

# Regional Flash Update #46

## Syria situation

26 September 2025



Haifa was only five months old when her family was forced to flee from Syria to Lebanon. They left their house in Homs in 2016. According to her mother, they have now returned so they can enroll Haifa and her siblings in school. Haifa, now nine years old, told UNHCR, "I'm happy to be back in my country, the place where I was born and the one I love, because mum and dad always shared beautiful stories about it with me." ©UNHCR/Vivian Toumeih

## Key Highlights

- **One million Syrians – 1,027,887 – have now returned home from neighbouring countries** since the 8 December 2024. A milestone of hope – yet millions remain displaced and urgent support is needed to make returns sustainable.
- At the same time, internal returns also continue, with **1,863,863 internally displaced persons (IDPs)** having returned to their places of origin in Syria since late November last year, including **980,899 individuals** who departed from IDP sites in the north of the country.
- Since the beginning of the year until 23 September, a total of **19,307** Syrian returnees have been supported by UNHCR at the key border crossing points with Türkiye – Bab Al-Salama, Bab Al-Hawa, and Joussieh, including with transportation to their places of origine and logistical assistance.
- Inside Syria, UNHCR's **Return and Reintegration Financial Assistance** has now benefited 5,787 refugee households (22,964 individuals).

## Country Updates

### Syria

As of 25 September, **1,027,887 Syrians have now returned home from neighbouring countries** since the 8 December 2024. A milestone of hope – yet millions remain displaced and urgent support is needed to make returns sustainable. Meanwhile, internal returns continue, with **1,863,863 internally displaced persons (IDPs)** having returned to their places of origin in Syria since late November last year, including **980,899 individuals** who departed from IDP sites in the north of the country.

Between 17 and 23 September 2025, UNHCR continued to support the safe and dignified return of Syrian refugees to their areas of origin. **Transportation and logistical assistance** were provided at Al-Salama and Joussieh border crossing points, benefiting 948 individuals this week. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 19,307 returnees have been supported at the key border crossing with Türkiye and Lebanon. Complementing these efforts, UNHCR and WFP distributed ready-to-eat food baskets and high-energy biscuits to 715 returnees at transit bus stations in Idleb and Aleppo, while UNFPA and UNHCR jointly provided hygiene kits to over 673 women and girls.

As part of a fourth batch, UNHCR provided cash assistance to 2,978 households, benefiting a total of 10,785 individuals. This brings the cumulative number of supported beneficiaries through the **Return and Reintegration Financial Assistance** to 5,787 households (22,964 individuals), marking a significant milestone in the return and reintegration efforts.

Furthermore, during the week, UNHCR distributed **core relief items (CRIs)** to 5,969 households, reaching 29,847 individuals. The breakdown includes 4,217 households (21,069 individuals) among returnees, 495 households (2,486 individuals) as part of the emergency response in As-Sweida, 957 households (4,792 individuals) under CCCM and camps response, and 300 households (1,500 individuals) affected by the wildfires in the Coastal Areas.

During the reporting period, the **“Syria Is Home” platform** recorded 770 visitors, with 58.5% male and 41.5% female. The majority of visitors were from Syria, followed by Lebanon, Türkiye, Bulgaria, and the United States.

UNHCR reached 409 households through its comprehensive **protection monitoring** efforts, raising the total to 30,397 households – primarily IDP and refugee returnees – who have completed protection questionnaires. Additionally, 22 key informant interviews were conducted, contributing to a cumulative total of 1,846 interviews nationwide.

Since the onset of the **As-Sweida crisis**, at least 26,989 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have received protection services and participated in assessments. This includes 16,729 individuals in Dar’a, 4,313 in Damascus, and 5,947 in Sweida. UNHCR has provided over 1,592 legal consultations, distributed dignity kits to 4,654 women and girls, and supported 3,310 children through child protection activities aimed at mitigating emotional stress. Furthermore, 7,270 IDPs have participated in PSEA awareness sessions, and 6,541 individuals have received psychosocial support, including individual counseling and psychological first aid.

