INTER-AGENCY COMMUNITY PULSE SURVEY

Return Intentions, Perceptions, Needs and Dynamics for Syrians in Türkiye

EXTENDED FINDINGS

APRIL 2026

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Rationale and Background

Since the political transition in Syria in December 2024, and continued developments through early 2026, questions around voluntary return, continued stay, and durable solutions have remained at the forefront of protection planning for Syrian refugees in Türkiye. The Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey April 2026 round is a community-based protection and needs assessment mechanism that follows on from the earlier Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment (IAPNA). The April 2026 iteration of the Community Pulse captures the evolving needs, perceptions, and return intentions of Syrian refugees. It builds directly on the intentions-focused February 2025 round conducted with Syrians and the broader October 2025 round conducted with Syrian and non-Syrian refugees in Türkiye.

This report presents a detailed analytical overview of findings across registration and legal status, employment and economic conditions, access to rights and services, education, social cohesion, conditions before leaving Syria and return intentions and barriers, disaggregated throughout by geographic zone, gender of respondent, and gender of head of household, in line with the level of disaggregation applied in previous rounds. Findings are compared against previous rounds of the Community Pulse series where relevant, to track how conditions and perceptions are evolving over time. Other relevant comparators and surveys are also considered, where appropriate (e.g. voluntary repatriation-related data and the Syrian Barometer).

Executive Summary

The April 2026 Community Pulse survey covered a total population of 7,776 individuals across Türkiye, corresponding to the 1,392 Syrian households interviewed. It provides a comprehensive snapshot of refugee well-being, service access, socio-economic conditions, social cohesion, and perspectives on return to Syria. The findings point to a population that is increasingly settled in Türkiye, maintains largely positive perceptions about its future in the country, yet continues to face significant economic pressures and growing challenges in accessing healthcare and other essential services. At the same time, intentions to return to Syria remain low, reflecting persistent concerns about safety, livelihoods, and living conditions in areas of return.

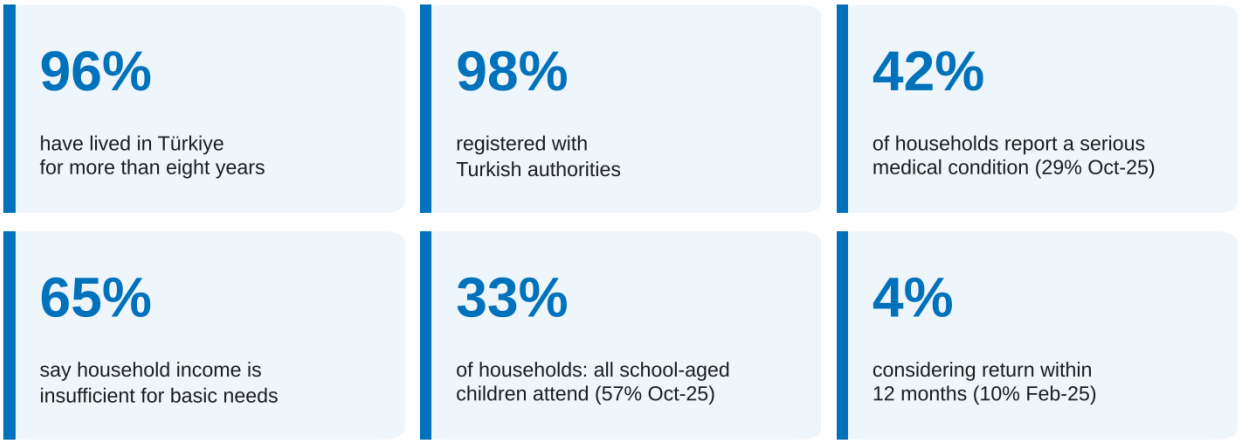


Figure 1: **Key figures, April 2026**
Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

A protracted displacement context

The survey reflects the protracted nature of Syrian displacement in Türkiye. **Nearly all respondents (96 per cent) have lived in the country for more than eight years**, while more than three-quarters (77 per cent) report ten or more years of residence. **Registration levels remain exceptionally high** at 98 per cent, and birth registration among children born in Türkiye stands at 96 per cent. Together, these findings demonstrate a highly established refugee population with strong administrative inclusion and long-term ties to the country.

At the same time, the survey population is notably young, with almost half (49 per cent) of household members under the age of 18 and almost all children under five born in Türkiye. These demographic characteristics underline the importance of sustained investments in education, livelihoods, and social inclusion, particularly for a generation that has spent most or all its life in Türkiye.

Rising vulnerabilities linked to health and economic pressures

While more than one-third of households report no specific needs, vulnerability indicators have worsened since the previous round. **Reports of serious medical or health conditions increased from 29 per cent to 42 per cent** of households, while the share of households reporting no specific needs declined substantially. The increase coincides with recent changes affecting healthcare provision for Syrians under temporary protection and may signal growing protection and health concerns among refugee households.

Economic hardship remains the defining challenge facing Syrian refugees in Türkiye. **Two-thirds of respondents report experiencing daily-life challenges**, with economic difficulties cited by 78 per cent of those affected. Nearly half of respondents struggle to cover rent and housing costs, while 65 per cent report that their household income is insufficient to meet basic needs. Women and female-headed households consistently report greater financial strain than their male counterparts. These findings highlight the continued importance of livelihoods programming, income generation opportunities, and targeted support for economically vulnerable households.

Service access remains critical, with healthcare showing signs of deterioration

Access to services continues to play a central role in refugee well-being. Three-quarters of respondents attempted to access at least one service in the preceding six months, and nearly **two-thirds were able to obtain the support they required**. However, important sectoral disparities persist. Social services remain the least accessible service category, while healthcare access has deteriorated markedly since the previous round.

The decline in healthcare access represents one of the most significant findings of the assessment. **While healthcare remains the most sought service, successful access fell** from 91 per cent in October 2025 to 75 per cent in April 2026. Financial barriers now dominate, with respondents increasingly reporting difficulties linked to closed health coverage, contribution fees, and medication costs. Among those unable to access healthcare, 76 per cent reported that their health coverage was closed, and most indicated this occurred after January 2026. These findings may provide important evidence regarding the effects of recent policy and administrative changes on refugees' ability to obtain healthcare services.

Across all service sectors, lack of information remains the most frequently cited barrier to access. Although self-reported awareness of rights and available services improved substantially compared to the previous round, language barriers and information gaps continue to limit effective access, particularly for women and respondents in the Southeast.

Education outcomes raise concerns despite reduced reporting of barriers

Education findings reveal a mixed picture. School attendance has declined considerably, with **only one-third of households reporting that all school-aged children attend school**, compared to 57 per cent in the previous round. Households reporting that no children attend school nearly doubled. While reported barriers to attendance, particularly financial barriers, have decreased, the significant reduction in attendance suggests that additional factors may be influencing educational participation and warrant further investigation. At this stage, a link to increasing economic pressure on households, and possible negative coping mechanisms, including child labour, cannot be excluded; further analysis will be undertaken jointly with partners.

The assessment also provides valuable evidence regarding children's preparedness for a potential return to Syria. Arabic-language proficiency is limited for many children, particularly literacy skills, with **42 per cent unable to read or write Arabic**. Half of respondents report having no knowledge of Syrian school equivalency procedures, and 73 per cent identify Arabic language catch-up support as a priority need should they return. These findings highlight substantial educational reintegration challenges that could affect return and reintegration planning.

Labour market participation remains high but overwhelmingly informal

More than half of respondents reported paid employment during the week preceding the survey, demonstrating **continued engagement in the labour market** despite widespread economic challenges. However, employment outcomes remain strongly shaped by gender and legal status. Men are significantly more likely to work than women, while 86 per cent of employed respondents continue to work informally and only 12 per cent hold employer-sponsored work permits.

The findings further suggest positive links between Turkish language proficiency, employment, social interaction, and access to services. Respondents with advanced Turkish language skills are more likely to be employed, while employed respondents consistently report higher levels of interaction with the host community. These relationships underscore the role of language acquisition and economic participation as potential pathways toward self-reliance and social integration.

Social cohesion remains broadly positive despite ongoing concerns

The survey presents an encouraging picture of social cohesion and perceptions of belonging. **A majority of respondents believe there is a future in Türkiye** for themselves (71 per cent), their households (74 per cent), and Syrians generally (66 per cent), representing substantial improvements compared to previous rounds. Most respondents also believe that Syrians feel safe in Türkiye and have integrated well into Turkish society.

Importantly, successful access to services is associated with stronger optimism about long-term prospects in Türkiye, suggesting that service delivery contributes not only to meeting immediate needs but also to strengthening perceptions of inclusion and stability. At the same time, concerns remain regarding discrimination, access to employment, and fears of forced return, indicating that integration gains continue to coexist with significant uncertainties.

Return intentions continue to decline amid persistent concerns about conditions in Syria

While close to half of respondents do not rule out returning to Syria one day, the current assessment highlights a continued decline in near-term return intentions, in line with normal decreasing trends in return movements. **For most respondents, return does not yet appear to be a near-term option despite recent developments in Syria, possibly reflecting a perception that the recovery of infrastructure, services and the economy is slower than hoped, together with persistent security concerns. Only 4 per cent of respondents report considering return within the next twelve months**, down from 10 per cent in February 2025 and 8 per cent in October 2025, while 51 per cent state they are not considering return at any point in the future.

The findings indicate that **conditions inside Syria remain the primary constraint on return**, as shown by the widespread **perception that Syrians are waiting for conditions in Syria to improve before returning, a view shared by 70 per cent of respondents**. Respondents overwhelmingly perceive employment opportunities as poor, with 83 per cent rating labour market conditions negatively, while 74 per cent report that they would feel unsafe if they returned today. Economic conditions, housing destruction, property-related concerns, and safety considerations remain the most significant barriers to return. Among households owning property in Syria, nine in ten report that their homes are damaged or destroyed, while a majority lack documentation proving ownership.

Although access to return-related information has improved significantly, respondents continue to prioritize information on security, livelihoods, and housing conditions. A large majority also consider a temporary visit to Syria important before making a final return decision, further illustrating the importance of informed, voluntary, and evidence-based decision-making processes.

