

Regional Flash Update #30

Syria situation crisis

6 June 2025



Children participate in a Mine Risk Education session at a Community Center in Homs, Syria. The sessions educate children about Unexploded Ordnances (UXO), including how to recognize them, possible locations and appropriate reporting mechanisms. UXOs are prevalent in many areas that refugees and internally displaced people are returning to due to the conflict and cause a significant number of deaths and injuries. ©UNHCR Homs

Key Highlights

- UNHCR estimates that **568,753 Syrians** have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024, bringing the total to **929,593 Syrian individuals** who have returned to the country since the beginning of 2024.
- As of 5 June, **1,331,885 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to their homes in Syria** since early December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.
- From 3 to 4 June, UNHCR facilitated transportation for over 260 refugees returning from Jordan to Syria. Overall, since the start of the transportation process on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported approximately 2,760 refugees to return to Syria. 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. The return process is closely

coordinated with the UNHCR operation in Syria to support refugees upon arrival at their final destination.

- Between 1 and 5 June, UNHCR provided vital support to both returnees and IDPs inside Syria, distributing over **4,300 Core Relief Item (CRI) kits** and continuing its support through the one-time cash grant programme for returnees.
- As of 31 May 2025, UNHCR supports a total of **105 community centres** across the 14 Syrian governorates including north-west Syria. The reach of these centres is supported by 104 mobile units and a network of 2146 outreach volunteers (ORVs).

Country updates

Syria

As of 5 June 2025, UNHCR estimates that **some 568,753 Syrians** have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024. This brings the total to **929,593 Syrians** who have returned since the beginning of 2024. The figure is calculated based on a triangulation of data from Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and beyond.

In terms of internal displacement, as of 5 June, **1,331,885 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to their homes** since early December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.

Between 28 May and 3 June, UNHCR provided transportation assistance to returnees at key border crossing points including Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salama, and Joussieh. This support, aimed at facilitating returnees' safe and dignified return to their areas of origin, benefited a total of **320 families (803 individuals)**.

Furthermore, UNHCR Syria, in collaboration with UNHCR Jordan, coordinated the organized return of Syrian refugees through the Nassib Border Post. On 28 and 29 May, convoys transported **34 returnees (19 households) from Azraq Camp and 135 returnees (33 households) from Amman** to Homs, Aleppo, Hama, Daraa and Damascus. UNHCR teams ensured effective border coordination, closely monitored the return process, and gathered essential information to support follow-up assistance through community-based services.

On 3 June, border crossing activities between Syria and Lebanon resumed at Al-Arida after the reopening of the crossing point, facilitating movement of people and goods. The crossing point had sustained significant damage from Israeli airstrikes during the conflict in Lebanon in September 2024. Subsequently, the Al-Arida immigration office resumed services and on the first day of the border's reopening, most arrivals recorded were of Syrians coming from Lebanon.

The operation continues its protection monitoring exercise, and during the reporting period reached out to **1,164 households**, bringing the total to 25,405 households that have successfully completed the questionnaires. Additionally, **60 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** were conducted, adding up to 1,982 KIIs which have taken place nationwide so far. The exercise aims at identifying needs and vulnerabilities among returnees, enabling UNHCR and other partners to provide the necessary assistance.

The platform [Syria is Home](#) recorded **932 visitors**, a significant increase from the previous week's 540 visitors. The highest number of visitors this week was from Jordan followed by Lebanon, Germany, Syria and Türkiye.

Through the **105 community centres** UNHCR supports across the 14 Syrian governorates multisectoral assistance was provided to refugee and IDP returnees, including legal aid (focusing

on personal status, real estate laws, registration of family events), gender-based violence awareness sessions and assessments, child protection and mental health and psychosocial support. Mine risk awareness sessions were held to create awareness among returnees about the existence of unexploded ordnances and their avoidance.

UNHCR distributed Core Relief Item (CRI) kits including blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, solar lamps and plastic sheets to support IDP and refugee returnee families meet their basic needs. In Homs, 914 CRI kits were distributed to 800 returnee households, while in Hama, 380 returnee households benefited from 440 kits. In Barmaya, Tartous, UNHCR distributed 803 kits to families that were affected by the March security unrest while in Sweida, 175 households who returned to Big Sura have received assistance, allowing them to re-establish basic living conditions after returning to dwellings that were previously looted or damaged. An additional 108 households who remain displaced and are hosted or renting in Sweida city and surrounding villages also received CRI support.

