

Regional Flash Update #51

Syria situation

31 October 2025



UNHCR distributes winter non-food item (NFI) kits to internally displaced persons and returnees in Fafin, Aleppo. As winter grips Syria, families living in damaged or inadequate shelters face freezing temperatures. UNHCR is on the ground providing thermal blankets and winter clothing to help the most vulnerable stay safe and warm. ©UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

Key Highlights

- As of 30 October, **1,164,170 Syrian individuals** have crossed back to Syria from other countries since 8 December 2024.
- At the same time, **over 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)** have returned to their places of origin or intended return inside Syria, including **more than one million** departing from IDP sites in the north of the country. Around **seven million** remain displaced inside Syria.
- Since the year began, **23,375 refugee returnees** have been supported by UNHCR Syria at the key border crossing points with Türkiye and Lebanon. UNHCR and partners continue monitoring their post-return situation through home visits and referring those in need to available services, including at the UNHCR-supported [community centres](#) in their areas of return.
- In Türkiye, under the 36-month Project on “Strengthening national mechanisms for voluntary, safe, dignified and orderly returns to Syria”, funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), the **nationwide voluntary return cash assistance officially launched** on 27 October, extending to all 81 provinces and

targeting beneficiaries of the Social Safety Net (SSN), Complementary SSN (C-SSN), and Persons with Specific Needs (PwSNs) who have expressed an intention to return.

- To address the most pressing requirements of refugee returnees, UNHCR continued the distribution of its **Return and Reintegration Financial Assistance** in Syria, reaching 13,185 returnee families (44,904 individuals) to date.
- UNHCR provided full **Core Relief Item (CRI) kits** to 13,005 returnee and IDP households (61,935 individuals) in Syria during the reporting week.
- The **Syria is Home platform** – a website that offers refugees and IDPs clear information about their rights, answers to common questions about voluntary return, and provides guidance on how to access support and services available in Syria – continued to attract significant attention, with 3,500 visitors recorded during the week.

Country Updates

Syria

As of 30 October, **1,164,170** Syrian individuals have crossed back to Syria from other countries since 8 December 2024. At the same time, **over 1.9 million** internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to their places of origin or intended return inside Syria, including **more than one million** departing from IDP sites in the north of the country. Around **seven million** remain displaced inside Syria.

At Joussieh border crossing point, **157 refugee returnee families (849 individuals)** received logistical and transportation support from Joussieh to various destinations including Homs, Hama, Idlib, Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, and Rural Damascus. At the northern borders, UNHCR and WFP distributed ready-to-eat food baskets and high-energy biscuits to **1,101 returnees** at transit bus stations in Idlib and Aleppo, while UNFPA and UNHCR provided hygiene kits to over **376** women and girls returning to their homes.

Furthermore, on 30 October, around 200 refugees returned from Lebanon through Jdaidet Yabous border crossing point 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.

Since the year began, **23,375 refugee returnees** have been supported at the key border crossing points with Türkiye and Lebanon. UNHCR and partners continue monitoring their post-return situation through home visits and referring those in need to available services, including at the UNHCR-supported **community centres** in their areas of return.

Regarding IDP returns, on 26 October, UNHCR supported the **departure of the third group of persons with urgent medical needs** and their dependents, comprising 12 displaced families (54 individuals), from Al-Hol camp in northeast Syria to Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Dar'a. UNHCR and partners are currently following up on their needs in the areas of return. UNHCR also provided non-food items to support their reintegration at the mentioned destinations.

On 27 October, a repatriation of Iraqi nationals from Al-Hol camp took place. Coordinated by the camp administration and the Government of Iraq, the movement enabled **249 families (840 individuals)** to return to their home country. This transfer marks the 13th convoy in 2025 and the 30th since the start of the repatriation process for Iraqis from Al-Hol. Efforts continue to facilitate the return of Iraqi families who have expressed their willingness to go home, in coordination between the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) and the Iraqi government.

In view of the approaching winter, UNHCR is scaling up its **winterization campaign** across all governorates in Syria. During the reporting week, the UN Refugee Agency distributed winter kits to 575 households (3,335 individuals) in Al Ziyara, Al Zakat, Al Sheer, and Majdal in Hama Governorate. In Lattakia Governorate, 904 households were supported with indoor solar devices. In addition, 2,426 households (8,471 individuals) were assisted with winter items in Al-Hol and Roj camps, and 934 returnee families (5,272 individuals) received winter assistance across Damascus and Rural Damascus Governorates.

To address the most pressing needs of refugee returnees, UNHCR continued the distribution of its **Return and Reintegration Financial Assistance**, reaching 13,185 returnee families (44,904 individuals) to date. In parallel, UNHCR provided full **Core Relief Item (CRI) kits** to 13,005 returnee and IDP households (61,935 individuals) during the reporting week.

Shelter rehabilitation remained a priority, as it is one of the main needs identified among displaced and returned populations. Under its Care and Maintenance programme in IDP sites, UNHCR distributed some 55 tents and initiated rehabilitation works on the main road in Al-Hol camp. In As Sanamayn and Nawa, Dar'a Governorate, the solarization of two Civil Registry Offices will be completed in the coming days – an intervention that will enable IDPs and refugee returnees to restore crucial documentation and access other essential services. In Aleppo, where most returnees are returning to partially or totally damaged homes, UNHCR has initiated the rehabilitation of 58 houses in Bustan Al Basha and Al Huluk.

As part of its **protection monitoring** activities, UNHCR reached 491 households during the reporting week, bringing the cumulative total to 32,872 households that have successfully completed the Protection Monitoring survey.

