

UNHCR Syria and Iraq Situations: 2022 Response Overview

February 2022

2022 POPULATION PLANNING FIGURES



5.6 million

Refugees and asylum-seekers in neighbouring countries (including Turkey¹)



6.7 million IDPs



48% Women



47% Children



72% Women and Children

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The [Syria crisis](#), currently in its 11th year, remains the largest displacement crisis in the world. COVID-19 also brought significant economic and social distress which continues to impact refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and their host communities. While host governments and the international community have continued to provide support for Syrians, the challenging socio-economic situation will likely continue to worsen and negatively impact the vulnerabilities of refugees and their host communities, IDPs, returnees and other people of concern to UNHCR in 2022.

Refugee returns to the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) are expected to continue at similar levels, with approximately 36,000 people opting for voluntary repatriation in 2021. UNHCR's latest [return intentions survey](#), conducted in March 2021 in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, indicated that while most Syrians wish to return one day (70%), only a small number planned to do so within the following 12 months (2.4%).

UNHCR estimates 610,000 Syrians are in need of resettlement, which remains a vital durable solution and a critical demonstration of responsibility-sharing by the international community.

Inside [Iraq](#), the needs of some 1.2 million IDPs and 4.9 million returnees remain high. UNHCR's strategy in Iraq focuses on enhancing the protection environment and ensuring refugees, IDPs, IDP returnees and stateless people have increased opportunities for comprehensive solutions and more equitable and inclusive access to quality basic services.

UNHCR also continues to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to an estimated 276,000 Iraqi refugees registered in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. Almost 38,000 Iraqis are projected to be in need of resettlement in 2022. UNHCR adopts and advocates for an inclusive "one refugee" approach for all people of concern to UNHCR, which aims to eliminate differences in rights and services based on nationality.



In the region, UNHCR continues to co-lead with UNDP [the Syria crisis Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan \(3RP\)](#), coordinating the work of more than 270 partners in support of national efforts in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

In 2022, 3RP partners seek to redouble efforts on two important fronts.

First, working concretely towards securing durable solutions for refugees, including enhancing efforts on resettlement and related to voluntary, safe and dignified return. Second, to strengthen work across the Humanitarian-Development Nexus and better connect responses with longer-term national strategies for inclusive growth and sustainable development. This is in line with the Global Compact for Refugees and is key to preserving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in host countries. The 3RP pledges to strengthen coordination and collaborations with all national and international stakeholders, including International Finance Institutions and the private sector, to make this a reality.²

¹ Turkey hosts 3.7 million Syrians under temporary protection and 330,000 international protection applicants and status holders.

² Syria 3RP Regional Strategic Overview 2021 - 2022

UNHCR Impact Areas

In line with UNHCR's results-based management strategy, which translates the High Commissioner's strategic direction into four impact areas, operations throughout the region are focusing on protecting, responding to and empowering the people UNHCR serves, while working towards durable solutions.

PROTECT: UNHCR is charged with the monumental task of ensuring protection and safeguarding the rights of people forcibly uprooted from their homes and those who are stateless, in accordance with international humanitarian principles. In working across the continuum of forced displacement, UNHCR will achieve impact through the attainment of favourable protection environments in all countries where there are forcibly displaced and stateless populations.

ASSIST: UNHCR continues to be a major humanitarian actor for forcibly displaced and stateless people. Both in emergencies and beyond, UNHCR works to ensure that people are safe from harm and basic needs and rights are met.

EMPOWER: UNHCR asserts that the voices of affected people should be placed foremost in decisions that affect them. UNHCR builds on the resilience, knowledge, and skills of displaced and stateless people, recognizing them as agents with the potential to determine and build their own future and contribute to the development of the communities where they live.

SOLVE: UNHCR strives to reinforce ongoing efforts to move beyond conventional, short-term responses to crises, which often limit planning for solutions.

