



LEBANON UPDATE

May-June 2025

UNHCR and partners distributing core relief items to vulnerable communities in Lebanon. © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

577,266

Syrians have crossed back to Syria from neighbouring countries since the fall of the Assad regime on 8 December 2024.

(source: UNHCR)

177,430

Syrians estimated to have crossed from or via Lebanon into Syria since 8 December 2024 (as of 15 June)

(source: UNHCR)

106,754

Estimated new arrivals of Syrians into Lebanon since 8 December 2024 (as of 10 June)

(source: UNHCR)

82,632

Internally displaced people in Lebanon.

(source: IOM/DTM)

Situation overview

- Since 8 December 2024, UNHCR estimates some **577,266 Syrians have crossed back to Syria** via neighboring countries, including 177,430 via or from Lebanon. Returns and movements occur through both official and unofficial border crossings, creating a fluid picture.
- During May, **the trend of total entry and exit movements** of Syrians at official land crossing points **shows a moderate increase compared to April** reaching around 27,000 per week with exits balanced by entries during the month.
- Since 8 December 2024, a total of **106,754 Syrians have newly arrived to Lebanon (12 June)**. **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, reaching 37,450 people as of 10 June. Approximately 1,480 individuals from the Druze community also reported arriving in May 2025. Their movement follows the now largely de-escalated violence in the Damascus suburbs and Sweida governorate in Syria. Furthermore, the **Baalbek Disaster Risk Management (DRM) is reporting approximately 76,924 arrivals from Syria** since 8 December, including Lebanese returnees
- So far in 2025, **119,873 individuals have been inactivated from UNHCR's registration records in Lebanon** due to verified return or presumed return, including 70,445 individuals who fled during the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon in 2024 and who remained in Syria.
- As of 31 May 2025, **UNHCR Lebanon had received just 21 per cent of its required funding**, with little visibility on funding projections in the coming months. This substantial funding gap is a critical concern, as it significantly impacts our capacity to assist refugees, returnees, and host communities across Lebanon.

UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR continues to respond to the needs of vulnerable individuals, by providing protection services, cash assistance, core relief items, health care, shelter and psychosocial support.

VOLUNTARY RETURN

- As of 15 June, some 577,266 Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries, including 177,430 via or from Lebanon.
- Following the endorsement of the Inter-Agency Voluntary Return Action Plan within the UNHCR-led Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG), UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs (co-chairs of the Lebanon Response Plan) drafted the Return Chapter to provide a common blueprint on voluntary return programmes from Lebanon within the humanitarian partners. The Return Chapter, a product of the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) and the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP), was submitted to the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on refugees for review and supports the Government Return Plan.
- Since December 2024, 119,873 Syrians known to UNHCR have been inactivated from UNHCR's registration records due to verified or presumed return. Further, an estimated 2,700 Syrians returned home through community-organized returns, in coordination with local authorities on both sides of the border. While these movements were not facilitated by UNHCR and were not limited to Syrians known to UNHCR, reports of these community-organized returns have increased from a handful in the first quarter of 2025 to nearly 15 such returns in April and May alone. UNHCR is currently assessing the provision of small grants to be provided to the community-based organizations and initiatives to support these community-led returns.
- 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, with over 3,000 individual counselling sessions conducted since March and 1,200 families expressing interest in the UNHCR-facilitated return programmes.

PRIORITIZED RESPONSE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

- UNHCR is coordinating closely with the authorities and other humanitarian organizations, and providing protection services, cash assistance, core relief items, health care, and psychosocial support for vulnerable families.
- UNHCR provided monthly multi-purpose cash assistance (MCAP), including support for protection-related cases, to 231,514 refugees - ensuring that the most vulnerable received timely financial help to meet their urgent needs.
- In May, UNHCR and its partners provided core relief items—including blankets, mattresses, jerry cans, kitchen sets, and solar lamps—to approximately 13,000 vulnerable individuals residing in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, the Bekaa, as well as North and South Lebanon.
- UNHCR and its partners enhanced shelter conditions for 625 vulnerable people through the provision of emergency shelter kits and the rehabilitation and repair of existing homes.
- In response to the fire risk in informal tented settlements and collective shelters, UNHCR distributed and refilled fire extinguishers, reaching 3,135 families with enhanced fire safety measures.
- Through its referral healthcare programme, UNHCR and its partners supported 2,257 refugees, ensuring they have continuous access to a comprehensive healthcare package.
- In May, 3,495 Syrian and Lebanese individuals, including persons with disabilities, received appropriate psychosocial support (PSS) services.
- A total of 26 community centres are currently operating across the country, providing support to refugees, Lebanese internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host community members. Through these centres, women, men, boys and girls of diverse backgrounds can access protection, social, legal, learning, and other services and activities. In May, 31,862 individuals have participated in information and awareness sessions covering available services, prevention of early marriage and gender-based violence (GBV), as well as feedback and complaints mechanisms, including protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

RESPONSE FOR NEW ARRIVALS

- Due to the changed political and security environment as well as hostilities in Syria, new arrivals of 106,754 Syrians have occurred since 8 December 2024.
- 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, reaching 37,450 people as of 10 June. Newly arrived refugees are now located predominantly in Akkar. Joint distributions by UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP continued in Akkar, targeting 30 villages in total.
- Additionally, Baalbek Disaster Risk Management (DRM) is reporting approximately 76,924 arrivals from Syria since 8 December, including approximately 19,943 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 158 informal collective shelters (CS), and approximately 56,981 residing in the community, including Lebanese returnees. The numbers have fluctuated due to internal movements, after reaching a peak of approximately 90,000 earlier this year.
- At the Government's request, UNHCR has integrated measures into its Referral Health Care Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guarantee that new arrivals can access life-saving hospital care. In May, 20 newly arrived individuals received treatment at hospitals contracted by UNHCR.

IMPACT OF UNDER FUNDING

UNHCR, alongside the entire humanitarian community, is experiencing an overall unexpectedly large and swift downturn in funding in 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.

Despite generous support from a wide range of donors, UNHCR was funded under 60 per cent of the USD 545.2 required for its response in Lebanon in 2024, as part of an ongoing downward trajectory of funding. As of 31 May 2025, UNHCR Lebanon had received just 21 per cent of its required funding.

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, and will now support 216,700 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 are no longer able to access primary healthcare. 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.

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

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