

Regional Flash Update #45

Syria situation

19 September 2025



Mohamed Adnan Al-Yamani has been away from Syria for 14 years. “I was just a teenager when I left – 14 years old. Now I’m 35, and my hair has turned grey,” he said. In Lebanon, he worked, got married and became the father of three daughters: Maryam, Reem, and Aya. With thanks to UNHCR support, he returned to his home in Jabal Al-Zawiya (Idlib). He knows that, like many others, his house is damaged. “I came back so that I can enrol my daughters in school.” ©UNHCR/Vivian Toumeh

Key Highlights

- On 11 September, UNHCR issued its [Enhanced Regional Survey on Syrian Refugees' Perceptions and Intentions on Return to Syria](#). Among Syrian refugees still residing in host countries, **18% intend to return to Syria within the next 12 months** – with 29% in Egypt, 4% in Iraq, 22% in Jordan, and 14% in Lebanon expressing this intention.
- As of 18 September 2025, UNHCR estimates that **988,134 Syrians** have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024.
- At the same time, internal returns continue, with **1,855,698 internally displaced persons (IDPs)** having returned to their places of origin in Syria since late November last year, including **972,085 individuals** who departed from IDP sites in the north of the country.
- On 11 September, **280 refugees returned** from Lebanon via Jdaidet Yabous border crossing under the joint programme coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and the Syrian

General Authority for Land and Sea Ports. Returnees received transportation support, relief items, psychosocial assistance, and legal aid.

- On 17-18 September, UNHCR facilitated transportation for nearly **350 refugees** from Jordan to Syria. Before departure, in-person interviews are conducted to ensure that returns are voluntary and well-informed, with counselling and information provided on available services inside Syria.
- Since the beginning of the year until 16 September, a total of **18,395** Syrian returnees have been supported by UNHCR at the key border crossing points with Türkiye – Bab Al-Salama, Bab Al-Hawa, and Joussieh, including transportation.
- Inside Syria, Financial support to returnees is progressing, with the **Return and Reintegration Financial Assistance** now having reached 5,590 households (22,366 individuals).

Country Updates

Syria

As of 18 September 2025, UNHCR estimates that **988,134** Syrians have crossed back to Syria via neighboring countries since 8 December 2024. At the same time, internal returns continue, with **1,855,698** internally displaced persons (IDPs) having returned to their places of origin in Syria since late November last year, including 972,085 individuals who departed from IDP sites in the north of the country, according to the latest data of the IDP Task Force.

Between 10 and 16 September 2025, UNHCR continued to facilitate the safe and dignified return of Syrian refugees. **Transportation and logistical assistance** were provided at Bab Al-Salama and Joussieh border crossing points, benefiting 182 households (822 individuals) this week. Since the beginning of the year, a total of **18,395** individuals have been supported at the key border crossing with Türkiye and Lebanon. Complementing these efforts, UNHCR and WFP distributed ready-to-eat food baskets and high-energy biscuits to **3,365** returnees at transit bus stations in Idlib and Aleppo, while UNFPA and UNHCR jointly provided hygiene kits to over **765** women and girls.

In parallel, on 11 September, **280 refugees returned** from Lebanon via Jdaidet Yabous border crossing under the joint programme coordinated by UNHCR Syria, UNHCR and IOM Lebanon, and the Syrian General Authority for Land and Sea Ports. Returnees received transportation support, relief items, psychosocial assistance, and legal aid.

UNHCR also supported organized internal voluntary returns from IDP sites in the north-east of the country. On 16 September, the second return movement from Mahmoudi Camp enabled 15 households (56 individuals) to return to Deir-Ez-Zor, Homs, Hama and Aleppo governorates. To date, **25 households (121 individuals)** have returned from Mahmoudi Camp and **566 households (2,864 individuals)** from Areesha Camp.

Financial support to returnees is progressing, with the **Return and Reintegration Financial Assistance** now having reached **5,590 households (22,366 individuals)**.

During the reporting period, UNHCR also provided **core relief items** (CRIs), covering 8,185 households (24,684 individuals). These included 3,712 returnee households (17,500 individuals), 607 displaced households affected by the As-Sweida emergency (3,318 individuals), and 749 households (3,866 individuals) in IDP camps.

Legal assistance also remained a key area of intervention. Overall, in August, **32,285 individuals** benefited from civil documentation and Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) services, including legal counselling, legal awareness sessions, and direct legal interventions before courts.

The “Syria is Home” platform continued to serve as a resource hub, registering 945 visits during the reporting period, mostly from Syria, Lebanon, Bulgaria, Türkiye, and Jordan. UNHCR also advanced its **protection monitoring**, reaching an additional 236 households this week and bringing the cumulative total to 29,880 households surveyed, along with 1,824 key informant interviews conducted nationwide.

