



SITUATION SUMMARY

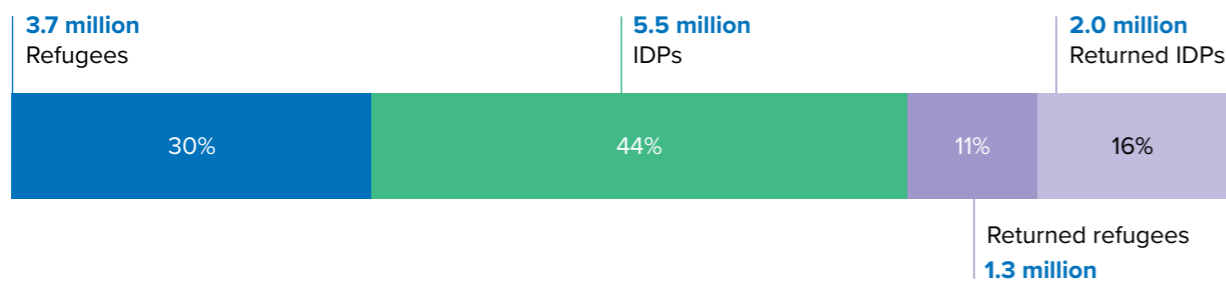
Residents walk between shelters at Al Muhammadiyah camp for internally displaced people near Jendires, in rural Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic. UNHCR supports displaced and returning families in the area as they navigate daily life amid protracted displacement. © UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

The Syrian Arab Republic situation

Country operations involved in the response: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye

2025 year-end population figures

12.6 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and IDPs



Context

The Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) entered a new political phase following the collapse of the former government on 8 December 2024 and the establishment of an interim transitional government in March 2025. This shift took place amid severe economic and socio-political pressures in a deeply fragmented national landscape shaped by 14 years of conflict.

Prospects for economic recovery remained limited. High unemployment and poverty, combined with persistent gaps in basic services, constrained tangible improvements in living conditions. Infrastructure, public services and livelihoods remained severely damaged, while security conditions remained volatile in coastal, southern and northern governorates. Although protection risks declined compared to pre-2025 levels, they persisted due to criminal activity and widespread contamination from explosive ordnance. Humanitarian needs therefore remained acute, with an estimated 16.7 million people – over half of the population – requiring assistance.

The security environment was further influenced by regional dynamics. Israel conducted extensive airstrikes across Syria, targeting airports, air defence systems and other strategic assets. Ground incursions into Quneitra and Daraa extended Israeli control beyond the UN buffer zone and were accompanied by detentions of both militants and civilians. Regional spillover effects also continued. Since late 2024, Lebanon has received more than 115,000 Syrians fleeing renewed hostilities. These movements underscore the dual reality of increasing returns alongside ongoing displacement and secondary movements, which continue to shape Syria’s fragile recovery trajectory.

Despite these challenges, political transition efforts progressed, and the easing of sanctions provided grounds for cautious optimism. Relative stability in parts of the country enabled increased returns. In 2025, UNHCR estimated that more than 1.3 million people had returned from abroad, while around 2 million internally displaced people (IDPs) had returned to their areas of origin. Nevertheless, displacement remained protracted and widespread. At the end of 2025, neighbouring

countries hosted 3.7 million Syrian refugees, and 5.5 million people remained internally displaced, reaffirming Syria’s status as one of the world’s largest displacement crises.

UNHCR in action

In response to growing numbers of refugees returning to Syria, and IDPs returning to their areas of origin, UNHCR expanded its engagement to facilitate voluntary, safe and dignified returns in line with its protection mandate. Operations were guided by UNHCR’s [2025 Operational Framework on Voluntary Return of Syrian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons](#). An implementation report issued in December 2025 underscored the need for sustained investment in host countries and inside Syria to ensure that returns remain voluntary, informed and sustainable, and that returnees have access to basic services.

