascus, 13% from Homs, 8% from Aleppo, and 12% from other locations.

Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #46, Syria Situation](#)
- [UNHCR Operational Framework for Voluntary Return of Syrian Refugees and IDPs](#)
- [Enhanced Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey \(eRPIS\)](#)
- [UNHCR Position on Returns to the Syrian Arab Republic \(16 December\)](#)
- [Syria Situation Data Portal](#)
- [Syria is Home Platform](#)
- [UNHCR Help Site](#)
- [UNHCR HELP Lebanon – Voluntary Return page](#)
- [UNHCR HELP Türkiye – Voluntary Repatriation page](#)

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