

UNHCR Syria Flash Update #11

Response to Displacement from Lebanon to Syria

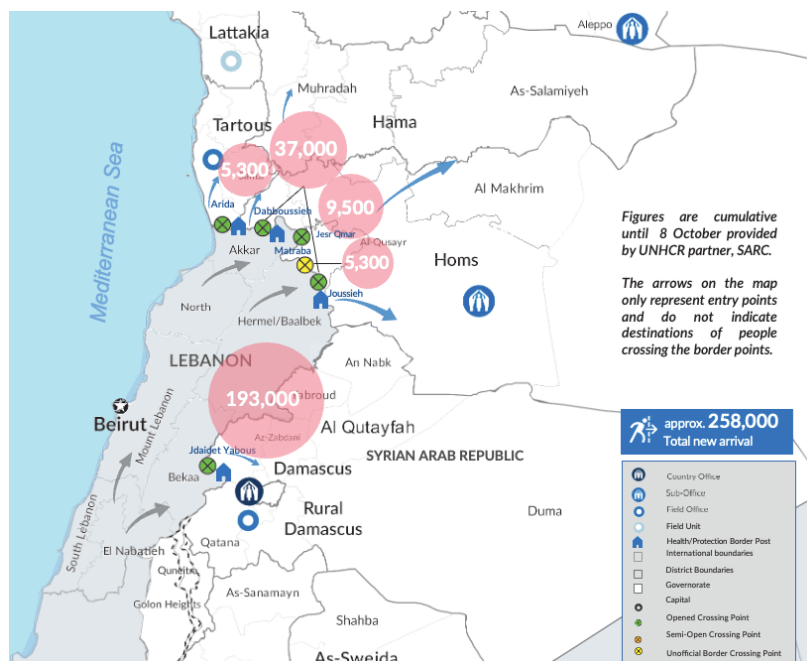
Reporting period: 24 September - 10 October 2024



Provision of UNHCR core relief items to a Lebanese family staying at a hosting centre in rural Homs | © UNHCR Syria

A total of approximately
258,000¹
people (both Lebanese and
Syrians)
are estimated
to have crossed from
Lebanon to Syria since the
escalation of hostilities in
Lebanon.

It is estimated that around
70 per cent are **Syrians**
and
30 per cent are **Lebanese**
nationals.



¹ The numbers of new arrivals in this document are from "SARC Emergency Response For Lebanese Refugees and Syrian Returnees" (issued 10 October 2024). The numbers also include people entering through the Matraba crossing point (an unofficial border) where UNHCR is not present.

Overview of Developments

- At the Jdaidet Yabous crossing point (Rural Damascus), UNHCR has observed a sustained decline in the rate of new arrivals from Lebanon following the airstrikes that hit an area near the Masnaa crossing point (Lebanon), which was the primary travel route for those crossing into Syria from Lebanon.
- A decrease in arrivals was also observed at the other crossing points including Homs (Joussieh, Daboussieh and Jesr Al Qmar), where the rate has now relatively returned to levels similar to those before airstrikes hit Masnaa (Lebanon).
- UNHCR and its partners' presence at all Syrian crossing points is ongoing and responding to the needs of new arrivals from Lebanon, including through the provision of relief items, medical assistance, data collection and legal counselling.
- Syria continues to keep the borders open to those fleeing Lebanon. The immigration offices at the Syrian borders continue to process new arrivals flexibly, including those who do not have Lebanese exit stamps. UNHCR and partners' legal teams are on-site at the borders to support and advocate for cases who are not granted immediate entry.
- Lebanese families who recently arrived into Syria with no alternative accommodation continue to be supported through the locally-established hosting centres as well as communities. More than 25 hosting centres located throughout Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Idlib, Tartous and Latakia governorates with a collective estimated capacity to accommodate some 10,000 people are hosting new arrivals from Lebanon.
- As of 10 October, over 3,000 vulnerable individuals are being accommodated in hosting centres. UNHCR and its partners remain actively engaged with these families to ensure that they are supported both directly and through UNHCR-supported community centres in their host areas.

Overview of New Arrivals

- Since the influx from Lebanon, UNHCR and its partner, SARC, distributed relief items to over 250,000 individuals at the Syrian crossing points, including food and water, hygiene kits, blankets and winter clothes.
- On 9 October, some 90 families (221 individuals) arrived from Lebanon through the Joussieh and Daboussieh crossing points in Homs. This includes 44 Syrian families (123 individuals) and 45 Lebanese families (98 individuals). Only two Lebanese nationals and two Syrian Families (some 10 individuals) arrived at the Jesr Al Qmar crossing point in Homs.
- At the Al Arida crossing point, some 630 individuals (328 Lebanese and 301 Syrians) arrived from Lebanon on 8 October. Many newly arrived Lebanese families reported experiencing multiple displacements within Lebanon as a result of the hostilities, which ultimately forced them to cross into Syria.
- Provision of onward transportation to extremely vulnerable individuals arriving at the Syrian crossing points continues. Since 23 September, UNHCR, in coordination with SARC, has provided buses to transport over 20,000 persons to their intended destinations inside Syria.



