

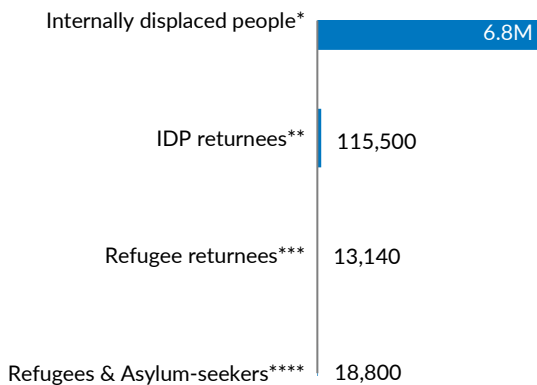
Syrian Arab Republic

June 2023

The protracted crisis in Syria continues to affect millions of lives. The security situation in parts of the country remains unpredictable and the economic situation is increasingly dire. According to the [2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), 15.3 million people need humanitarian assistance, a 5 per cent increase from the previous year.

The February earthquakes further exacerbated the situation in Syria affecting around **8.8 million** people. UNHCR in Syria continues to provide protection services and humanitarian assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, stateless people, and vulnerable host community members based on identified needs and vulnerabilities.

PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISPLACEMENT IN THE WHOLE OF SYRIA



* Source: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview

** Source: OCHA, January-December 2022

*** Source: UNHCR verified returns in 2023 as of 31 May

**** Source: UNHCR, May 2023

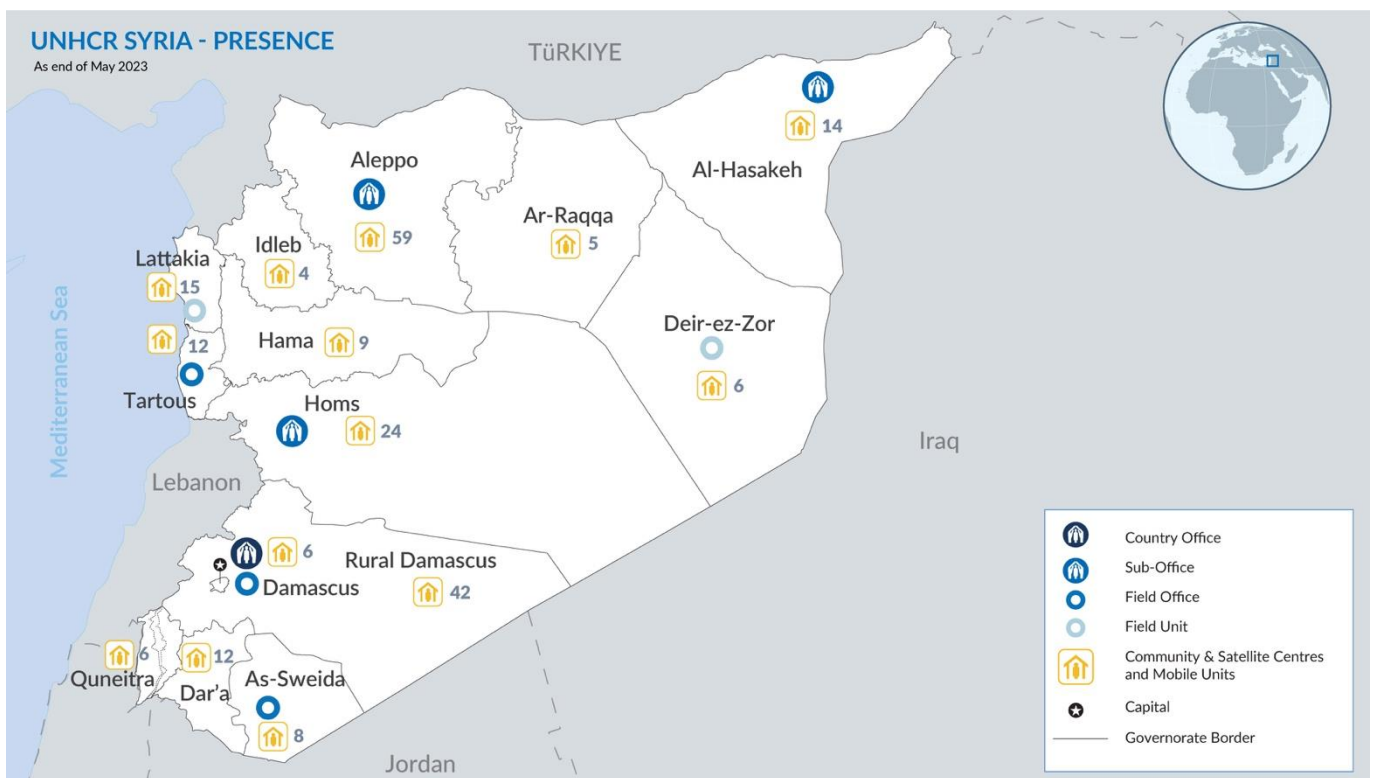
UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 526

