

Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #4

@15:00, 25 July 2025

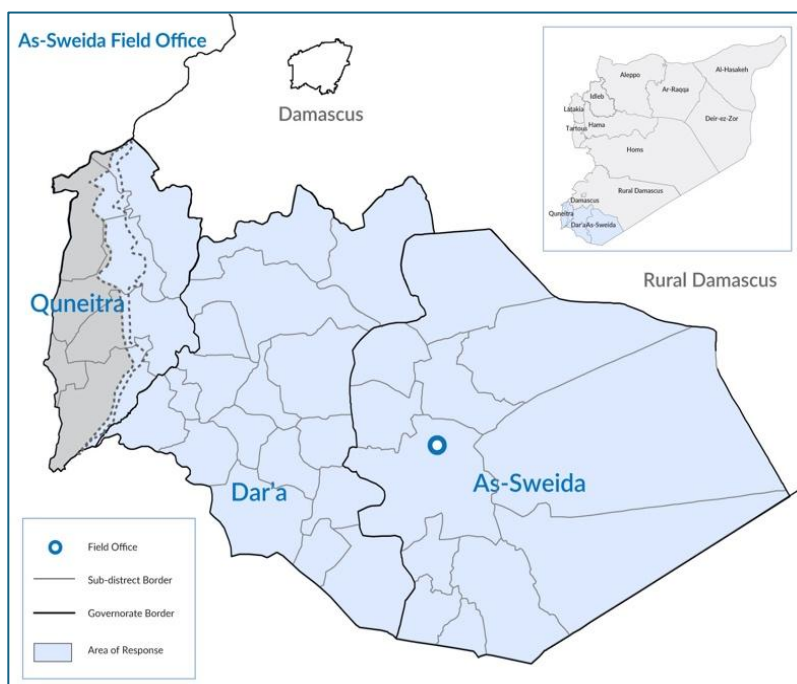


Overview

A ceasefire has largely held following over a week of intense clashes began around 12 July. The situation remains highly volatile, but there has been a notable reduction in active fighting while the countryside is witnessing intermittent clashes between the opposing parties.

By July 20, Bedouin fighters reportedly withdrew from Sweida city, with Syrian security forces moving in to stabilize the situation. This created a tense but calmer atmosphere in the city itself, although broader clashes and insecurity persist in surrounding areas.

Since 21 July, the Syrian government, with support from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) began evacuating hundreds of Bedouin civilians trapped in Sweida city to nearby sites, particularly in the Dar'a. Reportedly about 1,500 people have been moved.



Damages in Sweida city ©UNHCR As-Sweida

The fighting over the past 10 days caused severe damage to Sweida's social infrastructure—power, water supply, telecommunications—and almost all hospitals and health centres are non-functional or operating at minimal capacity. Access to food, water, and medical care remains severely limited, with health risks rising in displacement sites and the city.

Although some aid convoys, including those by SARC, have managed limited entry to Sweida city to deliver food and medical supplies, large-scale humanitarian operations remain suspended due to the security situation and political obstacles. **There is an urgent need to have access to affected populations, especially in As-Sweida, for timely and equitable aid delivery.**

