

# Regional Flash Update #63

## Syria situation

6 February 2026



As part of his visit to Jordan, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Barham Salih, met with refugees in Zaatari Refugee Camp where they shared their challenges, hopes, and aspirations. ©UNHCR/Shawkat Alharfoush

## Key Highlights

- As of 5 February, UNHCR estimates that **1,413,967 individuals** have returned to Syria since 8 December 2024 while **1,712,744 internally displaced persons** have returned home.
- From 28 to 31 January, the United Nations [High Commissioner for Refugees, Barham Salih](#), [undertook his first official visit to Türkiye](#) and [Jordan](#) following the assumption of his functions. The visit in Türkiye highlighted the strong cooperation between UNHCR and the Presidency of Migration Management and reaffirmed the importance of UNHCR's role in monitoring voluntary returns. In Jordan, the High Commissioner reaffirmed UNHCR's deep appreciation for the country's steadfast partnership and humanitarian commitment and emphasized the importance of maintaining strong international support for Jordan.
- UNHCR participated in the second 22-truck humanitarian convoy dispatched to Ain Al-Arab (Kobani) in northern Syria following the first on 24 January. In the second convoy, UNHCR dispatched three trucks loaded with 500 Core Relief Item and winterization kits to support the affected population.

- UNHCR provided 76 families (387 individuals) returning to Syria with transportation and logistical assistance from Joussieh/Lebanon border crossing point to various destinations in the country.
- A total of 222 households (1,314 individuals) mainly comprising returnees in Aleppo, Hama, Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Tartous, Homs, Latakia, Ar-Raqqa, and Al-Quneitra received cash grants from UNHCR to enable them launch or sustain their businesses.
- UNHCR Egypt launched its new online self-verification service on the [MyUNHCR](#) platform on 28 January, which allows refugees to update their personal data, access up-to-date residency appointment information and facilitates communication with immigration authorities

## Country Updates

### Syria

As of 5 February, UNHCR estimates that **1,413,967 individuals** have returned to Syria since 8 December 2024 while **1,712,744 IDPs** have returned home.

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UNHCR provided 76 families (387 individuals) returning to Syria with transportation and logistical assistance from Joussieh (Lebanon) border crossing point to various destinations in Syria. Since 2025, UNHCR has assisted over 32,000 returnees at the key border crossing points with Türkiye and Lebanon.

UNHCR received two organized return convoys from Jordan, consisting of about 100 returnees, through Nassib border crossing point. UNHCR and its partners facilitated the returnees' transportation to destinations in Hama, Homs and Aleppo.

On 5 February, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary return of 95 families from Areesha IDP camp, bringing the total to 283 families supported. An estimated 50 to 60 families remain, primarily due to destroyed homes or lack of means to secure rental accommodation in their areas of origin.

UNHCR also supported the voluntary departure of 22 families from Abu Khashab camp on 4 February, raising the total to 177 assisted families.

UNHCR continues providing integrated protection services through its network of 67 community centres across the 14 Syrian governorates supported by 78 mobile units and a network of 1,513 outreach volunteers. In Homs, case management and GBV awareness sessions were held in several community centres while in Hama, focus group discussions were conducted at the Murak Community Centre to identify priority protection concerns. In Aleppo and Idlib, partners Namaa, Al-Ehsan and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) conducted child protection prevention activities for 716 children and caregivers, including 190 IDP and refugee returnees, focusing on explosive ordnance risk education and integration with others. SARC and the Syrian Development Organisation (SDO) legal teams in Tartous conducted 20 legal awareness sessions attended by 282 individuals from returnee, IDP, and host communities. The sessions focused on personal status and civil documentation issues, marriage confirmation and registration, housing, land and property matters, such as sale and lease contracts, their regulation and termination, and the distinction between sale contracts and the legal transfer of ownership. In addition, the teams provided a total of 272 legal consultations across both Latakia and Tartous governorates.

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**Syria is Home:** The platform, which provides information aimed at supporting individuals to make informed decisions about returning to Syria, received 2,000 visitors (56.4% male and 43.6% female), the highest number from Syria followed by Lebanon, Türkiye, Jordan and Iraq.

