

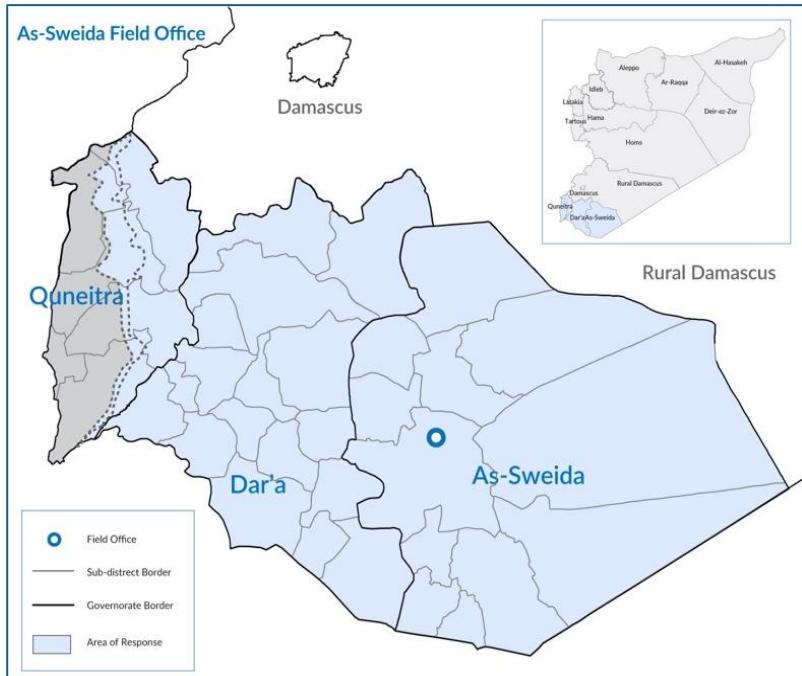
Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #6

@15:00, 6 August 2025



Overview

The situation in As-Sweida and Dar'a in southern Syria remained highly volatile. In As-Sweida, sporadic clashes and destruction of property continue in some areas, particularly in rural zones. Dar'a has remained relatively more stable, serving as the key destination for those displaced from As-Sweida. However, the influx has placed significant pressure on local infrastructure and services, heightening tensions within host communities. While large-scale fighting has not occurred recently, there are localized reports of skirmishes near the As-Sweida border and rising unease.



Following the joint humanitarian convoy with SARC on 28 July, the UN had secured approval from the Syrian government to begin delivering aid, including food, water, and emergency supplies, to tens of thousands of displaced persons in both As-Sweida and Dar'a. On 31 July, the first UN inter-agency humanitarian convoy of 40 trucks escorted by UN Representatives delivered life-saving assistance, including core relief items of UNHCR and critical supplies for staff operating in As-Sweida. Mr. Adam Abdelmoula, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria [expressed appreciation](#) to the interim Government for “its constructive engagement in facilitating the convoy”.

According to a rapid site displacement assessment by REACH and Munzun targeting 76 sites in Dar'a Governorate between 30 July and 2 August, the majority of sites are schools, and over 80% of the sites do not have access to adequate cooking facilities. In addition, some 70% of sites reported that they lack access to the minimum amount of water (25 liter/person/day). The assessment conducted earlier also found that overcrowding was reported in most sites, with approximately 42% of households accommodating more than five individuals in a single room, increasing risks related to protection and health. Child protection services were present at only 35% of sites, and only 42% of sites reported that women and children have access to secure, lockable rooms/shelters, limiting their safety and dignity. Accessibility for persons with disabilities is particularly poor, with none of the assessed sites equipped with disability-

accessible latrines. These findings underscore the urgent need to scale-up protection interventions, including child protection, gender-based violence/ sexual exploitation and abuse risk mitigation, and disability-inclusion intervention, to enhance the protection of affected populations. UNHCR has been enhancing coordination with Child Protection AoR, Camp Coordination and Camp Management and Shelter Clusters to respond to protection needs identified.