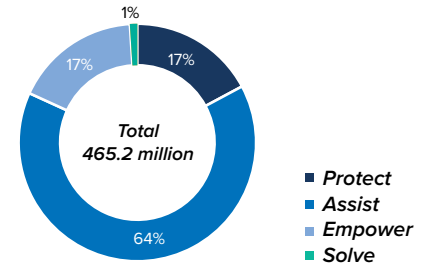


UNHCR and partner staff distribute sanitary kits to a Syrian woman, one of 13,000 refugees living at Darashakran camp in Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Photo: ©UNHCR/Shaza Shekfeh

COUNTRY RESPONSE STRATEGIES

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

6.7 million IDPs
320,000 returned IDPs
130,000 returned (Syrian)
15,500 refugees (80% Iraqi)
160,000 stateless people

 Budget by impact area
 Syrian Arab Republic I 2022


In 2022, UNHCR Syria's engagement maintains emergency response capacity and assistance to IDPs in protracted displacement, in parallel to strengthening access to protection and enhancing resilience of communities where spontaneous refugee and IDP returns are underway. UNHCR will further enhance its multi-sectoral, area-based support to communities where returns are taking place, and will strengthen its coordination role, supported by information management services, to facilitate the engagement of partners through joint area-based engagement.

These interventions aim to increase returnees' access to critical services and assistance, as well as build the resilience of returnees and affected communities to enhance social cohesion and foster enabling conditions for voluntary, safe and dignified return. In parallel, UNHCR maintains an appropriate emergency stockpile and in close coordination with Humanitarian Response Plan partners, continues to lead the Protection and Shelter/Non-Food-Items (NFI) Sectors and ensures timely response to displacement.

Protection and identification of solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria (the majority of whom are Iraqi) will remain a strategic priority for UNHCR. As voluntary repatriation may not be viable for most refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR continues actively pursuing other solutions including resettlement, complementary pathways and local integration.

UNHCR's planning is aligned with the draft UN Strategic Framework, which aims to provide a multi-year socio-economic programming framework that focuses primarily on people's and communities' resilience, basic livelihoods and humanitarian early recovery activities.

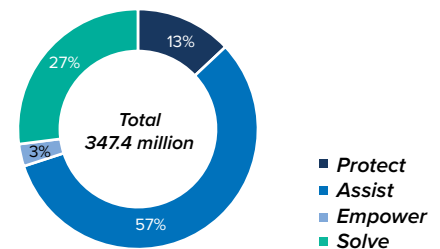


UNHCR staff distributes winter items, including high thermal blankets and plastic sheeting to displaced families in As-Suwayda, Syria.
 Photo: ©UNHCR/Hazem Al Jaber Abo Fakher

IRAQ

1.1 million IDPs
200,000 returned IDPs
285,000 refugees and asylum-seekers (89% Syrian)
46,000 stateless people

Budget by impact area
Iraq | 2022



UNHCR undertakes strategic advocacy as part of its assistance to refugees, coupled with targeted capacity-building of key public institutions, both at the Federal Iraq and Kurdistan Regional Government levels, as well as civil society partners for enhanced legal and policy frameworks, including e.g. towards the adoption of a new refugee law or administrative instructions, and the implementation of the Refugee Education Integration Policy. UNHCR also provides legal assistance to IDPs and IDP returnees to obtain civil documentation, and for refugees to be registered and obtain documentation, thus expanding their access to public services, enhancing freedom of movement, and mitigating the risk of detention or refoulement.

At the same time, UNHCR continues to provide targeted services and assistance for particularly vulnerable individuals, such as safe spaces, counselling, and medical assistance for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), as well as mental health and psychosocial support, among others. UNHCR further mitigates protection risks through targeted cash assistance to the most vulnerable to support them to meet their basic needs and avoid having to resort to harmful coping mechanisms.

UNHCR reinforces its area-based programming for protection and solutions, with a view to addressing existing and emerging protection needs as well as promoting the sustainable re-integration of IDP returnees and the integration of IDPs and refugees in host communities. Such area-based programming works with communities, local authorities, as well as UN, NGO and development actors to address a range of issues, from promoting social cohesion to enhancing employability, access to social protection and public services, in a coordinated manner.

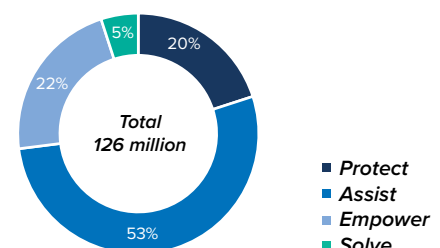
For refugees who can neither find a solution in Iraq nor voluntarily return due to their specific vulnerabilities, renewed efforts will be made to expand available resettlement places and complementary pathways.