The **Syria is Home platform** – a website that offers refugees and IDPs clear information about their rights, answers to common questions about voluntary return, and provides guidance on how to access support and services available in Syria – continued to attract significant attention. 3,500 visitors were recorded during the week – 57 per cent male and 43 per cent female users. The largest age groups among visitors were 25-34 years (4.99 per cent), followed by 35-44 years (3.34 per cent), 18-24 years (3.17 per cent), and 45-54 years (1.62 per cent). Most users accessed the platform from Syria, followed by Lebanon, Bulgaria, Jordan, and Türkiye.

Türkiye

Under the 36-month Project on “Strengthening national mechanisms for voluntary, safe, dignified and orderly returns to Syria”, funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), the **nationwide voluntary return cash assistance officially launched** on 27 October, extending to all 81 provinces and targeting beneficiaries of the Social Safety Net (SSN), Complementary SSN (C-SSN), and Persons with Specific Needs (PwSNs) who have expressed an intention to return.

PMM and UNHCR signed a **Protocol on Personal Data Transfer** on 24 October 2025, aiming to ensure that activities related to resettlement, cash assistance, and other related interventions within the scope of the “Project on Strengthening of National Voluntary Return Mechanisms for Voluntary, Safe, Dignified and Orderly Returns to Syria” are carried out securely and effectively.

Processing of voluntary returns continues in provinces and at seven border crossings: Cilvegözü / Bab al Hawa, Yayladağı / Kesen, 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 **over 390,000 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 being 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.

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 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

During the last week, **2,590 refugees registered with UNHCR** returned to Syria, a decrease of 21 per cent when compared to the previous week. With winter setting in and the school year having started in both Jordan and Syria, this decline was expected and projected to continue until summer 2026. As of 25 October, over 166,000 refugees registered with UNHCR have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. 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, and men 18-40 years old made up around 19 per cent of overall returns. Most 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 29 October, the Jordan Whole of Society Network for Displacement led a [national stocktaking event](#) in Jordan, held ahead of the 2025 Global Refugee Forum Progress Review. It [brought together](#) representatives of the Government of Jordan, international organizations, the donor community, civil society, academia, the private sector, and refugees to discuss the future of the refugee response in the context of return to Syria. During the [event](#), refugees expressed different views about the prospect of voluntary return, which were echoed by other stakeholders, including the government.

They raised the question of future integration versus return, given that two generations of Syrians now live in Jordan, and many have deep social and economic ties. Participants also emphasized that some refugees may experience secondary displacement after returning as they no longer have homes in Syria.

As of 28 October, around **1,800 refugees** have been approved for or received cash assistance for voluntary return as part of UNHCR's pilot. Refugees have two weeks to return to Syria after having received the assistance. According to the post-distribution monitoring assessment conducted between 30 September and 26 October among refugees who applied for return cash grants, recipients primarily used the assistance to cover transportation costs, repay debts, or purchase essential items such as clothing and food. Approximately 94 per cent of respondents indicated that the assistance did not significantly influence their decision to return.

Transportation assistance is also continuing. On 30 October, UNHCR facilitated transportation for around 30 refugees from Jordan to Syria. Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported nearly **9,900 refugees** to return to Syria. Additionally, on 28 October, IOM in coordination with UNHCR facilitated a movement for around 60 refugees from Azraq camp. UNHCR conducts interviews and counselling, and IOM covers the costs of transportation and coordinates departures. The return process is closely coordinated with the UNHCR Operation in Syria to support refugees upon arrival at their final destination.

Lebanon

At present, 25,765 Syrians have been monitored as remaining in Akkar and North since March 2025. In June, the peak of arrivals was nearly 40,000 into the area; since then, there has been onward movement internally in Lebanon.

In the Bekaa, figures from Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) remain unchanged. As per the latest update on 13 October, the reported number of arrivals stands at 80,590 individuals.

On 23 October, UNHCR, IOM, and the General Security Office (GSO) facilitated the sixth organized return of 362 Syrians from Beirut to Syria. To date, **1,500 Syrians** underwent the facilitated organized voluntary repatriation programme, including completing voluntariness assessments, issuance of Repatriation Forms and provision of a return cash grant. Seven additional movements are planned for 2025. So far, some 300,000 Syrians have returned from Lebanon to Syria.

UNHCR supported a **successful pilot community-led return initiative** in the Bekaa, which was completed on 20 October. A total of 75 individuals returned from Bar Elias in the Bekaa Valley to Rural Damascus. Organizations Basma and Zeitoonah facilitated transportation and cargo assistance, accompanying the returnees to Syria. UNHCR issued Repatriation Forms and provided a return cash grant of USD 100 per individual.

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 23 October 2025, **over 6,500 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR have returned from Iraq to Syria**. Men represent 37 per cent of the total of returnees, followed by women (24 per cent), boys (20 per cent) and girls (19 per cent). Among them, around 6,300 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 255 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 **continued to decrease** compared to previous weeks with only 28 individuals returning to Syria. 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 28 October 2025, approximately **121,947 Syrian refugees** were registered in Egypt. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 12 per cent 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 28 October 2025, 11,702 closure requests involving around 26,102 individuals were submitted, including on-the-spot closures. Among applicants who closed their files, 63 per cent were male. In terms of origin, 40 per cent came from Damascus, 27 per cent from Rural Damascus, 13 per cent from Homs, 8 per cent from Aleppo, and 12 per cent from other Syrian locations.

Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #50, 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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CONTACTS

UNHCR Syria

SYRIAreporting@unhcr.org

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