

Regional Flash Update #43

Syria situation

4 September 2025



UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner Kelly Clements stands next to the Governor of Idlib in the ceremony of inauguration of a Civil Registry Office in Maraat al-Numan (Idlib, Syria). ©UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

Key Highlights

- As of 3 September 2025, UNHCR estimates that **862,396 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.
- During the reporting period, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees Kelly Clements [visited](#) Syria and Lebanon, observing return movements and interacting with refugees, asylum seekers in Lebanon and IDP and refugee returnees in Syria as well as the authorities in both countries. She [called](#) for support to end displacement for millions of Syrians.
- Between 27 August and 2 September, UNHCR supported the safe and dignified return of 423 Syrian refugee families (1,342 individuals) through transportation and logistical assistance at key border crossing points – Bab Al-Hawa, Al-Salama, and Joussieh. Since the beginning of the year, **16,489 returnees** have benefited from this support across these three crossings.

- To support reintegration, UNHCR provided **Return and Reintegration Cash Assistance** to 1,796 families (6,995 returnees) across Syria. This brings the total number of families supported to 4,759, benefiting nearly **20,000 returnees**.
- In Jordan, UNHCR launched a pilot initiative of cash assistance for voluntary return aimed at supporting approximately 10,000 refugees from Azraq and Zaatari camps who expressed intention to return to Syria.
- In Türkiye, in 29 August, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya [announced](#) that 450,169 Syrians have voluntarily returned from the country since 8 December 2024
- UNHCR distributed Core Relief Items (CRI) kits to **7,063 households (28,735 individuals)** inside Syria, including returnees, families affected by wildfires, those impacted by the emergency in As-Sweida, and urgent cases in Al-Hol, Areesha, and Newroz camps.

Country Updates

Syria

As of 3 September, **862,396 Syrian refugees** have crossed back from neighboring countries since 8 December 2024, bringing the total up to 1,223,238 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.

Between 27 August and 2 September, UNHCR supported the safe and dignified return of 423 Syrian refugee families (1,342 individuals) through transportation and logistical assistance at key border crossing points – Bab Al-Hawa, Al-Salama, and Joussieh. Since the beginning of the year, **16,489 returnees** have benefited from this support across these three crossings.

To support their reintegration, UNHCR provided **Return and Reintegration Cash Assistance** to 1,796 families (6,995 returnees) across Syria. This brings the total number of families supported to 4,759, benefiting nearly 20,000 returnees. This grant serves as a transitional safety net to help families cover basic needs including food, transport and medicine during their first months back, availing them the freedom to prioritise and fulfil their needs in a dignified manner.

Moreover, UNHCR provided comprehensive **Core Relief Item (CRI) kits** to support returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), reaching a total of **7,063 households (28,735 individuals)** this week. The response included assistance to 4,577 returnee households (19,750 individuals), 757 households (3,785 individuals) in coastal areas, and an emergency intervention for 1,718 households (5,144 individuals) displaced in As-Sweida. Additionally, UNHCR responded to urgent cases in camps, delivering aid to IDPs in need in Al-Hol, Areesha, and Newroz camps.

On September 1, UNHCR inaugurated a new community centre in Tabni, Deir Ez-Zor governorate, in partnership with St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee (EPDC). The centre is designed to serve approximately **4,000 returnee households**, including 800 refugee returnee families, across communities on the western bank of the Euphrates River. The centre is supported by 30 newly selected Outreach Volunteers (ORVs) from the surrounding areas and will deliver a full range of protection services, in line with all other 68 UNHCR-supported community centres across Syria. This includes gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, child protection, Mine Risk Education (MRE), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), prevention of sexual

exploitation and abuse (PSEA), legal aid, community empowerment initiatives, specialized assistance for people with specific needs, and livelihood support.

During DHC's visit to Syria, the Governor of Idlib and UNHCR officially opened a Civil Registry office in Maraat al-Numan, which will help thousands of Syrians to restore legal documentation, including refugees and IDP returnees increasingly coming back to this area.

Furthermore, during the reporting period, the [Syria is Home](#) platform continued to draw attention and recorded 3,400 visitors. The majority of visitors were from Lebanon followed by Syria, Türkiye, Bulgaria, and Jordan.