Major achievements in Syria

- 36,300+** households received financial aid
- 359,000** people received legal aid
- 1.4 million** people reached with counselling, assistance and referrals through volunteers and community networks

In other countries

- 223,000+** people received financial aid in Jordan
- 234,000+** individual consultations conducted through UNHCR-supported health-care services in Jordan
- 208,000+** households received financial aid in Lebanon
- 204,000+** people received shelter and housing assistance in Lebanon
- 438,000+** people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation in Türkiye

Return trends in 2025 revealed a persistent gap between refugees' long-term hopes and their immediate plans. While intentions to return increased early in the year, they declined steadily as refugees reassessed conditions in areas of return. By December 2025, 14% of refugees surveyed planned to return within the next 12 months, down from 18% in June and 27% earlier in the year. Many refugees adopted a "wait-and-see" approach because of concerns about security, housing, services and livelihood opportunities in Syria.

Inside Syria, UNHCR and partners worked to address key barriers to return and reintegration. They provided legal assistance to 359,000 people and helped strengthen civil documentation and housing, land and property rights systems. This included rehabilitating six cadastral offices and 31 civil registry offices, providing ICT equipment to line ministries and training of government officials.

Financial aid supported immediate needs and reintegration, with 36,350 refugee returnee households receiving one-time assistance of \$600 per household. Monitoring showed strong results: 96% of households reported better living conditions, and 95% reported reduced stress levels, with expenditures primarily directed toward food and shelter.

UNHCR and partners also supported the repair of 4,820 houses, benefiting nearly 30,000 people, and rehabilitating community infrastructure for more than 61,000 households. Community-based protection also expanded, with 72 centers, 84 mobile units, and 1,790 outreach volunteers reaching nearly 1.4 million people.

In host countries, UNHCR supported refugees throughout the return process. More than 173,000 refugees returned from Jordan, receiving counselling, helpline services, transport assistance and, through a pilot initiative, financial aid reaching 3,200 individuals. Lebanon experienced unprecedented return movements, with 501,600 spontaneous departures, including 240,260 returns facilitated by UNHCR and partners. In addition, UNHCR assisted 54,670 people through counselling and cash grants.

In Egypt, 27,540 Syrians formalized their intention to return and closed their refugee files, receiving support ranging from counselling to financial aid. In Iraq, 7,000 refugees returned, though many remain hesitant. UNHCR facilitated departures through the Peshkhabour crossing and engaged with authorities to ease administrative barriers, including by advocating for waivers on overstay penalties.

At the same time, many Syrians remained unwilling or unable to return because of insecurity and concerns over housing and livelihoods. For these populations, sustained support in host countries remained essential. UNHCR helped refugees access national systems, public services and community-based support, while advocating for their right to seek asylum and find safe refuge. Resettlement also remained a vital solution. In 2025, UNHCR submitted 3,550 Syrian refugee cases for resettlement from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye, and supported the departure of 7,300 refugees.

Coordination and partnerships

The UNHCR- and UNDP-led [Regional Refugee Response Plan \(3RP\)](#) coordinated support for refugees, returnees and host communities at regional and country levels. Bringing together 200 partners from the United Nations, international NGOs and national civil society organizations, the 3RP remained a central platform for coordinated protection, assistance and resilience-building efforts across the region.

In 2025, more than 936,000 people participated in or benefited from protection services delivered through community outreach mechanisms and community-led initiatives. An estimated 723,820 children aged 5-17 were enrolled in formal and non-formal education programmes. Gender-based violence prevention and women's and girls' empowerment activities reached over 706,000 individuals through targeted awareness-raising, prevention and engagement activities. In parallel, 183 businesses received support through business development services, including grants, in-kind assistance and access to financial mechanisms, strengthening livelihoods and economic resilience.