Key implications

Overall, the findings suggest a refugee population that is increasingly rooted in Türkiye yet continues to face mounting economic and service-access challenges. Improvements in awareness, perceptions of inclusion, and optimism about the future are important positive developments. However, deteriorating healthcare access, declining school attendance, persistent economic vulnerability, and growing health-related needs highlight areas requiring continued attention. At the same time, the combination of low return intentions and negative perceptions of conditions in Syria underscores that sustainable, voluntary return remains a limited option for most respondents at present, reinforcing the importance of maintaining support for protection, inclusion, and self-reliance opportunities within Türkiye.

Given the time elapsed since data collection in March–April 2026, it should be noted that most of the recommendations in this report have already been acted upon, and efforts to address the issues identified are continuing, particularly in relation to access to healthcare (see Box: Health developments since data collection, under Access to Health Services) and children's school attendance.

Methodology

The April 2026 round followed the established Community Pulse methodology used since 2020, adapted for Syrians-only and focusing on return-intentions, similar to the returns-specific format first introduced in February 2025. Data was collected through structured phone interviews administered by trained enumerators, targeting Syrian respondents aged 18 and above who had received services from a partner organisation within the past year. The UNHCR-led survey process included four other partner organizations, namely, ASAM, HRDF, STL, and WALD. ASAM, HRDF and WALD contributed to the sampling process, by sharing a list of Syrian beneficiaries from within their caseloads with UNHCR, in line with the bilateral data-sharing agreements. With that, UNHCR's enumerators carried out calls to respondents from these three agencies, in addition to calls from UNHCR's own caseload. STL carried out their own calls, using the same questionnaire. Interviews were conducted only after obtaining informed consent, in line with Türkiye's Personal Data Protection Law.

As in previous rounds, a stratified sampling approach was applied to ensure representation across four zones — Marmara, Central Anatolia (covering Central and East Anatolia and the Black Sea region), Southeast, and Aegean. The sample distribution was informed by publicly available Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) registration figures for the Syrian population under Temporary Protection, as well as the composition of partners' accessible caseloads. With that, the report reflects disaggregated findings across geographic zone, in addition to the gender of the individual respondent, and gender of the head of household.

Data collection ran from 18 March to 16 April 2026, during which 1,392 Syrian households were interviewed by phone, covering a total population of 7,776 individuals (average household size 5.59). While the interviews are conducted with one member from the household, most questions were asked at the household level. The gender and geographic disaggregation of interviewees was determined in line with PMM statistics, to represent national and zone-based gender breakdowns for Syrians under Temporary Protection. As a result, 732 male (53%), 650 female (47%), and 8 non-binary respondents took part in the survey in addition to two respondents who did not wish to disclose their gender.

The questionnaire covered the following thematic areas, largely mirroring the structure of the February 2025 round to preserve comparability: legal status and registration; specific needs; access to rights and services; education; employment and economic conditions; social cohesion and perceptions; civil documentation; housing, land and property in Syria; and return intentions, information needs, and support required for return. The questionnaire was reviewed and synchronized with UNHCR's regional Enhanced Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey (ERPIS), to ensure complementarity across regional findings and allow for holistic analyses of returns intentions of Syrians across the region.

Respondent Profiles and Demographics

Sample Overview and Distribution

The April 2026 round covered a total population of 7,776 individuals, based on interviews with 1,392 Syrian respondents reporting on behalf of their households. The average household size of 5.59 is modestly larger than the national refugee-household average reported in the previous round. **Consistent with the concentration of the Syrian population in Türkiye, the Southeast accounted for over half of all interviews** with 52 per cent (718 calls), followed by Marmara with 26 per cent (365 calls), Central/East Anatolia & Black Sea with 15 per cent (204 calls), and the Aegean with 8 per cent (105 calls).

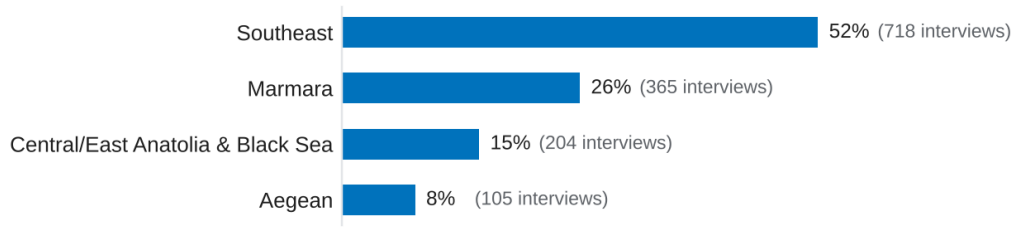


Figure 2: **Sample distribution by zone (n=1,392 households)**
Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Of respondents, 53 per cent are male and 47 per cent are female, with a small number identifying as gender non-binary or preferring not to respond (both less than one per cent). Female-headed households account for 23 per cent of the sample, with male-headed households at 77 per cent — **a gender distribution broadly consistent with previous rounds**. At household-member level, the gender split is close to even (3,219 female, 3,175 male individuals across all households), indicating no major demographic skew below the respondent level.

The sample also reflects the long-term settlement of the population in Türkiye. 96 per cent of all respondents reported having lived in Türkiye for more than eight years, with 77 per cent indicating a stay of ten years or more. The highest proportion of long-term presence was reported in the Marmara region with 83 per cent stating they've been present in Türkiye for longer than ten years. Only less than five per cent of all respondents indicated living in Türkiye for seven years or less, with the majority residing in Central Anatolia. Duration of stay shows little gender variation (78 per cent of women vs. 77 per cent of men report over ten years). While pointing to the protracted nature of Syrians' displacement in Türkiye, a long-term settlement also suggests a deep socio-economic familiarity with Türkiye.

Household Composition and Specific Needs

Household composition data show a young population profile, with almost 50 per cent of all household members represented being children, newborn to age 17. This is against comparatively few older persons recorded across all households, with persons aged sixty and more making up 3 per cent. Almost all (99 per cent) of the children aged four and younger represented by the sample group were born in Türkiye.

More than one-third of surveyed households (37 per cent) reported no specific needs, indicating that a considerable portion does not currently face issues. However, compared to the October 2025 round, **the share of Syrian households reporting no specific needs has decreased** (from 52 per cent), with more respondents reporting medical and disability related specific needs in April 2026. The most frequently stated is serious medical or health condition, with 42 per cent of households reporting at least one member with a need, up from 29 per cent in the last round. This 13-point increase in reported healthcare issues since October also comes at a time when the health provision concerning Syrians under temporary protection has undergone legislative changes. Other than medical needs, 18 per cent of respondents report a household member with a disability, 5 per cent a child with protection or education needs, and 4 per cent report a single-parent household.

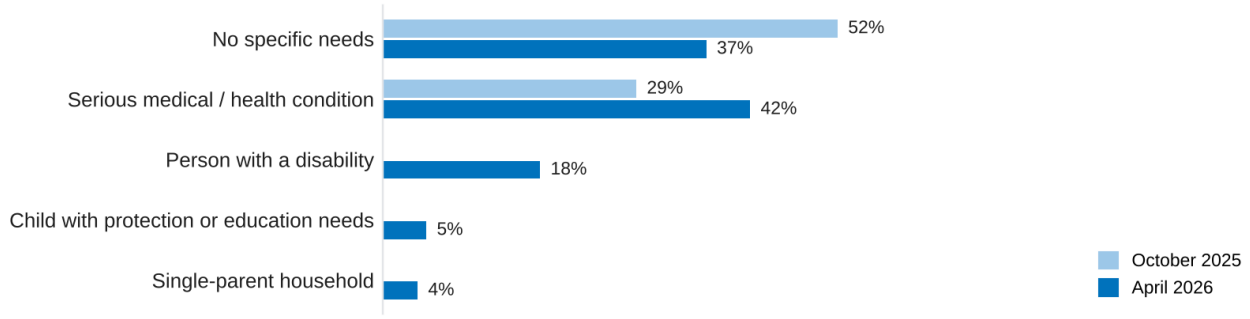


Figure 3: **Households reporting specific needs, October 2025 and April 2026**
October 2025 values are shown only where the report gives them. Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Financial security appears to be closely linked to the presence of specific needs within households. Households with sufficient income to meet their basic needs are considerably more likely to report no specific needs (55 per cent), compared to those with partially sufficient income (44 per cent) and those unable to meet their basic needs (32 per cent). Overall, 37 per cent of households reported no specific needs. This pattern indicates that economic hardship and vulnerability often intersect, with financially constrained households more likely to experience and report specific needs.

Gender-based differences are not very pronounced for the majority of specific needs categories, except for **single-parent households, which are almost entirely concentrated among female-headed households**. 15 per cent of female-headed households report being single-parent, against just one per cent of male-headed households.

Eleven per cent of all household members represented were identified as persons with disabilities, with the Aegean and Central Anatolia regions reporting the highest rate at 14 per cent against 10 and 11 per cent in Marmara and the Southeast respectively. Of those with a disability, 73 per cent hold a currently valid disability report, while nine per

cent attempted to obtain one without success and eight per cent did not attempt to obtain one at all. Compared to the previous round, a three-point increase is reported in the percentage of people with a disability, however **this round also records a 10-point increase in the proportion of respondents with a valid report**.

Education and Language Proficiency

Language proficiency continues to be a determining factor in refugees' daily experience. Among all household members represented by the survey, 71 per cent can speak at least some level of Turkish with six per cent able to handle official procedures, 21 per cent communicating comfortably in any situation, 22 per cent able to sustain everyday conversations, 23 per cent meeting their basic needs in Turkish. Twenty-nine per cent of Syrians represented by this survey cannot use Turkish at all. These findings show no change compared to the previous round.

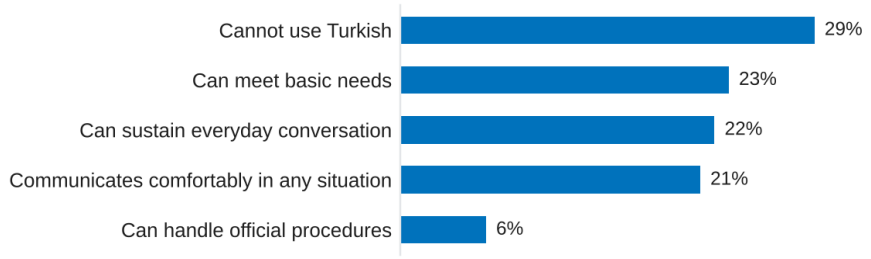


Figure 4: **Turkish language proficiency of household members**
Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

On education attainment, 42 per cent of Syrians represented in the survey have **primary education as their highest level of education completed**. This is followed by 28 per cent completing secondary, and six per cent having completed tertiary education and above. Fifteen per cent have no formal education at all, which is highest in Central Anatolia and the Southeast (15 per cent each). While gender is not a strong determining factor, a higher proportion of female-headed households report receiving at least some level of education than male heads.

