



LEBANON UPDATE

March 2025

Syrian refugees living in Saadnayel camp consider returning home. © UNHCR/Ximena Borrazas

91,574

Internally displaced people
in Lebanon.

(source: IOM/DTM)

967,830

Persons who moved from place of
displacement

(source: IOM/DTM)

443,227

Syrians have returned from
neighbouring countries since the
fall of the Assad regime on 8
December 2024.

(source: UNHCR)

146,661

Estimated Syrian individuals who
crosses from Lebanon to Syria
since 8 December (as of 17 April)

(source: UNHCR)

Situation overview

- As of 24 April 2025, UNHCR estimates that some 443,227 Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024. This figure is calculated based on a triangulation of data from Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and beyond.
- The hostilities in the Tartous, Latakia, Homs, and Hama Governorates of Syria in early March continue to displace people into the North and Akkar Governorates of north Lebanon now reaching 32,002 people as of 24 April.
- As of 25 April, the Baalbek Disaster Risk Management (DRM) is reporting approximately 85,327 arrivals from Syria since 8 December, including approximately 28,346 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 188 informal collective shelters (CS), and approximately 56,981 residing in the community.
- The situation remains complex and fluid, with numerous factors influencing it. While many refugees have expressed a desire to return to their homes, they also remain hesitant due to the uncertain short- and long-term conditions in Syria. Key concerns include access to education and livelihoods, unresolved housing, land, and property issues, as well as the availability of humanitarian assistance upon return.
- UNHCR, alongside the entire humanitarian community, is experiencing an overall unexpectedly large reduction in funding available for 2025; the UNHCR Lebanon operation is only 15 per cent funded as of 31 March 2025.



UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR continues to respond to the needs of **refugees and Lebanese displaced across Lebanon, returning IDPs within Lebanon and new arrivals from Syria**, by providing protection services, emergency cash assistance, core relief items, access to safe shelter, health care, and psychosocial support.

VOLUNTARY RETURN

- As of 17 April, an estimated 146,661 Syrians have crossed from Lebanon back to Syria since 8 December.
- Following the release of UNHCR's Regional [Operational Framework for Voluntary Return](#), UNHCR in Lebanon and humanitarian partners have developed the Inter-Agency Voluntary Return Action Plan to assist an estimated 400,000 Syrian refugees, including 5,000 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) with voluntary return to Syria from Lebanon as a best-case scenario.
- UNHCR continues to coordinate return related preparation and implementation through the Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) and is engaging with the Government of Lebanon on creating pathways for voluntary return, anchored in protection principles and guided by the voices of refugees, to ensure that Syrian refugees who, fully informed, voluntary choose to return home are supported to do so; and that international protection is secured for those Syrian refugees who choose to remain in Lebanon.
- Moreover, UNHCR Lebanon has reinforced information to refugees on voluntary return through the [UNHCR Lebanon Help Page](#) and community structures, as well as the provision of return counselling through its National Call Centre. In 2025, over 1,000 Syrians known to UNHCR have been provided counselling on return-related issues, with 46 per cent of calls querying financial assistance to return, 19 per cent querying transportation support and 15 per cent expressing an intention to return to Syria.

RESPONSE TO IMPACT OF CONFLICT

- UNHCR is coordinating closely with the authorities and other humanitarian organizations, and providing protection services, emergency cash assistance, core relief items, access to safe shelter, health care, and psychosocial support for those who remain in displacement.
- UNHCR and partners distributed core relief items, including blankets, mattresses, jerry cans, kitchen sets and solar lamps to some 74,962 Syrian refugees and Lebanese individuals living in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, the Bekaa, North and South Lebanon. With displaced families progressively returning to their communities in South Lebanon— often heavily impacted by conflict - UNHCR has focused its assistance on supporting these families meet their basic needs and help maintain dignity.
- Through its referral healthcare programme, UNHCR and its partners supported 2,632 refugees, ensuring they have continuous access to secondary healthcare.
- In total, 26 community centres are open to receive refugees, Lebanese internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host community members across the country. Through the centres, 23,425 individuals received information and awareness sessions on available services, early marriage and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, and feedback and complaints mechanisms, including PSEA.
- Across the country, 517 Outreach Volunteers (OVs) are identifying and referring displaced persons at heightened risk for specialized interventions. In total, OVs reached 24,390 persons (64 per cent women and girls) with information and community support.
- UNHCR and partners provided financial assistance to 358 Lebanese IDPs and Syrian refugees who cannot safely return home. This cash for shelter funding will address urgent shelter needs, including minor repairs and utility costs while residing in host or rental accommodations. Due to funding limitations, UNHCR will unfortunately phase out of the cash for shelter programme as of April 2025.
- As conflict and displacement can bring about new mental health and psychosocial issues, UNHCR and partners provided Psychosocial Support (PSS) to 2,672 people.
- UNHCR and partners distribute emergency shelter kits 3,661 Lebanese returnees in South Lebanon.