Arrivals from Lebanon at the Syrian crossing points | © UNHCR Syria

Response at the Borders

Since 23 September, UN agencies and humanitarian partners - including **DRC, ICRC, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), SARC, and Syria Trust** – continue to support new arrivals at all Syrian border points.

- In Jdaidet Yabous (Rural Damascus), **UNFPA**, through its partner, the **Syrian Family Planning Association**, continue distributing hygiene kits to women and girls arriving from Lebanon.
- **UNHCR's** partner, **PUI**, also provides cleaning services at Jdaidet Yabous, including waste management.
- At the crossing points in Homs, **UNHCR** and **SARC's** provision of food parcels and water to new arrivals is ongoing. Emergency medical and legal assistance is also being offered to support vulnerable families in need of healthcare, emergency services and legal consultations.
- At the Jesr Al Qmar crossing point in Homs, **UNICEF** is conducting maintenance to the existing WASH facilities, including upgrading the water and sewage networks. Cleaning work will also be undertaken to enhance hygiene conditions.
- At the Al Arida crossing point, some 8,200 relief items – including hygiene kits, diapers, food parcels and water - have so far been distributed by **UNHCR** and **SARC** to new arrivals since the onset of the influx from Lebanon.



An elderly person with mobility impairment at a Syrian crossing point | © UNHCR Syria

Hosting Centres for Lebanese Families

- In **Rural Damascus**, the Hujelleh hosting centre is currently accommodating 208 families (approximately 800 individuals), primarily Lebanese, with one Iraqi family, who crossed into Syria following the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon.

UNHCR continues to provide relief items to support families in meeting their basic needs. At the same time, partner **PUI's** cleaning services are ongoing to improve overall health and hygiene conditions at the hosting centre.

UNFPA and its partner, the **Syrian Family Planning Association**, support women and girls by providing hygiene kits and reproductive health services.

- In **Tartous**, over 180 Lebanese families (630 individuals) are staying at the Pioneer Camp, Al Karnak (East and West) and Blue Bay hosting centres.

In **Latakia**, the five hosting centres (including Palm Beach, Ras Al Basit-Labour Union, Ras Al Basit-Chalets, Al Sheer, and Blue Beach) currently host more than 500 Lebanese families (1,300 individuals).

- In **Homs** and **Hama**, a total of 144 Lebanese families (707 individuals) are being accommodated at five hosting centres, including Mar Elias, Al Saida Al Athraa and Al Ard churches in rural Homs; the Deaf and Mute centre in Hama; and Tal Al Ghazali school in rural Hama.

Community Outreach Efforts

- In **Damascus** and **Rural Damascus**, an estimated 25,000 Lebanese nationals are being hosted within the local communities.

UNFPA supported Lebanese families in the community by distributing female hygiene kits and conducting health awareness sessions.

- In **Tartous**, more than 3,700 Lebanese nationals are being hosted by Syrians while some 830 individuals are staying in rented accommodation in both Tartous and Latakia. Some 600 Lebanese and 160 Syrians approached the UNHCR-supported community centres in these areas, who will be targeted with assistance through partners **Al-Batoul**, the **Syrian Society for Social Development**, the **Monastery of Saint James the Mutilated**, **GOPA** and **SARC**.

Since 23 September, **UNHCR**, through **SARC**, distributed core relief kits to 6,750 individuals (including some 4,200 Lebanese and 2,550 Syrians) in Tartous, Latakia and Idlib who are being hosted either by relatives or the host community.

- In **Homs**, an estimated 7,650 Lebanese families (38,250 individuals) are being hosted by relatives and the local community in Al-Qusayr, Tall Kalakh, Ar-Rastan, Al Makhrim districts, and Homs city.

UNHCR, through its partner **SARC**, continue to distribute much-needed core relief and winter items, including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, solar lamps, jerrycans and winter clothes. However, the demand remains high for essentials such as food, medical assistance, mobility aids, and shelter. Since the influx from Lebanon, UNHCR and its partners distributed over 3,400 core relief kits¹.

- More than 17,600 individuals have arrived in **northeast Syria** in Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Al Hasakeh Governorates. **UNHCR**, through its partners **SARC** and **GOPA**, is responding to the needs by providing core relief items. In the last ten days, some 6,000 core relief items were distributed to families who recently arrived from Lebanon, including blankets, mattresses, sleeping mats, plastic sheets, jerrycans, kitchen sets, and solar lamps.

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¹ Core relief *kits* comprise a set of various essentials including hygiene kits, blankets, kitchen sets, among other items.