UNHCR participated in the Annual Review and Planning Workshop organized by the Education Sector that brought together the Ministry of Education, Education Directorates, sector partners, and key stakeholders from 14 governorates, to review the progress achieved in 2025 and collaboratively shape the Education Sector strategic direction for 2026.

### **Situation in northeast Syria**

The IDP Task Force has recorded the displacement of 157,500 individuals from Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates following the recent escalations, with the majority in Qamishli district (70,000) and Al-Malakiyeh (29,000). A total of 34,800 individuals currently reside in collective shelters.

As of 4 February, UNHCR had assisted 14,330 newly displaced individuals with Core Relief Items including kitchen sets, mattresses, blankets, jerrycans and solar lamps, primarily in collective shelters.

Community centres in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates provided mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence awareness, PSEA and mine risk education sessions for newly displaced individuals.

UNHCR assisted the voluntary return of 100 families who departed Areesha camp on 5 February. UNHCR jointly visited the camp with the Deir-ez-Zor Department of Labor and Social Affairs to meet with the approximately 70 families who are remaining in the camp without viable alternative solutions to determine how they can be supported to return.

### **Türkiye**

From 28 to 31 January, the UN [High Commissioner for Refugees, Barham Salih](#), undertook his first official visit to Türkiye following the assumption of his functions. On the final day of the visit, he travelled to Kilis, where he met with the Governor of Kilis and visited the Öncüpınar-Bab al Salam border crossing to observe voluntary return procedures alongside the President of Migration Management. The visit highlighted the strong cooperation between UNHCR and the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) and reaffirmed the importance of UNHCR's mandated role in monitoring voluntary returns.

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 approximately 458,000 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 at border gates and PDMM offices in key border and metropolitan provinces, which were also among the main places of residence for returnees prior to departure. A small number of individuals were interviewed in TACs and at airports.

The main reasons for return have remained unchanged over time, with political developments, improved security, and family reunification or taking care of family members continuing to be the most frequently cited factors. Other reasons include nostalgia or homesickness, economic difficulties, housing challenges, property-related issues, and employment needs.

The majority of returnees continued to head to provinces in northern Syria, with Aleppo, Idlib, Hama and Damascus among the most common destinations. Regarding accommodation, some returnees reported having no accommodation available in Syria, while others planned to stay with close family members or relatives. While many indicated that their houses were intact, others reported partial damage or destruction. A significant portion confirmed they held valid documentation proving property ownership.

Civil documentation continues to pose challenges for a minority of returnees, with some lacking any Syrian-issued papers. Among those who held documentation, national identity cards and family booklets were the most common. Documentation of family events in Türkiye varied, with births and deaths more consistently recorded than marriages and divorces.

The demographic profile reflects a balanced gender distribution, with children representing a significant share of the population.

Prior to departure from Türkiye, many returnees were unemployed, while others were engaged in skilled trades or craftsmanship. Upon return to Syria, a considerable number anticipated having no immediate income and reported plans to seek employment.

## **Jordan**

From 18 to 31 January, more than 2,000 refugees returned from Jordan to Syria. Over 4,500 refugees returned in January alone, making it the second lowest month for returns since March 2025. Overall, since 8 December 2024, nearly 182,000 refugees have returned from Jordan to Syria.

According to UNHCR's analysis of return movements in 2025, returns occurred in two main waves. The first followed political changes, with high returns in January–February, driven by optimism, before declining in March due to Ramadan and security incidents in the coastal areas of Syria. The second wave took place in the summer months, between June and August, as many refugees postponed return until the end of the academic year to avoid disrupting their children's education. Approximately 57 per cent of refugees returned as complete family units, while in the rest of the cases one or more family members returned, leaving the rest of the family behind.

Throughout the autumn, UNHCR observed a gradual decline in returns, particularly after the start of the school year. Feedback collected from refugees in 2025 consistently highlighted preference to postpone returning during the colder months due to challenging housing conditions in Syria, which can explain the low return rate in January 2026. A slight rise in returns is anticipated after Ramadan and during the summer of 2026 after the school year ends.

