

Regional Flash Update #41

Syria situation

22 August 2025



Zakaria Abdeen, 29, returned to Syria after years of displacement in Lebanon. With support from UNHCR's livelihood programme, he transformed his skills in home appliance repair into a thriving business, helping him provide for his large family and rebuild a life of dignity in Baniyas, Tartous. ©UNHCR/ Hasan Alabdallah

Key Highlights

- As of 21 August 2025, UNHCR estimates that **821,586 Syrians** have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024.
- At the same time, IDP returns continue, with **1,736,381** internally displaced persons (IDPs) having returned to their homes in Syria, including **868,729** returning from IDP sites since 8 December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.
- On 14 August, the Turkish Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) reported that **411,649 Syrians have returned** to Syria since 8 December 2024.
- As of 18 August, approximately **125,800 Syrian refugees** remain registered in Egypt, 800 less than last week.

- Return figures from Iraq to Syria remain significantly higher compared to the first quarter of the year. Over the past week, the return of registered Syrian refugees through Peshkhabour border crossing point **increased** compared to the previous week (from 421 individuals to 565 individuals).
- To support reintegration, UNHCR disbursed Return and Reintegration Cash assistance in Syria to 846 households (3,115 individuals), raising the cumulative total to **3,809 families (16,025 returnees)**.
- Core Relief Items (CRI) were distributed to **3,888 households (18,297 individuals)** inside Syria, including returnees, families affected by wildfires, and those impacted by the emergency in As-Sweida.
- Since the onset of the As-Sweida crisis, **14,743 IDPs have received protection services and undergone assessments**, including legal interventions, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) case management services and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) across As-Sweida, Dar'a, Damascus and Rural Damascus governorates.

Country Updates

Syria

As of 21 August 2025, UNHCR estimates that **821,586** Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024. This brings the total of 1,182,426 Syrians who have returned since January last year. At the same time, IDP returns continue, with **1,736,381** internally displaced persons (IDPs) having returned to their homes in Syria, including 868,729 returning from IDP sites since 8 December 2024, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.

During the reporting period, UNHCR continued to play a vital role in supporting displaced populations and voluntary returns across Syria. Between 13 and 19 August, UNHCR enabled the safe and dignified return of 313 families (775 individuals) to their areas of origin, providing transportation and logistical support at the Bab Al-Hawa, Al-Salama, and Joussieh border crossing points. This brings the total number of returnees assisted through these crossings to **14,014 individuals** since the beginning of the year.

To further support reintegration, UNHCR disbursed Return and Reintegration Cash assistance to 846 households (3,115 individuals), raising the cumulative total to **3,809 families (16,025 returnees)**. In parallel, Core Relief Items (CRI) were distributed to **3,888 households (18,297 individuals)**, including returnees, families affected by wildfires, and those impacted by the emergency in As-Sweida.

UNHCR's protection activities remained robust, reaching 349 households through the protection questionnaire, with a cumulative total of **28,482 households surveyed**. The Syria Is Home platform continued to engage audiences, recording 1,000 visitors this week, primarily from Türkiye, followed by Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan.

Capacity-building efforts were also prioritized, with four training sessions on community-level protection monitoring delivered to 22 Protection partners, involving over 250 participants. These sessions aimed to strengthen coordination between sector-wide monitoring and UNHCR's own protection mechanisms.

In collaboration with WFP, UNHCR provided **essential food assistance to returnees at border points** with Türkiye. At Sarmada, 102 ready-to-eat food baskets and 3,060 packs of high-energy biscuits were distributed to 378 individuals, while 140 individuals at Sejjo bus station received 73

food baskets and 2,220 biscuit packs. UNHCR also partnered with UNFPA to distribute dignity kits to over 400 women and girls, addressing hygiene and protection needs during the early stages of reintegration.

Since the onset of the As-Sweida situation and as of 21 August, **over 185,000 people** have been displaced across As-Sweida, Dar'a, Rural Damascus and beyond. UN agencies and humanitarian partners continue to provide life-saving assistance to those displaced. UNHCR has mobilized a comprehensive protection effort across the South and Damascus areas, operating through 12 community centres, 13 mobile units, and a network of 242 outreach volunteers. Since the onset of the crisis, **14,743 IDPs have received protection services and undergone assessments**, including 10,174 in Dar'a, 2,588 in Damascus, and 1,981 in Sweida. Key protection interventions have addressed a range of urgent needs emerging from the situation. UNHCR provided over 200 legal consultations, with 13 cases referred for legal aid support, and conducted two legal awareness sessions focused on re-issuing civil documentation. In terms of psychosocial support, 4,240 IDPs received individual assistance and psychological first aid, including 3,277 in Dar'a, 845 in Damascus, and 118 in As-Sweida. To support women and girls, 3,480 dignity kits were distributed, and 127 displaced women accessed GBV case management services. UNHCR also facilitated recreational activities for 1,149 children, helping to alleviate emotional stress and promote well-being. PSEA also remained a priority, with 2,684 IDPs receiving key messages and 1,297 participating in awareness sessions, bringing the total number of individuals reached through PSEA activities to 3,981.

