

Regional Flash Update #40

Syria situation

15 August 2025



Syrian refugees in Azraq Camp (Jordan) endure extreme heat and dust storms. Amouna Ahmed Al-Wahbi, a 56-year-old Syrian refugee, cares for her 6-year-old grandson, Saif Al-Din Al-Mohammed Al-Mousa, who suffers from breathing difficulties caused by the extreme heat and dust storms. Azraq refugee camp is home to 38,000 Syrian refugees. Many wish to return to Syria and will likely do so in the upcoming months if the conditions allow. ©UNHCR/ Hasan Alabdallah

Key Highlights

- As of 14 August 2025, UNHCR estimates that **779,473 Syrians** have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024.
- At the same time, IDP returns continue, with **1,694,418** internally displaced persons (IDPs) having returned to their homes in Syria, including 828,841 returning from IDP sites since 8 December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.
- Between 6 and 12 August, UNHCR Syria continued to facilitate the safe and dignified return of Syrian refugees to their areas of origin, providing transportation and other logistical support at the Bab Al-Hawa, Al-Salama, and Joussieh border crossing points, and reaching **318 families — 776 individuals** this week alone.
- During the same period, inside Syria, UNHCR supported returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) with the distribution of full Core Relief Item (CRI) kits, reaching **2,370 households (15,358 individuals)**. The majority of recipients (13,189 individuals) were returnees, while over 1,700 were displaced by the situation in As-Sweida.

- As of 9 August, more than **133,000 refugees** registered with UNHCR have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. Since the last report, nearly 6,700 refugees returned, representing a 29 per cent increase compared to some 4,750 refugees who had returned the previous week.
- In Iraq, over the past week, the return of registered Syrian refugees through Peshkhabour border crossing point increased compared to the previous week (from 421 individuals to 565 individuals).

Country Updates

Syria

As of 14 August 2025, UNHCR estimates that **779,473** Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024, adding up to 1,140,313 Syrian returnees since the beginning of last year. At the same time, IDP returns continue, with **1,694,418** internally displaced persons (IDPs) having returned to their homes in Syria, including 828,841 returning from IDP sites since 8 December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.

Between 6 and 12 August, UNHCR continued to facilitate the safe and dignified return of Syrian refugees to their areas of origin, providing transportation and other logistical support at the Bab Al-Hawa, Al-Salama, and Joussieh border crossing points. This week alone, **318 families — 776 individuals** — benefited from this assistance, bringing the total number of returnees transported through these three crossings to 13,239 since the beginning of the year.

In parallel, during the same period, UNHCR supported returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) with the distribution of full **Core Relief Item (CRI) kits**, reaching 2,370 households (15,358 individuals). The majority of recipients (13,189 individuals) were returnees, while over 1,700 were displaced by the situation in As-Sweida.

Some of the various **responses across the country** include the following: UNHCR and partners reached over 1,000 people in Homs and Hama with child protection activities, including awareness sessions, recreational activities, and education support for 308 students—most of them refugee returnees. In Aleppo and Idlib, UNHCR provided mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) to over 1,100 people, including IDP and refugee returnees. Support included awareness sessions on depression and distress, group counselling on anger, anxiety, and self-care, specialised assistance, and over 400 individual case management and follow-ups. In the coastal areas, UNHCR and partners expanded GBV prevention and response through targeted programmes and awareness initiatives. The “Let’s Play for Equality” programme in Al Mintar engaged children to promote gender equality, while the Girl Shine curriculum empowered adolescent girls with resilience and life skills. In Basira, men participated in the EMAP programme to challenge harmful gender norms, and over 200 women and girls attended GBV awareness and empowerment sessions across Tartous and Lattakia, with many receiving dignity kits.

As of 14 August, **UNHCR continues to lead and coordinate the protection response to the As-Sweida crisis**, despite restricted access to several areas in the governorate. As reported in UNHCR’s latest [Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #6](#), the displacement occurred rapidly, with numbers surging from 93,000 to 145,000 within a few days. Most of the displaced sought refuge in neighboring Dar’a and Rural Damascus, while others remained within As-Sweida. Through its partners and supported community centres, UNHCR has reached nearly 39,000 people across As-Sweida, Dar’a, and Rural Damascus with core relief items, while also coordinating the Shelter/NFI Sector’s response with 16 organisations to address urgent needs, including shelter upgrades, light rehabilitation, and provision of solar lighting. As Protection Sector lead, UNHCR has reached over 10,700 IDPs with protection services in all three governorates, including 3,546 individuals who received psychosocial support, 1,766 women and girls provided with dignity kits, and more than 970 children engaged in recreational activities to ease stress from displacement. PSEA awareness

activities have reached over 3,100 people, while targeted GBV and child protection interventions, as well as case management, are being delivered in accessible areas. Coordination with UNFPA, UNICEF, and other partners ensures harmonised service delivery in displacement sites, including Sayyida Zainab, which hosts around 3,625 IDPs. In parallel, the CCCM Sector, with UNHCR's support, is addressing urgent gaps in shelter, WASH, and non-food items, while working to secure alternative accommodation for IDPs in school-based shelters ahead of the new academic year.

