

Regional Flash Update #37

Syria situation crisis

25 July 2025



UNHCR and partner SARC distributing core relief item (CRI) kits to newly displaced families due to the escalation of hostilities in As-Sweida, on 23 July 2024 in Dar'a (southern Syria). © UNHCR Syria/Field Office Sweida

Key Highlights

- As of 24 July, the IDP Taskforce, co-led by UNHCR and OCHA, reported 94,300 displaced within As-Sweida Governorate, 52,500 displaced from As-Sweida to Dar'a Governorate, 28,300 displaced to Rural Damascus Governorate, bringing the estimated total number of displaced people to **176,000**. In response, UNHCR distributed full CRI kits to **3,570 displaced individuals (604 households)** and, between 19 and 22 July, **UNHCR dispatched 2,500 CRI kits to Dar'a and Rural Damascus and 2,000 to Sweida**.
- As of 24 July, UNHCR estimates that **719,801** Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024, bringing the total of **1,080,641** Syrian individuals who have returned since the beginning of 2024.
- As of 24 July, **1,542,418 IDPs** have returned to their homes in Syria since early December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.
- Between 16 and 22 July, UNHCR provided **transportation assistance to 275 families (815 individuals)** returning to Syria through key border crossing points, including Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salama and Joussieh.

- In Türkiye, the temporary go-and-see visit mechanism implemented by the Government from 1 January to 1 July 2025, has seen the extension of the **re-entry to Türkiye until 1 August**.
- In Lebanon, to date, **over 17,000 Syrian individuals** have expressed interest in returning to Syria.
- In Syria, UNHCR provided 19,222 individuals – 6,904 households – with full CRI kits this week, including newly arrived returnees and IDPs, as part of the assistance provided in the **Coastal areas** and the **As-Sweida Emergency Response**.
- Thanks to **UNHCR's Return and Reintegration Cash Assistance**, 12,910 Syrian refugee returnees, comprising 2,963 families, have been supported upon their return as of today.
- In an effort to promote economic resilience and self-reliance for newly arrived returnees, the **Cash for Livelihoods** programme has continued to expand in Syria, with 3,205 individuals, 589 families, who have received support up to date.

Country Updates

Syria

On the night of 18 July 2025, Syria and Israel agreed to a ceasefire mediated by the US and Jordan, following the intense infighting in As-Sweida as well as Israel's airstrikes which targeted government sites in Damascus on 16 July. After the announcement of the ceasefire, the local actors engaged in the hostilities were instructed to leave the areas. While the death toll estimates vary, on 20 July, the [Syrian Observatory for Human Rights](#) (SOHR) reported that 1,120 people had been killed since 13 July, including civilians. As of 24 July, the IDP Taskforce, co-led by UNHCR and OCHA, reported 94,300 displaced within As-Sweida Governorate, 52,500 displaced from As-Sweida to Dar'a Governorate, 28,300 displaced to Rural Damascus Governorate, bringing the estimated total number of displaced people to **176,000**. In response, **UNHCR distributed full CRI kits to 3,570 displaced individuals (604 households)** and, between 19 and 22 July, **UNHCR dispatched 2,500 CRI kits to Dar'a and Rural Damascus and 2,000 to Sweida**. Additional information can be found in [UNHCR's Flash Update on the situation in Sweida #1](#), [#2](#) and [#3](#).

Moreover, UNHCR continued to provide full CRI kits across the country, reaching **19,222** individuals – or 6,904 families – this week. This includes over **7,000 newly arrived returnees** and more than **12,000 IDPs**, including in the Coastal areas and the As-Sweida Emergency Response.

As of 24 July, UNHCR estimates that **719,801** Syrians have crossed back from neighboring countries since the 8 December 2024. This brings the total to 1,080,641 Syrian individuals who have returned since January 2024.

In terms of internal displacement, there has been an increase of 208,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) compared to last week's report, according to updates from the Population Movement Reporting Tool. At the same time, IDP returns continued to be observed, reaching **1,542,418** individuals as of 24 July, according to latest data of the IDP Taskforce, including 737,818 who have left IDP sites in the north of the country.

