

Regional Flash Update #33

Syria situation crisis

26 June 2025



Syrian refugee returnee families from Jordan reunite with their loved ones in Dar'a, after crossing Nassib border with the support of UNHCR transportation assistance programme. ©UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Key Highlights

- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi [visited](#) Syria to mark the **World Refugee Day on 20 June**. During his four-day visit, he engaged with the Syrian interim Government, humanitarian and development actors across the country, and members from the IDP, refugee returnee and host communities.
- UNHCR estimates that **628,029** Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024, bringing the total of **988,869** Syrian individuals who have returned to the country since the beginning of 2024.
- As of 26 June, **1,513,861 IDPs** have returned to their homes in Syria since early December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.
- Between 18 and 26 June, UNHCR provided **transportation assistance** to 321 families (699 individuals) returning to Syria through key border crossing points including Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salama and Joussieh.

- UNHCR and partners provided **Core Relief Item (CRI) kits** to 3,101 families (16,099 individuals) inside Syria, the vast majority of whom—15,238 individuals—were newly arrived refugees and IDP returnees.
- Furthermore, this week alone, 998 families (4,184 individuals) received **return and reintegration cash assistance**, bringing the cumulative total to 1,737 families (7,194 individuals) as of 24 June.

Country updates

Syria

The UN High Commissioner for refugees Filippo Grandi visited Syria to mark the **World Refugee Day on 20 June**. During his four-day visit, the High Commissioner [held talks](#) with the Interim Minister of Foreign Affairs in Damascus to discuss “the importance of supporting efforts to create appropriate conditions for the voluntary and safe return of refugees”. The High Commissioner then [met](#) with the Governors in Dar'a, Aleppo and Idlib, as well as Syrian returnees from Lebanon at the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing (Rural Damascus), Syrian returnees from Lebanon in Dar'a and Syrian returnees from Türkiye in Bab Al-Hawa.

As of 26 June, UNHCR estimates that some **628,029** Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024. This brings the total to **988,869** Syrians who have returned since the beginning of 2024. This figure is calculated based on a triangulation of data from Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and beyond.

In terms of internal displacement, **1,513,861 IDPs** have returned to their homes since early December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force, as of 26 June.

While these numbers reflect growing hope, security incidents continue to highlight the need for the international community to be patient and supportive of a Syrian-led political transition. On 22 June, a terrorist attack on Mar Elias church in Damascus city resulted in civilian casualties; and, during the reporting week, Southern Syria has witnessed a sharp escalation in Israeli military activity.

Between 18 and 24 June, UNHCR continued to facilitate the voluntary, safe, and dignified return of Syrian nationals to their areas of origin by providing transportation assistance at key border crossing points, including Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salama, and Joussieh. During this period, 321 families—comprising 699 individuals—benefited from this support. UNHCR ensured effective coordination at the borders, closely monitored the return process, and gathered critical data to enable timely follow-up through community-based services.

As part of these efforts, the cash assistance programme for returnees remained active. This week alone, 998 families (4,184 individuals) received return and reintegration cash assistance, bringing the cumulative total to **1,737 families (7,194 individuals)** as of 24 June.

In addition, UNHCR and its partners distributed Core Relief Item (CRI) kits to **3,101 families (16,099 individuals)** during the reporting period, the vast majority of whom—15,238 individuals—were newly arrived refugees and IDP returnees.

Through its wide-ranging protection monitoring efforts, UNHCR reached 259 households this week, bringing the total to **25,941 households** who have successfully completed the questionnaires. Additionally, over **1,984 Key Informant Interviews (KIs)** have taken place across the country.

The [Syria is Home](#) platform continued to attract attention this week, recording 3,500 visitors—45% female and 55% male. The highest number of users came from Jordan, followed by Syria, Türkiye, and Bulgaria.

Regarding political developments during the week, on 19 June, the Syrian Supreme Committee for the People's Assembly Elections announced its intention to establish a People's Assembly within the next 90 days. On 20 June, the Swiss Federal Council issued its decision to lift economic sanctions imposed on Syria, considering it a positive step in the interest of the Syrian people and contributing to supporting reconstruction efforts and economic recovery. Furthermore, on 23 June, the European Union's Foreign Affairs Council adopted formal conclusions regarding the situation in Syria, reaffirming the EU's commitment to standing with the Syrian people and supporting a peaceful, inclusive, and Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition aimed at building a better future for all Syrians.

Türkiye

On 18-19 June, Syrian Minister of Health Musab Nizal al-Ali visited Türkiye, culminating in the signing of the "Operational Protocol for the Damascus Cardiology Hospital and Aleppo Oncology Hospital." This agreement, hailed by Turkish Health Minister Kemal Memişoğlu, marks a significant step in bilateral health cooperation, with Türkiye contributing its expertise to the planning and management of the two hospitals.

