

Regional Flash Update #48

Syria situation

10 October 2025



Trucks loaded with personal belongings of internally displaced persons (IDPs) leave camps in the Dana area in Idlib governorate, northwest Syria, in the first organized return of IDPs from the region. © Muzn / UNHCR

Key Highlights

- Since 8 December 2024, a total of **1,099,768 individuals** have returned to Syria from other countries while **1,880,432 internally displaced persons (IDPs)** have returned to areas of origin or selected locations.
- On 7 October in Idlib Governorate, northwest Syria, UNHCR, in coordination with the Governorate and the Directorate of Social Affairs and Labor, **facilitated** the first voluntary return of internally displaced persons from the region, with 165 households (689 individuals) returning from 21 camps in the Dana area to their areas of origin.
- A total of 163 refugees returned to Syria from Lebanon under the joint programme coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and Syria's General Authority for Land and Sea Ports.
- Up to 191 families (963 individuals) received transportation and logistical support from Joussieh border crossing point to destinations including Hama, Homs, Idlib, Aleppo and Damascus.
- Between 7 and 9 October, UNHCR facilitated the transportation of 150 refugees from Jordan to Syria. Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported nearly 9,700 refugees to return to Syria.

- During the opening of the new academic year in Trabzon, Türkiye, [Council of Higher Education \(YÖK\) President Prof. Erol Özvar announced, on 6 October, plans to establish the Türkiye–Syria Friendship University in Damascus.](#)

Country Updates

Syria

During the past week, 17,044 individuals were recorded as having returned to Syria, with the cumulative total of returnees since 8 December 2024 currently standing at **1,099,768 individuals**.

In addition, 10,000 IDPs returned from displacement. This brings the total number of IDP returnees to **1,880,432 individuals**, of whom 997,899 departed from IDP sites, mainly in northwest and northeast Syria.

UNHCR and the authorities continue providing support for the return of both refugees and IDPs to their areas of origin. On 7 October in Idleb Governorate, northwest Syria, UNHCR, in coordination with the Governorate and the Directorate of Social Affairs and Labor, [facilitated](#) the first voluntary return of IDPs, with 165 households (689 individuals) returning from 21 camps in the Dana area to their areas of origin. UNHCR supported the movement by providing transportation, core relief items, and winter assistance.

On 9 October, 163 refugees returned to Syria from Lebanon through the Al-Arida border crossing under the joint programme coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and Syria's General Authority for Land and Sea Ports. Returnees received transportation support, relief items, psychosocial assistance, and legal aid.

At Joussieh border crossing point, 191 families (963 individuals) received transportation and logistical support to destinations including Hama, Homs, Idleb, Aleppo and Damascus. Furthermore, UNHCR and WFP distributed ready-to-eat food baskets and high-energy biscuits to 1,289 returnees at transit bus stations in Idleb and Aleppo, while UNFPA and UNHCR provided hygiene kits to over 472 women and girls returning to their homes. Since the year began, about 21,000 returnees have been supported at the key border crossing points with Türkiye and Lebanon.

A total of 7,696 households (29,689 individuals) have received the return and reintegration grants/financial assistance, aimed at facilitating vulnerable refugee returnees to meet immediate needs.

Core Relief Items (CRI) kits were distributed to 3,378 households (15,449 individuals) comprising returnees and IDPs displaced by the As-Sweida emergency.

To ensure that returnees have safe and dignified housing conditions, shelter rehabilitation efforts are progressing. In Deir ez-Zor, UNHCR and its partner have completed the rehabilitation of 131 shelter units, while that of 26 houses in Kafraya and Beit Shkuhi, Latakia governorate, which were partially damaged, has also been completed. In addition, 430 families across the targeted governorates have benefited from cash assistance to enable them repair their houses.

The [Syria is Home](#) platform, providing comprehensive information on the return process and the situation in Syria, received 1,200 visitors, males comprising 57% and females 43%. The highest number of visitors were from Syria followed by Lebanon, Bulgaria, Türkiye and Iraq.

As part of the protection monitoring exercise, UNHCR reached out to 411 households, bringing the total to 31,482 households (mainly IDP returnees and refugee returnees) interviewed. In addition, 20 key informant interviews were conducted, totaling 1,891 interviews conducted nationwide.

UNHCR continues to monitor the situation in As-Sweida and provide assistance to IDPs and returnees through its partners and supported community centres in As-Sweida, Dar'a, and Quneitra Governorates. Eleven mobile teams linked to the community centres provide services outside the centres, ensuring outreach and support to affected populations in remote and underserved areas.