TÜRKIYE

In a televised interview on 28 May, Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya announced that over 250,000 Syrians had returned from Türkiye between December 2024 and May 2025. Cumulatively, over one million Syrians have returned since 2016. Go-and-see visits also continue, with over 27,000 such visits recorded to date.

Returns are expected to increase during the summer months, particularly after the Eid al-Adha holiday, based on feedback from Syrian civil society organizations.

[President Erdoğan announced that Syria Airlines will start flights to Türkiye and Türkiye's AJet to Syria soon.](#) He expressed strong support for Syria's post-revolution recovery and regional reintegration and welcomed the lifting of European sanctions on Syria and praised the role of Qatar and Saudi Arabia in supporting the country's stabilization.

Processing of voluntary returns continues in provinces and at five border crossings: Cilvegözü / Bab al Hawa, Yayladağı / Keseb, Öncüpınar / Bab al Salama, Karkamış / Jarablus and Akçakale / Tel Abyad. As of 14 May, Çobanbey / Al Rai, Zeytindalı / Jinderes and Yayladağı / Keseb are open for processing go-and-see visits.

A substantial number of returns have been recorded since the end of 2024 recently reported going over 250,000 since 8 December, with UNHCR interviewing a majority of those who have returned to ensure the voluntary nature of their decisions.

Currently, UNHCR monitors returns at 20 PDMM offices in 18 provinces and at four border crossings in the south-east and at Istanbul Airport. UNHCR is also ready for monitoring at Sabiha Gökçen Airport in İstanbul and Ankara Esenboğa Airport when the announced flights start.

Monitoring reveals a variety of profiles among returnees, including women returning alone and families led by women. The returnee population is largely composed of working-age adults, followed by young children, adolescents, and older adults. Men slightly outnumber women among those returning. The primary drivers for return include recent political changes and improvements in the security situation. Family reunification and family events also featured prominently, alongside other factors such as homesickness, economic hardship in Türkiye, property-related considerations, and a desire to re-establish livelihoods.

Nearly half of the returnees have travelled alone. The most common reason was the absence of dependent family members in Türkiye. Others noted that their relatives remained in Syria, had

already returned, or chose to stay behind. Some individuals returned first to assess conditions before making arrangements for their families.

Return destinations continue to be primarily in northern and central Syria, with many choosing to go back to their province of origin. Family presence was the main pull factor, followed by the destruction or inaccessibility of original homes, temporary relocation patterns, improved security, job opportunities, and availability of assistance.

Various challenges continue to hinder returns to pre-conflict homes. These include relocation of family members to other areas, damaged or confiscated property, economic and social instability, poor infrastructure and services, and lingering security concerns.

While some returnees report owning property or having access to homes owned by close relatives, others face significant damage to their homes or total loss. Among those who claimed property ownership, many were able to present documentation, most commonly official deeds.

A substantial number of returnees lack civil documentation issued in Syria. Among those with documentation, national identity cards and family booklets are the most common. Documentation of family events (such as births and deaths) that occurred while in Türkiye has been obtained in the majority of cases, though not all.

Before returning, many individuals relied on informal daily work or support from spouses and humanitarian aid. Upon return, most do not expect to have a stable source of income and plan to seek work or rely on support from family or the community. A small number anticipate being self-employed or relying on savings or remittances.

Access to services in areas of return remains uneven. While some returnees report that basic services are available or partially available, others highlight gaps or a complete lack of access. Many returnees are uncertain about service availability, pointing to the continued need for expanded infrastructure and service provision to support sustainable reintegration.

LEBANON

During the reporting week, 334 new arrivals from Tartous, Latakia, Homs and Hama Governorates of Syria arrived in the North and Akkar Governorates of North Lebanon, reaching a total of 40,096 people since March. Newly arrived refugees are now located predominantly in Akkar. Joint distributions by UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP continued in Akkar, targeting 30 villages in total.

On 3 June, the traffic at the Arida Official Crossing Point (OCP) resumed, allowing both Syrian and Lebanese nationals to cross the border using their private vehicles.

As of 19 May, the Baalbek Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in the Bekaa is reporting 78,625 new arrivals (an increase of 500 from 16 May), including approximately 21,644 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 165 informal collective shelters (CS), and approximately 56,981 residing in the community. No new numbers have been reported since 19 May.