Following the 23 June terrorist attack on Mar Elias Church in Damascus, Turkish President Erdoğan strongly condemned the act, framing it as an assault on Syria's stability and coexistence. He reaffirmed Türkiye's solidarity with Syria and its commitment to combating terrorism.

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 25 June, Çobanbey / Al Rai, Zeytindalı / Jinderes and Yayladağı / Keseb are open for processing go-and-see visits. UNHCR monitors returns at 20 Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM) offices 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. A growing number of returnees prefer traveling at night to avoid heat and crowds, prompting UNHCR to pilot night monitoring shifts.

As with previous weeks, returnees include a diverse demographic, with many women-led households and individuals returning alone. Motivations include improved security, family reunification, and economic hardship. Aleppo remains the top destination, followed by Idleb, Damascus, and Hama. Some returnees relocate to new areas due to property loss or family movement.

While many returnees hold Syrian IDs or family booklets, documentation gaps persist. Employment in Türkiye was often informal, and future income prospects in Syria remain uncertain. Access to essential services in return areas is inconsistent, underscoring the need for continued investment in reintegration support.

Lebanon

As of 19 June, the Baalbek Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in the Bekaa is reporting 72,715 new arrivals since December 2024, including approximately 18,469 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 145 informal collective shelters, and approximately 56,981 residing in the community.

As of 23 June, 29,499 Syrians who had fled the hostilities in the Tartous, Lattakia, Homs and Hama Governorates of Syria in early March were recorded in the North and Akkar Governorates of North Lebanon. The observed decrease of some 10,000 people this week is the result of an updated population count following the second round of core relief items distribution, which was conducted

jointly with WFP and UNICEF. This round allowed us to verify the data collected during the initial distribution and make necessary adjustments. Several factors contribute to this reduction including data verification, and internal population movements.

Jordan

From 21 to 26 June, UNHCR facilitated transportation for nearly 630 refugees returning from Amman, Irbid, Azraq camp and the Emirati-Jordanian camp to Syria. Overall, since the start of the transportation process on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported more than 4,100 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 21 June, **nearly 94,000 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 to more than 960 individuals compared to 725 last week. Demographics of returnees slightly changed from previous weeks, with women and girls representing around 47 per cent of the total refugee returnees. Children accounted for around 42 per cent, and men of military age (18-40 years old) made up around 21 per cent of overall returns. The 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 23 June 2025, **over 2,380 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR have returned** from Iraq to Syria. From among the registered refugees and asylum-seekers, 2,259 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 126 registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Syria via Erbil airport, with border authorities sharing a copy of their registration certificate with UNHCR. Furthermore, according to Al-Qaim border authorities, 221 Syrians, who verbally declared having registered 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.

During the previous week, UNHCR observed an increase in the number of Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers returning through Peshkhabour, with 279 individuals departing compared to 53 the previous week. This is largely attributed to the decision of the Kurdistan Regional Government to waive overstay fines for Syrians, including refugees and asylum-seekers, and facilitate their return.

In addition, **over 20,100 Syrians** who had not sought asylum in Iraq have crossed the border to Syria since 8 December 2024. From among this group, over 8,900 crossed to Syria from Peshkhabour border crossing point while some 11,000 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 15 to 19 June, approximately 870 Syrians arrived through Peshkhabour border crossing point, although few expressed their intent to register with UNHCR or claim asylum. 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 23 June 2025, **approximately 130,600 Syrian refugees are registered in Egypt**, around 2,900 fewer than the previous week. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 13% 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 23 June 2025, around 10,275 closure requests involving around 22,610 individuals were submitted since 8 December 2024, averaging 83 requests per day – compared to just seven per day in November 2024. In addition, 17,950 individuals have been closed as spontaneous departures, reflecting a growing perception among many Syrians that return may now be viable.

Since May 2025, there has been a notable increase in on-the-spot closure procedures. This new system allows for immediate processing when all family members are present at the UNHCR Registration-Reception Centre, eliminating the need for prior appointments. Since its rollout for the Syrian refugee population, a total of **1,735 households – comprising 5,089 individuals** – have closed their asylum files through these streamlined procedures.

On 16 June, UNHCR conducted a field visit to a CARE facility in Cairo where they joined part of a four-day vocational training session focused on clay product making. This session brought together around 20 participants, including Syrians and members of the host community. Active engagement from all participants was noted, reflecting the facility's value as a platform for inclusive skill-building, social support and information exchange, particularly for Syrian women and other vulnerable groups.

Useful links

- [Regional Flash Update #32, 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](#)

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