To ensure that households displaced after the As-Sweida emergency had essential household items, UNHCR has so far dispatched a total of 131 trucks of Core Relief Item kits including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps that have benefited 19,239 households in 18 locations.

In Dar'a, the rehabilitation of five collective shelters in Sahwa and Namer has been successfully completed. Overall, a total of 5,500 individuals will benefit from this assistance.

On 5 October, UNHCR and its partners conducted a joint visit to four government-controlled villages in the rural eastern area of As-Sweida, which mission followed the return of Bedouin families to these villages and a request from the As-Sweida Governor for support to returnees. During the mission, needs were assessed and locations for installing 50 solar streetlights identified. UNHCR is leading the provision and installation of 100 solar streetlights within IDP hosting centres across Dar'a and As-Sweida Governorates to enhance security and protection.

Türkiye

During the opening of the new academic year in Trabzon, [Council of Higher Education \(YÖK\) President Prof. Erol Özvar announced, on 6 October, plans to establish the Türkiye–Syria Friendship University in Damascus](#), with the founding agreement expected to be signed in the coming days. He added that a branch of the university is also planned to open in Aleppo, with Karadeniz Technical University (KTÜ) providing support and playing an active role in its establishment.

The 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 voluntary repatriation.

Since 8 December 2024, UNHCR has monitored the voluntary repatriation of over 365,000 Syrians. Currently, UNHCR monitors returns at 23 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 monitored on an ad hoc basis.

Most interviews were conducted 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 TACs 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 or homesickness, challenges in accessing housing, economic difficulties, reclaiming property and the need to work.

The majority of 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 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.

The demographic profile reflects a balanced gender distribution, with a significant share of children, nearly half being adults of working age, and only a small fraction aged 60 and above.

Before leaving Türkiye, many returnees were unemployed, while others worked in skilled trades, construction, agriculture, or trade. In Syria, a considerable number were expected to be without income initially and planned to look for work, including 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.

Jordan

As of 4 October, over 160,000 refugees registered with UNHCR have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. Since the last report, over 3,500 refugees have returned, representing a 13 per cent increase compared to some 3,100 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, while men between 18 and 40 years of age made up around 19 per cent of overall returns. The majority of refugees continue to return from host communities, primarily from Amman and Irbid.

As most returns are spontaneous, UNHCR does not have data on the intended destination of return. However, based on intention surveys, most refugees intend to return to their governorate of origin. The governorate of origin of returnees from Jordan has remained stable throughout the year: 41 per cent originate from Dar'a, 20 per cent from Homs, and 11 per cent from rural Damascus. 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](#).

Between 7 and 9 October, UNHCR facilitated transportation for around 150 refugees from Jordan to Syria. Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported nearly 9,700 refugees to return to Syria.

Additionally, on 7 October, IOM in coordination with UNHCR facilitated a movement for around 170 refugees from Azraq camp. UNHCR conducts the refugee interviews and counselling while IOM covers the costs of transportation and coordinates departures.

As of 5 October, 214 cases comprising over 1,100 refugees have been submitted for cash assistance as part of UNHCR's pilot for return. The initiative, launched on 1 September 2025, will continue in the months to come and, with the currently available funding, support 10,000 refugees. Before departure, in-person interviews are conducted to ensure that returns are voluntary and well-informed, with counselling and information provided on the 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.

Lebanon

As of today, 26,308 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, increasingly making long term stay difficult.

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Bekaa has reported no new figures for verification of the lists submitted by municipalities. At present, the reported numbers remain unchanged from the arrival of 78,095 individuals.

Since July, 118,764 Syrian individuals (22,103 cases) have expressed interest in the UNHCR-facilitated Voluntary return programme. This figure now only reflects active and pending cases of interest, excluding cases that had previously expressed interest and since been facilitated with voluntary repatriation or otherwise inactivated due to prolonged absence.

Since July, UNHCR and IOM have also processed the organized return of over 351 Syrian individuals through Masnaa border to Rural Damascus, Damascus, Homs, Hama and Idleb. A schedule of 10 further organized returns for the remainder of the year has also been announced.

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 2 October 2025, over 6,300 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 6,100 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 226 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 decreased compared to the previous week (from 93 to 44 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 6 October 2025, approximately 123,169 Syrian refugees were 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 6 October 2025, 11,222 closure requests involving around 24,931 individuals were submitted, including on-the-spot closures. Among applicants who closed their files, 62% 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 #47, Syria Situation](#)
- [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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