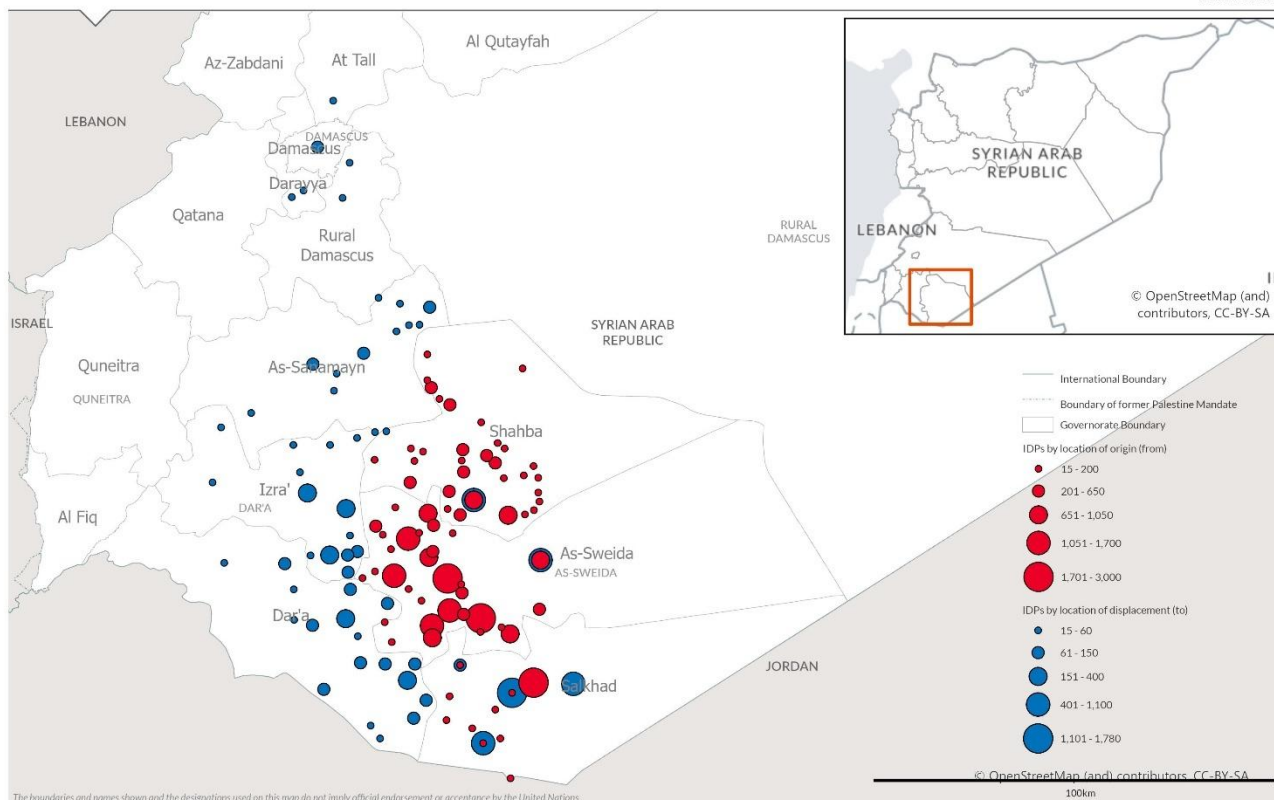


Displacement situation

Displacement continues, including of a secondary nature, as displaced people are changing their locations in search of safety or better conditions. Most of the displaced people remained within the borders of As-Sweida, relocating to towns and villages perceived as safe zones, often where their own kin or community networks were concentrated. Families sought safety in rural areas such as Salkhad and al-Qrayya, as well as in remote agricultural lands.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from As-Sweida by Location of Displacement

as of 24 Jul 2025



However, some crossed into neighboring governorates such as Dar'a and Rural Damascus, often using informal routes to avoid checkpoints or areas under various armed groups control. UNHCR has also received reports of 400 IDP families who have recently arrived in Damascus city.

As of 24 July, the total number of IDP movements recorded by the IDP Taskforce has reached **176,000 individuals**. The majority of the IDPs, 94,300 individuals, remain displaced within As-Sweida Governorate, mostly in Salhad and As-Sweida districts. In Dar'a, up to 52,000 IDPs are settling in Daraa and Izra districts. Between 23-24, an increasing number of IDPs of over 28,300 was reported to have moved to Damascus Governorate. The majority are settling within host communities in Rural Damascus, while some temporary accommodations in hotels are organized by local authorities in Said Zeynep neighborhoods.

UNHCR Response

The most urgent needs among the displaced populations include shelter and non-food items, such as mattresses and cooking supplies, followed by access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene services. Health services were also identified as a critical need, particularly in areas with limited medical infrastructure, while mental health and psychosocial support needs are widespread among men, women, boys and girls across age groups. Additionally, ensuring food security remains a major concern.



Core Relief Items

As of 24 July, UNHCR has dispatched a total of **some 2,500 core relief item (CRI) kits** to Dar'a and Rural Damascus, and items are distributed through its partner, SARC and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA).

For As-Sweida, the first inter-agency humanitarian convoy arranged by SARC was allowed to enter As-Sweida on 23 July. While the first convoy carried food and medical supplies, 2,000 CRI kits from UNHCR are scheduled to be delivered by the next convoy.