UNHCR's planning is aligned with the key pillars of UNSDCF 2020–2024. Its outcomes also support the National Development Plan 2018–2022, the Poverty Reduction Strategy 2018–2022 and the KRG 'Vision 2030'. In addition, operational priorities align with the overarching objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

EGYPT

300,000 refugees and asylum-seekers
 (50% Syrian and 2% Iraqi)

Budget by impact area
Egypt | 2022



The protection environment in Egypt is heavily influenced by the absence of a legal framework for refugees and lack of national asylum mechanisms. UNHCR continues to support the Government of Egypt (GoE) in developing a national asylum law and relevant protection mechanisms, including possible joint registration and documentation. The adoption of an asylum law in line with international standards is expected to address challenges related to the legal status of refugees and respect of the non-refoulement principle.

Although Syrians continue to be the largest population hosted in Egypt, data trends show an increase in arrivals from African countries. UNHCR continues to apply the “one refugee” approach to ensure that equitable assistance and protection are delivered based on vulnerability and needs, irrespective of nationality.

Inclusion of people of concern in and support to national systems continues to be a strategic objective in 2022 and beyond. The GoE has made notable progress in including people of concern in health and education services. Advocacy continues for equal access to public education for all children regardless of nationality and status in the country. Further efforts are required to support the inclusion of people of concern, especially women and children, in national protection systems.

Preserving the protection space and advocacy for access of people of concern to livelihoods opportunities and economic inclusion are paramount priorities to ensure a dignified stay in Egypt. Cash-based interventions continue to be the most direct and impactful modality to support the most vulnerable people of concern. Finally, UNHCR continues its efforts to find solutions for refugees in protracted situations and with compelling protection needs, including through resettlement.

UNHCR Egypt’s planning is aligned with the UNSDCF for 2023-2027.

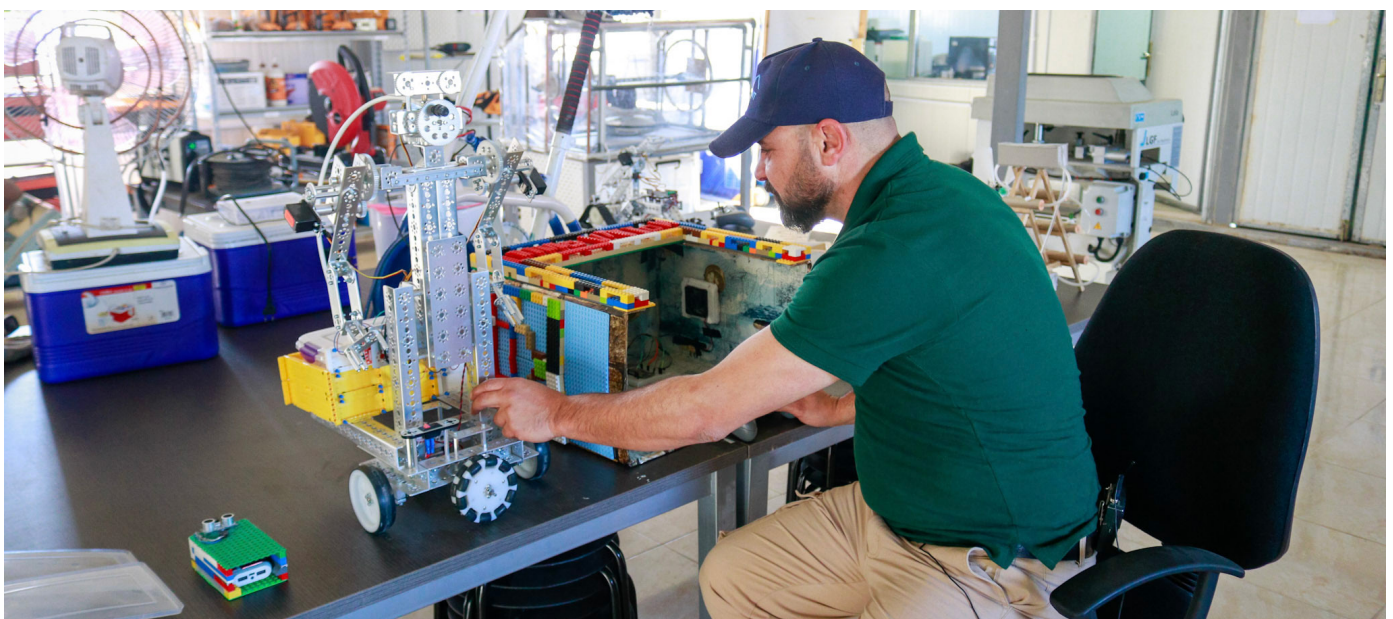
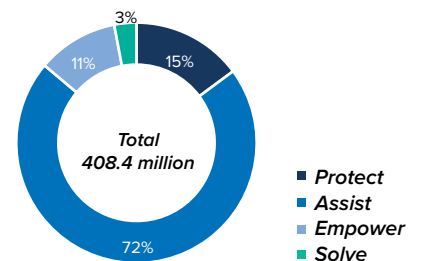
JORDAN