On 31 July, UNHCR participated in the UN inter-agency mission to As-Sweida Governorate for the first UN visit since the interim authorities granted permission. The delegation, encompassing UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, WHO, UNDSS, SARC, ICRC, and IFRC, conducted site visits to IDP hosting locations, the hospital, and the bakery, and engaged with local representatives, partners, and technical agencies to assess humanitarian needs.

On 31 July, the Syrian government announced the formation of an investigative committee to examine alleged abuses committed during the recent violence. The seven-member committee—comprising judges, lawyers, and a brigadier general—is mandated to investigate reported civilian attacks, looting, summary executions, and other violations during the violence, and to refer perpetrators for judicial prosecution. The committee will submit periodic updates and a final report within three months.



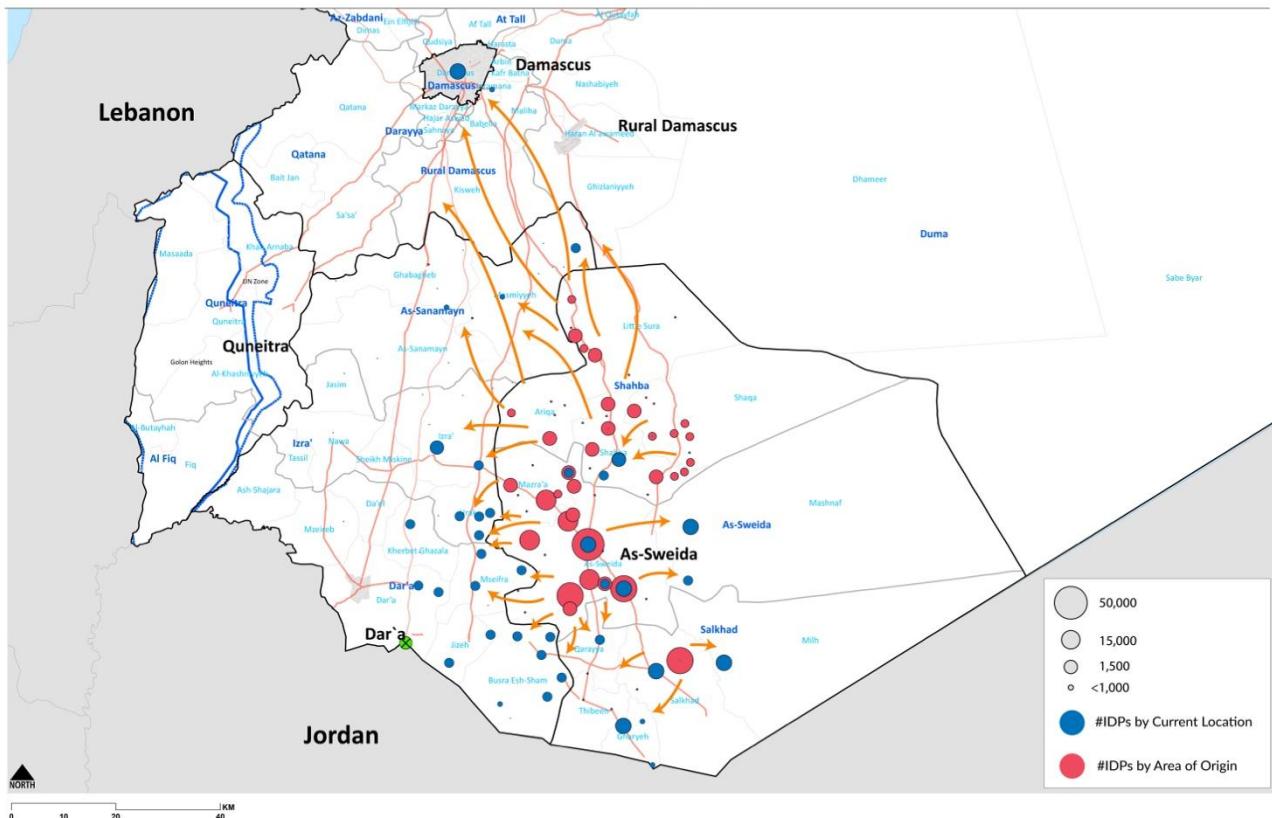
On 31 July, the UN inter-agency mission to As-Sweida with UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, WHO, and others was conducted to assess the situation. ©UNHCR



Displacement situation

The displacement occurred rapidly, with numbers surging from 93,000 to 145,000 within a few days, as the conflict spread across at least 36 villages, particularly in the western and northern countryside. Most of the displaced sought refuge in neighboring Dar'a and Rural Damascus, while others remained within As-Sweida.