The findings also point to a correlation between educational attainment and Turkish language proficiency. While 29 per cent of Syrians represented in the survey cannot use Turkish at all, this proportion rises significantly among those with no formal education, reaching 55 per cent. Limited Turkish proficiency is also more common among those whose highest level of education is primary education (35 per cent), while it drops to 27 per cent among those who completed secondary education. **This indicates a correlation between Turkish language skills and educational background;** higher levels of education appear to be associated with stronger Turkish language capacity, and well-developed Turkish language skills may in turn open more opportunities to progress in education and employment.

Regional disaggregation shows varying results with highest levels of proficiency recorded in the Aegean at 78 per cent, compared to the lowest level in the Southeast at 68 per cent able to speak some level of Turkish. Higher proficiency does not, however, always translate directly into more positive perceptions of integration: respondents in the Aegean are more likely to believe that Syrians face discrimination and would like to move to another country, while respondents in the Southeast, despite lower proficiency, report some of the most positive perceptions (see Perceptions of Belonging and Well-Being). This suggests that while language proficiency is an important enabler to open more opportunities in country of asylum, factors beyond language may shape these perceptions, such as proximity to Europe and onward migration routes in the Aegean, and proximity to Syria and cross-border mobility in the Southeast. These possible links will be explored further. While female respondents and heads of households appear to be slightly more proficient than their male counterparts, the differences are very minor.

Legal Status and Registration

Registration remains very high and broadly stable at **98 per cent** overall, consistent with the 97–98 per cent recorded in both the February 2025 and October 2025 rounds. Regionally, Marmara records the lowest registration rate with **96 per cent**, closely followed by the Aegean (97 per cent), while the Southeast has the highest rate at **99 per cent**. Registration shows no meaningful gender gap, remaining same for both female and male respondents and heads of households. In addition, almost all surveyed respondents (**98 per cent**) currently reside in their province of registration, with the lowest rate recorded amongst gender non-binary respondents (88 per cent, a very small subgroup) rather than any zone.

Among those who are not registered, **46 per cent** hold a Temporary Protection Registration Document (pre-registration document[1]), while **12 per cent** report their ID has been inactivated due to failure to register or update their address, **12 per cent** report their status was cancelled under Article 8 (foreigners not covered under the scope of temporary protection), and **8 per cent** report their TPID ceased following a voluntary return. These precarious statuses are considerably more common in the Marmara and Central Anatolia zones. Amongst those with a pre-registration document, **57 per cent** are female respondents and **33 per cent** are male. This responder-gender gap is considerably narrower when measured by gender of household head. This suggests that much of the gap reflects female respondents reporting on behalf of male-headed households, rather than a marked difference between female- and male-headed households.

Birth registration with civil authorities for children born in Türkiye stands at **96 per cent.** The highest level of birth registration is recorded in the Southeast (**98 per cent**) while the lowest is recorded in the Central Anatolia region with **90 per cent**.

Access to Rights and Services in Türkiye

Awareness of Rights and Services

Findings in this round present a marked increase in the share of respondents who feel very informed about their rights and available services at **47 per cent**, up from 35 per cent reported in October 2025. **Twenty-eight per cent** of respondents feel neither informed nor uninformed, and **26 per cent** report not feeling informed at all. **As this question captures respondents' own perception of how informed they are, rather than testing their actual knowledge of specific rights or services, the findings should be read as an indication of confidence in accessing information, which may not fully correspond to the accuracy or completeness of the information held.** Awareness levels appear highest in the Aegean (**50 per cent**) and lowest in the Southeast (**45 per cent**), presenting a similar trend to that observed in the previous round. Awareness levels show little gender gap pertaining to both the respondent and the head of household.

Among those who **do not feel sufficiently informed,** the most-cited challenge is lack of language or interpretation support, stated by **45 per cent** of respondents. Following this, **34 per cent** state they don't know where to get information and **17 per cent** indicate difficulty in reading or writing. Consistent with self-reported awareness being lowest in the Southeast, information challenges are also most pronounced there: 50 per cent of respondents from the Southeast indicate they need language and interpretation support, **37 per cent** do not know where to get the information from, and **20 per cent** state difficulty reading and writing – the highest proportions across all zones. One outlying finding is in the Aegean region, where **19 per cent** of respondents indicate that the information they access is unclear or they do not trust it – this proportion is nearly double that observed in other regions.

> UNHCR is testing an ethical and responsible approach to developing a multilingual AI assistant, RefugeeHelp.AI, intended to provide accessible, empathetic, and accurate information drawn from Help website content and other informational material used by UNHCR operations. The assistant is envisaged in both text and voice formats, for deployment on the Help website and other platforms as appropriate to each operational context, and is designed to be available in a range of languages to enable scalability and accessibility across operations. Rather than replacing the Help website as a consolidated source of information, the tool is intended to complement it by delivering that same information in a more conversational, accessible format optimised for mobile devices.
>
> Given the diversity and potential vulnerabilities of its target users, technical robustness and accuracy alone are not considered sufficient for this tool: it must also be grounded in the needs, expressed preferences, and perceptions of communities in all their diversity. Accordingly, in parallel with the assistant's technical development, UNHCR is carrying out a structured programme of community engagement with diverse groups of refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye and Uganda, the two pilot operations.

[1] The pre-registration document (Kayıt Belgesi) is an A4-sized paper document issued by PDMM, containing the individual's personal information (name, surname, parents' names, nationality, date and place of birth), foreigner identification number, registration date and province, contact information (including province of residence, telephone number and an address field, where available), photograph, official stamp and signature, as well as information on the individual's rights and obligations in Turkish and Arabic.

The first phase of this engagement examined user attitudes toward an AI assistant on the UNHCR Help website, testing an early prototype with 122 participants across Istanbul, Gaziantep, Izmir, and Ankara in April 2026. Participants included Syrian, Afghan, Iranian, and Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers, with two dedicated groups of visually impaired participants convened in Izmir; research was conducted through focus group discussions and individual interviews in Arabic, Farsi, Turkish, and English.

The qualitative findings from this research reinforce and add texture to the information-access barriers identified in this survey. Low literacy and limited digital literacy, and accessibility barriers for persons with visual impairments, constrained participants' ability to access clear, usable information — barriers that closely parallel this round's findings on language and interpretation gaps and uncertainty about where to seek information, especially for individuals with specific needs, and that a conversational, multilingual, voice-capable tool is intended to address. The AI tool is designed to complement the Counselling Line, which provides individualised responses to specific situations requiring targeted intervention and advocacy to identify solutions, primarily in relation to protection.

While awareness levels are broadly similar across genders, female respondents and female-headed households report experiencing greater barriers to accessing information. Language and interpretation support remains the most commonly cited challenge, reported by **49 per cent** of female respondents compared to **41 per cent** of males. Women are also more likely to report not knowing where to access information (37 per cent versus 31 per cent) and facing difficulties related to reading and writing (19 per cent versus 16 per cent). These findings suggest that, despite comparable levels of **perceived** awareness, women may face additional practical barriers in obtaining and using information.

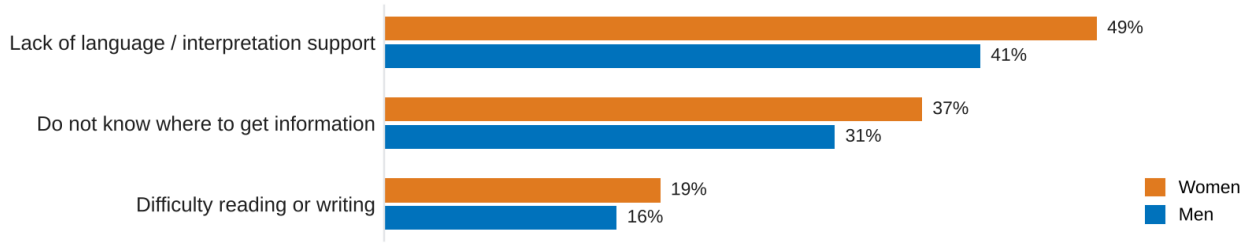


Figure 5: **Main barriers to information, by gender of respondent**
Base: respondents who do not feel sufficiently informed. Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Access to Services

Access to services remains an important area of engagement for the refugee population, with **75 per cent** of respondents reporting that they attempted to access at least one service in Türkiye during the past six months. Among those who sought services, **62 per cent** were able to access the support they needed, while **38 per cent** reported being unsuccessful. Health services were the most frequently sought, with **90 per cent** of respondents attempting to access healthcare, followed by PDMM services (**76 per cent**) and NGO-provided services (**74 per cent**).

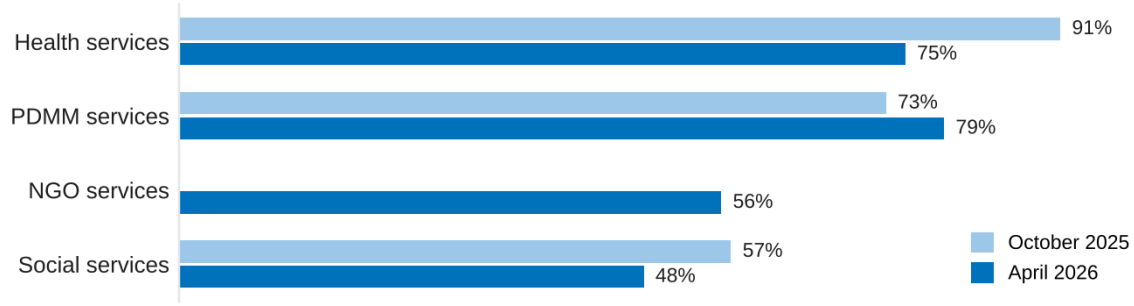


Figure 6: **Successful access among those who sought each service**
Base: respondents who attempted to access the service in the previous six months. NGO access for October 2025 is not given in the report. Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Access to PDMM services shows no gender gap, but health, NGO, and social service access are all somewhat higher among women than men — most notably NGO services, where **61 per cent** of women report access against **50 per cent** of men, an 11-point gap. This may reflect targeted outreach to women by NGO partners, or simply a greater tendency among women to approach NGOs to address their own and their families' needs, particularly health-related needs, although the survey does not allow either explanation to be confirmed directly.

