

Syria

Global Appeal 2026 situation overview

Countries affected: **Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye**

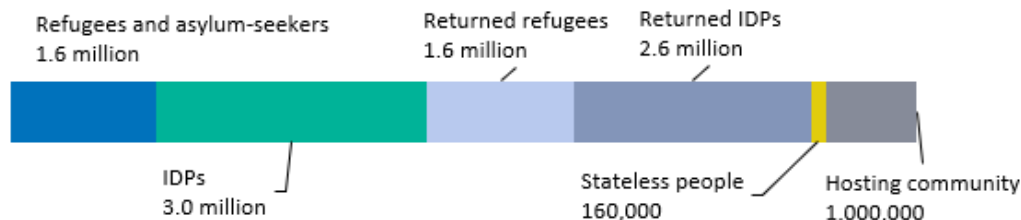


Jassim gestures as he stands near the rubble of his destroyed home in Al-Qusayr, Homs governorate, Syrian Arab Republic, while his wife looks on. The couple returned after more than ten years in Lebanon and now live in a tent set up on the ruins of their former house.

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2026 Population planning figures

10 million forcibly displaced, stateless people and returnees



The fall of the Assad government of the Syrian Arab Republic in December 2024 marked a turning point in Syria, contributing to significant changes in population movements and humanitarian needs. As of mid-November 2025, Syrians remain one of the largest refugee populations worldwide, with some 4.5 million registered refugees hosted in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Türkiye. Meanwhile, new opportunities are emerging inside Syria. The collapse of the former regime and the partial lifting of

international sanctions have opened pathways for peace, recovery, and stability. Since December 2024, more than 1,200,000 Syrians have returned to the Syrian Arab Republic, alongside over 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have gone back to their areas of origin.

However, the situation remains complex. In March 2025, widespread violence erupted in Syria's coastal areas – primarily in Latakia,

Tartus, Banias, and surrounding Alawite-majority communities.

In July 2025, escalating hostilities in As-Sweida Governorate triggered the largest wave of internal displacement in the south since 2018. Humanitarian access was severely restricted due to widespread insecurity, road closures, and disruptions to power and communication networks.

At the same time, **Lebanon** has seen a significant number of new arrivals from Syria. Since the fall of the former Syrian Government in December 2024 and the escalation of violence in coastal areas in March 2025, approximately 108,000 Syrians have newly arrived in Lebanon, primarily into Bekaa, Baalbek-Hermel, the North, and Akkar. Many face acute protection risks and are living in precarious conditions. Humanitarian actors are responding through targeted recording and in-kind assistance, while continuing to advocate for joint registration and a comprehensive legal and shelter framework, in coordination with the Government of Lebanon.

In **northeast Syria**, Al-Hol and Al-Roj camps currently host over 28,000 individuals, primarily Syrian refugees, in a context of volatility and insecurity that continues to impact conditions in and around the camps. Until solutions are found for all residents, including Syrians, Iraqis, and third-country nationals, sustained humanitarian assistance remains critical. Facilitating the return of Syrians and Iraqis from these camps requires a coordinated, inter-agency effort to ensure returns are voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable. Increased investment in areas of return and integration support is essential. UNHCR is working very closely with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and other UN agencies on the provision of services in the camp and solutions, including reintegration. UNHCR and the RC/HC created a Damascus-based Task Force on Al-Hol to provide overall



Budget needs for the Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries in 2026:

\$1.328 billion

guidance to and coordination of the work of the UN agencies.

By mid-November 2025, displacement patterns within and from the Syrian Arab Republic remained complex. In response, UNHCR significantly expanded its support to returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), focusing on protection, housing, civil documentation, and basic assistance. To support return and reintegration, UNHCR operationalized the [2025 Voluntary Return Operational Framework](#), providing a principled structure for assistance to refugees and IDPs. Under this framework, UNHCR and partners have implemented community-based projects in key areas of return and expanded legal aid services to address documentation gaps.

The outlook for 2026 and the situation of Syrian refugees in hosting countries is concerning, due to uncertainty around a peaceful solution to the crisis and growing conflicts in the region, coupled with limited funding and decreasing humanitarian and resilience support. Lack of employment and livelihood opportunities remain among the biggest challenges refugees face in their daily lives. Restrictive host country practices and policies have created a more adverse protection environment for Syrian refugees and deepened social tensions. Maintaining assistance to Syrian refugees in host countries in the region will remain of paramount importance, given that the majority of refugees are likely to remain there into the medium term.

At the same time, there is a strong indication that returns will continue across the region in 2026.

In September 2025, UNHCR issued its [Enhanced Regional Survey on Syrian Refugees' Perceptions and Intentions on Return to Syria](#). Overall, 80% of refugees interviewed express a desire to return to Syria one day. However, conditions inside Syria, particularly related to safety, housing, employment and livelihoods, and access to basic services, remain the key barriers to sustainable return.

In 2026, UNHCR will continue to reinforce border and protection monitoring, producing regular analytical updates to inform inter-agency planning and advocacy. Despite the volatile security environment, including ongoing hostilities and sporadic airstrikes,

UNHCR will continue to maintain a strong field presence and adapt its response to reach conflict-affected populations.

At the regional level, UNHCR will continue advocating for Syrians' right to seek asylum, while calling for sustained support to hosting countries and areas of return. Recognizing the long-standing generosity of host states, the importance of inclusive approaches that strengthen national systems and promote durable solutions has been emphasized.

In 2026, UNHCR will continue to work closely with humanitarian and development actors, including UN and NGO partners, both inside Syria and in the region through the [Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan \(3RP\)](#).



As winter grips Syria, displaced and returnee families continue to endure freezing conditions in damaged or inadequate shelters. UNHCR is on the ground providing winter kits and cash assistance to help the most vulnerable stay safe and warm. © UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

