

Regional Flash Update #53

Syria situation

14 November 2025



The legal team of UNHCR partner the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) conducts an awareness-raising session for students from IDP and returnee families at a school in Quneitra. ©UNHCR/Field Office Sweida

Key Highlights

- As of 13 November, **over 3.1 million displaced Syrians** have returned to their areas of origin/choice since 8 December, of whom 1,227,738 are individuals who have returned to Syria from other countries and 1,944,762 were IDPs, returning mainly from IDP sites in northwest and northeast Syria.
- UNHCR supported more than 300 refugee returnees with logistical and transportation support from Joussieh (Syria-Lebanon) border crossing point and at Sarmada bus station after Bab Al-Hawa (Syria-Türkiye) crossing point to various destinations in Syria.
- Since the year began, UNHCR Syria has supported over 25,000 refugee returnees at the key border crossing points with Türkiye and Lebanon.
- In Lebanon, on 6 November, UNHCR, IOM, and the General Security Office organized the eighth voluntary return movement from Tripoli via the Arida Official Crossing Point, involving 394 individuals. This was the largest organized movement since the start of the programme.

- In Syria, 32,213 households of vulnerable refugee returnees (115,642 individuals) have so far received return and reintegration grants amounting to USD 600 per household to support them meet immediate needs on return.
- In Jordan, UNHCR expanded its pilot initiative of cash assistance for voluntary return to include all refugees in camps interested in return to Syria. Previously the pilot was limited to refugees meeting certain vulnerability criteria. As of 10 November, nearly 2,350 refugees have been approved for or received cash assistance for voluntary return as part of the pilot initiative.

Country Updates

Syria

During the past week, 14,074 individuals were recorded as having returned to Syria, bringing the total to **1,227,738 individuals** who have returned since 8 December. Damascus is currently the main governorate of intended return for refugee returnees at 18% of all returnees, followed by Aleppo (16%), Idlib (14%), Homs (12%) and Rural Damascus (12%).

Similarly, 12,155 IDP returnees were recorded across various databases as having returned from displacement, with the cumulative number of IDP returnees standing at **1,944,762 individuals**, of whom 1,062,229 departed from IDP sites in northwest and northeast Syria. The main governorates of intended return stand as Aleppo (40% of IDP returnees), Hama (16%), Idlib (14%), Homs (14%) and Rural Damascus (6%).

UNHCR supported over 300 refugee returnees with logistical and transportation support from Joussieh (Syria-Lebanon) border crossing point and at Sarmada bus station after Bab Al-Hawa (Syria-Türkiye) crossing point to various destinations. UNHCR and WFP distributed ready-to-eat food baskets and high-energy biscuits to 791 returnees at transit bus stations in Idlib and Aleppo, while UNFPA and UNHCR provided hygiene kits to over 236 women and girls returning home.

Furthermore, on 13 November, 400 refugees returned from Lebanon through the 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 benefited from transportation assistance, relief items, psychosocial support, and legal aid.

Since the year began, over 25,000 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 referral to available services, including at the UNHCR-supported [community centres](#) in areas of return.

The distribution of return and reintegration grants for refugee returnees continues, with the assistance amount of USD 600 per household. A total of 32,213 households (115,642 individuals) have so far benefited from the assistance.

Ahead of the upcoming winter season, UNHCR and partners continue with the distribution of winter and Core Relief Item kits (including blankets, plastic sheets and winter clothing) to households including returnees and IDPs. In Homs, 470 newly returned families in Al Houla region received kits, as well as 666 families in Hama. In Aleppo, 1,555 internally displaced and refugee returnee households across Tal Refaat enclave, Fafin (northeast), southern rural villages, and western rural Aleppo received winter kits. In northeast Syria, 79 internally displaced households in Areesha camp (335 individuals) received winter items while 6 households (20 individuals) in Al Hol and Roj camps

were assisted with winter items and CRIs. In Lattakia, UNHCR in partnership with SARC distributed 315 NFI kits to returnees in the governorate. In Sweida, CRI kits were distributed to 415 households (2,075 individuals).