700,000 refugees and asylum-seekers
 (90% Syrian and 8% Iraqi)

UNHCR’s vision in Jordan is for all refugees to be able to enjoy a decent life, become self-sustained and have access to education and essential services on par with Jordanian nationals. In this vision, refugees are empowered to reach their full potential, take on increased responsibilities in the refugee response, and contribute to the Jordanian society and economy.

To support this vision, UNHCR functions as a convener and catalyst, supporting other actors to engage, include and act. The refugee response will increasingly be led and owned by the Government of Jordan (GoJ) and refugees with sustained economic and humanitarian programmes. UNHCR continues to develop solid data analysis, in support of evidence-based methodologies and innovation. Assistance in camps will gradually become targeted and delivered in coordination with the GoJ and other partners. UNHCR seeks government views on the future of the refugee response. UNHCR also works with the GoJ and partners to broaden livelihoods opportunities and secure financial inclusion.

Budget by impact area
 Jordan | 2022



Marwan, a Syrian refugee and engineer, works as a robotics trainer and computer programming teacher in the Innovation Lab in Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan. Photo: © UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle

In line with the “one refugee” approach, UNHCR continues advocacy for the registration and documentation of refugees of all nationalities, engaging with the GoJ to align registration standards and identity management for refugees of all nationalities.

UNHCR continues structured engagement with development partners and the GoJ to include refugees in national systems and support the development of administrative practices on child protection, women's rights and GBV aligned with international standards.

UNHCR will advocate for expanded opportunities, including higher education and vocational training, for all refugees. UNHCR will also work with local municipalities to assume greater functions in camps and increase refugee involvement in camp management and assistance delivery. Solutions through resettlement and complementary pathways will remain a priority.

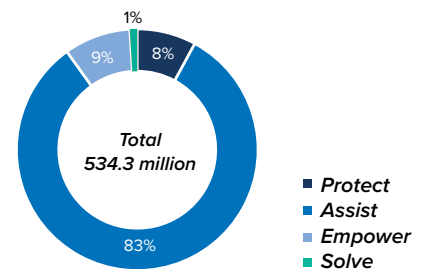
UNHCR Jordan closely collaborates with the Office of the Resident Coordinator, sister agencies, other partners and persons of concern to coordinate joint and long-term interventions in the country. The UNSDCF will be the UN's collective and strategic development plan in Jordan to address national priorities and gaps, to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

LEBANON

855,000 refugees and asylum-seekers
 (98% Syrian and 1% Iraqi)

In Lebanon, the refugee situation is increasingly protracted in the context of a deep social and economic crisis. Results of the 2021 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) show that the socio-economic downturn coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on refugees, with 9 out of 10 refugees living in extreme poverty. Sustainability, peaceful co-existence and conflict sensitivity therefore underpins UNHCR Lebanon's response strategy. While UNHCR's priority remains the immediate protection and the assistance needs, direct lifesaving humanitarian assistance and interventions will be delivered alongside efforts to promote the inclusion of refugees in development programmes, notably in social protection and skills development to support self-reliance.

