

Regional Flash Update #38

Syria situation crisis

1 August 2025



Ahmad, originally from Idleb, returned to Syria from Lebanon on 29 July through UNHCR voluntary return programme. After living in Lebanon since 2011, he is now settling in Damascus with his wife and three children. “My children are so happy – we have no place but our country,” he says. ©UNHCR/Vivian Toumeh

Key Highlights

- On 29 July, UNHCR Lebanon, UNHCR Syria, and IOM – working closely with the authorities of both countries – organized the **first voluntary return convoy of Syrian refugees from Lebanon to Syria**, officially **launching** the Organized Voluntary Return Programme. Upon arrival in Syria, returnees were connected with UNHCR and its partners to ensure continued support.
- As of 31 July, UNHCR estimates that **746,360** Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024.
- During the same period, **1,582,542 IDPs** have returned to their homes in Syria, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.
- In Syria, UNHCR distributed core relief items (CRIs) to **3,095 households (17,335 individuals)**, including 624 returnee families and 2,471 households from IDP and vulnerable communities affected by the recent violence across Rural Damascus, Dar’a, and As-Sweida.

- Between 23 and 29 July, 266 refugee families (815 individuals) received transportation assistance upon return to Syria at key border crossing points, including Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salama, and Joussieh, bringing the total number to **11,589 returnees** assisted in 2025.
- In Jordan, based on a comprehensive **skills mapping** of refugees in Jordan conducted in 2023 by UNHCR and WFP, UNHCR has developed a [dashboard](#) that presents the number of returnees by area of origin in Syria, to help prospective employers across Syria in planning their workforce needs.

Country Updates

Syria

As of 31 July 2025, UNHCR estimates that **746,360** Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024, bringing the total of 1,107,200 Syrian individuals who have returned since the beginning of 2024. In the meantime, internal displacement continued. 28,359 new internally displaced persons (IDPs) – mainly from Sweida to other governorates or within the governorate – were reported this week in the Population Movement Reporting Tool. This brings the total number of new IDPs displaced since 27 November 2024, to 881,788 individuals. Meanwhile, 44,124 IDP returnees, including 36,970 from IDP sites, have been reported during this period in various databases. This raises the total number of IDP returnees to **1,582,542** individuals, of which 774,788 have left IDP sites in the North of the country since early December last year.

During the reporting period, UNHCR continued to support the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of displaced Syrians. Between 23 and 29 July, 266 refugee families (815 individuals) received transportation assistance at key border crossing points, including Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salama, and Joussieh, bringing the total number to **11,589 returnees assisted** in 2025. In parallel, UNHCR facilitated the return of 45 internally displaced families (231 individuals) from Areesha Camp to Deir-ez-Zor. Since the start of the programme in April 2025, **546 IDP families (2,757 individuals)** have returned to their places of origine thanks to UNHCR.

On 30 July, the **second return convoy** of medical cases from Al-Hol arrived safely in Al Bab, Aleppo. Out of the 127 individuals, 94 returned to Aleppo while the others returned to Ar-Raqqa. A UNHCR joined the convoy and supported the returnees with non-food items (NFIs). Other actors also committed to supporting the returnees as agreed during an ad hoc Area Humanitarian Coordination Team (AHCT) meeting called by UNHCR this week to discuss return and reintegration.

As part of reintegration support, 1,320 returnee families (5,966 individuals) received cash assistance, totalling \$400 per family. Since January, **2,963 families (12,910 individuals)** have benefited from this grant. Moreover, Syrian returnees continued to be linked to available services in areas of return, as well as to benefit from UNHCR's wide-ranging protection activities, such as gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, child protection and mine risk education, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), individual and group counselling, legal assistance and court interventions to restore missing documentation, and livelihood programmes to help returnees restore their lives.

To provide some instances of the breadth of its interventions, UNHCR and partners delivered child protection prevention activities to 1,405 children and caregivers in Aleppo this week, including 586 IDP and refugee returnees. In Lattakia, the Cadastral Office was officially [inaugurated](#) on 27 July following UNHCR-led rehabilitation works, which restored earthquake-damaged infrastructure, established a one-window service area, and digitized property records—enhancing access to housing, land, and property (HLP) documentation. The center now delivers over 21,000 services monthly to residents, including IDPs and returnees. In Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor, over 200 women and girls participated in GBV and life skills sessions, which also led to the identification and referral of GBV cases. In Homs and Hama, 73 returnees joined the Start-Up Business

Programme, gaining skills in legal frameworks, entrepreneurship, and project planning. Each participant will present a feasibility-based business proposal, with selected candidates receiving in-kind support to launch micro-enterprises – fostering self-reliance and local economic recovery.

Furthermore, UNHCR distributed core relief items (CRIs) to **3,095 households (17,335 individuals)** countrywide, including 624 returnee families and 2,471 households across Rural Damascus, Dar'a, and As-Sweida from [affected](#) communities by the [recent violence](#) in the South of the country. For additional information on the situation in As-Sweida, UNHCR published its Flash Update [#1](#), [#2](#), [#3](#), [#4](#), and [#5](#), outlining the humanitarian impact of recent hostilities, including civilian casualties, mass displacement, and heightened protection risks.

In response, on 31 July, the UN and humanitarian partners successfully delivered an **inter-agency convoy carrying life-saving assistance to As-Sweida governorate**. The convoy, composed of 40 trucks, delivered a broad range of life-saving assistance, including food, medical supplies such as insulin, fuel, clean water, hygiene kits, shelter materials, and equipment to support hospitals, bakeries, and electricity infrastructure. It also included critical supplies for displaced families and for UN teams operating in the governorate.