### Türkiye

At the UN General Assembly on 23 September, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan **reaffirmed** Türkiye’s enduring support for the Syrian people. He expressed appreciation for the contributions of Gulf countries to Syria’s recovery and signaled Türkiye’s willingness to collaborate with all regional and international actors who share the same vision. On 24 September, Erdoğan **met** with Syrian

Interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa at the Turkish House in New York to discuss bilateral and regional matters. During the meeting, Erdoğan reiterated Türkiye's call for lifting all sanctions on Syria and reaffirmed support for Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Meanwhile, UNHCR's support to the authorities and to refugees for the voluntary returns continues under the EU-funded FRIT VolRep Project. Within the scope of this project, the first pilot for cash assistance under the project is set to launch this 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 Zeytindalı / Jinderes and Çobanbey / Al Rai, which have been reopened for VolRep.

Since 8 December 2024, UNHCR has monitored the voluntary repatriation of nearly **360,000 Syrians**. Currently, UNHCR monitors returns at 22 Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (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 (TAC) are also being monitored on an ad hoc basis

The main reasons for return remain consistent: political developments, improved security, family reunification, nostalgia, economic hardship, and reclaiming property. Most returnees are heading to northern Syria, particularly Aleppo, Idlib, Damascus, and Hama. While some returnees have homes in good condition, others report partial damage or destruction. Many possess valid documentation such as national IDs, family booklets, and passports, though documentation for marriages and divorces is less common.

The demographic profile of returnees shows a balanced gender distribution, with many children and working-age adults, and a small proportion of elderly individuals. A noticeable increase in school-age children returning during the summer was observed, linked to the school break in Türkiye and preparations for the academic year in Syria. However, the pace of returns has slowed since early September, influenced by the start of the school year and a government circular requiring public employees to resume duties. Seasonal factors, such as the approaching winter, may also be affecting return decisions. Before leaving Türkiye, many returnees were unemployed or worked in informal sectors like construction, agriculture, or trade. In Syria, most expect to rely initially on family support or informal labor, with some planning to pursue self-employment. Nearly one-third of returnee families reported that at least one member had attended school in Türkiye, often with official documentation of their education.

## **Lebanon**

**25,921 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 the place of first arrival in Lebanon, due to limited infrastructure, shelter, and livelihoods options in overcrowded villages, making an increasingly long-term stay difficult.

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Bekaa is reporting 77,342 new arrivals since last December, including approximately 22,485 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 151 informal collective shelters.

## **Jordan**

As of 20 September, **over 155,000 refugees registered with UNHCR** have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. Since the last report, around 4,100 refugees returned, representing

a 9% decrease compared to some 4,600 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. Children accounted for around 43%, and men 18-40 years old made up around 19% 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 24-25 September, UNHCR facilitated transportation for over 200 refugees from Jordan to Syria. Additionally, on 23 September, IOM in coordination with UNHCR facilitated a movement for around 40 refugees from Azraq camp. Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, **UNHCR has supported nearly 9,300 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 18 September 2025, **over 6,100 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR** have returned from Iraq to Syria. Men represent around 38% of the total of returnees, followed by women (23%), boys (20%) and girls (19%). Among them, over 5,900 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 223 registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Syria via Erbil airport, with border authorities sharing a copy of their registration certificate with UNHCR. Most registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Aleppo, followed by Al-Hasakeh and Damascus.

Over the past week, the return of registered Syrian refugees through Peshkhabour border crossing point **increased slightly** compared to the previous week (from 96 to 113 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 23 September 2025, approximately **123,782 Syrian refugees** are registered in Egypt. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 12% of the total refugee population in the country.

Since the fall of the former Government of Syria, Syrians started approaching UNHCR in greater numbers to request the closure of their asylum cases. Between 8 December 2024 and 23 September 2025, around 10,899 closure requests involving around 24,301 individuals were submitted, including on-the-spot closures. Among applicants who closed their files, 63% were male. In terms of origin, 40% came from Damascus, 27% from Rural Damascus, 13% from Homs, 8% from Aleppo, and 12% from other Syrian locations.

## Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #45, Syria Situation Crisis](#)
- [UNHCR Operational Framework for Voluntary Return of Syrian Refugees and IDPs](#)
- [Enhanced Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey \(eRPIS\)](#)
- [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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