

Regional Flash Update #31

Syria situation crisis

13 June 2025



Core Relief Items including blankets, sleeping mats, solar lamps and plastic sheets, distributed by UNHCR and partners, help to meet returnees' immediate needs when they return to Syria. This week, 1,103 families received this kind of support. ©UNHCR Syria

Key Highlights

- UNHCR estimates that **577,266 Syrians** have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024, bringing the total to **938,106 Syrian individuals** who have returned to the country since the beginning of 2024.
- As of 12 June, **1,343,232 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.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has **underscored** the substantial international support Syria's post-war economic recovery will require, following a mission to the country last week. This support will be required to rehabilitate the economy, meet urgent humanitarian needs, and rebuild essential institutions and infrastructure. The IMF highlighted the need to address the huge humanitarian and reconstruction challenges and achieve sustainable economic recovery, including to absorb the increasing number of returning refugees.

- Between 4 and 10 June, UNHCR Syria provided transportation assistance to 186 households (378 individuals) returning to Syria through key border crossing points including Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salama and Joussieh. UNHCR also coordinated the return of 149 refugees from Jordan through the Nassib border.
- UNHCR and partners provided Core Relief Item (CRI) kits to 1,103 households (5,493 individuals), the majority of whom were newly arrived refugee returnees.
- **Türkiye's Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Abdulkadir Uraloğlu announced on 4 June that Turkish low-cost airline AJet will begin operating regular flights to Damascus from Ankara Esenboğa Airport and Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen Airport** on 17 and 16 June respectively. Syrian Airlines has also resumed flights to Turkey, with its maiden flight to Istanbul on 10 June.
- The Government of Egypt (GoE) has officially endorsed the Egypt Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (ERRRP 2025), marking its first nationally led refugee initiative. The plan will be launched on 24 June at a joint event hosted by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Country updates

Syria

As of 12 June 2025, UNHCR estimates that some **577,266** Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024. This brings the total to **938,106** 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 12 June 2025, **1,343,232** internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to their homes since early December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.

Between 4 and 10 June, UNHCR provided transportation assistance to 186 households (378 individuals) returning to the country through Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salama and Joussieh border crossing points. This support aimed at facilitating the households' safe and dignified return. In addition, on 4 June, UNHCR coordinated the organized return of 149 refugees from Jordan through the Nassib Border. UNHCR teams ensured effective border coordination, monitored the return process, and collected essential information to support follow-up assistance through community-based services.

UNHCR continued with its cash assistance programme for refugee returnees, supporting them to meet their basic needs. So far, a cumulative total of 586 Syrian returnee households (2,930 individuals) have received the assistance. In addition, over 3,000 refugee returnees are targeted to receive cash assistance this month, while cash for livelihood support will be distributed in Aleppo, Homs and Hama. Assistance was also provided to refugees, with a total of 2,579 refugee households (6,455 individuals) having received the multi-purpose cash grant covering the period January to April.

Furthermore, between 4 and 11 June, UNHCR and partners provided Core Relief Item (CRI) kits to 1,103 families (5,493 individuals) comprising returnees and IDPs. Of these, 100 households in Hirbinafsah, Hama; 700 households in Al Quseer, Homs; 201 households in Dara and 100 households in Quneitra were of newly returned refugees.

In efforts to enhance the protection of children, UNHCR procured and distributed wheelchairs to 20 children with special needs in Sweida, Dar'a, and Quneitra Governorates. The children were returnees, IDPs and from host communities.

The [Syria is Home](#) platform continues to draw visitors and during the reporting period, received 428 visitors, the majority males (63.2%). The highest number of visitors were from Lebanon followed by Jordan, Syria, United States and the Netherlands.

As part of its capacity building efforts, UNHCR conducted a training session for newly recruited personnel of the General Authority on Land and Sea Ports. The training, targeted at staff assigned to work at Syrian border points, focused on key humanitarian principles and standards related to protection from exploitation and abuse, as well as the reporting mechanisms.

Through its network of community centres, mobile units and community outreach volunteers, UNHCR provided multisectoral assistance to communities, including case management. A total of 42 individuals were enrolled in the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) case management process, with the majority of cases reported in Daraa (34%), Latakia (31%) and Ar-Raqqqa (24%), and the rest in Damascus and Homs. Adults constituted 85% of the total caseload, and older persons 15%. The majority of affected individuals were women, comprising 80% of the reported cases, a trend similar to the previous month's. UNHCR partners provided support while also making referrals to a range of service providers.

Türkiye

In a televised interview on 4 June, Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya reiterated 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. He said that an increase is expected during the summer months, when the schools close mid-June.

Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Abdulkadir Uraloğlu announced on 4 June that Turkish low-cost airline Ajet will begin operating regular flights to Damascus from Ankara Esenboğa Airport and İstanbul Sabiha Gökçen Airport. The flights from Sabiha Gökçen to the Damascus International Airport will start 16 June and between Ankara Esenboğa and Damascus International will start on 17 June. There will be reciprocal flights from Sabiha Gökçen to Damascus International four days a week -- Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The 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 11 June, 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 9 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 İstanbul Airport. UNHCR is also ready for monitoring at Sabiha Gökçen Airport in İstanbul and Ankara Esenboğa Airport when the announced flights start.