Gender differences are also evident in barriers to accessing services. In this round, personal or household responsibilities emerged as a more significant barrier for women than for men across all service categories. These barriers were most felt when attempting to access PDMMs and social services, where more than one-third of female respondents and female-headed households identified these responsibilities as an obstacle, compared to a much lower proportion of male respondents and male-headed households. This suggests that caregiving responsibilities and competing household demands may place a disproportionate burden on women, limiting their ability to seek and access available support.

Access to PDMM Services

PDMM services recorded the highest rate of successful access among all service types, with **79 per cent** of respondents reporting that they were able to obtain the services they sought during the previous six months. This represents a slight increase in access compared to the previous round finding of 73 per cent. Success rates were broadly consistent across regions, although respondents in the Aegean and Southeast reported slightly higher levels of successful access (**81 per cent**). No significant differences were observed between female and male respondents or between female and male-headed households.

Among respondents who were unable to access PDMM services, the most frequently reported challenges related to address registration or updates (**19 per cent**), updating data with PDMMs (**15 per cent**), and activation of health insurance following registration (**14 per cent**). This represents a shift from October 2025, when health insurance activation was amongst the least mentioned challenges at only 5 per cent. Regional patterns suggest that specific administrative procedures present varying challenges across Türkiye. Difficulties with address registration were most reported in the Southeast (**23 per cent**), while issues related to data updates were particularly pronounced in the Aegean (**25 per cent**). In Central Anatolia, activation or reactivation of health insurance was the most frequently cited challenge, whereas respondents in Marmara most commonly reported difficulties with both PDMM registration and personal data updates (**23 per cent** each).

Some gender differences were also observed in the types of challenges reported. Difficulties related to address registration were more commonly reported by male respondents and male-headed households, while female respondents and female-headed households more frequently identified PDMM registration procedures and personal data updates as barriers to accessing services.

Main barriers in access to PDMM services were lack of information about services (**39 per cent**), personal or household responsibilities (**29 per cent**) and documentation related issues (**22 per cent**). While lack of information was most frequently stated by respondents in the Southeast (**43 per cent**), restricting responsibilities were mentioned most in the Aegean and Marmara regions.

Access to Social Services

Social services were sought by **67 per cent** of respondents during the previous six months. However, access to these services remained comparatively limited, with fewer than half of those seeking support (**48 per cent**) reporting successful access. This makes social services the least accessible service category assessed in the survey and represents a decline from the previous round, when 57 per cent of respondents seeking social services were able to access them. As in the current round, social services were also identified as the service category with the lowest access rates in October 2025.

Regional variations in access were observed. The highest rates of successful access to social services were reported in the Southeast (**51 per cent**), while respondents in the Aegean reported the lowest levels of access (**41 per cent**). Gender-disaggregated findings suggest that women experienced somewhat better access outcomes than men. Among those seeking social services, **51 per cent** of female respondents reported successful access compared to

44 per cent of male respondents and **56 per cent** of female-headed households compared to **45 per cent** of male-headed households.

A lack of information about available services emerged as the primary barrier to accessing social services, affecting **48 per cent** of respondents who were unable to obtain support. Other commonly reported obstacles included personal or household responsibilities that prevented access (**22 per cent**) and documentation or registration-related issues (**15 per cent**). Lack of information was particularly pronounced in the Southeast, where half of respondents reported it as a barrier. In Marmara, personal and household responsibilities were more frequently cited than in other regions (31 per cent), while in the Aegean, one-third of respondents identified eligibility criteria as a key obstacle to accessing social services.

Access to NGOs

NGO services were sought by **74 per cent** of respondents during the previous six months. Among those who attempted to access these services, **56 per cent** reported doing so successfully. Access levels varied across regions, with the highest rates of successful access reported in the Southeast (**61 per cent**) and the lowest in the Aegean (**47 per cent**). Gender-disaggregated findings indicate that female respondents and female-headed households experienced somewhat higher levels of successful access to NGO services compared to their male counterparts.

As with other service categories, a lack of information about available services and access procedures emerged as the primary barrier to accessing NGO support, affecting **47 per cent** of respondents who were unable to obtain services. Personal or household responsibilities constituted the second most frequently reported obstacle (**20 per cent**). These findings suggest that informational barriers continue to play a key role in limiting access to NGO assistance, highlighting the importance of effective outreach and communication strategies to ensure that refugees are aware of available support and how to access it. In addition to informational barriers, the more limited capacity and reduced field presence of NGO service providers in recent times may also have contributed to unsuccessful access, although this would require further analysis,

Access to Health Services

While healthcare was the most frequently sought service among all respondents, among those seeking healthcare, **75 per cent** were able to access the services they needed, making healthcare one of the most accessible service categories assessed. Despite these comparatively high access levels, the findings point to a notable decline since the previous survey round, when **91 per cent** of respondents reported successful access to healthcare services.

Regional patterns broadly mirror those observed in the previous round. Respondents in the Aegean and Marmara continued to report comparatively lower levels of healthcare access, with **73 per cent** and **71 per cent** respectively indicating successful access. Access outcomes were somewhat more favourable among women, with **78 per cent** of female respondents reporting successful access compared to **73 per cent** of men. A similar pattern is observed at the household level, where **81 per cent** of female-headed households reported successful access, compared to **74 per cent** of male-headed households.

Among respondents who were unable to access healthcare services, financial barriers emerged as the most significant obstacle. More than half (**54 per cent**) reported that the closure of health coverage or difficulties meeting associated costs prevented them from accessing care. An additional **10 per cent** indicated that, despite having active health coverage, they were unable to afford required contribution fees, while **8 per cent** reported being unable to obtain prescribed medication due to payment requirements at pharmacies. Taken together, the three most frequently cited barriers point to the growing role of healthcare-related costs as a constraint on access to medical services. This is a sharp departure from October 2025, when language and translation barriers were the leading concern specifically for Syrians under Temporary Protection (**40 per cent**). In this round, language barriers account for only a small share of responses (**4 per cent**).

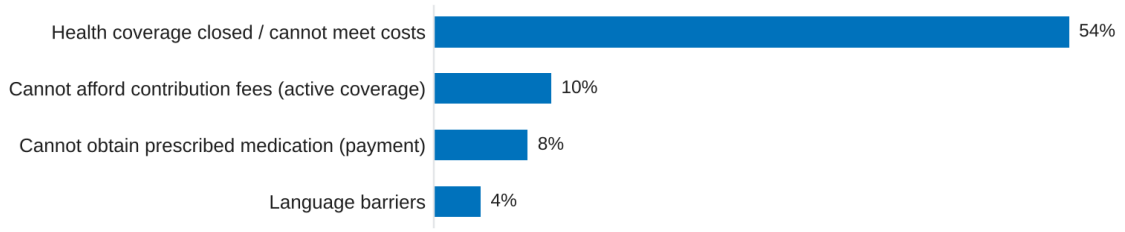


Figure 7: **Main barriers to healthcare access**
Base: respondents unable to access healthcare. Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Regional variations suggest that different barriers are pronounced in certain areas. Difficulties related to the closure of health coverage were most frequently reported in the Aegean and Marmara regions (**63 per cent** in both), while respondents in the Southeast were more likely to report difficulties affording healthcare contribution fees despite having active coverage (**12 per cent**). Some gender differences were also observed, with a higher proportion of female respondents and female-headed households (**58 per cent** for both groups) identifying the closure of health coverage as a barrier compared to their male counterparts.

The findings suggest that recent changes to health coverage of Syrians in Türkiye may be contributing to the decline in healthcare access observed since the previous survey round. Among respondents who were unable to access healthcare, **76 per cent** report that their health provision is currently closed due to various reasons. Among them, **62 per cent** reported that their health provision had been closed after 1 January 2026, while **four per cent** indicate that their health provision is closed due to unemployment, and another **four per cent** that it was recently closed. Twenty-three per cent indicated that their coverage remained active.

Box: Health developments since data collection

Data for this round were collected between 18 March and 16 April 2026. Since then, there have been further developments in health provision for Syrians under temporary protection that are relevant to the findings presented above:

Persons unable to cover their healthcare costs: Under the amendments to the Temporary Protection Regulation in force since 1 January 2026, health provision continued without interruption for persons with a chronic illness report, persons already receiving inpatient treatment, SSN and C-SSN beneficiaries and residents of Temporary Accommodation Centres. Persons whose health provision was inactivated can be referred by PDMMs to the Ministry of Family and Social Services for an ability-to-pay assessment and possible reactivation. In addition to the existing referral criteria (a disability report of 40 per cent or above, single parenthood, or the absence of a working-age family member), the Presidency of Migration Management has introduced a fourth criterion, allowing the referral of persons who state that they have no means to cover their health costs.

Chronic diseases: Through Circular No. 2026/17, which replaces Circular No. 2021/25 of 14 July 2021, the Social Security Institution (SGK) has lifted the exclusion of chronic diseases diagnosed before a person first became covered by General Health Insurance (GHI), as set out in Article 64(1)(c) of Law No. 5510, for international protection applicants and status holders, stateless persons, and persons under temporary protection covered by GHI under Article 60(1)(a) and (f) of the Law, together with their dependants. This addresses a longstanding barrier whereby refugees moving into GHI coverage, for example through formal employment, could lose coverage for the treatment of pre-existing chronic conditions.

These developments respond to some of the barriers reported in this round, notably the closure of health coverage after 1 January 2026, and should be taken into account when reading the healthcare findings.

Children's Access to Education

Only **33 per cent** of households report that all their children attend school in Türkiye, a steep decline from **57 per cent** recorded for Syrians in October 2025, while **22 per cent** report that none of their children attend — nearly double the **12 per cent** recorded previously. A further **19 per cent** report that a majority of children attend, and **25 per cent**

report only some attending. Attendance is highest in the Southeast (36 per cent all attend) and lowest in both Marmara and Central Anatolia (29 per cent each). Children in female-headed households are somewhat more likely to have full attendance (38 per cent) than those in male-headed households (32 per cent), a pattern similar to the previous round.