Use of flexible funding

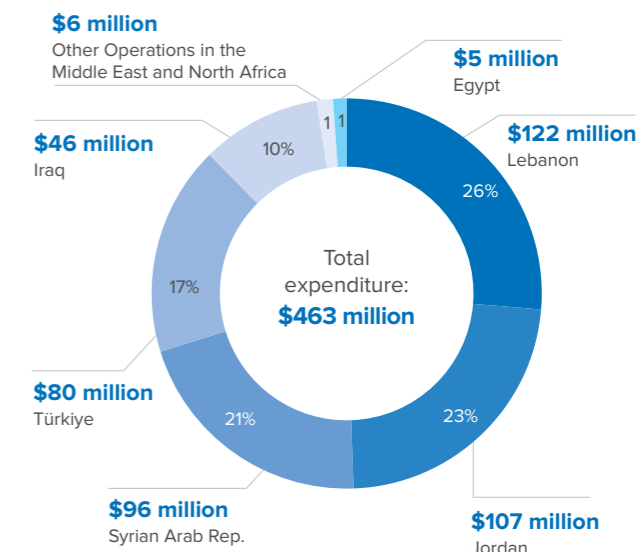
Flexible funding was critical in enabling UNHCR to respond effectively to the unexpected acceleration in Syrian return movements. As large-scale returns generated urgent humanitarian needs, unearmarked contributions allowed UNHCR to rapidly scale up life-saving assistance, including shelter, protection services and essential relief items. Overall, flexible funding enabled UNHCR to reach vulnerable people more quickly and uphold its protection mandate in a rapidly evolving and volatile context.

Operational spotlight

Launched by UNHCR in 2025, [Syria Is Home](#) supports Syrians considering return by enabling informed decision-making. The platform provides clear, up-to-date information on conditions inside Syria, including security, access to services, documentation requirements and assistance available upon return. It reinforces UNHCR's position that all returns must be voluntary, safe, dignified and informed. In 2025, the Syria Is Home website recorded 92,000 active users, 45% of whom were women.

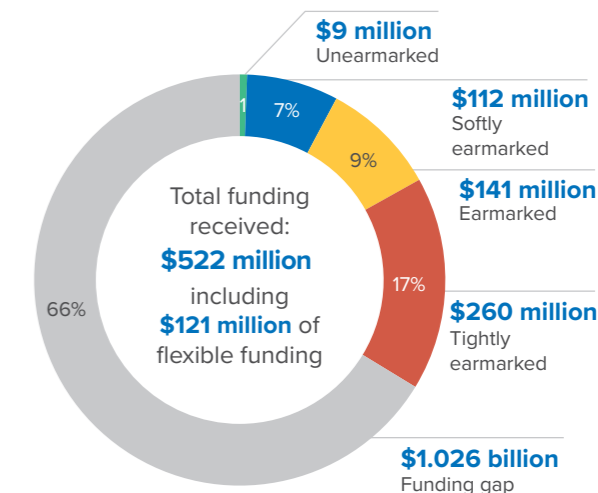
Financial overview

Expenditure by operation

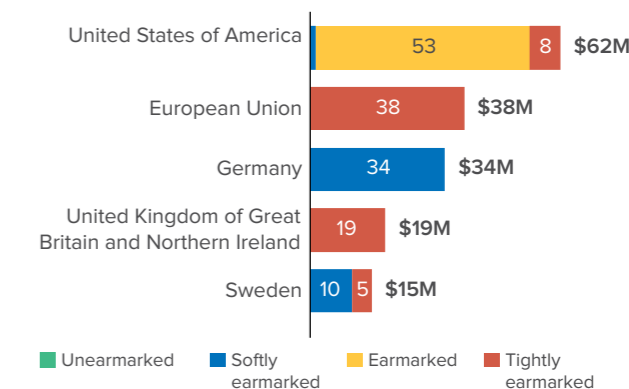


Funding received

In 2025, UNHCR required a total of **\$1.548 billion** to address the Syria situation but received only **34%** of that amount.



Top 5 donors in 2025



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments were \$353.6 million.