

Regional Flash Update #39

Syria situation crisis

8 August 2025



Mohamed Burhan (left) returned to Syria on 29 July after spending eight years in Lebanon. Burhan returned with his wife, daughter, and son-in-law, hoping to rebuild their lives back home. ©UNHCR/Vivian Toumeh

Key Highlights

- As of 7 August 2025, UNHCR estimates that **754,436 Syrians** have returned to the country since 8 December. In addition, **805,279 IDPs** have returned to their homes from IDP sites since 8 December.
- To support families with essential household items, UNHCR Syria provided 4,035 households (21,142 individuals) comprising returnees and IDPs with Core Relief Item (CRI) kits. The distribution also targeted 1,695 households (8,609 individuals) in As-Sweida, Dar'a and Rural Damascus who had been displaced by the recent violence.
- In Syria, UNHCR provided transportation to 333 families (870 individuals) of refugee returnees at the key border crossing points of Bab Al-Hawa, Al-Salama and Joussieh, bringing the total to 12,481 individuals assisted since the beginning of the year. In Jordan, UNHCR has supported over 7,100 refugees to return to Syria since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025.

- Up to 13,478 families (71,909 individuals) in Lebanon have **expressed** interest in the facilitated voluntary return programmes and received counselling on the process and implications.
- Syria's General Directorate of Cadastral Affairs announced the resumption of its services that had been suspended since 8 December 2024, with effect from 3 August 2025.
- On 2 August, Türkiye's Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) released a six-minute video titled "**Return to Syria: The Same Sky, New Hopes**" on social media, accompanied by a message emphasizing Türkiye's continued support for Syrians returning home in a voluntary, safe, dignified, and orderly manner. The video notes the increase in the daily processing capacity from 3,000 to 19,000 individuals.

Country Updates

Syria

As of 7 August 2025, UNHCR estimates that 754,436 Syrians have returned to the country from other countries since 8 December 2024, bringing the total to 1,115,276 Syrians who have returned since January 2024. The top governorates of intended return since January 2024 stand as Aleppo (20% of refugee returnees), Damascus (13%), Rural Damascus (11%), Homs (11%) and Idlib (11%).

In addition, 805,279 IDPs have returned to their homes from IDP sites in northwest and northeast Syria since 8 December 2024, with the total number of IDP returnees since 27 November 2024 estimated at 1,620,124 individuals.

Syria's General Directorate of Cadastral Affairs announced the resumption of its services that had been suspended since 8 December 2024, with effect from 3 August 2025. Three key procedural reforms will be introduced, which will ease the requirements for registration of real estate transactions and are expected to benefit all individuals, including returnees and forcibly displaced persons.

UNHCR continued to provide transportation and other logistical assistance to refugee returnees at the key border crossing points of Bab Al-Hawa, Al-Salama and Joussieh. Between 30 July and 5 August, 333 families (870 individuals) benefited from this support, bringing the total to 12,481 individuals assisted since the beginning of the year. In coordination between WFP and UNHCR, the distribution of ready-to-eat food kits and high-energy biscuits to returnees commenced on 29 July at Sarmada (Bab Al-Hawa) and Sejjo (Al-Salama) bus stations. UNHCR and UNFPA, working in partnership, also began the distribution of dignity kits at Bab Al Hawa border crossing point on 1 August, with 136 households benefiting from the support.

UNHCR provided 4,035 households (21,142 individuals) comprising returnees and IDPs with Core Relief Item kits (CRI). Of these, 1,926 households (10,456 individuals) were returnees in Hama, Homs, Latakia, Tartous, Raqqah and Aleppo governorates. IDPs were also supported with CRI kits, particularly those displaced due to the events in As-Sweida, with 1,695 households (8,609 individuals) in As-Sweida, Dar'a and Rural Damascus benefiting. As part of the coastal area emergency response, 412 internally displaced households (2,060 individuals) also received CRIs.

With the gradual reactivation of civil registries and the soft reopening of cadastral offices after the December 2024 events, UNHCR supported cadastral offices and civil registries with equipment aimed at enhancing the institutions' functionality and digital readiness. In Homs and Aleppo, UNHCR distributed equipment including desktop computers, laptops, printers, archiving cameras, and routers. The support is aimed at enhancing operational capacity and enabling faster processing of legal documents – critical steps towards improving the reintegration and well-being of returnees.

In addition, UNHCR and its partners continued efforts at raising awareness on legal issues – in Aleppo, UNHCR and the Syrian Development Organization (SDO) conducted 18 legal awareness sessions focused on personal status and real estate issues, reaching 318 individuals, including 83 returnees. In addition, 135 legal consultations were provided, with 61 cases involving returnees.

