

Regional Flash Update #52

Syria situation

8 November 2025



In Babekkeh, western rural Aleppo, UNHCR recently provided winter assistance to 126 displaced families in Al-Nour Camp - a unique settlement for people with visual impairments. Founded on the dream of a blind child, the camp offers a safe space for learning and mutual support. As temperatures dropped, families received heaters, blankets, and winter clothing to stay warm, including Eihab, a blind father of four, grateful for the timely support. ©UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

Key Highlights

- As of 6 November, **1,208,802 Syrian individuals** have crossed back to Syria from other countries since 8 December 2024. Most returnees are coming from Türkiye, followed by Lebanon and Jordan, with smaller numbers from Iraq, Egypt and beyond the region.
- 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 beginning of 2025, **over 24,500 refugee returnees** have been supported at key border crossings with Türkiye and Lebanon. UNHCR and its partners continue to monitor the post-return situation through home visits and referrals to services, including those available at [UNHCR-supported community centres](#).
- On 30 October, UNHCR, IOM, and the General Security Office (GSO) organized the **seventh voluntary return movement** from the Bekaa, Lebanon, via the Masnaa / Jdeidat Yabous Official Border Crossing Point. [The Minister of Social Affairs joined UNHCR and IOM Lebanon](#)

representatives to observe refugees returning to Aleppo, Homs, Damascus, and nearby rural areas. To date, **1,476 Syrians** have taken part in the organized voluntary repatriation programme that includes transportation to Syria. So far, 362,027 Syrian individuals are estimated to have returned to Syria from Lebanon.

- On 1 November, Türkiye's Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya **announced** that **550,000 Syrians have voluntarily returned from Türkiye to Syria** since 8 December 2024.
- To address the most pressing needs of refugee returnees, UNHCR continued the distribution of its **Return and Reintegration Financial Assistance** in Syria, reaching over 45,000 returnees to date.
- As winter sets in, UNHCR has scaled up its **winterization response** across Syria, reaching over 17,000 of displaced and returnee families with essential non-food items. In Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Qamishli, Sweida, Dar'a, Quneitra, and Rural Damascus, families received winter kits including blankets, heaters, mattresses, and clothing to help them withstand the harsh conditions.
- Digital engagement through the **Syria is Home platform** has increased significantly, driven by outreach efforts linked to the 2025 Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) training. During the reporting period, the platform recorded 5,000 visitors, with the majority from Syria, followed by Lebanon, Bulgaria, Jordan, and Germany.

Country Updates

Syria

As of 6 November, **1,208,802 Syrian individuals** have crossed back to Syria from other countries since 8 December 2024. Most returnees are coming from Türkiye, followed by Lebanon and Jordan, with smaller numbers from Iraq, Egypt and beyond the region.

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.

UNHCR continued to provide critical support to refugee returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) across Syria, facilitating safe and dignified returns and promoting sustainable reintegration. At the Joussieh border crossing, 191 families (978 individuals) received transportation assistance to various destinations including Homs, Hama, Idlib, Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Rural Damascus, and Dar'a during the week. At the same time, in northern Syria, WFP and UNHCR distributed ready-to-eat food baskets and high-energy biscuits to 736 returnees at transit bus stations in Idleb and Aleppo, while UNFPA and UNHCR provided hygiene kits to over 338 women and girls.

On 6 November, approximately 400 refugees returned from Lebanon via the Al-Arida border crossing under a joint programme coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and Syria's General Authority for Land and Sea Ports (GALSP). Returnees benefited from **transportation assistance, core relief items, psychosocial support, and legal aid**.

Since the beginning of 2025, **over 24,500 refugee returnees** have been supported at key border crossings with Türkiye and Lebanon. UNHCR and its partners continue to monitor the post-return situation through home visits and referrals to services, including those available at **UNHCR-supported community centres**.

To address the most pressing needs of refugee returnees, UNHCR continued the distribution of its **Return and Reintegration Financial Assistance** in Syria, reaching over 45,000 returnees to date.

In the area of **livelihoods**, 2,170 families have received cash assistance to support income-generating activities. Rehabilitation work is ongoing on five livelihood-related infrastructure projects, including four vocational training centres and schools in Aleppo and Hama, and one public market in Lattakia. All projects are expected to be completed and operational by the end of the year, contributing to local economic recovery and resilience.