The ceasefire remains fragile and new clashes erupted on 3 August including shelling of villages on the security forces. Displacement totals have stabilized in As-Sweida, and the influx from As-Sweida to Dar'a has plateaued. No new major movements from Dar'a towards other regions have been reported, suggesting relative calm in Dar'a as a hosting area.



As of 28 July 2025, the total number of IDP movements has reached approximately **191,700**. Of these, around 153,000 movements are associated with individuals experiencing first-time displacement, while an estimated 38,700 movements involve secondary or multiple displacements. The IDP Task Force reports that estimated 130,900 IDP movements are within As-Sweida Governorate, while 58,000 IDP movements were recorded from As-Sweida to Dar'a Governorate.

Between 25 and 28 July, an increase of approximately 15,700 new IDP movements was observed across As-Sweida, Dar'a, and Rural Damascus Districts. Simultaneously, some returnee movements of 120 individuals were reported — primarily to locations in Salkhad District.

It is estimated that around 90% of IDP movements are being hosted within local communities, rather than in formal camps or collective shelters. Most urgent humanitarian needs among the displaced populations include:

- Shelter and non-food items, such as mattresses, blankets, and cooking supplies
- Access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene services
- Health services
- Food security

UNHCR Response

The humanitarian needs in As-Sweida, Dar'a, and surrounding areas have reached critical levels following the recent violence and displacement in southern Syria. The region faces a collapse of basic services—including healthcare, electricity, water, and food supply. Hospitals are non-functional or overwhelmed, lacking fuel, medicine, and staff. There is a shortage of shelter, with many families accommodated at overcrowded schools and collective shelters. Hygiene conditions are deteriorating rapidly, raising risks of disease outbreaks. The need for protection services is urgent due to widespread trauma, reports of arbitrary killings, kidnappings, and sexual violence. Psychosocial support, legal assistance, and protection for vulnerable people, particularly women, children, and the elderly, are top priorities. Needs assessments indicate growing tension between host and displaced populations, especially in rural areas where resources are already stretched.

UNHCR continues its assistance delivery with no major disruption in governorates hosting displaced people. UNHCR Field Office in As-Sweida is operational and conducts frequent missions to areas with high numbers of displaced populations within As-Sweida Governorate.



Core Relief Items

As of 4 August, UNHCR has dispatched a total of **some 6,300 core relief item (CRI) kits** to As-Sweida, Dar'a and Rural Damascus since 19 July.

For As-Sweida, 2,000 CRI and dignity kits were sent for the first time with the humanitarian convoy on 28 July. The additional 130 kits were also dispatched along with essential supplies for the staff working in As-Sweida, such as medicines and fuel, on 31 July.

For Dar'a, a total of 3,700 kits were dispatched and being distributed by SARC and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA). For Rural Damascus, 427 kits were dispatched and distributed by SARC.

An additional 20,000 non-food item kits, comprising 15,000 CRI kits and 5,000 dignity kits, are also ready for dispatch by UNHCR, when necessary.



UNHCR's core relief items arrived in As-Sweida and ready for distribution ©SARC



Distribution of UNHCR's core relief items is ongoing in As-Sweida by SARC ©SARC



Protection

UNHCR-supported community centres

UNHCR monitors the situation and provides assistance to displaced people through its partners and UNHCR-supported community centres.

