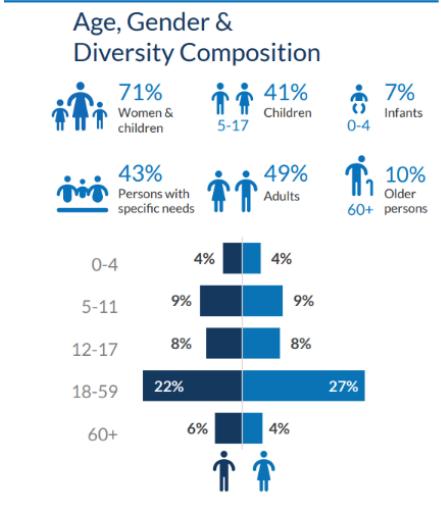
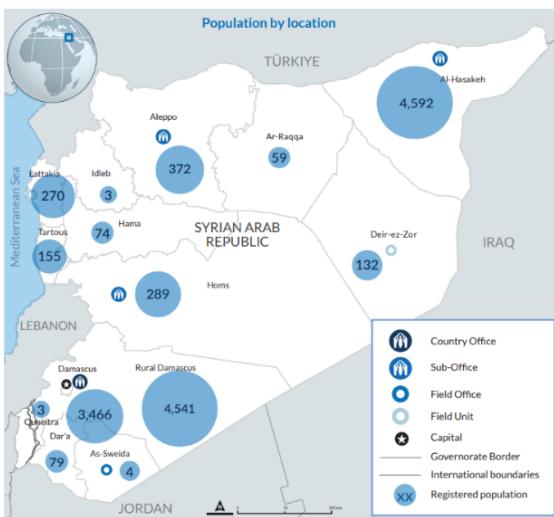


Refugee Protection Factsheet

As of End of December 2025

Overview

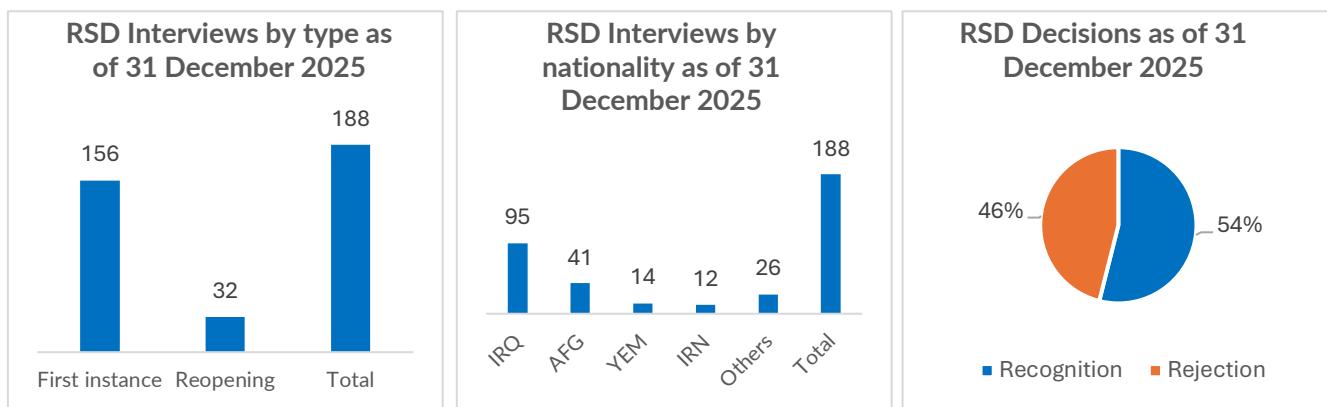
As of 31 December 2025, Syria hosted a total of 14,039 refugees and asylum-seekers, comprising 9,884 refugees and 4,155 asylum-seekers. Iraqis constitute the largest population group, representing 77% of the total population. Other registered nationalities include Afghans (7%), Sudanese (7%), and Yemenis (3%), while the remaining 6% consist of other nationalities. Women account for 51% of the population, compared to 49% men. Children represent 41% of the total population, and 43% of all registered individuals are identified as having specific needs. Refugees and asylum-seekers are primarily residing in urban areas, with the majority located in Damascus and Al-Hasakeh governorates.



Refugee Status Determination

Refugee Status Determination (RSD) is the legal administrative process by which governments and UNHCR determine whether a person seeking international protection is considered a refugee under international, regional, or national laws. RSD is often a vital process in helping refugees realize their rights under international law. In agreement with the Government of Syria, UNHCR conducts RSD for asylum-seekers in the country.

As per UNHCR's global strategic direction for Refugee Status Determination (RSD), the strategic use of RSD is being implemented by UNHCR Syria, i.e. that RSD is only undertaken when and where it leads to clear protection dividends and, as part of a broader protection strategy, other protection interventions that may be equally effective are explored. More information on RSD case processing may be found below.



Durable Solutions

Integration

Protection services delivered through UNHCR-supported community centres and mobile teams played a central role in promoting the integration, safety, and self-reliance of refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria. Community centres functioned as “one-stop shops” for protection services, offering legal assistance, psychosocial support, child protection services, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, livelihood activities, and referral services. This integrated service delivery approach created an enabling environment for community-level inclusion.

Legal aid provided by UNHCR was critical in supporting refugees and asylum-seekers to obtain annual and temporary residency permits, as required by law, as well as essential civil documentation necessary for participation in social, economic, and public life. In 2025, a total of 3,972 refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from legal aid services. Of these, 2,255 individuals successfully obtained annual or temporary residency permits without incurring fines or fees related to late registration or delayed renewal.

Resettlement

Resettlement remains one of the most sought-after solutions by refugees. However, due to the current scenario of limited quotas offered by resettlement countries most refugees are unable to access it.

In 2025, UNHCR facilitated departure arrangements for 13 families (42 individuals) of various nationalities who were accepted for resettlement to the United Kingdom. These refugees were relocated from Damascus to the Emergency Transit Center (ETC) in Romania in preparation for onward resettlement to the United Kingdom. Additionally, under Complementary Pathways, UNHCR supported the departure of 4 families (12 individuals) through private sponsorship to Canada. Moreover, 79 refugees were assessed for RST, however no cases were submitted as they did not meet the threshold for urgent/emergency submissions.

Voluntary Repatriation

In 2025, UNHCR provided counselling to 67 refugees and asylum-seekers who expressed an interest in receiving assistance to return to their country of origin. Within this process, UNHCR shared relevant country of origin information and details regarding the assistance that may be available to support their repatriation. Despite comprehensive counselling, only one case has decided to proceed with voluntary repatriation to Iraq in 2025.

Community Engagement and Accountability

The Solutions Helpline provided regular counselling to refugees and asylum-seekers, offering accurate information on the status of individual cases and managing expectations related to Refugee Status Determination (RSD), resettlement, and voluntary repatriation. The helpline also facilitated referrals to available protection services in refugees' and asylum-seekers' areas of residence. By the end of December 2025, a total of 765 refugees and asylum-seekers had received counselling through this mechanism.

UNHCR also organized town hall meetings with refugees and asylum-seekers, during which questions related to RSD procedures, durable solutions, and available assistance were addressed. In addition, weekly in-person protection counselling sessions were reactivated to strengthen two-way communication and support the identification and referral of refugees and asylum-seekers in need of services and assistance. Through these structured dialogue mechanisms, refugees and asylum-seekers were able to raise protection concerns, receive individualized counselling, and access clear and transparent information on legal processes, available services, and their rights.