445 National Staff
81 International Staff

Offices: 9

- 1** Country Office in Damascus
- 3** Sub-Offices in Aleppo, Homs and Qamishli
- 3** Field Offices in As-Sweida, Damascus and Tartous
- 2** Field Units in Lattakia and Deir-ez-Zor



Partnership and Coordination

As of June 2023, UNHCR was working with 29 partner agencies, including government ministries, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national NGOs and UN agencies.

In the context of the inter-agency coordination framework in Syria, UNHCR leads the Protection and Community Services Sector and Shelter and Non-Food Items Sector together with relevant line ministries. UNHCR also participates fully in the work of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Area Humanitarian Country Teams (AHCTs), with several heads of field offices acting as Area Humanitarian Coordinators. UNHCR together with other UN agencies participates in the regular cross-line operations delivering humanitarian assistance to north-west Syria. Furthermore, UNHCR has been co-chairing the In-Country Network on Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) together with UNICEF since 2022.

UNHCR co-leads inter-agency efforts aimed at enhancing cooperation and coordination in supporting areas experiencing relatively higher numbers of spontaneous refugee and IDP returns through multi-stakeholder and multi-sector [area-based](#) return support approaches.

Strategic Directions

UNHCR's Strategic Directions 2023-2025 for Syria, validated in a consultative planning process, are threefold and in line with the [UN Syria Strategic Framework for the Syrian Arab Republic 2022-2024](#):

- **Support solutions:** UNHCR will further enhance its engagement with partners to facilitate solutions for IDPs and for those who have spontaneously returned, including through the UN's [area-based return support approach](#), in order to strengthen humanitarian early recovery and resilience of communities, and therefore the sustainability of return and reintegration.
- **Maintain emergency preparedness and response capacity:** UNHCR will preserve its readiness to respond to new and protracted emergencies. In addition, the Office will be prepared to scale up cross-line assistance.
- **Enhance refugee protection, inclusion, and solutions:** UNHCR will step up its involvement and engagement on refugee protection, enhance the inclusion of refugees into services and assistance provided by other actors (such as livelihoods support) and advocate for solutions.



Distribution of core relief items in February to earthquake-affected families in Aleppo city. © UNHCR/H. Maarouf

Main Activities

Protection

UNHCR-supported community centres provide protection services such as child protection activities, catch-up classes for children, psychosocial assistance, and support to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. UNHCR and partners also provide legal assistance, for instance to obtain civil documentation and register vital events like births and marriages. The services provided at the community centres are available for refugees and asylum-seekers, IDPs, returnees (i.e., refugees and internally displaced people having returned to their home areas) and host communities.

Besides the community centres, satellite centres (smaller versions of community centres providing only some services) and mobile units also offer protection services based on identified needs in underserved or remote locations. The latter respond flexibly to population movements and increase outreach to the most vulnerable populations who do not have easy access to the community or satellite centres.

The community and satellite centres are supported by a network of outreach volunteers. The outreach volunteers, selected from the IDP and affected communities, are the first responders and assist those in need in a timely manner. They inform communities of the services available, identify needs, provide initial support and refer cases to community centres for further assistance.