In As-Sweida, Bara'em runs one centre in As-Sweida city. In Dar'a, SARC operates one centre in Kherbet Ghazaleh, GOPA manages three centres in Dar'a city, Izraa, and Ghabagheb, while Bara'em runs two in Sheikh-Miskeen and Qnaya, totaling six centres in the governorate. In Damascus and Rural Damascus, the UNHCR-supported community centres and partners including SARC, Tamayouz, and Al-Nada provide assistance for displaced people. Mobile units attached to community centres have been also mobilized to enhance monitoring and outreach.

As of 3 August, **at least an estimated 8,700 IDPs** have received protection services and undergone assessments since the beginning of the As-Sweida situation, with numbers expected to be higher.

Psychosocial Support

Since the onset of the As-Sweida situation, a total of 3,134 IDPs have received dedicated psychosocial support (PSS), including individual support and psychological first aid. This includes 347 individuals reached in Damascus, with the remaining 2,669 supported in Dar'a Governorate and 118 in As-Sweida.

Gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation

A total of 1,199 IDP women and girls have received dignity kits since the onset of the As-Sweida situation, including 84 in Sayyeda Zeinab in Rural Damascus, 245 in As-Sweida and 870 in Dar'a. Moreover, at least, 55 displaced women have received GBV prevention and response services, including case management, since the onset of the As-Sweida situation.

Child Protection

Over 782 children participated in recreational activities to alleviate emotional stress caused by displacement since the start of the As-Sweida situation.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Since the onset of the As-Sweida situation, over 1,900 IDPs received PSEA key messages and 766 IDPs participated in PSEA awareness raising sessions, bringing the total number of people benefiting from PSEA awareness raising activities to 2,687 persons.



Inter-agency coordination



As the lead agency of **Protection Sector**, UNHCR is coordinating the protection response, and partner capacity mapping and response tracking, particularly for the collective centres and communities receiving IDPs, is ongoing.

UNHCR, in its capacity as co-chair of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Working Group alongside WHO, participated in the Protection Cluster meeting held on 31 July. During the meeting, 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.

Furthermore, and as part of this response, UNHCR and WHO supported the finalization and release of the field-use version of the *“Supporting Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-Being in Emergencies: RCCE-IM Guidance for Preparedness and Response”* in both Arabic and English. The guidance, adapted to the Syrian context, integrates risk communication and community engagement with MHPSS and provides practical tools for emergency response and preparedness across Syria.

In this same capacity, as co-chair of the MHPSS Working Group, 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.



The UNHCR-led **Shelter/NFI Sector** is actively coordinating partner mobilization in response to the scale of displacement and the urgent, unmet shelter and NFI needs. Partners with available in-country stocks or rapid procurement capacity are being encouraged to contribute to the response and to participate in upcoming shelter damage assessments, and so far 15 organizations are participating in the Shelter/NFI response.

As of 30 July 2025, 13 Shelter/NFI Sector partners—including UNHCR and its implementing partners—have reached a total of **5,954 families** (approximately 31,400 individuals) across Dar'a, Rural Damascus, and As-Sweida Governorates. The response has included distribution of both complete core relief item (CRI) kits—comprising blankets, mattresses, plastic sheets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, and solar lamps—and partial distributions based on partner stock and localized needs. Additional interventions have included:

- **Installation of solar energy systems** (solar panels, LED lights, batteries, and control panels) in schools used as collective shelters in Eastern Maliha.
- **Cash assistance for NFIs** provided in multiple collective shelters in Izra' and Dar'a Districts to support families in areas with functional markets.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Sector, in coordination with UNHCR partner of REACH and MUZUN, reported the increasing number of IDPs arriving to collective centres and IDP sites in Dar'a and Rural Damascus. Since 24 July, 11,324 new arrivals have reportedly joined families or relocated to schools and public facilities.

As of 4 August 2025, **85 IDP sites** hosts **23,931 individuals (4,827 households)**:

- **Dar'a:** 19,981 individuals across 65 sites
- **Rural Damascus:** 3,950 individuals in 20 temporary shelters

The CCCM sector has activated response [online tracker](#) for sectors to review existing service gaps and the support provided within the collective centers.