

# Regional Flash Update #42

## Syria situation

29 August 2025



*Bessan Al-Sabbagh is a 6-year-old Syrian refugee. She lives in Za'atari camp with her parents and siblings. Bessan's favorite summer treat is strawberry ice cream. Za'atari Refugee Camp is home to around 66,000 Syrian refugees. Many are expected to cross back to Syria if the conditions are conducive for a sustainable return and reintegration.*

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## Key Highlights

- As of 28 August 2025, UNHCR estimates that **843,994 Syrians** have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024.
- At the same time, IDP returns continue, with **1,763,513** internally displaced persons (IDPs) having returned to their homes in Syria, including **880,058** returning from IDP sites since 8 December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.
- Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR has supported the voluntary return of **15,164 Syrian refugees** at Bab Al-Hawa, Al-Salama, and Joussieh border crossing points. Between 20 and 26 August alone, 386 families (1,139 individuals) received transportation and logistical assistance upon return to Syria.

- To support reintegration, UNHCR disbursed Return and Reintegration Cash assistance in Syria to 1,587 households (6,284 returnees), raising the cumulative total to **4,550 households (19,194 returnees)**.
- Core Relief Items (CRI) kits were distributed to **6,002 households (30,183 individuals)** inside Syria, including returnees, families affected by wildfires, and those impacted by the emergency in As-Sweida.

## Country Updates

### Syria

As of 28 August, **843,994 Syrian refugees** have crossed back from neighboring countries since 8 December 2024, bringing the total up to 1,204,864 returnees since the beginning of last year. Meanwhile, internal returns continued, with **1,763,513 IDP returnees** since late November 2024, including **880,058** individuals who have departed from IDP sites in the north of the country.

During the reporting period, UNHCR continued to support the safe and dignified return of Syrian refugees to their areas of origin by providing transportation and logistical assistance at key border crossing points – Bab Al-Hawa, Al-Salama, and Joussieh. A total of 386 families (1,139 individuals) benefited from this support during the reporting period. This brings the cumulative number of individuals supported through these three border crossing points to **15,164 returnees** since the beginning of the year.

UNHCR's Return and Reintegration Financial Assistance programme continues to make significant progress, with a fourth batch reaching 1,587 households (6,284 returnees). This brings the cumulative total of supported beneficiaries to **4,550 households (19,194 returnees)** who have received vital financial assistance to help rebuild their lives and reintegrate into their communities.

Furthermore, this week, UNHCR provided comprehensive Core Relief Item (CRI) kits to support returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), reaching a total of **6,002 households (30,183 individuals)**. The response included assistance to 863 households (4,315 individuals) in the coastal areas, 4,918 households (24,748 individuals) among returnees, and the emergency intervention in As-Sweida for 221 households (1,120 individuals) affected by displacement.

Throughout the week, UNHCR continued to support **voluntary returns from IDP camps**, including the 14<sup>th</sup> return movement from Areesha Camp to various locations in Deir-Ez-Zor on 21 August, followed by the first organized return from Mahmoudi Camp on 26 August. In Aleppo, UNHCR and its partners reached **1,195 children and caregivers** through child protection prevention activities, focusing on child rights, explosive ordnance risk education, personal values, managing challenging behaviors, and curriculum-based learning. Meanwhile, in Homs and Hama governorates, **gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response** efforts continued across multiple community centers, engaging 956 individuals through awareness sessions, life skills training, *Girls Shine* curricula, youth engagement, and targeted interventions.

Humanitarian needs remain critical in As-Sweida, Dar'a, and surrounding areas, where UNHCR continues to deliver uninterrupted assistance despite operational challenges. Through its As-Sweida office and regular field missions, UNHCR supports displaced populations via 12 community centres, 13 mobile units, and 242 outreach volunteers. These include one centre in As-Sweida, six in Dar'a, four in Damascus and Rural Damascus, and one in Quneitra. As of 25 August, **15,951 IDPs** have received protection services, including legal consultations, psychosocial support, GBV risk mitigation, child protection activities, and awareness on protection from sexual exploitation and

abuse (PSEA). As the lead agency, UNHCR has also coordinated the Shelter/NFI Sector response with over 20 partners, reaching **13,850 households (67,500 individuals)**, with Dar'a receiving the largest share of distributions. Beyond core NFI support, UNHCR plans to upgrade eight collective centres, install 50 solar streetlights, and distribute indoor solar kits to enhance safety and living conditions. A post-emergency shelter repair programme is also being prepared to support safe and dignified returns, focusing on minor repairs in affected villages.

## Türkiye

On 26 August, Türkiye's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned Israel's expanding military operations in Syria, calling them violations of Syria's sovereignty and threats to regional stability.