Since the onset of the Sweida emergency, UNHCR and partners have provided critical protection services to over **20,128 IDPs** across Sweida, Dar'a, and Damascus. This includes legal assistance, with more than 221 legal consultations; GBV prevention and response, in addition to the distribution of 4,516 dignity kits to women and girls; and MHPSS, reaching 5,248 IDPs with individual support and psychological first aid. To address the emotional toll of displacement on children, 1,989 children participated in recreational activities designed to foster resilience and well-being.

Türkiye

On 29 August, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya [announced](#) that **450,169 Syrians** have voluntarily returned from Türkiye since 8 December 2024, bringing the total to 1,190,172. He noted that the number of Syrians under temporary protection in Türkiye has decreased from 3.53 million in 2022 to 2.51 million as of August 2025, adding that voluntary returns are expected to rise further as conditions in Syria stabilize.

Turkish Minister of National Education Yusuf Tekin [visited](#) Syria on 2 September and met with Syrian Education Minister Mohammed Abdul Rahman Turko, pledging Türkiye's support for Syria's post-conflict recovery. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in education, including curriculum development, teacher exchanges, sister school initiatives, and modernization of educational technologies. Following the visit, Minister Tekin [highlighted](#) that **over 800,000 Syrian children** are enrolled in Türkiye's education system, noting that one of the main agenda points was ensuring the adaptation of returning children as part of dignified and voluntary return processes.

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, which have been reopened for VolRep.

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 İstanbul and Sabiha Gökçen Airports in İstanbul and at Esenboğa Airport in Ankara. Voluntary returns from Adana Sarıçam Temporary Accommodation Centre and Malatya Temporary Accommodation Centre are also being monitored on an ad hoc basis, when the authorities invite UNHCR.

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 interviewed in temporary accommodation centres and at the airports.

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

Most returnees were heading to provinces in northern Syria, with Aleppo, Idleb, 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 lacked 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 trade. 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 today, **26,039 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.

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Bekaa is reporting 74,662 new arrivals, including approximately 19,765 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 140 informal collective shelters. Numbers have slightly increased due to movements back into the area of those who had previously located to other parts of Lebanon in preceding months.

Jordan

As of 30 August, around **145,000 refugees registered with UNHCR** have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. Since the last report, nearly 4,400 refugees returned, representing a 3.5% decrease compared to some 4,500 refugees who had returned the previous week. Demographics of returnees remained similar to previous weeks, with women and girls representing around 49% of the total refugee returnees. 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 3 September, UNHCR facilitated transportation for some 240 refugees from Amman, Mafraq and Irbid to Syria. Additionally, on 2-3 September, IOM in coordination with UNHCR facilitated a movement for around 90 refugees from Azraq camp. Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported nearly 8,500 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 1 September, UNHCR launched a pilot initiative of cash assistance for voluntary return aimed at supporting approximately 10,000 refugees from Azraq and Zaatari camps who expressed intention to return to Syria. The pilot is aimed at helping refugees cover essential return-related expenses, such as transportation, travel documentation, medication, and other urgent needs. Under the pilot,

UNHCR will provide 70 Jordanian Dinars per family member to refugees who have made the decision to voluntarily return, after completion of the voluntary return assessment by UNHCR.

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 28 August 2025, over **5,700 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 (23%), boys (21%) and girls (19%). Among them, over 5,500 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 200 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 remained stable compared to the previous week (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 overstays, improved security situation in their areas of origin and family reunification as main reasons to return to Syria.

Egypt

As of 1 September 2025, approximately **124,800 Syrian refugees** remain registered in Egypt, 600 less than last week. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 12.1% 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 1 September 2025, around 10,539 closure requests involving around **23,160** individuals were submitted since 8 December 2024, including on-the-spot closures.

Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #42, 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](#)

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of donors who contributed to its operations in the Middle East in 2025, including:

Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Central Emergency Response Fund | Czechia | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Italy | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Malta | Netherlands | Norway | Other private donors | Poland | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Syrian Humanitarian Fund | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United States of America

CONTACTS

UNHCR Syria

SYRIAreporting@unhcr.org

For more information, please visit:

UNHCR Global Focus – Syria Situation