As part of efforts to assist individuals who lost civil documentation following the recent incidents in Sweida, UNHCR successfully advocated with the Civil Affairs Directorate to facilitate the issuance and recovery of essential documents through UNHCR partners' lawyers. Although civil documentation services in the governorate remain suspended, a coordination mechanism has been established allowing legal partners in coordination with UNHCR to process cases through the Civil Affairs Directorate in Damascus. In addition, since the start of the emergency in July, more than 2,761 legal consultations including legal interventions have been provided to people in Sweida, Dar'a, Quneitra and Damascus as well as awareness sessions on legal services, focusing on civil documentation.

UNHCR has approved eight (8) Community-Led Initiatives, each aimed at tackling pressing protection issues and strengthening community resilience. Among these is the establishment of a training room in Darraya, Rural Damascus, to equip residents with soft skills and business development skills, expected to benefit 200 individuals in the first year. Another significant initiative focuses on bolstering a local medical center in Hamorria, Rural Damascus, which will directly support approximately 1,000 residents.

The [Syria is Home](#) platform received 3,700 visitors (55,8% male and 44,2 % female), with the highest number from Syria followed by Lebanon, Türkiye, Jordan, and Germany. The platform provides credible and comprehensive information about the conditions in Syria and on key procedures, enabling Syrians to make informed decisions about the return home as well as get information on UNHCR's and other available services.

As part of its protection monitoring exercise, UNHCR and partners reached out to 276 households, bringing the total to 33,693 households (mainly IDP returnees and refugee returnees) interviewed. Additionally, 37 key informant interviews were conducted adding up to 2,007 interviews which have taken place nationwide so far. The exercise supports to inform UNHCR's humanitarian response across Syria by mapping the protection environment, identifying obstacles to return and reintegration, as well as potential drivers of new displacement, thereby supporting both sustainability and risk prevention efforts.

Türkiye

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 400,000 Syrians. Currently, UNHCR monitors returns at 25 Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMM) offices, in 22 provinces, following the inclusion of two additional offices in Kilis, 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 Temporary Accommodation Centre (TAC) continues, and has been extended to the İstanbul Arnavutköy TAC.

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 2,850 refugees registered with UNHCR returned to Syria, representing a 9 per cent decrease compared to the week before when some 2,600 refugees returned. Overall, as of 8 November, over 169,000 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 expanded its pilot initiative of cash assistance for voluntary return to include all refugees in camps who are interested in return to Syria. Previously the pilot was limited to refugees in camps meeting certain vulnerability criteria.

As of 10 November, nearly 2,350 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. Refugees who received cash assistance for voluntary return reported that their spending priorities mainly include transportation, debt repayment, and basic items like clothing and food.

Cash assistance for voluntary return complements transportation assistance provided by UNHCR for refugees in communities. Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported nearly 9,990 refugees to return to Syria.

On 11 November, IOM in coordination with UNHCR facilitated a movement for 33 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

Since 8 December 2024, a total of 106,491 Syrians have been monitored as post-Dec 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. ([Lebanon - Syrian Returns & Movements Snapshot 31 October 2025](#))

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.

On 6 November, UNHCR, IOM, and the General Security Office (GSO) organized the eighth voluntary return movement from Tripoli via the Arida Official Crossing Point, involving 394 individuals. This was the largest organized movement since the start of the programme. By the end of October, a total of 32,093 Syrians known to UNHCR have been assisted to return through voluntariness assessments, provision of Repatriation Forms and return cash grants ([Voluntary Repatriation Programme - Lebanon, 31 October 2025](#)).

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 6 November 2025, over 6,600 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 6,300 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 265 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 slightly increased compared to previous weeks with only 45 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 11 November 2025, approximately **120,030** 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 11 November 2025, 11,978 closure requests involving around 26,756 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 #52, 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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