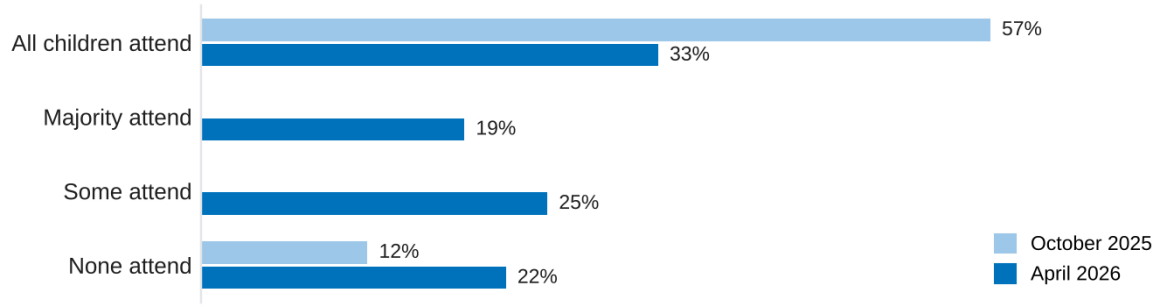


Figure 8: **School attendance of school-aged children in the household**
October 2025 values are shown only where the report gives them. Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

It is important to distinguish these reported attendance figures from the Ministry of National Education's (MoNE) administrative enrolment data, as the two indicators measure different aspects of access to education. Enrolment refers to whether a child is formally registered in the education system, while attendance reflects how regularly enrolled children actually attend school; lower attendance rates therefore do not necessarily imply an equivalent decline in enrolment, since some children may remain formally enrolled while attending with varying degrees of regularity. The two data sources are also structured differently — this survey's findings are reported at the household level, whereas MoNE figures refer to individual school-age children — which further limits direct comparison between the two.

Nevertheless, the overall picture from this round is broadly consistent with MoNE data for the 2025–2026 school year, which indicate that approximately 25% of school-age Syrian children are not enrolled, corresponding closely to this survey's finding that 22% of households report none of their children attending school. This alignment lends external support to the scale of the decline identified in this round, even though the sharpness of the drop from October 2025 (58% all-attend, all-nationality) still warrants the direct sector follow-up recommended above. At this stage, a link to increasing economic pressure on households, including child labour or other negative coping strategies, cannot be excluded; further analysis will be undertaken jointly with partners.

When asked about any challenges faced in school attendance, majority of households (**58 per cent**) indicate no challenges. Peer bullying (**21 per cent**) and financial barriers, including education materials and school fees (**18 per cent**) are the most cited challenges, followed by transportation and mobility-related barriers (**5 per cent**). As the primary barrier shared, peer bullying is most prominent in Marmara (24 per cent), while the other barriers don't show significant difference across regions. Compared to the previous survey round, reported challenges to school attendance appear to have declined considerably, where financial barriers was the most reported challenge in the previous round with 39 per cent, followed by peer bullying at 26 per cent. Despite the decline, the continued visibility of peer bullying indicates that social inclusion and the school environment remain important factors influencing children's educational experiences.

In this round, households were asked on the proficiency of their children in using formal Arabic[2], to evaluate language readiness for a potential return. Children's proficiency in formal Arabic appears varied, with **32 per cent** of respondents indicating their children's speaking is either good or very good and **29 per cent** of respondents indicating their children cannot speak Arabic at all. Additionally, **17 per cent** have a beginner, **10 per cent** have basic, and **12 per cent** have a moderate level of speaking. While the highest levels of proficiency are reported in Central Anatolia

[2] The question referred to formal Arabic, described to respondents as "the Arabic used by teachers in Syrian schools or on TV", and not the dialect used at home.

(38 per cent either good or very good), the lowest levels are recorded for the Aegean (45 per cent having no proficiency) No significant gender-based differences appear.

Reading and writing proficiency in formal Arabic appears to be more limited than speaking proficiency. More than two in five respondents (**42 per cent**) indicated that their children have no reading or writing skills in Arabic, while only **15 per cent** reported that their children possess good or very good literacy skills. An additional **20 per cent** were assessed at a beginner level, **11 per cent** at a basic level, and **12 per cent** at a moderate level. Regionally, the proportion of children with greatest literacy are in Central Anatolia with **20 per cent**, and the proportion of those who cannot read or write at all are highest in the Aegean at **53 per cent**. Compared to spoken Arabic, these findings suggest that literacy skills are less developed among many children, pointing to potential challenges in adapting to formal Arabic-language educational environments in the event of return.

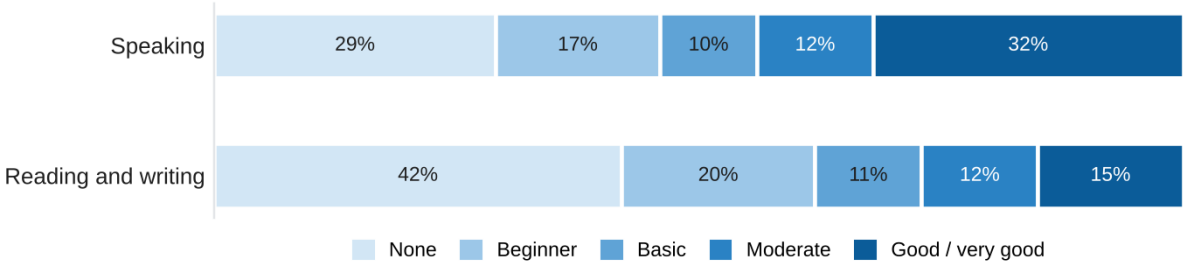


Figure 9: **Children's proficiency in formal Arabic, as reported by households**
Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Reflecting the varying levels of Arabic language proficiency observed among children, perceptions of families on their ability to transition to Arabic-language education were also mixed. While **37 per cent** of respondents expected their children to switch to studying in Arabic without difficulty, **22 per cent** anticipated significant challenges and a further **21 per cent** expected some initial difficulties before adaptation.

Knowledge of education equivalency requirements in Syria appears to be limited among surveyed households. Only **24 per cent** of respondents reported that they clearly understand the documentation and procedures required for school equivalency, while **half** indicated that they do not know what is required at all. A further **17 per cent** reported being uncertain. Knowledge levels were broadly similar across genders, although women reported slightly higher levels of awareness than men (25 per cent versus 22 per cent). These findings suggest that, beyond language and educational readiness, procedural knowledge may represent an additional challenge for families seeking to ensure continuity of their children's education in a return context.

Livelihoods and Economic Conditions

Employment

More than half of all respondents (**56 per cent**) reported having worked for pay for an employer during the seven days preceding the survey, indicating continued participation in the labour market among a substantial proportion of the refugee population. Employment levels varied across regions, with the highest proportion of working respondents recorded in Marmara (**66 per cent**) and the lowest in the Southeast (**50 per cent**). Marked gender disparities were observed, with **68 per cent** of male respondents reporting employment compared to **40 per cent** of female respondents – a 28-point gap. A similar, though less pronounced, pattern was evident at the household level, where **58 per cent** of male-headed households reported employment compared to **44 per cent** of female-headed households. This pattern of gendered labour-market exclusion is consistent with the findings from the previous round of this survey.

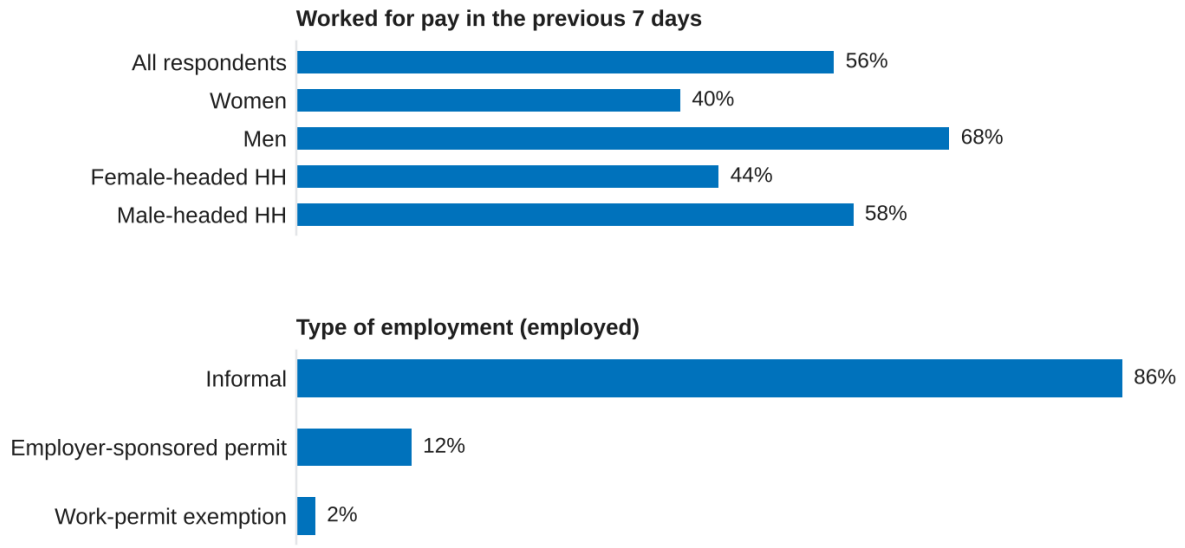


Figure 10: **Labour market participation and formality**
Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

A correlation is observed between Turkish language proficiency and labour market participation. While Turkish proficiency does not appear to be consistently associated with employment outcomes across all language levels, respondents who are most proficient and whose Turkish is sufficient to handle official procedures are notably more likely to be employed. Among this group, **64 per cent** reported having worked for pay during the previous seven days, compared to **56 per cent** of respondents overall. **This suggests that advanced functional language skills, particularly the ability to navigate administrative and official processes, may facilitate access to employment opportunities and support labour market participation in Türkiye.**

Another relationship observed is between specific needs and labour market participation. Employment levels were higher among households reporting no specific needs, with **61 per cent** indicating that at least one household member had worked for pay during the previous seven days. In contrast, employment levels were lower among households reporting serious medical conditions or the presence of a person with a disability, where the corresponding figure was **51 per cent** in both groups. This pattern suggests that households affected by health-related vulnerabilities may face additional barriers to labour market participation including caregiving responsibilities associated with supporting household members.

Among respondents who had not worked during the previous seven days, only a small proportion reported being self-employed (**3 per cent**) or working as unpaid contributing family workers (**2 per cent**). One in five respondents who were not employed (**21 per cent**) indicated that they were actively seeking work, suggesting continued interest in labour market participation. Job-seeking was most reported in the Aegean region with **26 per cent**.

Significant gender differences were also observed among those seeking employment. While **37 per cent** of unemployed male respondents reported actively looking for work, the corresponding figure among unemployed female respondents was only **8 per cent**. This may indicate that barriers to labour market participation extend beyond employment opportunities alone, with factors such as caregiving responsibilities, household obligations, or other structural constraints potentially influencing women's engagement in job-search activities.

