

Regional Flash Update #55

Syria situation

28 November 2025



The rehabilitation of the Sixth Industrial Secondary School (formerly known as Al Khalil Vocational Training School) in Bab Al-Nayrab, Aleppo, which was damaged during the conflict, has been completed. The school is expected to serve 500 youth per year, equipping them with market-relevant skills to enable them access employment or start their own businesses. ©UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

Key Highlights

- As of 27 November, 1,260,240 individuals have returned to Syria since 8 December while 1,950,090 internally displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin/selected destination in the same period.
- UNHCR Syria conducted two refresher training sessions in Damascus and Idlib for 48 newly recruited General Authority for Ports and Customs (GAPS) personnel operating the “Voluntary Return” dedicated windows at 11 border crossings nationwide. The sessions aimed to strengthen the participants’ understanding of key humanitarian principles and established protection standards.
- In Syria, UNHCR provided support to meet the needs of returnees at various border crossing points, including 1,018 returnees who received logistical and transportation support from Joussieh (Syria-Lebanon) border crossing point and at Sarmada and Sejjo bus stations after Bab Al-Hawa and Al-Salama (Syria-Türkiye) crossing points to various destinations. This is in addition to 116 refugees who returned from Lebanon through the Jdeidet Yabous border crossing point

under the joint programme coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and Syria's General Authority for Ports and Customs.

- In Lebanon, the tenth voluntary return movement from Akkar via the Arida Official Crossing Point took place on 20 November, involving 151 individuals and organized by UNHCR, IOM, and the General Security Office (GSO). As of 21 November, 2,383 individuals have returned to Syria from Lebanon through organized movements in cooperation with IOM.
- Since 20 January 2025, UNHCR Jordan has supported transportation for the return of 10,070 refugees. The return process is closely coordinated with UNHCR in Syria to support refugees upon arrival at their final destination.
- A total of 36,360 refugee returnee households (116,707 individuals) in Syria have received return and reintegration grants of \$600 per household, while 560 households (3,582 individuals) have been supported with cash for shelter rehabilitation this year. A batch comprising 1,428 households (8,148 individuals) have received cash for livelihoods, enabling them to establish their own small businesses.

Country Updates

Syria

UNHCR conducted two refresher training sessions in Damascus and Idlib for 48 newly recruited General Authority for Ports and Customs (GAPS) personnel operating the “Voluntary Return” dedicated windows at 11 border crossings nationwide. The sessions aimed to strengthen the participants’ understanding of key humanitarian principles and established protection standards relating to exploitation and abuse, focused on operational application in their daily engagements with refugee returnees. The trainings also provided technical guidance on effectively implementing the various reporting mechanisms and tools in place at the border crossings. UNHCR continues to ensure systematic monitoring of return movements at border points and the collection of critical data to enable timely analysis of return trends and dynamics, in support of targeted community-level interventions in areas of return.

Working in partnership with other agencies, UNHCR continues supporting refugee returnees at various border crossing points with assistance to meet immediate needs. A total of 1,018 returnees were provided with logistical and transportation support from Joussieh (Syria-Lebanon) border crossing point and at Sarmada and Sejjo bus stations after Bab Al-Hawa and Al-Salama (Syria-Türkiye) crossing points to various destinations. UNHCR and WFP distributed ready-to-eat food baskets and high-energy biscuits to 748 returnees at transit bus stations in Idleb and Aleppo, while UNFPA and UNHCR provided hygiene kits to over 221 women and girls returning home.

Furthermore, on 27 November, 116 refugees returned from Lebanon through the Jdeidet Yabous border crossing point under the joint programme coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and Syria’s General Authority for Ports and Customs. The returnees were supported with transportation assistance, relief items, psychosocial support, and legal aid. Since the year began, over 26,000 refugee returnees have received assistance at the key border crossing points with Türkiye and Lebanon.

The distribution of the return and reintegration grants for Syrian refugee returnees has continued, with each eligible household receiving \$600. The total number of beneficiaries currently stands at 36,360 households (116,707 individuals).

To enhance access to safe, sustainable and dignified housing conditions, households have been supported with cash for shelter rehabilitation, with 560 households (3,582 individuals) having benefited this year. Similarly, the cash for livelihoods distribution has so far reached 1,428 households (8,148 individuals).

UNHCR and its partners continued with the winter response, distributing winter kits comprising winter clothing, blankets and plastic sheets to 921 households in Tartous and Lattakia. In Hama, 630 households (3,150 individuals) received winter kits.

Syria is Home: The platform received 2,300 visitors (55.1% male and 44.9% female) and as in the previous week, the highest number of visitors were from Syria. These were followed by Lebanon, Jordan, Türkiye and Germany.

During the reporting period, UNHCR reached out to 301 households, bringing the total to 34,406 households (mainly IDP returnees and refugee returnees) who have participated in the protection monitoring exercise which seeks to inform the overall humanitarian response across Syria by mapping the protection environment, identifying obstacles to return and reintegration as well as potential drivers of new displacement.