On 5 August, UNHCR handed over the Al Khalil Vocational Training School in Bab Al-Neirab, Aleppo, to a contractor for rehabilitation, in the presence of representatives from the Directorate of Education. The school sustained significant damage during the conflict and once rehabilitated, will resume providing technical and vocational education to youth from Bab Al-Neirab, a neighborhood prioritized under the Area-Based Support Approach for Aleppo Hub.

UNHCR continues carrying out the protection monitoring exercise, aimed at generating a comprehensive understanding of the protection environment, identifying obstacles to return and reintegration, as well as drivers of new displacement. During the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners reached 246 households through the exercise, bringing the cumulative total to 27,822 households, mainly IDP and refugee returnees, who have successfully completed the protection questionnaire. In addition, 18 key informant interviews were conducted, with the total number of interviews nationwide currently standing at 1,750.

As of 31 July 2025, UNHCR supported 69 community centres across the 14 governorates, whose reach is supported by 75 mobile units and a network of 1,542 outreach volunteers. In Homs, UNHCR and partners provided support to 18 women at several community centres, mainly survivors of psychological, emotional and physical violence. UNHCR and its partners supported the women with counselling, psychosocial support, and referrals to medical, legal and livelihood services. In addition, Ariha Community Centre in Idlib reported heightened risks of domestic violence and early marriage among returnee families. Targeted prevention and response interventions are ongoing.

In Kafr Zita, rural Hama, UNHCR has completed the repair of 50 housing units belonging to refugee returnees. Housing/shelter availability has been identified by refugee and IDP returnees as both an enabler and barrier to return.

The [Syria is Home](#) platform, which provides credible information on the return process and the situation in Syria, received 852 visitors, 59% male and 41% female. The highest number of visitors were from Lebanon, followed by Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Türkiye.

UNHCR's Response to As-Sweida Situation

Since the onset of the emergency in As-Sweida, UNHCR has supported at least 8,700 IDPs to receive protection services and participate in related assessments through the UNHCR-supported community centers across the southern region. This includes 6,921 individuals in Dar'a, 787 in Rural Damascus, and 363 in Sweida. Furthermore, 3,134 IDPs have received psychosocial support. In addition, 1,199 IDP women and girls have received dignity kits since the onset of the crisis, while 55 displaced women have received GBV prevention and response services, including case management. Over 782 children have participated in recreational activities to alleviate emotional stress. UNHCR has published [Flash Update #6](#) on the crisis, which explains the current situation and response.

UNHCR has also dispatched a total of 6,300 Core Relief Item (CRI) kits to As-Sweida, Dar'a and Rural Damascus since 19 July as well as dignity kits. An additional 20,000 non-food item (NFI) kits, comprising 15,000 CRI kits and 5,000 dignity kits, are also ready for dispatch by UNHCR, when necessary. UNHCR has also participated in interagency missions aimed at assessing needs and ensuring appropriate response.

As the lead agency of the Protection Sector, UNHCR has coordinated the protection response, ensuring partner capacity mapping and response tracking. The Protection Sector issued its [Second Flash Update](#) for the As-Sweida Situation on August 4, 2025, providing a detailed overview of the humanitarian and protection impacts of the crisis.

The UNHCR-led Shelter/NFI Sector is coordinating partner mobilization in response to the scale of displacement and the urgent, unmet shelter and NFI needs. As of 30 July, 13 Shelter/NFI sector partners – including UNHCR and its implementing partners – had reached 5,954 families (31,400 individuals) across As-Sweida, Dar’a and Rural Damascus with support.

In its capacity as co-chair of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Working Group alongside WHO, during the Protection Cluster meeting on 31 July, UNHCR delivered a presentation outlining critical protection needs/risks related to MHPSS and key components of the ongoing emergency response to the evolving situation in As-Sweida.

In this same capacity, UNHCR supported the launch of a cross-sectoral well-being assessment for frontline workers across Syria. The initiative aims to identify staff in need of targeted psychosocial support and training, with a focus on high-priority emergency areas such as Dar’a, As-Sweida, and Rural Damascus. The assessment is part of a broader inter-agency effort aligned with IASC MHPSS Guidelines and supported by partners including WHO, UNICEF, and UNDSS.

Türkiye

On 2 August, the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) released a six-minute video titled [“Return to Syria: The Same Sky, New Hopes”](#) on social media, accompanied by a message emphasizing Türkiye’s continued support for Syrians returning home in a voluntary, safe, dignified, and orderly manner. The post described Türkiye’s border gates as active hubs of return, with the process coordinated by PMM in collaboration with relevant institutions. The video showcases the scale and organization of the return process, noting that the daily processing capacity has increased from 3,000 to 19,000 individuals. Syrians can apply for return online, receive same-day appointments, complete procedures in their province of residence, and benefit from measures for transporting personal belongings and vehicles.