Among respondents who were employed at the time of the survey, informal employment remained the predominant form of labour market participation. The vast majority with **86 per cent** reported working informally, while only **12 per cent** were employed under an employer-sponsored work permit and **2 per cent** under a work-permit exemption. Of respondents who are formally employed, **81 per cent** indicated that their employer applied for a work permit on their behalf, while **5 per cent** applied for an exemption themselves. Of these applications, **83 per cent** were approved, while **16 per cent** are currently pending permit applications. These findings indicate that, despite substantial engagement in the labour market, access to formal employment opportunities remains limited for most Syrian refugees in Türkiye.

Regional differences were evident, with the Aegean recording the highest prevalence of informal employment (**91 per cent**). In contrast, Marmara and Central Anatolia reported the highest levels of formal employment, although these remained comparatively low at **16 per cent** in both regions. Informal employment was slightly more common among women and female-headed households. Among employed respondents, **89 per cent** of women reported working informally, compared to **85 per cent** of men. A similar pattern was observed at the household level, where **93 per cent** of employed female-headed households relied on informal employment, compared to **85 per cent** of male-headed households. This suggests that female workers may face additional barriers to accessing formal employment, potentially limiting access to employment-related protections and benefits.

Employment was concentrated in a number of sectors, with manufacturing accounting for the largest share of jobs among employed respondents (**27 per cent**). This was followed by the services sector (**15 per cent**) and construction (**14 per cent**), while **9 per cent** reported working in agriculture or livestock-related activities and a further **9 per cent** were employed in professional occupations such as teaching, healthcare, or engineering.

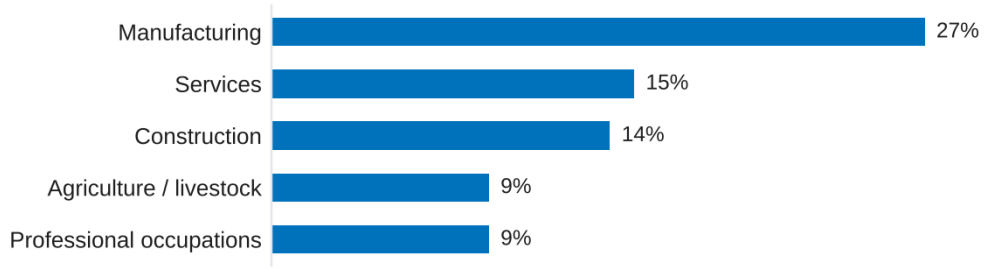


Figure 11: **Sector of employment among employed respondents**
Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Regional differences in employment patterns were evident. Respondents in Central Anatolia were more likely to work in manufacturing (**36 per cent**) and service-sector occupations (**22 per cent**), while construction and agricultural employment were most prevalent in the Aegean, where both sectors accounted for **19 per cent** of reported jobs. These variations likely reflect differences in regional labour market opportunities and the dominant economic activities across Türkiye. The findings therefore remained similar to the previous rounds.

The findings also point to gendered patterns of labour market participation. Employment in manufacturing and construction was predominantly reported by male respondents and male-headed households, whereas women and female-headed households were more strongly represented in service-sector occupations.

Basic Needs and Challenges

Two-thirds of respondents (**66 per cent**) reported experiencing challenges in their daily lives in Türkiye, indicating that many households continue to face difficulties despite their long-term presence in the country. These findings are similar to the February 2025 data. The prevalence of daily challenges varied somewhat by region, ranging from **72 per cent** in the Aegean to **65 per cent** in both the Southeast and Central Anatolia. Female-headed households were slightly more likely to report facing daily challenges than male-headed households (**71 per cent** versus **64 per cent**), pointing to persistent gender-related vulnerabilities.

Among respondents experiencing challenges, economic hardship emerged as the most widespread concern, affecting **78 per cent** of respondents. Accommodation-related problems were the second most frequently reported challenge (**35 per cent**), followed by high food prices and nutrition-related concerns (**25 per cent**).

Financial pressures remain a significant concern for many refugee households. When asked which expenditures they were unable to cover, rent and housing-related costs emerged as the most frequently reported challenge, cited by **49 per cent** of respondents. In addition, more than one-third (**34 per cent**) indicated that they were unable to cover any of a range of essential expenses, including housing, food, non-food items, healthcare, utilities, and education. Food-related costs were also a prominent concern, with **21 per cent** reporting difficulty meeting these expenses.

Regional disparities in financial vulnerability were evident. Difficulties covering rent and housing costs were most pronounced in the Aegean, where **56 per cent** of respondents reported being unable to meet these expenses.

Challenges related to food costs were reported most frequently in both the Aegean and Southeast (**24 per cent** each), while difficulties covering essential non-food items and utility costs were more commonly reported in Marmara.

A similar trend is reflected in respondents' assessments of their household income adequacy. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (**65 per cent**) reported that their current income is insufficient to meet their basic needs, while a further **22 per cent** indicated that their income only partially covers essential requirements. Only **13 per cent** reported having sufficient income to meet their household's basic needs. **This records an important deterioration from the previous round in October**, where 40 per cent reported insufficiency of income, in addition to 50 per cent stating partial insufficiency. So, a dramatic 25-point increase is observed in the percentage of respondents who are completely unable to cover their basic households needs.

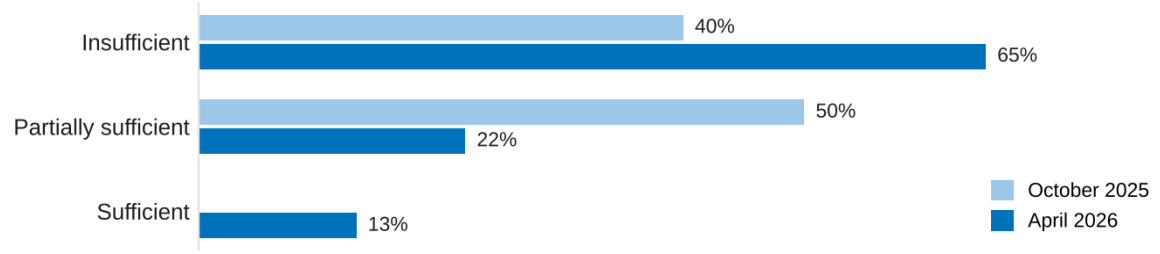


Figure 12: **Household income relative to basic needs**
The October 2025 "sufficient" value is not given in the report. Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Income insufficiency was particularly pronounced in the Aegean, where three-quarters of respondents (**75 per cent**) reported being unable to meet their basic needs with their current income. Female respondents and female-headed households were more likely to report inadequate income than their male counterparts, with **71 per cent** of women and **74 per cent** of female-headed households indicating that their income was insufficient to meet basic needs.

The findings suggest that economic pressures continue to shape the daily experiences of Syrian refugees across Türkiye. The prominence of economic hardship, housing concerns, and food-related challenges highlights the interconnected nature of households' basic needs and their ability to achieve financial stability. **Slightly higher reporting of these challenges among female respondents and female-headed households further indicates that economic vulnerability may be more acute among women, potentially affecting their access to livelihoods and overall well-being.**

Social Cohesion and Perceptions

Interaction with Host Community Members

Levels of interaction with the host community vary considerably across different settings. Among all categories, the workplace emerged as the setting with the most frequent contact, with **60 per cent** of respondents reporting daily interaction with members of the host community. This was followed by schools and universities (**57 per cent**) and markets or shopping centres (**49 per cent**), highlighting the important role that employment, education, and everyday activities play in fostering social contact. A similar trend was observed in the February 2025 round with the workplace and schools housing the highest level of interaction.



Figure 13: **Daily interaction with host community members, by setting**
Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

In contrast, opportunities for interaction appear more limited in community-based and social settings. By comparison, only around half of respondents reported interacting with the host community at least occasionally at NGO-provided community centres or facilities (53 per cent) or during social and cultural events (54 per cent), while the remainder

rarely or never do so. This suggests that while regular engagement with the host community occurs through daily routines and shared public spaces, meaningful participation in more structured social and community activities remains comparatively limited. The findings could also point to contact between Syrians and the host community that is mainly functional and limited to practical exchanges, rather than deeper social interaction.

Regional differences were also evident. Respondents in the Aegean consistently reported lower levels of frequent interaction across most settings, whereas those in Central Anatolia and Marmara reported the highest levels of engagement with the host community. These findings may reflect differences in local social environments, labour market participation, educational attendance, and opportunities for community interaction across regions.

Gender-disaggregated findings indicate that women generally report lower levels of interaction with the host community than men across almost all settings. The most pronounced difference is observed in the workplace, where **68 per cent** of male respondents reported daily interaction with members of the host community, compared to **51 per cent** of female respondents. A similar gap is evident in markets and shopping centres, where daily interaction was reported by **53 per cent** of men and **44 per cent** of women.

Schools and universities constitute the only setting where women reported slightly higher levels of interaction than men. Overall, the findings suggest that women's opportunities for regular engagement with the host community may be more limited outside educational settings. This pattern may be linked to differences in labour market participation and mobility, reinforcing the importance of schools and other community spaces as platforms for social interaction and inclusion.

The findings also indicate a potential association between social interaction and access to services. Respondents who were unsuccessful in accessing services they sought during the previous six months were more likely to report rarely or never interacting with the host community. This suggests that lower levels of interaction may not necessarily reflect weaker social cohesion alone but may also be related to practical barriers affecting access to services more broadly. The relationship points to the importance of considering social inclusion and service access as mutually reinforcing dimensions of refugee well-being and integration.

On the other hand, employment status appeared to have a positive association with the frequency of interaction. Across all settings assessed, respondents who were employed reported more frequent contact with members of the host community than those who were not working. This relationship may reflect the broader social engagement that accompanies labour market participation. In addition to providing opportunities for interaction in the workplace itself, employment is likely to increase individuals' presence in public spaces, including public transportation, markets and shopping centres. The findings therefore suggest that employment may contribute to social interaction not only through professional relationships, but also through greater day-to-day participation in community life. This is in line with the broader finding of this round that Turkish language proficiency, employment, social interaction and access to services are positively linked, with respondents with advanced Turkish language skills being more likely to be employed.

Perceptions of Belonging and Well-Being

Respondents were also asked a series of questions about their perceptions of the broader Syrians community's situation and future in Türkiye – including questions pertaining to belonging, inclusion, well-being, and future intentions.