As of June 2023, UNHCR was supporting 114 community and satellite centres and 108 mobile units in all 14 governorates of the country and engaging around 2,400 outreach volunteers to strengthen its protection activities.

For refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR conducts refugee status determination, registration, and resettlement, when applicable. Refugees and asylum-seekers can also benefit from additional protection services such as multi-purpose cash grants and scholarships for students.

For more information on UNHCR's protection activities in Syria see:

- [Factsheet on Community Centres](#)
- [Factsheet on Child Protection](#)
- [Factsheet on Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response](#)
- [Factsheet on Legal Assistance](#)
- [Factsheet on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support](#)
- [Factsheet on Education](#)
- [Factsheet on Refugees and Asylum-Seekers](#)

Cash-Based Interventions

UNHCR uses cash-based interventions to help the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers meet their urgent needs. Vulnerability is determined using either a scoring system based on age and gender specific needs or a panel review of individual protection risks. Eligibility is reviewed every two months. Monthly multi-purpose cash grants equivalent to around USD 69 per family (three people) are provided in cash at the counter. For urgent and unforeseen protection needs, a one-off emergency grant is also available for refugees. During the winter, eligible refugee and asylum-seeker households receive cash grants of more than USD 300 per family (three to six people) subject to UNHCR's resource availability in order to help them meet additional seasonal costs such as for heating.

While primary and secondary public schools are open to refugees free of charge, they need to bear some associated costs by themselves. To support the continuation of education, UNHCR provides refugee and asylum-seeker families with education grants to help cover transportation and education material costs. Scholarships are also provided to university students to help them cover core expenses and tuition.

In March, UNHCR also started providing multi-purpose cash assistance to Syrians as part of the earthquake emergency response (see below).

Core Relief Items

UNHCR provides core relief items including blankets, sleeping mats, mattresses, jerry cans, plastic sheets, kitchen sets, and solar lamps to IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable host community members. Supplementary seasonal items such as winter clothing and rechargeable fans are also distributed to IDPs, returnees, host community members and asylum-seekers based on needs.

Shelter Interventions

In camps in north-east Syria hosting mainly Iraqis and Syrian displaced persons, UNHCR distributes tents and emergency shelter kits and maintains camp infrastructure. In urban and rural areas, UNHCR helps people repair houses damaged during the years of crisis by providing materials such as doors, windows, electrical equipment and water and sanitation facilities at the household level. At the community level, UNHCR also restores basic services such as pavements and communal facilities and installs solar streetlights. In areas where spontaneous returns of IDPs and refugees are ongoing, UNHCR removes debris, restores sewage systems, water networks and boreholes, and distributes solid waste bins.

Self-Reliance and Livelihoods

UNHCR supports vulnerable people to increase their self-reliance and reduce their dependency on assistance by providing agricultural support (seeds and livestock), restoring vocational training schools and irrigation systems, and assisting people to start-up small businesses through trainings and grants. For more information, see [UNHCR's Factsheet on Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion \(May 2023\)](#).

Health

UNHCR has established health counselling offices (health points) in UNHCR-supported community centres in areas where health care facilities are difficult to access. Primary health care and health counselling are provided in these health offices, while in remote areas outreach volunteers and mobile teams offer these services. Trained doctors provide medical consultations in some health points such as specialized mental health and psychosocial services. The health points actively contribute to joint inter-agency efforts in response to the cholera outbreak (declared in Syria in September 2022) through awareness raising on risk prevention.

Earthquake emergency response

A major earthquake of magnitude 7.8 struck south-east Türkiye and northern Syria on 6 February. The most affected Governorates were Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Latakia and Tartous. UNHCR's emergency response included the immediate distribution of core relief items and provision of shelter support particularly in collective shelters. UNHCR delivered protection services including child protection, gender-based violence response and much-needed psychosocial support. UNHCR also started providing cash assistance to people affected by the earthquakes in line with the recommendations of the Cash Working Group, and is planning to reach 11,000 families in Aleppo, Hama and Latakia Governorates. For more information, see [UNHCR's Whole of Syria Earthquake Emergency Response – Final Report \(June 2023\)](#).