The average family size remains stable, and a considerable portion of these households are led by women. A notable number of women have returned independently, underscoring the varied profiles among those choosing to go back.

Nearly half of those returning did so on their own. The most commonly cited reason was the lack of dependent family members remaining in Türkiye. Others explained that their families had never left Syria, had already returned ahead of them, or that they chose to assess the situation themselves before others followed. A segment also indicated that their family members had remained in Türkiye.

Adults in working age groups make up the largest segment of returnees, with a relatively balanced distribution between women and men. Children in early age groups form the second largest portion, followed by adolescents, and a smaller segment consists of older adults. Overall, men slightly outnumber women among returnees.

The main motivations for return remain consistent. Many returnees cited political developments, improved security conditions, and the desire for family reunification or events as key factors. Other contributing reasons include homesickness, challenges with housing in Türkiye, deportation of a family member, property-related issues, lack of support or services, and the need for livelihood opportunities.

Aleppo remains the most frequent destination for return, followed by other major provinces, including Idleb, Damascus, and Hama. Most returnees are going back to their province of origin, often to reunite with family members. In other cases, they chose alternative locations due to the destruction or inaccessibility of their original homes, temporary displacement, better security, job prospects, or availability of assistance.

Among those who have not returned to their original residences, common barriers include family relocation, property damage or seizure, economic hardship, poor infrastructure, and ongoing safety concerns.

In terms of housing, some returnees reported owning property in Syria, while others said the property belonged to close relatives. Among these, conditions varied widely — some properties were intact, others partially damaged or destroyed. The majority had documentation proving ownership, such as deeds, court papers, or inheritance documents.

Access to civil documentation remains a challenge, with many returnees lacking official papers issued by Syrian authorities. Among those who do have documentation, national IDs, family records, and passports are the most common. Changes in family composition were frequently reported, and documentation for births, deaths, marriages, and divorces has been obtained in most of these cases.

Before returning, many relied on informal daily work in Türkiye, with others receiving support from spouses or social assistance. Looking ahead, many expect to have no stable income in Syria and plan to seek employment. Some hope to rely on family or community support, while others anticipate income from self-employment or assistance from relatives in either Türkiye or Syria.

Access to essential services in areas of return remains inconsistent. Many returnees reported that services were only partially available, some said they were fully available, while others either lacked access or information. These findings continue to highlight the urgent need for investment in local infrastructure and services to support lasting reintegration.

Lebanon

During the reporting week, the number of new arrivals from Tartous, Lattakia, Homs and Hama Governorates of Syria into the North and Akkar Governorates of North Lebanon dropped, reaching a total of 39,730 people compared to the 40,096-figure reported last week. Newly arrived refugees

are now located predominantly in Akkar. Joint distributions by UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP continued in Akkar, targeting 30 villages in total.

As of 9 June, the Baalbek Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in the Bekaa is reporting 76,924 new arrivals, including approximately 19,943 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 158 informal collective shelters, and approximately 56,981 residing in the community.

Jordan

On 10 June, President of Lebanon Joseph Aoun paid a short official visit to Jordan and held a summit meeting with His Majesty King Abdullah II. The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation, regional developments, and the importance of creating conditions for the voluntary return of Syrian refugees.

As of 10 June, more than 83,500 refugees registered with UNHCR have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. The average daily number of refugee returnees during the reporting period increased significantly this week, rising to 1,075 individuals per day compared to 725 per day 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 9 June 2025, over 1,800 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR have returned from Iraq to Syria. From among the registered refugees and asylum-seekers, 1,731 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 118 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 overstays 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 17,900 Syrians who had not sought asylum in Iraq have crossed the border to Syria since 8 December 2024. From among this group, over 7,700 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 1 to 5 June, approximately 360 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.

Egypt

As of 8 June 2025, approximately **133,500** Syrian refugees are registered in Egypt, around 200 fewer than the previous week. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 13.4% of the total refugee population in the country.

Since the fall of the former Government of 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 8 June 2025, around 10,075 closure requests involving around 22,033 individuals were submitted since 8 December 2024, averaging 84 requests per day – compared to just seven per day in November 2024. In addition, 15,192 individuals have been closed as spontaneous departures, reflecting a growing perception among many Syrians that return may now be viable.

The Government of Egypt (GoE) has officially endorsed the Egypt Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (ERRRP 2025), marking its first nationally led refugee initiative. The plan will be launched on 24 June at a joint event hosted by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This milestone follows nearly two years of dialogue and collaboration. The MFA appreciated the strong coordination between UNHCR and UNDP in advancing resilience-focused efforts. The launch, co-organized by the MFA, UNHCR, and UNDP, will take place at MFA headquarters in the presence of the Foreign Minister and the UNHCR High Commissioner and will engage key donor partners.

UNHCR Egypt actively monitors major social media pages and community groups to better understand refugees' priorities and interests regarding available services provided by UNHCR and its partners. Recently, there has been increased online discussion among Syrian refugees regarding the file closure process, prompting the circulation of community-generated guidance and support tools. UNHCR continues to track such trends to inform communication efforts and ensure responsiveness to community concerns.

Useful links

- [Regional Flash Update #30, Syria Situation Crisis](#)
- [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](#)

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of donors who contributed to its operations in the Middle East in 2025, including:

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