UNHCR also maintained its **protection monitoring activities**, reaching 186 households during the reporting period, primarily IDP and refugee returnees, bringing the cumulative total to 28,060 households who have completed the protection questionnaire. Six additional key informant interviews were conducted, increasing the nationwide total to 1,757. Furthermore, UNHCR's "[Syria is Home](#)" platform recorded 1,000 visitors during the week, 60.1 per cent male and 39.9 per cent female, with the majority connecting from Syria, followed by Lebanon, Türkiye, Iraq, and Jordan.

Furthermore, this week, UNHCR, in partnership with the World Bank, launched a **large-scale Socio-Economic Assessment** to support self-reliance and long-term recovery in Syria. Conducted by NAMA, the survey will reach over 10,600 households by September 2025, collecting data on food security, services, livelihoods, and economic conditions of Syrian returnees, IDPs, and host communities. The findings will guide UNHCR's protection-focused strategies, strengthen the humanitarian–development nexus, and inform coordinated efforts with development actors and the private sector to foster sustainable resilience and economic recovery.

Türkiye

As with last week, 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 Zeytindali / Jinderes and Çobanbey / Al Rai where processing of voluntary returns has restarted.

Currently, UNHCR monitors returns at 23 PDMM offices in 22 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 an ad hoc basis, when the authorities invite UNHCR. As of mid-August 2025, UNHCR has monitored the voluntary repatriation of 300,000 Syrians.

Interviews were concentrated in certain border and metropolitan provinces, which were also among the key places of residence for returnees prior to departure. A small number of individuals were still living in temporary accommodation centres, primarily in specific provinces. The majority of returnees had been living in the province where they were officially registered, although only about half were interviewed there.

The main reasons for return have remained unchanged over time, with political developments, improved security, and family reunification being the most frequently mentioned. Other reasons include nostalgia, challenges in accessing housing, reclaiming property, limited humanitarian assistance and the need to work.

Most returnees were heading to provinces in northern Syria, with Aleppo, Idlib, Damascus, and Hama among the most common destinations. Regarding accommodation, some returnees owned their homes or had property belonging to close relatives. While many reported that their houses were in good condition, others indicated partial damage or destruction. A significant portion confirmed they had valid documentation proving ownership.

A small portion of returnees lacking any Syrian-issued papers. Among those who did have documents, national identity cards, family booklets, and passports were the most common. Births and deaths in Türkiye were generally well-documented, but documentation rates for marriages and divorces were lower.

Before leaving Türkiye, many returnees were unemployed, while others worked in skilled trades, construction, agriculture, or sales. In Syria, a considerable number expected to be without income initially and planned to look for work, often in informal daily labour. Other anticipated sources of income included family or community support, assistance from spouses, or self-employment. Finally, almost one-third of returnees reported that at least one family member had attended school in Türkiye, with most obtaining official proof of the education received.

Lebanon

As of July 2025, nearly **13,478 Syrian families (71,909 individuals)** have expressed their interest in the facilitated voluntary return programmes and received counselling on the process steps and implications.

Some 26,019 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.

As of 6 August, the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Bekaa is reporting 72,107 new arrivals since December 2024, including approximately 17,250 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 125 informal collective shelters.

Jordan

On 12 August, Jordan [hosted](#) a joint Jordanian-Syrian-American meeting, attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani and US Ambassador to the Republic of Türkiye and Special Envoy for Syria Thomas Barrack, to discuss the situation in Syria. Safadi and Barrack reiterated the solidarity of Jordan and the US with Syria, calling on the international community to support the country's reconstruction on the basis of security, stability, and inclusivity.

His Majesty King Abdullah II separately met with al-Shaibani and Barrack to discuss the latest developments in Syria. During the meetings, the King [reaffirmed Jordan's support](#) for Syria's efforts to preserve its security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, noting the importance of Washington's role in supporting the reconstruction process in Syria in a manner that preserves the rights of all Syrians.

As of 9 August, more than 133,000 refugees registered with UNHCR have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. Since the last report, nearly 6,700 refugees returned, representing a 29 per cent increase compared to some 4,750 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, including a section with insights on the skills level, are available on [UNHCR Jordan's returns dashboard](#).

From 12 to 14 August, UNHCR facilitated transportation for nearly 680 refugees returning from Amman, Mafraq, Irbid, and Azraq Camp. Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20

January 2025, UNHCR has supported over 7,800 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 07 August 2025, over 5,100 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR have returned from Iraq to Syria. Men represent around 37% of the total of returnees, followed by women (27%), boys (20%) and girls (19%). Among them, over 4,900 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 181 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 421 individuals to 565 individuals). Return figures remain significantly higher compared to the first quarter of the year. Most registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Aleppo, followed by Al-Hasakeh and Damascus.

Egypt

As of 11 August 2025, approximately **126,600 Syrian refugees** remain registered in Egypt, 400 less than last week. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 12.4% of the total refugee population in the country.

Since the fall of the former Government of Syria, there has been a significant increase in Syrians approaching UNHCR to request the closure of their asylum cases. As of 11 August 2025, around 10,103 closure requests involving around 21,898 individuals were submitted since 8 December 2024, including on-the-spot closures.

Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #39, 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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