Based on intention surveys, most refugees who wish to return intend to go back to their governorate of origin. The place of origin of most returnees was Dara'a, followed by Homs and Rural Damascus.

More than half (54 per cent) of refugees returning in 2025 were of working age (18-64). More information about the number and profile of refugees returning from Jordan to Syria is available on [UNHCR return dashboard](#).

UNHCR Jordan assists refugees with returns through counselling, information sharing, transportation and cash assistance. This includes nearly 4,400 refugees who received the cash assistance for a voluntary return pilot launched in September 2025 and 10,485 refugees who used UNHCR provided buses to support voluntary return to Syria since January 2025, including 35 passengers this week. In addition, UNHCR continues to support movements organized by IOM, by conducting in-depth voluntary repatriation interviews and counselling from the camps and referring eligible cases to IOM for arranging transportation. This week, IOM supported a movement for 35 refugees from Azraq camp, whom UNHCR had interviewed and counselled in preparation for these movements. IOM covers the costs of the transportation for these movements and coordinates the departure.

In 2025, UNHCR reached over 55,000 refugees with assistance for voluntary return.<sup>1</sup> Through various digital channels, over half a million received information relating to return. 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 115,006 Syrians have been recorded arriving in Lebanon. Of these, 63,200 are residing in the Bekaa and Baalbek-EI Hermel governorates, 33,968 in the Akkar and North governorates, and 17,838 in other regions. These figures include individuals who have relocated internally from their initial arrival points.

Since January 2025, 501,603 Syrian individuals known to UNHCR have been inactivated from UNHCR's database due to both confirmed and presumed returns to Syria. By the end of December 2025, a total of 54,673 Syrian individuals known to UNHCR benefited from the facilitated return programmes, including voluntariness assessments, issuance of Repatriation Forms and provision of a return cash grant of USD 100 per returning individual. ([Voluntary Repatriation Programme - Lebanon, 31 December 2025](#))

Following the closure of Arida Official Crossing Point (OCP) due to the collapse of the Arida bridge caused by heavy rains in January, the crossing remains under repair. Masnaa and Qaa OCPs are currently the only operational official border crossings between Lebanon and Syria.

The second organized voluntary return movement of 2026, facilitated by UNHCR and IOM, is currently scheduled for 25 February, departing from Zahle via the Masnaa OCP.

## Iraq

In 2026, 111 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR have returned to Syria (adding to the 6,988 Syrian refugees who returned in 2025). Among them 85 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in

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<sup>1</sup> As part of the voluntary return support, a refugee may legitimately receive multiple types of assistance such as counselling, legal aid, and transportation to support their safe return.

Zakho Administration. Another 26 registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Syria via Erbil airport, with border authorities sharing a copy of their registration certificate with UNHCR.

In the third week of January 2026, 2 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point, this compared to 21 individuals the week before. The registered refugees returned to Al-Hasakeh. The situation North-East Syria continues to limit returns from Iraq to Syria as individuals fear the unstable security situation and escalations between Government forces and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Registered refugees mentioned wanting to reunite with family and a lack of employment opportunities in Iraq as the main reasons behind return.

## Egypt

As of 2 February 2026, over 113,492 Syrian refugees were registered in Egypt. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 10% 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, which is a prerequisite before leaving Egypt to return to Syria. Between 8 December 2024 and 2 February 2026, 13,514 closure requests involving around 30,327 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 governorates.

**MyUNHCR platform launches online in Egypt self-verification for refugees in Egypt.** UNHCR Egypt launched its new online self-verification service on the MyUNHCR platform on 28 January, marking a significant step toward digitizing and streamlining refugee documentation procedures. The platform allows refugees to update their personal data, access up-to-date residency appointment information, facilitate communication with immigration authorities, while supporting increased technological integration to improve service delivery and data accuracy. The initial rollout targets 36,524 refugees whose certificates are due to expire in February. Since the launch, over 4,000 individuals - approximately 5 percent of those eligible - have successfully completed the self-verification process and will be scheduled to collect their renewed documents. Two informational videos introducing the service were released alongside the launch and have so far received positive feedback from users.

## Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #62, 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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