Türkiye

On 20 August, Turkish Ministry of Interior announced that Turkish nationals and Syrian citizens who have acquired third-country nationality will be able to enter and exit with a passport through Turkish land border gates with Syria, except Akçakale/Tel Abyad.

The Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) reported on 14 August that till date, **411,649 Syrians have returned** to Syria since 8 December 2024, bringing the total number of voluntary returns to 1,151,652 since 2016. PMM noted that voluntary returns of Syrians have accelerated following developments in Syria on 8 December 2024.

As of 21 August, processing of voluntary returns continues in provinces and at seven border crossings: Cilvegözü / Bab al Hawa, Yayladağı / Kesenb, 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.

Currently, UNHCR monitors returns at 24 Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM) offices in 23 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. Voluntary returns from Adana Sarıçam Temporary Accommodation Centre and Malatya Temporary Accommodation Centre are also being monitored on an ad hoc basis, when the authorities invite UNHCR. As of 18 August 2025, UNHCR has monitored the voluntary repatriation of **308,124 Syrians, representing 112,116 families**.

Interviews were concentrated in certain border and metropolitan provinces, which were also among the key places of residence for returnees prior to departure. A small number of individuals were interviewed in temporary accommodation centres and at the airports. Only 50 per cent of returnees were interviewed in their province of residence.

The main reasons for return have remained unchanged over time, with political developments, improved security, and family reunification or the need to attend family events being the most frequently mentioned.

Most returnees were heading to provinces in northern Syria, with Aleppo, Idleb, Damascus, and Hama among the most common destinations. Regarding accommodation, some returnees owned their homes or had property belonging to close relatives. While some reported that their houses were in good condition, many others indicated partial damage or destruction. A significant portion confirmed they had valid documentation proving ownership. However, 23 per cent of returnees lacked any Syrian-issued papers. Among those who did have documents, national identity cards, family booklets, and passports were the most common. Births and deaths in Türkiye were generally well-documented, but documentation rates for marriages and divorces were lower.

Before leaving Türkiye, many returnees were unemployed, while others worked in skilled trades, construction, agriculture, or trade. In Syria, a considerable number expected to be without income initially and planned to look for work, often in informal daily labour. Other anticipated sources of income included family or community support, assistance from spouses, or self-employment. Finally, 29 per cent of returnees reported that at least one family member had attended school in Türkiye, with most obtaining official proof of the education received.

Lebanon

As of 20 August, **25,987 Syrians** have been monitored as still remaining in Akkar and North, having arrived since March 2025 following the hostilities in Tartous and Latakia governorates in Syria's coastal areas. Some new arrivals are reported in other areas, including due to onward internal movements from place of first arrival in Lebanon due to limited infrastructure, shelter and livelihoods options in overcrowded villages making increasingly long term stay difficult.

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Bekaa is reporting 72,929 new arrivals since December last year, including approximately 18,072 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 125 informal collective shelters. Numbers have remained quite stable in preceding months, bar the number of informal collective shelters which has fluctuated due to population movements within the Governorate.

Jordan

As of 16 August, nearly **138,000 refugees registered with UNHCR** have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. Since the last report, nearly 5,700 refugees returned, representing a 15 per cent decrease compared to some 6,600 refugees who had returned the previous week.

Demographics of returnees remained similar to previous weeks, with women and girls representing around 49 per cent of the total refugee returnees. Children accounted for around 43 per cent, and men 18-40 years old made up around 19 per cent of overall returns. The majority of refugees continue to return from host communities, primarily from Amman and Irbid. More details about the numbers and profile of returnees, including a section with insights on the skills level, are available on [UNHCR Jordan's returns dashboard](#).

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 7 August 2025, **over 5,100 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR have returned from Iraq to Syria**. Men represent around 37% of the total of returnees, followed by women (27%), boys (20%) and girls (19%). Among them, over 4,900 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 181 registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Syria via Erbil airport, with border authorities sharing a copy of their registration certificate with UNHCR.

Over the past week, the return of registered Syrian refugees through Peshkhabour border crossing point **increased compared to the previous week** (from 421 individuals to 565 individuals). Return figures remain significantly higher compared to the first quarter of the year. Most registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Aleppo, followed by Al-Hasakeh and Damascus.

Egypt

As of 18 August 2025, approximately **125,800 Syrian refugees** remain registered in Egypt, 800 less than last week. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 12.3% of the total refugee population in the country.

Since the fall of the former Government of Syria, there has been a significant increase in Syrians approaching UNHCR to request the closure of their asylum cases. As of 18 August 2025, around 10,210 closure requests involving around **22,231 individuals** were submitted since 8 December 2024, including on-the-spot closures.

Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #40, Syria Situation Crisis](#)
- [Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #6](#)
- [UNHCR Operational Framework for Voluntary Return of Syrian Refugees and IDPs](#)
- [January 2025 Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey \(RPIS\)](#)
- [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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