Finally, in response to the **As-Sweida emergency**, UNHCR and partners have reached at least 25,981 IDPs with protection services and assessments, including 16,058 individuals in Dar’a, 4,198 in Damascus, and 5,725 in As-Sweida. More than 1,370 people received **legal consultations**, 3,161 children benefited from **child protection** activities, and 621 displaced women accessed **gender-based violence (GBV) services**. In addition, 6,878 IDPs participated in awareness sessions on the **prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)**, while 6,393 individuals received **psychosocial support**, including individual counselling and psychological first aid.

Türkiye

On the margins of the OIC-Arab League Extraordinary Summit held in Qatar, President Erdoğan [met](#) with Syrian Interim President Ahmad Al-Sharaa on 15 September. Erdoğan emphasized the historic significance of Sharaa’s participation in the UN General Assembly, reaffirmed Türkiye’s support for Syria, and underlined the importance of unity, solidarity, and Syrian Democratic Forces’ compliance with the 10 March deal.

On 16 September, Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a [statement](#) welcoming the newly announced [roadmap](#) for Sweida aimed at “preserving calm, ensuring stability, and preventing renewed conflict”. Furthermore, earlier this week, during a visit to Damascus, Türkiye’s Minister of Agriculture and Forestry İbrahim Yumaklı met with his Syrian counterpart Amjad Badr and [signed](#) a Joint Action Plan on agricultural cooperation.

Processing of voluntary returns continues in provinces and at seven border crossings: Cilvegözü / Bab al Hawa, Yayladağı / Keseb, 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 22 Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM) offices in 22 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 (TAC) are also being monitored on an ad hoc basis, when the authorities invite UNHCR.

During the reporting period, 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 TACs and at the airports.

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, Idlib, Damascus, and Hama among the most common destinations. Regarding accommodation, some returnees owned their homes or had property belonging to close relatives. While many reported that their houses were in good condition, others indicated partial damage or destruction. A significant portion confirmed they had valid documentation proving ownership. A small portion of returnees lacked any Syrian-issued papers. Among those who did have documents, national identity cards, family booklets, and passports were the most common. 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, almost one-third of returnees reported that at least one family member had attended school in Türkiye, with most obtaining official proof of the education received.

Lebanon

25,990 Syrians have been monitored as still remaining in Akkar and North, having arrived since March 2025. 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 77,342 new arrivals since last December, including approximately 22,485 arrivals in Baalbek Governorate, North Bekaa, residing in 151 informal collective shelters.

Jordan

As of 13 September, **over 152,000 refugees registered with UNHCR** have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December 2024. Since the last report, around 4,600 refugees returned, representing a 12% decrease compared to some 5,300 refugees who had returned the previous week. Demographics of returnees remained similar to previous weeks, with women and girls representing around 49% of the total refugee returnees. Children accounted for around 43%, and men 18-40 years old made up around 19% 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](#).

On 17-18 September, UNHCR facilitated transportation for nearly 350 refugees from Jordan to Syria. Additionally, on 16-17 September, IOM in coordination with UNHCR facilitated a return movement for around 80 refugees from Azraq camp. Overall, since the start of the transportation initiative on 20 January 2025, UNHCR has supported nearly **9,100 refugees** to return to Syria. Before departure, in-person interviews are conducted to ensure that returns are voluntary and well-informed, with counselling and information provided on available services inside Syria. The return process is closely coordinated with the UNHCR Operation in Syria to support refugees upon arrival at their final destination.

Iraq

Between 8 December 2024 and 11 September 2025, **over 6,000 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR** have returned from Iraq to Syria. Men represent around 38% of the total of returnees, followed by women (23%), boys (20%) and girls (19%). Among them, over 5,800 returned through Peshkhabour border crossing point and were processed by UNHCR and local authorities at the Derabon return centre in Zakho Administration. Another 219 registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Syria via Erbil airport, with border authorities sharing a copy of their registration certificate with UNHCR. Most registered refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Aleppo, followed by Al-Hasakeh and Damascus.

In the first half of September, the return of registered Syrian refugees has significantly decreased compared to the same period in August (from 942 to 352 individuals). This could be attributed to the end of the 60-day grace period for obtaining the waiver for overstay fines in the Kurdistan Region on 8 September. Within this timeframe, a high number of registered Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers (over 4,000) returned.

Egypt

As of 10 September 2025, **approximately 124,504 Syrian refugees** remain registered in Egypt, 400 less than last week. Syrian refugees now account for approximately 12% of the total refugee population in the country.

Since the fall of the former Government of Syria, Syrians started approaching UNHCR in greater numbers to request the closure of their asylum cases. As of 10 September 2025, around 10,674 closure requests involving around 23,517 individuals were submitted since 8 December 2024, including on-the-spot closures. Among applicants who closed their files, 63% were male. In terms of origin, 41% came from Damascus, 27% from Rural Damascus, 12% from Homs, 8% from Aleppo, and 12% from other Syrian locations.

Useful Links

- [Regional Flash Update #44, Syria Situation Crisis](#)
- [Flash Update on the Situation in As-Sweida #7](#)
- [UNHCR Operational Framework for Voluntary Return of Syrian Refugees and IDPs](#)
- [Enhanced Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey \(eRPIS\)](#)
- [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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