Budget by impact area
 Lebanon | 2022



In ensuring access to protection, UNHCR works with partners to promote the establishment of a more predictable legal framework to ensure that people in need can access international protection, legal residency and civil documentation.

In ensuring dignity in exile, UNHCR will further develop the sustainability of its well-established cash programmes for basic needs and protection risks, as well as its health care and shelter programmes, while expanding efforts to include refugees in programmes to develop the national social protection system.

Securing continued hospitality is a key challenge in the coming years in an environment of widespread poverty and increased competition over jobs and resources for survival. UNHCR continues advocating for the importance of supporting host communities to mitigate the impact of the pressure on public services and infrastructure and scaling up of social assistance for all vulnerable people through a strengthened and sustainable social protection system.

Following the “one refugee” approach, refugees of all nationalities are supported to attain durable solutions through advocacy for increased resettlement quotas and complementary pathways.

UNHCR will actively participate in the development of the UNSDCF to ensure that refugees and stateless people are part of any national and development efforts and collective outcomes.



Refugees receiving mattresses, and blankets part of UNHCR's winter assistance. Photo: © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

TURKEY

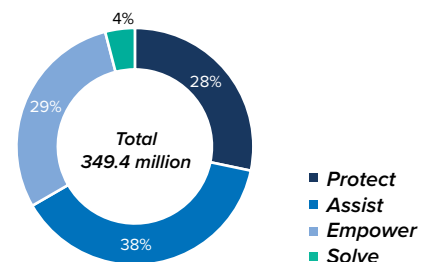
4 million refugees and asylum-seekers
 (90% Syrian and 4% Iraqi)³

Turkey hosts four million refugees and has been the largest refugee hosting country in the world for the past seven years. Turkey's refugee response is based on the comprehensive and inclusive Law on Foreigners and International Protection and the Temporary Protection Regulation. According to the law, refugees benefit from access to services, including health, education and social assistance. Maintaining and expanding inclusive service provision for refugees requires continued support in 2022.

In line with this, UNHCR Turkey supports public institutions in their work to be inclusive of refugees and ensuring quality service delivery, while playing a gap-filling and catalytic role in assisting refugees in-need and promoting self-reliance and social cohesion. UNHCR enables opportunities to solve issues faced by refugees, in partnership and coordination with refugees, host community members, public institutions, local authorities and civil society. UNHCR is expected to remain a go-to organization for protection guidance, and to continue playing a strategic leadership role.

UNHCR also mobilizes a wide range of actors and coordinates pragmatic and principled action by influencing and supporting stakeholders involved in the refugee response and strengthening its evidence-based research and analyses on issues related to refugee protection.

Budget by impact area
 Turkey | 2022



³ Turkey hosts 3.7 million Syrians under temporary protection and 330,000 international protection applicants and status holders.

In order to ensure that people in need of international protection have access to quality, fair and efficient procedures, UNHCR continues to contribute to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of national systems through supporting relevant authorities. UNHCR also continues to support public institutions providing essential and social services to the large number of vulnerable refugees alongside the vulnerable Turkish population.

In an effort to further develop mutual understanding, solidarity and trust, UNHCR continues to engage with state and local actors on activities to foster social cohesion among the communities, including by building on self-reliance and active participation.

In pursuit of solutions, UNHCR is preparing to scale up its resettlement-processing capacity and continues to advocate for complementary pathways to be made available to refugees and assist them to overcome related legal, administrative and practical challenges to access such opportunities.

UNHCR's planning is in line with the UNSDCF, where UNHCR chairs Results Group 3 on Migration, International Protection.

Donors:

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the Syria and Iraq situation responses, with unearmarked and earmarked funds as well as those who have contributed directly to the operations.



and private donors

Resources:

For more details please visit:

- [UNHCR Global Focus](#)
- [UNHCR Global Focus MENA regional page](#)
- [UNHCR Operational Portal \(Syria Regional Refugee Response\)](#)
- [Syria Crisis Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan \(3RP\) website](#)

For more details, please contact UNHCR MENA Regional Bureau in Amman (Jordan) at: MENAreporting@unhcr.org