To address the most pressing needs of refugee returnees, thanks to **UNHCR's Return and Reintegration Cash Assistance**, 12,910 Syrian refugee returnees, comprising 2,963 families, have been supported upon their return as of today.

Furthermore, in an effort to promote economic resilience and self-reliance for newly arrived returnees, the **Cash for Livelihoods** programme has expanded in Syria, with 589 families (3,205 individuals) who have received support up to date.

As part of UNHCR's **protection monitoring** efforts, during the reporting period, UNHCR reached out to 480 households, bringing the total to 27,070 households – chiefly from the IDP and refugee returnee community – who have successfully completed the protection questionnaire. Additionally, 1,699 interviews which have taken place nationwide so far.

Furthermore, the Protection Sector published an '[Operational Guidance Note on the Return of IDPs in Syria](#)'. The note provides a framework guiding protection partners on the types of activities they should engage in and/or support at various stages of the return process, for both areas of displacement and areas of return.

Türkiye

Processing of voluntary returns of Syrians from Türkiye continue across seven border crossings, namely, Cilvegözü/Bab al-Hawa, Yayladağı/Kessab, Öncüpınar/Bab al-Salama, Karkamış/Jarablus and Akçakale/Tel Abyad as well as Zeytindalı/Jinderes and Çobanbey/Al Rai, where processing has just restarted. The temporary go-and-see visit mechanism implemented by the Government of Türkiye from 1 January ended on 1 July, with **re-entry to Türkiye extended until 1 August**.

Currently, UNHCR monitors movements at 21 Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM) offices in 21 provinces and at six border crossing points, in addition to key airports in İstanbul and Ankara. Returns from Adana Sarıçam Temporary Accommodation Centre are also monitored on an ad hoc basis.

Returnees show diverse profiles, including many women-led households and individuals returning independently, mostly to their province of origin. The main reasons for return remain consistent: improved security, political developments, family reunification, nostalgia, and financial hardship. Aleppo is the most common destination, followed by Idlib, Damascus, and Hama. Housing remains a challenge, with some returnees owning property in varying conditions, while others rely on relatives or lack accommodation entirely. Documentation varies, with most holding Syrian IDs or family booklets, though some lack official papers. Many have secured documents for life events during their stay in Türkiye.

Before returning, livelihoods ranged from daily labor to skilled trades, with many anticipating informal work or relying on family support in Syria. Education is a priority for returnee families, with children having attended school in Türkiye and parents planning to continue their education in Syria. UNHCR continues to monitor these returns closely to ensure protection and support for those making the journey back.

Lebanon

New arrivals of 108,032 Syrians have been monitored since 8 December 2024 including 67,167 still residing in Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel and 29,430 still residing in Akkar and North since March 2025. In addition, some 11,435 new arrivals are reported in other areas, including due to onward internal movements from place of first arrival in Lebanon.

As of 14 July, **more than 17,000 individuals have registered their interest in the facilitated Voluntary Return Programme** and received counselling on the process steps and implications. 54 per cent are from North and Akkar, 32 per cent from Bekaa, Baalbek and Hermel, and 15 per cent from Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South. The largest proportion of those with registered interest to return (30 per cent) intend to return to Homs governorate in Syria, while 8 per cent to Idlib.

While 95 per cent of adults claim to be in possession of a national Syrian ID document to exit Lebanon and enter Syria, **one-third of returning Syrian children born in Lebanon do not have birth certificates** to facilitate their return and will be referred for legal assistance.

On 2 July, UNHCR updated its [UNHCR HELP Lebanon – Voluntary Return](#) page and disseminated information on the voluntary return programme through its social media and outreach networks.

Jordan

The violence that broke out in Sweida in the previous days caused significant concern to Jordan, as the country shares a border with the three southern governorates of Syria, including the governorate of Sweida. Jordan engaged actively in mediation efforts, helping stem further deterioration. That said, the number of refugees returning to Syria has been noticeably lower as of 17 July, following the outbreak of violence in Sweida; refugees also expressed anxiety because of these events and what this could mean for their future prospects.

