

New Arrivals to North Lebanon

12 June 2025



39,730 new arrivals from Syria (8,922 families, including 8,466 Syrian families and 456 Lebanese families)



35 locations across North and Akkar Governorates, Northern Lebanon

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. Newly arrived refugees are now located across 35 distinct locations predominantly in Akkar, reaching 39,730 people in total. Despite difficulties in freedom of movement some internal movement of newcomers has been observed, predominately to Beirut and Mount Lebanon in small numbers. While numbers of arrivals have slowed, in part due to difficulties in reaching Lebanon, partners continue to expect further arrivals including following the incidents in Tal Kalakh in the past week, while there are also lag times in identifying new arrivals over a large number of locations. Lack of funding persists, and the humanitarian response is becoming unsustainable for even the limited services currently available.

Newly arrived refugees are staying across 30 villages in Akkar near the border with Syria. Official figures from Disaster Risk Management (DRM) cite 26,434 individuals (5,660 families, including 175 Lebanese families) as of 8 June. The highest concentrations are in Massaoudiye (11,890 individuals/ 2,047 families), Hissa (1,837 individuals/ 429 families), and Tall Hmayra (1,421 individuals/ 342 families).

Following the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) enumeration exercise, a total of 3,262 families/ 13,296 individuals were counted in North Governorate, of which an estimated 281 are Lebanese families. Arrivals continue in the low hundreds across both Governorates.



Needs and Response

- Families continue to arrive through unofficial border crossing points having fled under duress from Syria, although numbers have reduced due to reinforcement of borders from the Syrian side.
- In mid-March 2025, UNHCR submitted a formal proposal to register new arrivals who have fled to Lebanon since the change of Government in Syria in December 2024 and continues to follow up actively with relevant Government entities.
- To date, 1,241 newcomers have approached mobile info desks: 351 in the North and 890 in Akkar. Between 30 May and 2 June, the outreach activity expanded to new villages in coordination with ongoing distribution efforts, covering Daghle and Qobayat in Akkar and Dhore al Hawa in the North. During this period, 119 new arrivals (108 in Akkar and 11 in the North) approached the teams seeking information on various types of assistance, including health, legal aid, and support for

Persons with Specific Needs (PWSN), as well as National Call Center (NCC) appointments. Of those assessed, 46 cases were identified as highly vulnerable and referred accordingly.

- Nearly 90% of the population is still living outside of collective shelters, which is putting considerable strain on villages with already overstretched services even before the advent of new arrivals from Syria.
- In terms of shelter, 43 collective shelters (CSs) are recorded on the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) master list—34 CSs in Akkar and 9 CSs in the North.
- Of the 43 CSs, eight are newly added: two in the North and six in Akkar. So far, 30 Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (MSNAs) have been conducted by shelter sector partners. Overall, shelter repair work has been completed in 17 CSs and is ongoing in five, seven CSs were deprioritized, five were assessed as not requiring any shelter intervention and seven remain under assessment.
- So far, 21 CSs have received fire extinguishers and fire blankets.
- Concern has initiated minor repair works for 85 households in Massaoudiye, with approximately 70% of the scope completed. Additional repair and partition works are ongoing at the Motahidoun CS in Jabal Mohsen, and another CS was recently identified and assessed in Dhour el Hawa. Furthermore, Concern has initiated repair works in 9 unoccupied housing units in Jabal Mohsen and El Massoudieh. Rene Moawad Foundation (RMF) has completed minor repairs in 30 shelters hosting 82 newcomers. Repair works are ongoing in 10 additional shelters, with three more shelters recently identified, bringing the total to 116 households. Shelter rehabilitation works have begun in unoccupied shelters located in Tal Abbas Charki, Hissa, Tall Bireh, and Tal Hmaira, which can accommodate a total of 17 households.
- As of 9 June, 257 children and caregivers benefited from Case Management and Psychosocial Services (PSS). Save the children distributed 1,200 recreational kits and 1,980 awareness raising sessions were delivered.
- The number of individuals (women and AGs) benefiting from awareness raising sessions is 456 and from PSS is 53, while the number of individuals benefiting from case management services is 3.
- General protection partners provide counselling and PSS to persons with specific needs, with an emphasis on supporting referrals of the most vulnerable to humanitarian services. as of 9 June, 761 new arrivals benefited from counselling.
- Due to funding constraints, partners only provide case management to high-risk cases, including access to recurrent and emergency protection cash. So far, 94 case-management processes have been initiated.
- UNHCR has handed over the coordination of the health response to the Ministry of Public Health and partner agencies. A total of 11,628 medical consultations have been conducted to new arrivals, 1,816 non-communicable diseases consultations and 593 Reproductive Health consultations. Mobile units of the Lebanese Red Cross have vaccinated 1,431 children.