RESPONSE FOR NEW ARRIVALS

- Considering the rapidly changing dynamics and evolving context in the country, UNHCR continues to monitor population movements and engage with new arrivals to respond to the most immediate humanitarian needs, track intentions, and ensure dissemination of relevant information to the communities. UNHCR is also supporting household profiling in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), ensuring emergency coordination and response in shelter, protection, and life-saving assistance. Additionally, UNHCR is advocating with the Government for the resumption of registration and the determination of a settlement strategy for new arrivals.



- Since the fall of the regime in Syria on 8 December, new arrivals have entered Lebanon, including approximately 85,327 Syrians and Lebanese to Baalbek Governorate in the Bekaa, as well as some 32,002 recent new arrivals to the North of the country fleeing recent violence in Syria's coastal areas as of 24 April 2025. While the vast majority remain in these areas, some have since moved to other governorates within Lebanon.
- As of 24 April, the hostilities in the Tartous, Lattakia, Homs, and Hama governorates of Syria in early March continue to displace people into the North and Akkar governorates of north Lebanon now reaching 32,002 people, according to Disaster Risk Management (DRM). Newly arrived refugees are now located across 35 distinct locations, predominantly in Akkar in 30 villages near to the border with Syria. With families continuing to flee Syria's coastal areas following recent hostilities, UNHCR and partners provided core relief items including blankets, mattresses and winter clothes.
- As of 25 April, the Baalbek DRM is reporting approximately 85,327 arrivals from Syria since 8 December (a slight decrease from 7 April), including approximately 28,346 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 188 informal collective shelters (CS), and approximately 56,981 residing in the community.
- At the request of the Government, UNHCR has included provisions in its Referral Health Care Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure new arrivals have access to life-saving hospitalization care. In March, 30 new arrivals received hospitalization care in UNHCR-contracted hospitals.

IMPACT OF UNDER FUNDING

UNHCR, alongside the entire humanitarian community, is experiencing an overall unexpectedly large and swift downturn in funding in 2025; the organization is 15 per cent funded as of 31 March 2025. Funding uncertainty and limited visibility on substantial funding projections is already forcing difficult decisions on activities possible to support, with UNHCR Lebanon focusing primarily on lifesaving and core mandate activities with both flexible and earmarked funds available.

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A number of those in need will no longer receive support, while crucial activities around supporting return and those still in Lebanon may be deeply affected if more funds cannot be found:

- UNHCR had to discontinue 347,000 individuals from the UNHCR only cash component of the joint programme UNHCR-WFP joint cash programme as of April, and will now support 206,000 people until June 2025 only.
- Return related activities for up to 400,000 people may be in jeopardy if support for planning and assistance is not forthcoming
- 83,000 IDPs and returnees can no longer receive cash for shelter support.
- 56,000 people can no longer receive Emergency Protection Cash Assistance.
- 40,000 refugees will no longer be able to access primary healthcare by April 2025. Additionally, 45,000 people, including pregnant women, will no longer receive secondary healthcare as of December 2025.
- 15,000 children will no longer benefit from community-based learning and education retention support. This comes on top of changes to education access in Lebanon for the current school year, which was also heavily impacted by the conflict in late 2024.
- Institutional support has been substantially reduced, including curtailing all community support projects for refugee hosting areas.

Despite these difficult and unprecedented times, UNHCR is committed to staying and delivering in Lebanon.

FUNDING | UNHCR is grateful for the support of donors who contributed to this operation

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