Voluntary repatriation of Syrians from Türkiye continues through seven reopened border crossings, including Cilvegözü/Bab al Hawa, Yayladağı/Keseb, Öncüpınar/Bab al Salama, Karkamış/Jarablus, Akçakale/Tel Abyad, Zeytindalı/Jinderes, and Çobanbey/AI Rai. UNHCR monitors these returns through its presence at 24 Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMM) offices across 23 provinces, as well as at six border crossings in the southeast. Monitoring also takes place at İstanbul and Sabiha Gökçen Airports in İstanbul, Esenboğa Airport in Ankara, and on an ad hoc basis at the Adana Sarıçam and Malatya Temporary Accommodation Centres when invited by authorities. As of 25 August 2025, UNHCR has monitored the voluntary repatriation of over 300,000 Syrians.

Interviews with returnees were primarily conducted in border and metropolitan provinces, which were also key areas of residence prior to departure. A smaller number were interviewed at airports and accommodation centres. Notably, 51% were interviewed in their province of registration and 52% in their province of residence. The main reasons for return have remained consistent over time, with political developments, improved security, and family reunification being the most frequently cited. Other motivations include nostalgia, housing challenges, economic hardship, reclaiming property, and the need to work.

Most returnees are heading to northern Syrian provinces such as Aleppo, Idlib, Damascus, and Hama. While some have access to housing—either owned or belonging to relatives—others reported partial damage or destruction. A significant number possess documentation proving ownership, though 22% lack any Syrian-issued papers. Among those with documents, national ID cards, family booklets, and passports are most common. Births and deaths in Türkiye are generally well-documented, but marriage and divorce records are less consistently available.

Before departure, many returnees were unemployed, while others worked in skilled trades, agriculture, construction, or commerce. In Syria, many expect to be without income initially and plan to seek informal work or rely on family and community support. Additionally, 30% of returnees reported that at least one family member had attended school in Türkiye, with most able to present official documentation of their education.

## Lebanon

As of 27 August, 25,930 Syrians have been monitored as still remaining in Akkar and North, having arrived since March 2025. Some new arrivals are reported in other areas, chiefly 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.

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Bekaa is reporting 72,929 new arrivals since December 2024, including approximately 18,072 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 125 informal collective shelters. Numbers have remained quite stable in preceding months, bar the

number of informal collective shelters which has fluctuated due to population movements within the governorate.

## Jordan

As of 23 August, around **141,000 refugees registered with UNHCR** have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. Since the last report, over 4,500 refugees returned, representing a 20 per cent decrease compared to some 5,700 refugees who had returned the previous week. Demographics of returnees remained similar to previous weeks, with women and girls representing around 49 per cent of the total refugee returnees. Children accounted for around 43 per cent, and men 18-40 years old made up around 19 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, including a section with insights on the skills level, are available on [UNHCR Jordan's returns dashboard](#).

On 27-28 August, UNHCR facilitated transportation for nearly **390 refugees** from Amman, Mafrq and Irbid to Syria. Additionally, on 27 August, IOM in coordination with UNHCR facilitated a movement for nearly **90 refugees** from Azraq camp. Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported over **8,200 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.

On 21 August, UNHCR Jordan shared a notice through [its dedicated Facebook page](#) that files of Syrian refugees who have voluntarily returned to Syria, with or without the support of UNHCR, will be closed by UNHCR Jordan. More information, including on limited exceptions allowing reopening of the file upon a potential later return to Jordan can be found [here](#).

## Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 21 August 2025, **over 5,500 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR** have returned from Iraq to Syria. Men represent around 36.5% of the total of returnees, followed by women (23.5%), boys (21%) and girls (19%). Among them, around 5,348 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 208 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 decreased compared to the previous week (from 345 individuals to 167 individuals). Most registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Aleppo, followed by Al-Hasakeh and Damascus. Registered refugees mentioned the Kurdistan Region's Ministry of Interior instruction on the waiver for overstay fines, improved security situation in their areas of origin and family reunification as main reasons to return to Syria.

## Egypt

As of 25 August 2025, approximately **125,400 Syrian refugees** remain registered in Egypt, 400 less than last week. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 12.2% of the total refugee population in the country.

Since the fall of the former Government of Syria, Syrians have been approaching UNHCR to request the closure of their asylum cases. As of 25 August 2025, around 10,373 closure requests involving



around 22,705 individuals were submitted since 8 December 2024, including on-the-spot closures. Among applicants who closed their files, 63% were male. In terms of origin, 41% came from Damascus, 27% from Rural Damascus, 12% from Homs, 8% from Aleppo, and 12% from other Syrian locations.

## Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #41, Syria Situation Crisis](#)
- [Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #6](#)
- [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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