JORDAN

From 3 to 4 June, UNHCR facilitated transportation for over 260 refugees returning from Jordan to Syria. Overall, since the start of the transportation process on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported approximately 2,760 refugees to return to Syria. 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. The return process is closely coordinated with the UNHCR operation in Syria to support refugees upon arrival at their final destination.

As of 31 May, more than 75,000 refugees registered with UNHCR have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024, with a total of approximately 15,000 refugees returning in May. The average daily number of refugee returnees during the reporting period increased significantly this week, rising to 725 individuals per day compared to 430 per day last week. The sharp increase is attributed to the return of a large group of 700 refugees from the Emirati-Jordanian camp last week.

Demographics of returnees remained largely unchanged from previous weeks, with women and girls representing around 46 per cent of the total refugee returnees. Children accounted for around 41 per cent, and men of military age (18-40 years old) made up around 22 per cent of overall returns. The vast majority of refugees continue to return from host communities, primarily from Amman and Irbid. More details about the numbers and profile of returnees are available on [UNHCR Jordan's returns dashboard](#).

IRAQ

Between 8 December 2024 and 2 June 2025, over 1,700 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR have returned from Iraq to Syria. From among the registered refugees and asylum-seekers, 1,637 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 111 registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Syria via Erbil airport, with border authorities sharing a copy of their registration certificate with UNHCR. According to Al-Qaim border authorities, some 221 Syrians who declared their registration status with UNHCR also crossed the border to Syria during the reporting period. Most of the registered Syrians returned to Aleppo followed by Al-Hasakeh. The improved security situation in Syria, reuniting with family, avoiding overstay fines in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and lack of livelihood opportunities are the most common reasons Syrians report for their return.

In addition, more than 17,800 Syrians who had not sought asylum in Iraq have crossed the border to Syria since 8 December 2024. From among this group, over 7,500 crossed to Syria from Peshkhabour border crossing point while some 10,200 through Al-Qaim border crossing point.

Meanwhile, UNHCR continued to observe arrivals from Syria to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, mainly from Al-Hasakeh and Aleppo. Over the previous week from 25 to 29 May, approximately 480 Syrians arrived through Peshkhabour border crossing point. Family visits, returning from visits to Syria, family reunification, or transiting through the Kurdistan Region to other destinations were indicated as the main reasons for arrivals. The arriving Syrians told UNHCR about an increase in kidnapping incidents across Syria, particularly in Aleppo governorate, which has fueled a growing sense of insecurity among the Syrian population back home.

EGYPT

As of 2 June 2025, approximately **133,700** Syrian refugees are registered in Egypt, around 800 fewer than the previous week. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 13.5% of the total refugee population in the country.

Since the regime change in Syria, there has been a significant increase in Syrians approaching UNHCR in Cairo and Alexandria to request the closure of their asylum cases. As of 2 June 2025,

around 10,037 closure requests involving around 21,900 individuals were submitted since 8 December 2024, averaging 94 requests per day – compared to just seven per day in November 2024. In addition, 14,853 individuals have been closed as spontaneous departures, reflecting a growing perception among many Syrians that return may now be viable.

On 28 May, UNHCR Egypt organized a community meeting at its multi-purpose community centre (MPCC) in Maadi, bringing together 40 asylum-seekers and refugees, including Syrians. The meeting aimed to address pressing community concerns related to cash-based interventions (CBI), integrity, resettlement (RST), and health services, with relevant UNHCR staff present to provide updates and respond to questions. The session served as an important platform for information-sharing.

On 28 May, UNHCR Egypt held a joint donor briefing with UNDP and IOM to provide, among other topics, an update on movements to Sudan and returns to Syria, highlighting a growing trend of spontaneous Syrian departures from Egypt. UNHCR emphasized its ongoing efforts to ensure that returns are voluntary, safe, and informed, engaging refugees through intention surveys, focus group discussions (FGDs), and information campaigns, notably in light of recent protection concerns in areas such as coastal Syria and Damascus. Despite limited funding, UNHCR and its partners continue to coordinate closely to uphold protection standards and address persistent challenges such as identity documentation barriers, poor access to services, and the fragile security situation in return areas.

Useful links

- [UNHCR Operational Framework for Voluntary Return of Syrian Refugees and IDPs](#)
- [January 2025 Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey \(RPIS\)](#)
- [UNHCR Position on Returns to the Syrian Arab Republic \(16 December\)](#)
- [Syria Situation Data Portal](#)
- [UNHCR Help Site](#)

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