On 23 July, UNHCR partner, SARC distributed core relief items in Namir and Busra al-Sham, Dar'a Governorate ©SARC

An additional 20,000 non-food item kits, comprising 15,000 CRI kits and 5,000 dignity kits, are also ready for dispatch by UNHCR, when necessary. Security conditions still restrict aid convoys, hampering the assistance delivery to the most affected areas in As-Sweida.



Protection

UNHCR-supported community centres

UNHCR monitors the situation and provides assistance to displaced people through its partners and UNHCR-supported community centres. All six centres in Dara'a are fully operational and are providing integrated protection services to the affected population in their areas of coverage. Moreover, mobile units have been also mobilized to Rural Damascus.

As of 24 July, **at least an estimated 1,000 IDPs**, including some 200 women and girls and over 140 children, received protection services and assistance in Dar'a and As-Sweida since the beginning of the clashes. The assistance provided includes psychosocial support, psychological first aid, dignity kits, and child protection.



UNHCR-supported community centre in Sweida city damaged and looted © UNHCR As-Sweida

On 24 July, Al-Baraem Association, the UNHCR protection partner in Sweida, is starting to resume its operations, using one of their warehouses as a temporary location. This interim measure is required as hostilities have severely impacted the UNHCR-supported community centre in Sweida City and its surrounding neighborhood, rendering it inaccessible. Some of partner's staff and Outreach Volunteers remain displaced or unaccounted for, which have also limited the operational capacity and response of the community centre.

Displaced families in Rural Damascus and Dara'a are being reached by UNHCR partners through its mobile units and Outreach Volunteers, and cases in need of protection services and assistance are being linked to UNHCR-supported community centres for support, with complex protection cases being also referred to UNHCR for coordination with relevant agencies.

Assessment mission to Rural Damascus

On 24 July, UNHCR conducted an inter-agency mission to Sayyeda Zeinab, Rural Damascus Governorate, where continues to receive IDPs from As-Sweida. Currently around 3,000 to 3,750 people (600-750 families), including some 500 children, 750 older persons, and 70 persons with disabilities, are hosted in Sayyeda Zeinab. Many have walked from As-Sweida for almost 2 days, highlighting extreme conditions faced during displacement. Displaced people are hosted in 13 hotels, allocated as collective centres by the local authorities, and 2 additional hotels are being prepared to accommodate more since the existing centres are full.



Inter-agency coordination

As the lead agency of **Protection Sector**, UNHCR is coordinating the protection response, and partner capacity mapping and response tracking, particularly for the collective centres and communities receiving IDPs, is ongoing.

On 22 July, as part of the emergency response and efforts to reduce Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) risks amid ongoing displacement, UNHCR as co-chair of the Syria PSEA Network, convened a coordination meeting with the national PSEA coordinator and the Network's other co-chair and shared key PSEA materials to all PSEA Network members and Sectors. Humanitarian actors were urged to incorporate these resources into field activities and distributions to mainstream PSEA, enhance accountability, and strengthen safe and inclusive response mechanisms for affected populations.

On 23 July, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group, in coordination with the Protection Sub-National Sector in Sweida, agreed to provide peer support sessions to staff and volunteers to ensure their mental well-being, resilience, and capacity to cope with the psychological impact of the recent clashes.

The Protection Sector also issued a Flash Update on 24 July, drawing attention to key protection concerns and calling for humanitarian access and support for the scale-up of the protection response.

The UNHCR-led **Shelter/NFI Sector** is actively coordinating partner mobilization in response to the scale of displacement and the urgent, unmet shelter and NFI needs. Partners with available in-country stocks or rapid procurement capacity are being encouraged to contribute to the response and to participate in upcoming shelter damage assessments.

As of 24 July 2025, nine Shelter/NFI Sector partners—including UNHCR and its implementing partners—have distributed a total of **1,803 Core NFI kits**, reaching approximately **9,001 individuals** across Dar'a and Rural Damascus Governorates. A large portion of these were reported as *complete kits*, comprising essential items such as blankets, mattresses, plastic sheets, and kitchen sets. In some locations, partners distributed *partial kits*—typically including mattresses, blankets, and plastic sheets—based on available stocks and assessed local needs.

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Sector is monitoring displacement movements to collective centres and informal sites hosting the IDPs through UNHCR's partner.

As of 24 July 2025, **12,600 IDPs (2470 households)** are accommodated in 22 collective centres, schools and government buildings in Dar'a.