

Regional Flash Update #64

Syria situation

13 February 2026



Floods hit 21 sites hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Idlib and Lattakia governorates, Syria. UNHCR supported families with essential items including winter clothing. ©UNHCR/Hamed Maarouf

Key Highlights

- As of 12 February, UNHCR estimates that **1,447,781 individuals** have returned to Syria since 8 December 2024.
- On 8 February, floods hit 21 IDP sites in Idlib and Lattakia, Syria, affecting about 5,300 internally displaced persons. UNHCR assisted families whose property and shelter had been destroyed with essential items including winter clothing.
- UNHCR has distributed Core Relief Items including mattresses, blankets, solar lamps, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, and jerry cans to 16,255 newly displaced individuals residing in collective centers in Al-Hassakeh Governorate, northeast Syria.
- UNHCR has further enhanced living conditions in 62 collective shelters hosting the displaced in northeast Syria, using canvas rolls to install standardized flooring solutions to improve insulation and protection from cold and moisture.
- Since the beginning of the year, 10,784 vulnerable households (39,449 individuals) that returned to Syria have received cash assistance/return grants to enable them meet essential needs.

- During the week, UNHCR provided 66 families (326 individuals) returning to Syria with transportation and logistical assistance from Joussieh border (Lebanon-Syria) to various destinations. Since 2025, UNHCR has assisted over 32,500 returnees at the key border crossing points with Türkiye and Lebanon.

Country Updates

Syria

UNHCR estimates that **1,447,781 individuals** have returned to Syria since 8 December 2024. The main governorates of return remain Damascus, Aleppo, Idleb, Homs and Rural Damascus.

On 8 February, floods hit 21 IDP sites in Idleb and Lattakia, affecting about 5,300 IDPs (OCHA). UNHCR joined a multi-agency assessment mission coordinated by OCHA and provided affected families with winter clothing.

Border monitoring continued throughout the week, and at Joussieh border crossing point, return figures remained stable, averaging ~18 families per day. UNHCR provided 66 families (326 individuals) returning to Syria with transportation and logistical assistance from Joussieh to various destinations. Since 2025, UNHCR has assisted over 32,500 returnees at the key border crossing points with Türkiye and Lebanon.

UNHCR received and supported 23 households (67 individuals) returning from Amman, Mafraq, and Irbid to Dar'a, Damascus and Homs.

UNHCR has continued supporting refugee returnees, including through provision of cash assistance/return grants to vulnerable households to enable them meet essential needs upon return. This year, 10,784 households (39,449 individuals) have received the assistance.

Up to 318 households (2,005 individuals) have received cash assistance under the cash for livelihoods programme to support them set up income-generating activities aimed at enhancing their self-reliance.

The distribution of winter items, including clothing and carpets, continued in Homs and Hama governorates. In Homs, 417 newly returned families received winter clothing and carpets while in Hama, 248 newly returned families (1,240 individuals) in Al-Suqaylabiyah, Bab Al Taka, Hawez, and Qalaat Al Madiq, where some households had been affected by bad weather conditions, also received support.

On 5 February, the Inter-Agency Referral Task Force launched the roll out of the new referral mechanism across HCT-coordinated areas. The system aims to standardize and strengthen cross-sector referrals, ensuring individuals with protection needs have timely access to coordinated non-protection services.

Situation in northeast Syria

The IDP Task Force reports that 143,500 individuals have been displaced from Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, and Ar Raqqa governorates following the recent escalations. Of these, 61,800 are currently hosted in Qamishli district and 19,900 in Al-Malakiyah.

UNHCR Response

UNHCR has distributed Core Relief Items including mattresses, blankets, solar lamps, kitchen sets, plastic sheets and jerry cans to 16,255 newly displaced individuals residing in collective centers in Al-Hassakeh Governorate.

UNHCR has used canvas rolls to install standardized flooring solutions in collective shelters, improving insulation and protection from cold and moisture. To date, 62 collective centers have been supported with 1,344 canvas roll kits, enhancing living conditions for displaced families.

UNHCR provided shelter support to displaced families hosted in abandoned houses lacking windows and doors in the Tartab area of Qamishli. In light of harsh weather conditions, UNHCR produced 121 doors and 119 windows, benefiting 100 families and significantly improving safety, privacy, and overall living conditions.

Community centers in Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor Governorates are open and continue to provide protection services to newly displaced individuals as well as other population groups.

UNHCR's Deir-ez-Zor Field Office, through its partner SARC, has distributed core relief items and winter kits in Ar-Raqqa and Tabqa, covering 76 families.

Türkiye

The 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.

Since 8 December 2024, UNHCR has monitored the voluntary repatriation of approximately 463,000 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 as well as İstanbul Arnavutköy Temporary Accommodation Centre (TAC).

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 economic difficulties, nostalgia or homesickness, 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 depart 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 1 to 7 February, nearly 1,400 refugees registered with UNHCR returned from Jordan to Syria, a 27 per cent increase compared to the previous week when around 1,100 refugees returned. Overall, since 8 December 2024, over 183,000 refugees have returned from Jordan to Syria. 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 4,800 refugees who received the cash assistance for a voluntary return pilot launched in September 2025 and more than 10,500 refugees who used UNHCR-provided buses to return to Syria since January 2025, including 54 passengers this week.

In 2025, UNHCR reached over 55,000 refugees with assistance for voluntary return.¹ Through various digital channels, over half a million received information relating to return. The return process is closely coordinated with UNHCR 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 reside in the Bekaa and Baalbek-El 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, up to 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 had 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](#)).

Iraq

In 2026, 132 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR have returned to Syria (adding to the 6,988 Syrian refugees who returned in 2025). Among them 95 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre

¹ 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.

in Zakho Administration. Another 37 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, 10 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point, compared to 12 individuals the week before. The registered refugees returned to Al-Hasakeh. The situation northeast 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 10 February 2026, over 112,265 Syrian refugees are registered in Egypt. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 10.21% of the total refugee population in the country.

Since the political transition in 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 10 February 2026, 13,918 closure requests involving around 30,541 individuals were submitted, including on-the-spot closures. Among the 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.

Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #63, 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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