UNHCR's **community-based protection** efforts remain robust, with 71 community centres supported across Syria, linked to 83 mobile teams and a network of 1,492 outreach volunteers. Twelve new Community-Led Initiatives (CLIs) were approved in the past week, addressing critical local needs. These include the installation of clean water systems in Zabadani and Qatana (Rural Damascus), benefiting over 1,000 households, and solar-powered lighting in Eastern Ghouta to improve safety and access to education.

On the legal front, UNHCR is strengthening its collaboration with national authorities by enhancing institutional capacities, particularly in restoring civil registries and cadastral offices. Meanwhile, **protection monitoring** efforts remain ongoing, with 431 households reached during the reporting period—bringing the cumulative total to 33,360 households surveyed in 2025.

As winter sets in, UNHCR has scaled up its **winterization response** across Syria, reaching thousands of displaced and returnee families with essential non-food items. In Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Qamishli, Sweida, Dar'a, Quneitra, and Rural Damascus, families received winter kits including blankets, heaters, mattresses, and clothing to help them withstand the harsh conditions. Notably, over 17,500 households received Core Relief Item (CRI) kits this week. These efforts are part of UNHCR's broader strategy to ensure vulnerable populations remain safe, warm, and protected during the winter months, despite ongoing displacement, limited shelter conditions, and rising living costs.

Digital engagement through the **Syria is Home platform** has increased significantly, driven by outreach efforts linked to the 2025 Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) training. During the reporting period, the platform recorded 5,000 visitors, with the majority from Syria, followed by Lebanon, Bulgaria, Jordan, and Germany.

Finally, in response to the **As-Sweida situation**, UNHCR has provided protection services and conducted assessments for at least 36,683 IDPs, including 20,875 individuals in Dar'a, 6,136 in Damascus, 790 in Quneitra, and 8,882 in Sweida. These efforts reflect UNHCR's ongoing commitment to supporting displaced populations and fostering resilience across Syria.

Türkiye

On 1 November, Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya **announced** that since 8 December 2024, **550,000 Syrians have voluntarily returned to Syria**. He added that the cumulative number of voluntary returns since 2016 has reached 1.29 million.

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 over 395,000 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, wish to reclaim property and the need to work. A smaller portion also cited economic difficulties and challenges in accessing housing in country of asylum.

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

During the last week, around **2,600 refugees registered with UNHCR returned to Syria**, which is approximately the same number as the week before. In October alone, over 13,300 refugees returned to Syria, a nearly 20 per cent decrease compared to September, when around 16,000 returned. This drop can be attributed to the start of the academic year and the approaching winter season.

Overall, as of 1 November, **over 167,000 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. 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](#).

As of 1 November, around 2,150 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.

Transportation assistance is also continuing. On 6 November, UNHCR facilitated transportation for around 90 refugees from Jordan to Syria. Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported nearly 9,990 refugees to return to Syria.

Additionally, on 4 November, IOM in coordination with UNHCR facilitated a movement for 15 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

To date, 25,992 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.

As of 31 October, the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Bekaa is reporting 81,114 new arrivals, including 28,939 residing in 156 collective sites, including a small number of Lebanese individuals who had previously resided in Syria.

On 30 October, UNHCR, IOM, and the General Security Office (GSO) organized the seventh voluntary return movement from the Bekaa via the Masnaa Official Crossing Point. [The Minister of Social Affairs joined UNHCR and IOM representatives](#) to observe refugees returning to Aleppo, Homs, Damascus, and nearby rural areas. To date, 1,476 Syrians have taken part in the organized voluntary repatriation programme that includes transportation to Syria. So far, **362,027 Syrian individuals** are estimated to have returned to Syria.

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 30 October 2025, **over 6,500 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR have returned from Iraq to Syria**. Men represent 37% of the total of returnees, followed by women (24%), boys (20%) and girls (19%). 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 20 individuals returning to Syria. Most registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Aleppo, followed by Al-Hasakeh and Damascus. Registered refugees mentioned family reunification and improved security situation in their areas of origin as main reasons to return to Syria.

Egypt

As of 3 November 2025, approximately **120,429 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 3 November 2025, 11,838 closure requests involving around 26,414 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 #51, 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](#)

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