As of 19 July, nearly 120,000 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 slightly decreased to around 840 refugees per day compared to some 1,200 as reported last week, though Syrians continued to travel from Jordan to Syria through the Jaber border, including some coming from Egypt and transiting through Jordan.

Demographics of returnees remained similar to previous weeks, with women and girls representing around 48 per cent of the total refugee returnees. Children accounted for around 43 per cent, and men of military age (18-40 years old) made up around 20 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](#).

From 22 to 24 July, UNHCR facilitated transportation for around 530 refugees returning from Amman, Irbid, and Azraq camp. During the reporting period, approximately 20 per cent of the refugees who had originally intended to travel this week requested to postpone their departures due to the security situation in Syria.

On 23 July, a new Syrian regulation requiring insurance for all foreign-registered public transport vehicles, including with Jordanian plates, was announced and took effect immediately. The unexpected implementation of this policy caused delays at the border, affecting cross-border transportation, including four JETT buses organized by UNHCR for refugee returns to Syria. The issue has been resolved through the joint efforts of UNHCR offices in Jordan and Syria, in coordination with Jordanian authorities and JETT focal points.

Overall, since the start of the transportation process on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported nearly 6,300 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.

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 17 July 2025, approximately **3,800 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR** have returned from Iraq to Syria. Among them, over 3,600 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 140 registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Syria via Erbil airport, with border authorities sharing a copy of their registration certificate with UNHCR.

Over the past week, the return of registered Syrian refugees through Peshkhabour border crossing point slightly decreased compared to the previous week (from 392 individuals to 386 individuals). Despite the slight decrease, return figures remain significantly higher compared to the early months

of the year. Most of the registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Aleppo, followed by Al-Hasakeh and Damascus.

Meanwhile, **UNHCR continued to monitor the arrival of Syrians** into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, primarily from Al-Hasakeh and Aleppo. Between 13 and 17 July, approximately 810 individuals entered through the Peshkhabour border crossing (a decrease compared to last week when 840 Syrians crossed). While the main reasons for these movements remain consistent – such as family visits, returns from Syria, family reunification, and transit through the Kurdistan Region to other destinations – many new arrivals cited escalating instability in Syria as an additional cause. Recent clashes in As-Sweida between Druze groups and Syrian military forces have heightened fears of renewed conflict, contributing to a growing sense of insecurity. Additionally, the impact of recent Israeli attacks has further exacerbated feelings of instability among the Syrian population.

Egypt

As of 22 July 2025, approximately **128,500 Syrian refugees are registered in Egypt**, around 630 fewer than the previous week. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 12.7% of the total refugee population in the country.

On 22 July, **UNHCR Egypt released detailed comments on Egypt's newly promulgated Asylum Law No. 164 of 2024**, published in the Official Gazette on 16 December 2024. As the UN-mandated agency for refugee protection, UNHCR emphasized its supervisory role under the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, to which Egypt is a State Party, along with the 1969 OAU Convention. While UNHCR notes Egypt's efforts to codify refugee protections and recognized the range of rights afforded under the law, it expressed concern over several critical gaps. Chief among them is the absence of an explicit non-refoulement provision, a cornerstone of international refugee and human rights law. UNHCR recommended that Egypt incorporate the refugee definitions from the 1951 and 1969 conventions verbatim to ensure full alignment with its international obligations. UNHCR also urged legislative and policy revisions to remove administrative barriers and ensure refugee-sensitive procedures are in place, both in law and practice. At the same time, UNHCR looks forward to supporting the Government of Egypt (GoE) to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers have effective access to education and healthcare and effective legal and policy paths for the right to work, self-employment and association.

Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #36, Syria Situation Crisis](#)
- [Syria: Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #3 - 21 July 2025](#)
- [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](#)
- [Syria is Home platform](#)
- [UNHCR Help Site](#)
- [UNHCR HELP Lebanon – Voluntary Return page](#)
- [UNHCR HELP Türkiye – Voluntary Repatriation page](#)

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