[Turkish Airlines](#) resumed its scheduled passenger flights between Istanbul and Aleppo as of 2 August, marking the first such connection in 13 years. Turkish Airlines operates three weekly flights (Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays) on the Istanbul-Aleppo route, with plans to increase to five flights per week starting 15 August and daily service as of 1 September. Additionally, low-cost carrier AJet also launched daily flights between Sabiha Gökçen Airport and Aleppo beginning 4 August.

Processing of voluntary returns continues in provinces and at seven border crossings: Cilvegözü / Bab al Hawa, Yayladağı / Keseb, Öncüpınar / Bab al Salama, Karkamış / Jarablus and Akçakale / Tel Abyad as well as Zeytindalı / Jinderes and Çobanbey / Al Rai where processing of voluntary returns has restarted.

Currently, UNHCR monitors returns at 25 PDMM offices in 24 provinces and at six border crossings in the south-east. UNHCR is also present at Istanbul and Sabiha Gökçen Airports in Istanbul and at Esenboğa Airport in Ankara. Voluntary returns from Adana Sarıçam and Malatya Beydağı Temporary Accommodation Centres are also being monitored on ad hoc basis – when UNHCR is informed and invited for monitoring by PDMM of the individuals and families willing to return.

As of early August 2025, UNHCR has monitored the voluntary repatriation of nearly 300,000 Syrians. Many of these families were relatively small in size, and a significant portion was headed by women. A notable number of women returned alone, reflecting the varied demographics of returnees. The vast majority of those interviewed indicated a desire to return to their province of origin.

The main drivers of return remain unchanged. Political developments and improved security remain the most frequently cited reasons. Other factors include the desire for family reunification, emotional ties to Syria, challenges in accessing housing or assistance in Türkiye, the intention to reclaim

property and the need to work. Return movements were predominantly directed to areas such as Aleppo, Idleb, Damascus, and Hama.

In terms of accommodation, some returnees reported owning homes, while others indicated that the property belonged to close family members. Among these, a little over half said their homes were intact, with others reporting partial or total destruction. A significant share held documents proving ownership.

A considerable number of returnees lacked Syrian-issued documents. Among those who had them, the most common were national IDs, followed by family booklets and passports. Family-related events that occurred in Türkiye were most often documented for births and deaths, while marriages and divorces were less consistently recorded.

Before returning, many were unemployed in Türkiye. Others had worked in skilled trades, construction, agriculture, or sales. Upon return to Syria, a significant number did not expect to have an income and planned to look for work. Others anticipated relying on informal employment, family or community support, their spouse, or self-employment.

A portion of returnees reported that at least one family member had attended school in Türkiye, and most of these had the necessary documentation to prove it. The majority of returnees expressed their intention to continue their children's education in Syria.

Lebanon

As of July 2025, nearly 13,478 families (71,909 individuals) have [expressed](#) their interest in the facilitated voluntary return programmes and received counselling on the process, steps and implications. 97% of Syrians assessed indicated a preference to self-organize their transport back to Syria, while 3% requested organized transport. 43% indicated Arida as their intended official crossing point, 29% through Qaa and 21% through Masnaa.

New arrivals of 27,546 Syrians remain 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 because of limited infrastructure, shelter and livelihoods options in overcrowded villages, making long term stay difficult.

As of 24 July, the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Bekaa is reporting 71,297 new arrivals since December 2024, including approximately 16,440 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 125 informal collective shelters.

Jordan

As of 2 August, more than 127,000 refugees registered with UNHCR have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. Since the last report, approximately 4,800 refugees returned, representing a 13 per cent increase compared to some 4,300 refugees who had returned the previous week. 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 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](#). As a novelty, this now also includes a section with insights on the skills level (education and professional backgrounds) of working-age Syrians, who participated in the UNHCR-WFP Skills Mapping exercise earlier and has since returned to Syria.

From 5 to 7 August, UNHCR facilitated transportation for around 495 refugees returning from Amman, Mafraq, Irbid, and Azraq Camp. Requests for facilitated transportation fluctuated over the past week, ranging from none on some days to over 30 applications on others. Many refugees indicated that they are waiting for results of the national Tawjihi (Secondary Education Certification) exam to be announced before planning their return.

Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported over 7,100 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.

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 24 July 2025, over 4,500 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR have returned from Iraq to Syria. Among them, over 4,300 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 164 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 increased compared to the previous week (from 304 individuals to 421 individuals). 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 4 August 2025, approximately **127,000** Syrian refugees remain registered in Egypt, 1,000 less than last week. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 12.5% of the total refugee population in the country, with over 9,949 cases (21,437 individuals) having been closed for spontaneous departures.

Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #38, Syria Situation Crisis](#)
- [Syria: UNHCR Flash Update #6 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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