Perceptions of long-term prospects in Türkiye remain broadly positive among surveyed respondents. A majority believe that there is a future in Türkiye for themselves (**71 per cent**), for their households (**74 per cent**), and for Syrians more generally (**66 per cent**). The slightly lower level of confidence regarding the future of Syrians as a whole, compared to perceptions about personal or household prospects, may indicate that respondents are more optimistic about their own circumstances than about broader community-level outcomes. Compared to the February 2025 round, the proportion of respondents with a positive outlook on a future in Türkiye have increased notably, between 15-20 points, for all categories. A majority also believe that Syrians are happy in Türkiye (59 per cent) and can access essential services (54 per cent).

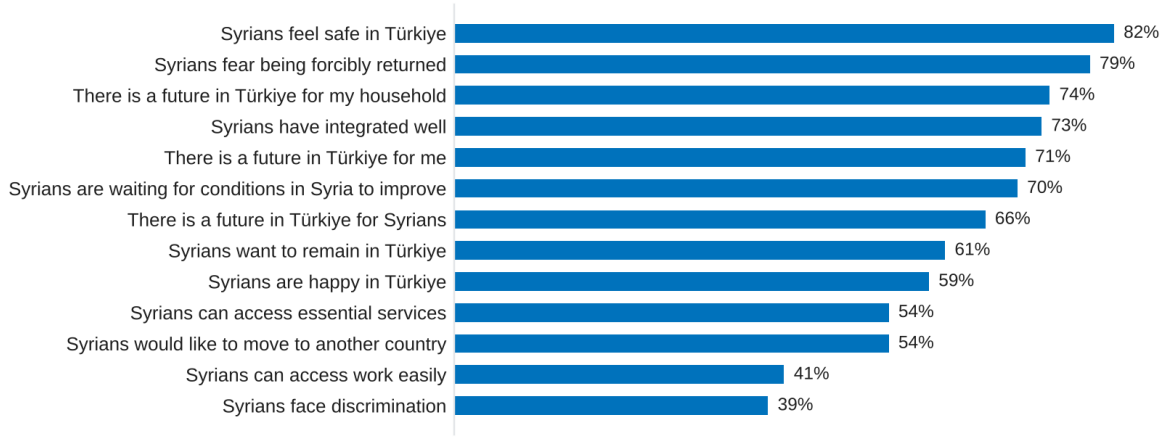


Figure 14: **Agreement with statements about Syrians in Türkiye**
Statements describe perceptions of the Syrian community in general, except the "future" items, which ask about the respondent and household. Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Box: Comparison with the Syrians Barometer 2026

The Syrians Barometer (SB), led by Prof. Dr. M. Murat Erdoğan, provides an independent point of reference for several Community Pulse indicators. Its 2026 round (SB-2026) covered a total population of 6,751 individuals under temporary protection in 15 cities, based on interviews with 1,422 Syrian households in July 2026, around three months after Community Pulse data collection. Preliminary SB-2026 findings, presented in September 2026, point in the same direction as this round on three key indicators:

Future in Türkiye: 88 per cent of SB-2026 respondents believe there is a future for them and their family in Türkiye, compared with 71 per cent (for themselves) and 74 per cent (for their households) in this round. Both surveys record a marked improvement compared to earlier rounds (SB-2023: 38 per cent for themselves and 41 per cent for their families).

Integration: 75 per cent of SB-2026 respondents consider that Syrians have integrated into Turkish society to a large extent or completely, closely matching the 73 per cent of respondents in this round who believe Syrians have integrated well.

Return intentions: 2.7 per cent of SB-2026 respondents plan to return within one year and 72 per cent have absolutely no intention of returning, compared with 4 per cent considering return within the next 12 months and 51 per cent not considering return at any point in this round.

The figures are not directly comparable, given differences in sampling, timing and question wording. For example, SB-2026 asked about the future "for you and your family" as a single question, whereas Community Pulse asks about respondents themselves and their households separately. Nevertheless, the consistency in direction across two independent surveys lends additional confidence to the trends identified in this round.

Access to services appears to be associated with respondents' outlook on their future in Türkiye. Respondents who reported successfully accessing services during the previous six months were more likely to believe that they have a future in the country compared to those who experienced difficulties obtaining the services they needed. This relationship suggests that effective access to services may contribute to a greater sense of stability, inclusion, and confidence in long-term prospects. Beyond meeting immediate needs, successful engagement with health, social, administrative, and other support services may reinforce respondents' perceptions of their ability to build and sustain their lives in Türkiye.

Perceptions of economic inclusion are notably less positive. While a majority believe that Syrians are happy in Türkiye and can access essential services, only 41 per cent agree that Syrians can access work easily, while one-third (33 per cent) disagree. Male respondents are more likely than female respondents to agree that Syrians can access essential services (59 per cent compared to 49 per cent), and slightly more likely to believe that Syrians can

access work (44 per cent compared to 39 per cent). This suggests that labour market access remains a key challenge, even where access to basic services is perceived more favourably.

Perceptions of safety and belonging in Türkiye nevertheless remain largely positive. A substantial majority of respondents believe that Syrians feel safe in Türkiye (82 per cent), have integrated well into Turkish society and wish to contribute positively (73 per cent), and see a future for themselves and their households in the country. Similarly, 61 per cent believe that Syrians want to remain in Türkiye – 65 per cent of female and 58 per cent of male respondents – indicating that many refugees continue to view Türkiye as a viable place to build their lives, even amid uncertainty about longer-term prospects.

At the same time, some concerns persist. Concerns about forced return are widespread, with 79 per cent agreeing that Syrians fear being forcibly returned to Syria. In addition, while nearly three-quarters of respondents believe that Syrians have integrated well into Turkish society, 39 per cent also believe that Syrians face discrimination in Türkiye. The relatively large proportion of respondents who are undecided on discrimination (37 per cent) may indicate diverse experiences across regions and population groups.

Read in this context, more than half of respondents (54 per cent) believe that Syrians would like to move to another country. **This finding reflects perceptions about Syrians in general rather than respondents' own plans, and should be read alongside an overall stable population, near-universal registration and largely positive perceptions of safety and belonging, as a reflection of existing uncertainties.** It highlights the complexity of refugee decision-making, where aspirations for mobility, return, and local integration are not necessarily mutually exclusive and may reflect households keeping multiple options open as circumstances evolve. Together, these findings suggest that while many Syrians feel safe, integrated, and optimistic about their future in Türkiye, challenges related to economic opportunities, perceptions of discrimination, and uncertainty about future legal and policy developments continue to shape attitudes toward both staying and returning. Nearly one-third of respondents (**29 per cent**) believe the Syrian community is considering a return in the near term. While **25 per cent** believe there will be no returns soon, the largest group remains undecided (**46 per cent**), suggesting that many households continue to assess developments in both Türkiye and Syria before making long-term decisions. This is reinforced by the widespread perception that Syrians are waiting for conditions in Syria to improve before returning, a view shared by **70 per cent** of respondents. These figures reflect perceptions about the Syrian community as a whole rather than respondents' own plans; respondents' own intentions to return within the next 12 months are considerably lower (4 per cent), as discussed under Intentions for Return.

Regional perceptions highlight notable differences in how Syrians view their future prospects in Türkiye. The Southeast records some of the most positive perceptions across a number of indicators. Respondents in this region are most likely to agree that Syrians are happy in Türkiye, can access work easily, and feel safe. In line with this, the Southeast records the lowest levels of agreement that Syrians want to move to another country or are waiting for better conditions to return to Syria. Respondents in the region are also least likely to report discrimination. Taken together, these findings suggest that respondents in the Southeast may perceive greater opportunities for local integration and self-reliance, which may contribute to stronger intentions to remain in Türkiye rather than pursuing onward movement or return. These more positive perceptions are observed even though the Southeast records the lowest Turkish language proficiency (68 per cent), suggesting that other factors, possibly including proximity to Syria and cross-border mobility, may play a role. This will be explored further.

The Aegean stands out as a region where respondents are least likely to consider returning to Syria soon, yet they are also most likely to believe Syrians face discrimination, that they want to go to another country, and that they are waiting for better conditions to return to Syria. They are also most fearful of forced return, and least likely to believe Syrians can access work or essential services. The findings may suggest that respondents in the Aegean perceive both local integration challenges and limited readiness for return to Syria, resulting in a greater degree of uncertainty about future durable solutions. The relatively high belief that Syrians want to move to a third country further supports this interpretation. Proximity to Europe and to onward migration routes may also play a role in these perceptions, notwithstanding the region recording the highest Turkish language proficiency (78 per cent). This will be explored further.

Civil Documentation

Registration with Turkish authorities remains very high at 98 per cent, and access to civil documentation in Türkiye appears largely effective. The need to obtain civil documentation while residing in Türkiye remains common and appears to be increasing: 44 per cent reported having needed to obtain civil documents in Türkiye, up from 38 per cent in October 2025. The most frequently required documents were birth reports issued by hospitals, cited by 79 per cent of those needing documentation, followed by marriage certificates (31 per cent). Marriage certificates were more commonly required by men than women among those seeking documentation (36 per cent versus 25 per cent). More than nine in ten respondents (91 per cent) who needed documentation reported successfully obtaining it, with no meaningful differences observed between women and men.

With regard to documents issued by Syrian authorities, the vast majority of respondents (**81 per cent**) reported possessing at least one form of Syrian civil documentation, a level that has remained broadly stable since October 2025 (79 per cent). Documentation possession was highest among respondents in Marmara (**89 per cent**) and Central/East Anatolia and the Black Sea (**88 per cent**), while lower levels were recorded in the Southeast (**74 per cent**). Gender disparities were also observed, with women reporting lower rates of documentation possession (**76 per cent**) than men (**86 per cent**). Upon return to Syria, while only a minority appear not yet to have obtained Syrian civil documentation, the observed gender gap may have important implications for women's ability to access services, exercise legal rights, and navigate administrative procedures.

Among those holding Syrian civil documentation, the Syrian ID card was the most possessed document with **80 per cent**, followed by the family booklet (**65 per cent**) and passports (**28 per cent**). Birth certificates were held by only **7 per cent** of respondents. While possession of family booklets was broadly similar between women and men, female respondents were somewhat less likely to report holding a Syrian ID card (78 per cent compared to 82 per cent among men).

