

## UNHCR Syria Flash Update #10

### Response to Displacement from Lebanon to Syria

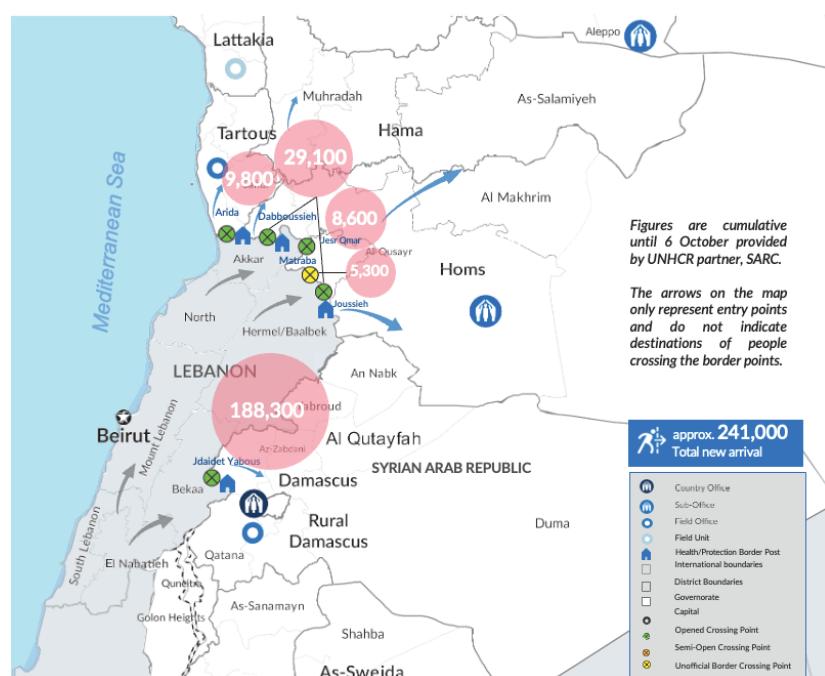
Reporting period: 24 September - 7 October 2024



UNHCR High Commissioner along with the MENA Bureau Director, Syria Representative and UN Resident Coordinator at the crater area (Masnaa/Lebanon) where many families cross by foot to reach the Jdaidet Yabous border point in Syria | © UNHCR Syria

A total of approximately **241,000<sup>1</sup>** people (both Lebanese and Syrians) are estimated to have crossed from Lebanon to Syria since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon.

It is estimated that around **70 per cent** are Syrians and **30 per cent** are Lebanese nationals.



<sup>1</sup> The numbers of new arrivals in this document are from "SARC Emergency Response For Lebanese Refugees and Syrian Returnees" (issued 8 October 2024). The numbers also include people entering through the Matraba crossing point (an unofficial border) where UNHCR is not present.

## Overview of Developments

**On 8 October, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, concluded his visit to Syria following the launch of the *SYRIA: Inter-Agency Emergency Appeal for the Influx from Lebanon to Syria*.**

- During his visit to Syria, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees visited the area between the Masnaa and Jdaidet Yabous border points (Lebanon/Syria) where airstrikes on the morning of 4 October rendered the main artery between Lebanon and Syria unusable for vehicles.
- The High Commissioner witnessed firsthand families travelling by foot across the crater that resulted from the airstrikes.
- The High Commissioner also visited the Health Border Support Point at the Jdaidet Yabous border point where life-saving assistance, including relief items, legal consultations and medical assistance, is being provided by UNHCR's partner SARC.
- During the launch of the [SYRIA: Inter-Agency Emergency Appeal for the Influx from Lebanon to Syria](#) - which seeks \$324 million for a period of six months to support 480,000 Lebanese and Syrians - the High Commissioner urged participating donor countries to provide timely and flexible funds to respond to the needs in Syria resulting from the influx.
- On 8 September, the High Commissioner visited a Syrian family hosting new arrivals from Lebanon who highlighted their main needs and challenges.
- He concluded his two-day visit with meetings with the Syrian Government to discuss the response to the influx from Lebanon.