The UNHCR-supported legal clinics run by partner the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) conducted 20 legal awareness sessions across Homs, Hama, and Idleb governorates, benefiting more than 350 individuals, primarily returnees and IDPs. In Homs, sessions addressed topics such as personal documentation, custody, legal guardianship, alimony, social insurance, unilateral divorce, customary marriage, and guardianship of minors. In Hama, awareness sessions focused on birth registration and key civil documentation procedures and in Idleb on human trafficking, inheritance, legal evidence, lease contracts, proving lineage, and personal documentation. These efforts aimed to strengthen legal literacy among returnees and other vulnerable groups, offering practical guidance on registration processes, court procedures, documentation pathways, and protection-related legal concepts. In Aleppo and Idleb, UNHCR and its partners continued delivering legal services in high-return areas, supporting 2,558 cases, including through legal counselling, awareness sessions, and court interventions in Jebel Saman and A'zaz sub-districts in Aleppo, and Saraqab, Maaret Tamsrin, and sub-districts in Idleb. In Dar'a, awareness sessions by the SARC legal team covered real estate ownership, lease contracts and family registration as well as legal documents.

Response in Al Hol and Roj camps

Registration for the 31st Iraqi repatriation trip (about 240 households with over 800 individuals) has been finalised, with departure scheduled for 1 December.

Preparations for the first Syrian pilot return are underway, targeting 100 households from Aleppo City and Azaz, with return registration having started on 27 November.

Protection and community mobilization efforts in Al Hol and Roj camps focused on lifesaving awareness sessions, PSEA and fire-safety education, psychosocial and health support, structured life-skills training for women, inclusive recreational activities, and livelihood initiatives, while accountability mechanisms addressed over 350 community complaints and coordinated with partners to improve WASH, shelter, and service delivery – strengthening safety, wellbeing, and community engagement across both camps.

Strategic discussions have taken place with UNICEF and WHO sector leads focusing on the ongoing transition, alignment towards solutions and optimization of service delivery.

Reintegration: In Aleppo, UNHCR continues to follow up and support the returnees from Al Hol camp, with a particular focus on medical cases. UNHCR is also collaborating with UNDP to assist women seeking home-based livelihood opportunities.

Türkiye

On 21 November, PMM reported remarks by [Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz](#), who stated that since 8 December, 560,000 Syrians have voluntarily returned to Syria, rising the total number of returns to 1.3 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 nearly 415,000 Syrians. Currently, UNHCR monitors returns at 25 Provincial Directorate 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. Ad hoc monitoring of voluntary returns from Adana Sarıçam and İstanbul Arnavutköy Temporary Accommodation Centres (TAC) continues.

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, over 2,600 refugees registered with UNHCR returned to Syria, representing a 4 per cent increase compared to the week before when some 2,500 refugees returned. Overall, as of 22 November, nearly 172,000 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](#).

UNHCR provides cash assistance for voluntary return as part of the pilot initiative. Since 13 November, following the expansion of the eligibility criteria to include for all refugees residing in Zaatari and Azraq camps, UNHCR has observed an increase in applications for return cash assistance submitted through the UNHCR Helpline. As of 25 November, over 2,600 refugees have been approved for or received cash assistance. Refugees have two weeks to return to Syria after having received the assistance.

This week, UNHCR facilitated transportation for some 40 refugees to voluntarily return to Syria. Since 20 January 2025, UNHCR supported transportation for the return of 10,070 refugees. The return process is closely coordinated with the UNHCR Operation in Syria to support refugees upon arrival at their final destination.

Lebanon

As of 31 October, a total of 106,491 Syrians have been monitored as post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria. Of these, 66,015 are currently residing in Bekaa and Baalbek- El Hermel, and 29,700 are in Akkar and the North. In addition, around 10,776 arrivals have been reported in other areas.

On 20 November, UNHCR, IOM, and the General Security Office (GSO) organized the tenth voluntary return movement from Akkar via the Arida Official Crossing Point, involving 151 individuals. As of 21 November, 2,383 individuals have returned through organized movements in cooperation with IOM. Three further organized return movements for the remainder of the year are also being scheduled. By the end of October, a total of 32,093 Syrians known to UNHCR have been assisted to return through a self-organized way or through organized movements in cooperation with IOM. As of the end of October, 335,749 Syrians have been inactivated from the UNHCR database as having returned.

Since 8 December 2024, UNHCR estimates some 383,326 Syrians have returned from or via Lebanon. Returns are taking place through official and unofficial border crossing points, which complicates tracking. Since January 2025, 335,749 Syrians known to UNHCR have been inactivated by either confirmation or presumed return to Syria.

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 20 November 2025, over 6,700 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, over 6,400 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 277 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, only 56 registered Syrian refugees returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point. 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 24 November 2025, approximately 119,519 Syrian refugees were registered in Egypt. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 11% 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 24 November 2025, 12,201 closure requests involving around 27,254 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 #54, 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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