UNHCR and partners continued their protection monitoring efforts, reaching 324 households this week, and over **27,500 households** in total since the start of the year. Finally, UNHCR's [Syria Is Home](#) platform attracted 1,100 visitors this week – predominantly from Lebanon, Syria, Türkiye, Iraq, and Jordan – seeking reliable information on conditions and services inside Syria.

Türkiye

Voluntary return processing continues across several provinces in Türkiye and at seven key border crossings with Syria: Cilvegözü/Bab al Hawa, Yayladağı/Keseb, Öncüpınar/Bab al Salama, Karkamış/Jarablus, Akçakale/Tel Abyad, Zeytindali/Jinderes, and Çobanbey/AI Rai.

The temporary go-and-see visit mechanism, which allowed Syrians in Türkiye to visit Syria and return, was in place from 1 January to 1 July 2025. Following its conclusion, the deadline for re-entry into Türkiye has been extended to 1 August 2025.

UNHCR continues to monitor voluntary returns at 21 Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMM) offices across Türkiye, as well as at six border crossings and three airports: Istanbul Airport, Sabiha Gökçen Airport, and Esenboğa Airport in Ankara. Monitoring is also conducted on an ad hoc basis at the Adana Sarıçam Temporary Accommodation Centre, when UNHCR is informed and invited by PDMM.

Return movements remain ongoing and diverse. Returning families are typically small, often female-headed, with some women returning alone. Most individuals express a clear intention to return to their place of origin, driven by factors such as improved security, family reunification, nostalgia, property recovery, employment opportunities, education, and marriage.

Aleppo continues to be the most common destination, followed by Idleb, Damascus, and Hama. Housing situations vary; while some returnees are able to go back to their own homes – either intact or damaged – others stay with relatives. Many are able to present valid ownership documents.

In terms of civil documentation, most returnees possess Syrian-issued national IDs, family booklets, or passports, though some lack official papers. Their employment backgrounds include trades, agriculture, sales, construction, and domestic work. Looking ahead, many plan to seek work in informal sectors or rely on family support. Some households also reported that their children had attended school in Türkiye and received official education records.

As voluntary returns continue, the availability of essential services and infrastructure in areas of return remains critical to ensuring safe, dignified, and sustainable reintegration for returnees.

Lebanon

The Government of Lebanon and the international community have jointly developed a standalone [Return Chapter](#) under the Lebanon Response Plan 2025. The plan aims to support safe, dignified, and sustainable return for displaced Syrians. The Return Chapter reflects a shared commitment between the Government of Lebanon and the UN to uphold human rights while preserving national sovereignty. Return-related activities for 2025 require repurposing of funds and new injections amounting to an estimated range of USD 150 million. The Chapter will guide coordinated planning across sectors and resource mobilization for return-related interventions in 2025.

UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) [launched](#) on 29 July the **Organized Voluntary Return Programme** to support Syrians in Lebanon who voluntarily decide to return to Syria to do so in a dignified and safe manner. Through the pilot return movement, three buses carrying 71 refugees and three trucks carrying their personal belongings returned from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley to Damascus, Rural Damascus and Homs in Syria.

Meanwhile, new arrivals of 27,540 Syrians have been monitored as still remaining in Akkar and North, having arrived since March 2025. Some new arrivals are reported in other areas, including due to onward internal movements from place of first arrival in Lebanon due to limited infrastructure, shelter and livelihoods options in overcrowded villages making increasingly long term stay difficult. As of 24 July, the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Bekaa is reporting 71,297 new arrivals, including approximately 16,440 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 125 informal collective shelters.

Jordan

Since the outbreak of violence in As-Sweida, UNHCR observed a decrease in the number of returnees over the past week. From 20 to 26 July, around 4,200 refugees returned from Jordan to Syria, representing a 28 per cent decrease compared to the previous week, when nearly 5,900 refugees returned.

As of 26 July, more than **123,000 refugees registered with UNHCR** have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024, with more than 25,000 returning so far in July. 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 29 to 31 July, UNHCR facilitated transportation for around 430 refugees returning from Amman, Mafraq, Irbid, and Azraq camp. UNHCR noted that a number of refugees continued to request a delay in their return due to the insecurity in Sweida, preferring to wait and see how the situation develops. The number of helpline calls related to returns assistance also dropped, from over 500 during the week of 13 July to around 280 in the week of 20 July. This decline is particularly notable, as UNHCR typically observes an increase in transportation assistance requests towards the end of the month, which can be attributed to refugees' preference to depart before having to renew their rent for the following month.

Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported nearly **6,600 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.

Moreover, based on a comprehensive skills mapping of refugees in Jordan conducted in 2023 by UNHCR and WFP, UNHCR has developed a [dashboard](#) that presents the number of returnees by area of origin in Syria. The data is disaggregated by educational level, vocational training, and professional background. This dashboard can help prospective employers across Syria in planning their workforce needs.

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 24 July 2025, **over 4,100 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR** have returned from Iraq to Syria. Among them, over 3,900 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 159 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 386 individuals to 304 individuals). Despite the slight decrease, return figures remain significantly higher compared to the first quarter of the year (January – March). Most registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Aleppo, followed by Al-Hasakeh and Damascus.

Egypt

As of 29 July 2025, approximately **128,000 Syrian refugees are registered in Egypt**, around 500 fewer than the previous week. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 12.6% of the total refugee population in the country.

On 23 July, UNHCR Egypt held a community meeting at a Multi-Purpose Community Centre (MPCC) in Cairo, attended by 30 male and female youth, including Syrians, who benefit by having access to online courses and educational opportunities, along with community leaders. The discussion centered around the various services provided by UNHCR.

Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #37, Syria Situation Crisis](#)
- [Syria: UNHCR Flash Update #5 on the situation in As-Sweida](#)
- [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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