## Overview of New Arrivals

- On 5 and 6 October, traffic remained slow through Jdaidet Yabous, with some 2,700 Syrians and Lebanese arriving at the crossing point from Lebanon. This included 1,140 extremely vulnerable people who were transported by 16 buses, provided by UNHCR and SARC, from the crater area (Masnaa) into Syria. Others resorted to crossing by foot or using taxis stationed to get from the crater to the Jdaidet Yabous crossing point.
- Onward transportation was also provided to 820 persons to help them get to their intended destinations in Damascus, Aleppo, and Ar-Raqqa.
- On 6 and 7 October, at the other border crossing points from Lebanon (Al Arida, Daboussieh, Joussieh, and Jesr Al Qmar), the rate of new arrivals remained comparatively low following a spike in arrival rate after the airstrikes close to Masnaa. In total, some 2,200 individuals crossed through those border points in Tartous and Homs.



*UNHCR High Commissioner at the launch of the Syria Inter-Agency Emergency Appeal for the Influx from Lebanon to Syria | © UNHCR Syria*

## Response at the Borders

UN agencies and humanitarian partners, including **DRC**, **ICRC**, **UNFPA**, **UNICEF**, **WFP**, **WHO**, **Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)**, **SARC**, and **Syria Trust**, continue to work closely to support new arrivals at all Syrian border points.

- On 5 October, over 200 persons benefited from legal assistance provided by UNHCR's legal partners, **SARC** and **Syria Trust**, at the Jdaidet Yabous border point. This includes civil documentation and civil event registries such as marriages.
- **WFP** provided 1,300 fresh meals to newly arrived families at Jdaidet Yabous, while **UNFPA** continues to provide healthcare services through two mobile units.
- At the Al Arida crossing point, **UNICEF** established a water drinking point and prefabricated WASH facilities (for females and males) to enhance health and hygiene conditions.
- **UNFPA**, through its partners the **Syrian Family Planning Association** and **Mosaic**, provided some 480 female hygiene kits and psychosocial support in Homs and Latakia.

## Hosting Centres for Lebanese Families

- In **Rural Damascus**, the Hujelleh hosting centre currently accommodates 90 Lebanese families (more than 300 individuals, including 100 children) who recently arrived from Lebanon.

Health services to families being hosted continued to be provided by UNHCR's partner, **SARC**, the **Ministry of Health** and **UNFPA**'s partner, the **Syrian Family Planning Association**. Psychosocial support is also underway.

Core relief items previously delivered to the Rural Damascus Governorate by **UNHCR** were distributed at the hosting centre, including mattresses, blankets, and kitchen sets. **DRC** is also providing bread on a daily basis to the families being hosted.

- In **Tartous**, over 200 Lebanese families (630 individuals) are staying at the Pioneer Camp, Al Karnak and Blue Bay hosting centres. Relief items continue to be distributed to respond to the needs of families who recently arrived from Lebanon.
- In **Latakia**, over 500 Lebanese families (1,215 individuals) continue to be accommodated at the five hosting centres (Palm Beach, Ras Al Basit-Labour Union, Ras Al Basit-Chalets, Al Sheer, and Blue Beach) as well as the Sports City reception centre.
- In **Homs** and **Hama**, some 140 Lebanese families (around 670 individuals) are staying in four hosting centres.



Provision of core relief items in Latakia Governorate /  
© UNHCR Syria



UNHCR providing support to an elderly woman near the crater area (Masnaa) / © UNHCR Syria

## Community Outreach Efforts

- In **Tartous**, over 4,300 Lebanese nationals were identified in the local community. Out of those, more than 3,600 individuals are being hosted by the community, while some 700 individuals are in rented accommodations.
- In **Latakia**, some 490 Lebanese families (approximately 2,450 individuals) received core relief items since the influx of arrivals from Lebanon.

- In **Homs**, more than 7,000 families (32,000 individuals) – primarily Lebanese – are being hosted by the community, either by relatives or host families.
- In **Hama**, some 1,000 Syrian and Lebanese families (approximately 5,000 individuals) reside in the city and its rural areas, including Masyaf, As-Salamiyah, and Muhradah districts.

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