Urgent Unmet Needs

- No freedom of movement due to lack of documentation is directly impacting wellbeing, including health, as people are fearful to travel to clinics in case they may be picked up without legal status in the country.
- Access to healthcare, shelter and WASH are woefully inadequate and are leading to public health and environmental concerns.

- Overcrowded conditions and the precarious nature of accommodation compound trauma and raise serious protection concerns.
 - Psycho-social support access, particularly for children, is a significant gap.
 - Alternative and additional shelter options are desperately needed in the short term, as well as a longer-term strategy.
 - The host community where 90% of new arrivals are accommodated in private homes need support and longer-term solution options.
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- **Health:** Access to essential health services remains limited due to funding cuts, especially in mental health and psychosocial support. UNHCR covers only part of secondary healthcare needs—60% of life-saving cases and 50% of deliveries—while critical conditions like cancer, dialysis, and blood disorders receive no support. Chronic medication shortages at PHCC/PSUs disrupt care for long-term illnesses. Overcrowded facilities further increase the risk of disease outbreaks, particularly as stays prolong. Gaps in health coverage will also lead to negative coping mechanisms and further protection risks. The fear of deportation due to lack of official documentation means that many who have been referred for further assessments to PHCs outside the village do not attend which will result in greater health complications. This includes suspected cases of TB as people are afraid of being deported. There is also notable increase in home births.
 - **Protection** Information desks operated by UNHCR and partners have been operationalised and are supporting in identifying the most vulnerable, as well as providing information on services available including birth registration. Limited freedom of movement, lack of livelihood opportunities, and resulting negative coping mechanisms—particularly child labor—remain key concerns requiring dedicated funding. Newly arrived children face barriers to access education, contributing to unsafe environments and increased child protection risks. Many children require (PSS) due to trauma experienced in Syria. Children are particularly affected by the absence of child-friendly spaces, and inadequate infrastructure in collective shelters hinders safe, confidential case management, putting both service quality and safeguarding at risk.
 - **Shelter** Nearly 90% of new arrivals are living in private housing while some collective shelters are unable to undergo necessary repairs due to funding gaps and structural limitations. Overcrowding persists, with no available housing capacity, and many shelters lack connections to water, sewage, and electricity networks. Interaction with various authorities continues with the aim of identifying more or other sites where more prolonged stay is possible. Mayors of Municipalities are pleading for more sustainable shelter solutions as conditions in collective shelters are worsening during the hot summer months. They have indicated they may have to resort to evicting refugees from collective shelters due to heightened tensions in villages.
 - **WASH** The locations where people are arriving to are not connected to municipal water supplies, have limited numbers of latrines and minimal washing facilities, limited water storage capacity and water trucking is not yet fully operational. There are also gaps in solid waste management for the collective sites aggravated by burning of waste, which raises environmental concerns.
 - Funding support for the response has been very minimal to date, and contingency coverage is being exhausted. Without longer term solutions, tensions will continue to rise, which will in turn worsen the protection environment, and ultimately be both more damaging for arrivals as well as being more costly. Local communities cannot continue to host large numbers of people without alternative longer term solutions and additional support for what is now reaching crisis point.

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