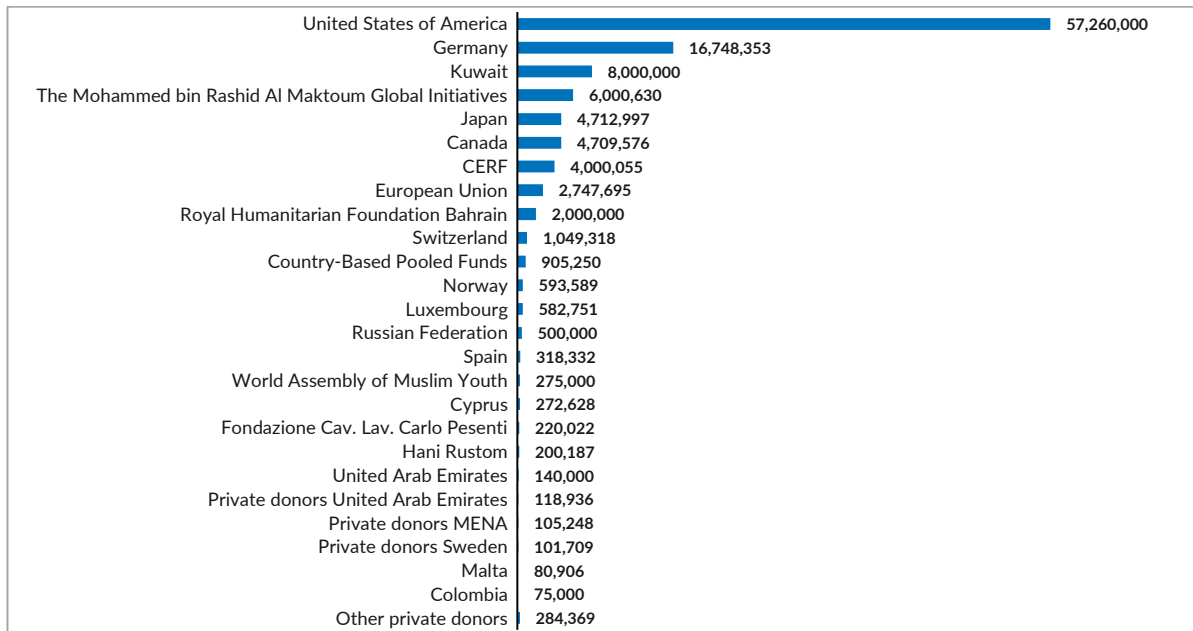
Funding Update | 2023

As of 27 June 2023

UNHCR Syria is grateful to all donors providing critical financial support to address the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, returnees, stateless people and host communities.

CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions and indicative allocation of funds for the operation in 2023 (as of 27 June) amounted to **\$ 136,133,459**.



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Private donors Germany 9.8 million | Private donors Japan 8.6 million | United States of America 7.9 million | Private donors Australia 7.3 million | Private donors Italy 5.4 million | Private donors United Kingdom 5.3 million | Finland 5.2 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 4.9 million | Private donors China 4.1 million | Private donors Switzerland 2.4 million | Private donors United Arab Emirates 2.3 million | Private donors Canada 2.2 million | Private donors Spain 2 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 69 million | Norway 63.1 million | Netherlands 36.3 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Private donors Spain 30.4 million | United Kingdom 28.9 million | France 26.7 million | Germany 23.1 million | Private donors Japan 21.2 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 15.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million

CONTACT

Alessia Pignatti, Reporting Officer, UNHCR Syria
 Email: pignatti@unhcr.org

LINKS

<https://reporting.unhcr.org/syria>
<https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/syr>
www.unhcr.org/sy
 UNHCR Syria Twitter (@UNHCRinSYRIA)
 UNHCR Syria Facebook