Overview of Return Intentions and Barriers

Housing, Land and Property in Syria

Respondents' governorate of origin in Syria is heavily concentrated in Aleppo (**63 per cent**), followed by Idleb (**16 per cent**), and much smaller shares from Hama, Al-Hasakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor (4–5 per cent each). Only **32 per cent** of households report owning a house in Syria, with ownership higher among male-headed households (33 per cent) than female-headed households (25 per cent). This figure reflects the specific sample of Syrians currently remaining in Türkiye (see Box: House ownership below). Of those who do own property, the outlook is stark: **62 per cent** report the property fully destroyed and a further **28 per cent** partially destroyed and uninhabitable — meaning nine in ten owned properties in Syria are damaged to some degree, with only **two per cent** reported intact.

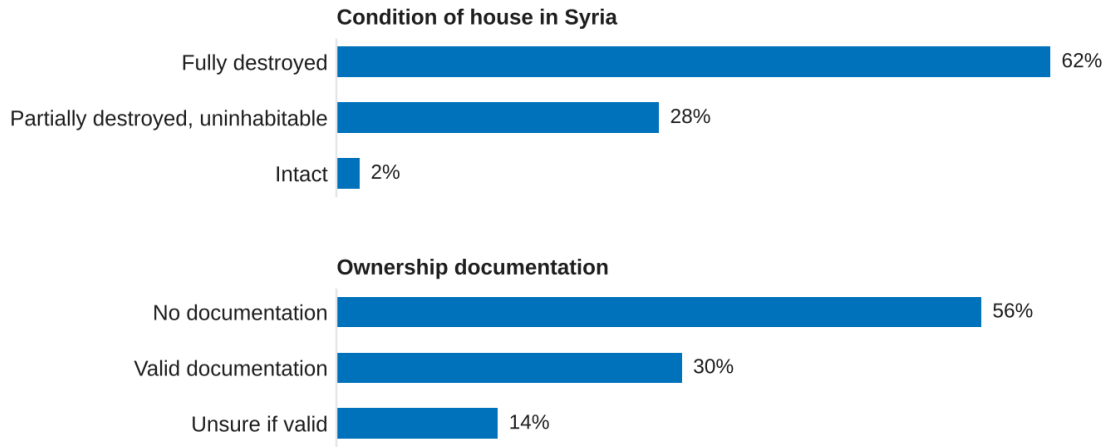


Figure 15: **House condition and documentation among house owners in Syria**
Base: households owning a house in Syria (32 per cent of households). Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Documentation is similarly precarious with **56 per cent** of owners holding no documentation for their property at all, **30 per cent** holding valid documentation, and **14 per cent** are unsure whether their documentation is valid, with little

variation by gender. Among those with documentation, the property deed is the most common form overall (**63 per cent**), followed by sale contracts (12 per cent) and heritage documents (12 per cent)— however, female-headed household owners more commonly rely on court decisions as their form of documentation (20 per cent against just 9 per cent for male-headed households), while male-headed households rely more on heritage documents (14 per cent vs. 0 per cent for female-headed households in this sample).

Land ownership in Syria is markedly lower than house ownership, at just **7 per cent** overall, though this rises to 10% among respondents from the Southeast — plausibly linked to that zone's higher concentration of respondents originating from rural governorates such as Deir-ez-Zor and Hama. Male-headed households are twice as likely to own land (8 per cent) as female-headed households (4 per cent), consistent with the broader property-ownership gender gap observed throughout this section.

Box: House ownership – Community Pulse and Voluntary Repatriation Monitoring data

The 32 per cent house ownership rate recorded in this round is considerably lower than the 79 per cent observed in UNHCR's voluntary repatriation (VolRep) interviews. The two figures are not directly comparable: Community Pulse reflects a sample of Syrians who currently remain in Türkiye, whereas VolRep monitoring data relate to individuals who have decided to return to Syria. Differences between the two groups are therefore to be expected. Nevertheless, the VolRep findings provide a relevant point of reference and useful context for interpreting the Community Pulse results, particularly in understanding how housing ownership may relate to return intentions and decisions**.**

VolRep interviews further indicate that refugees who own property in Syria generally know its condition.

Previous Returns

A minority of respondents (17 per cent) reported having formally visited Syria at least once since arriving in Türkiye and prior to 8 December 2024. Such visits were more commonly reported by men (20 per cent) than women (14 per cent) and were most prevalent among respondents residing in the Southeast. Among those who travelled to Syria, the majority did so through official channels, most commonly using temporary return permits for Eid visits (43 per cent) or governorate-issued permissions (13 per cent), while informal travel was reported only rarely (1 per cent).

In addition to temporary visits, nearly one in five households (19 per cent) reported that at least one household member had returned to Syria with the intention of remaining there permanently. This proportion was broadly consistent across regions and genders. Together, these findings indicate that while cross-border movement has formed part of the experience of a segment of the refugee population, permanent return remained limited to a minority of households prior to December 2024.

Information Needs

Communication with contacts in Syria remains frequent for most respondents. More than two in five (**42 per cent**) reported communicating with individuals in Syria several times per week or daily, while a further **29 per cent** reported contact at least once a week or several times per month. Only **7 per cent** indicated that they never communicate with contacts in Syria. These findings point to the enduring strength of cross-border social and family ties, which are likely to play an important role in informing perceptions of conditions in Syria and shaping future return intentions, even though only a minority of respondents (17 per cent) reported having formally visited Syria before December 2024.

Family members and friends remaining in Syria continue to represent the primary source of information on conditions in the country, cited by **77 per cent** of respondents. Other important sources include refugee-focused social media and messaging groups (**28 per cent**) and Syrian media outlets (**20 per cent**). The reliance on personal networks as the dominant information source remains as the priority since the February 2025 round, underscoring the importance of family and community connections in shaping perceptions of conditions and opportunities in Syria. No significant differences were observed between female and male respondents in their preferred information sources.

Against this background, respondents' perceived level of information to make informed decisions about return appears to have increased significantly since the previous assessment. Just over half of respondents (**51 per cent**) reported

that they have sufficient information to make an informed decision about return, while **10 per cent** felt only partially informed and **40 per cent** indicated that they do not have enough information. Compared to February 2025, when only 31 per cent reported feeling sufficiently informed, the findings suggest a substantial increase in access to return-related information and awareness of conditions in Syria.

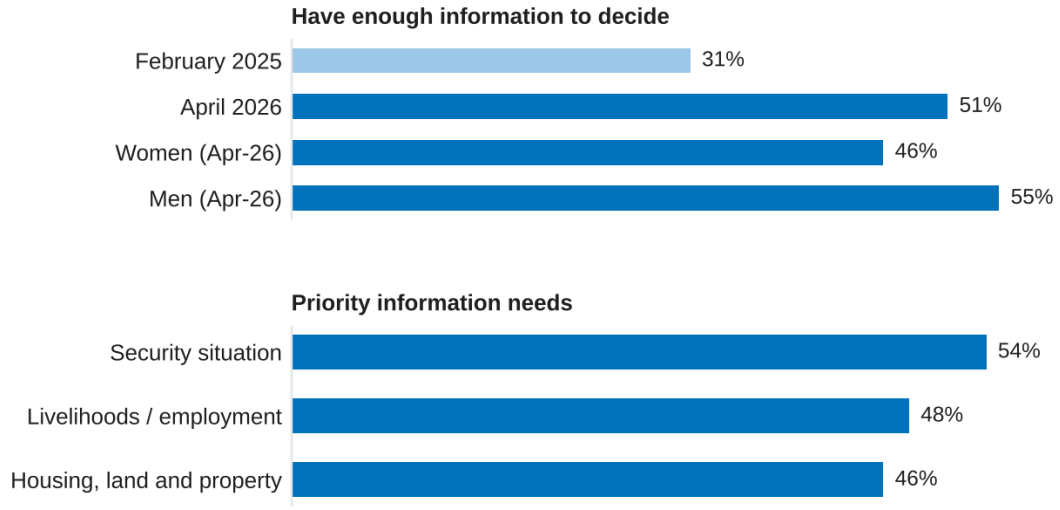


Figure 16: **Information for return decisions**
Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Levels of perceived information vary across regions and gender. Respondents in Central Anatolia were the most likely to report having sufficient information to make an informed decision (**57 per cent**), while those in the Aegean reported the lowest levels (**48 per cent**). Gender disparities were also evident, with women less likely to feel adequately informed than men (**46 per cent** versus **55 per cent**). A similar gap was observed between female- and male-headed households, suggesting that women may face greater barriers in accessing or processing return-related information.

Despite the increase in reported awareness, some areas remain important in terms of information. Security situation in areas of return emerged as the highest priority with **54 per cent**, followed by livelihoods and employment opportunities (**48 per cent**) and information on housing, land and property conditions (**46 per cent**). These priorities are consistent with findings from the February 2025 returns assessment, where safety and security also emerged as the predominant concern. Security and livelihoods therefore remain key areas for continued information provision, building on existing communication channels pages.

Regional differences highlight varying priorities among respondents. In Central Anatolia, the need for information on security conditions was particularly pronounced (**62 per cent**), whereas respondents in the Aegean and Marmara were more likely to identify livelihoods and employment opportunities as a key information need (**53 per cent each**). Some gender differences were also observed. Female-headed households more frequently prioritized information on security conditions (**57 per cent** compared to **53 per cent** among male-headed households), while male-headed households placed greater emphasis on livelihoods and employment opportunities (**50 per cent** compared to **44 per cent** among female-headed households).

Intentions for Return

The findings suggest that, for most respondents, return is not perceived as a near-term option despite recent developments in Syria, which may reflect a perception that the recovery of infrastructure, services and the economy in Syria is slower than hoped, alongside persistent security concerns. This is consistent with the widespread perception that Syrians are waiting for conditions in Syria to improve before returning (70 per cent; see Perceptions of Belonging and Well-Being). Intentions to return to Syria within the next 12 months remain limited. Only 4 per cent of respondents reported that they are considering return within the coming year, while 80 per cent indicated no such intention and 16 per cent remained uncertain. This continues a downward trend observed over recent rounds, with return intentions declining from 10 per cent in February 2025 to 8 per cent in October 2025 and 4 per cent in the current assessment, in line with normal decreasing trends in return movements. Findings from the Syrians Barometer 2026, collected in July 2026, point in the same direction, with 2.7 per cent of respondents planning to return within one year (see Box: Comparison with the Syrians Barometer 2026). Over a longer timeframe, **openness to return is**

higher: among respondents who do not intend to return within the next year, 38 per cent hope to return within the next five years, as set out below.

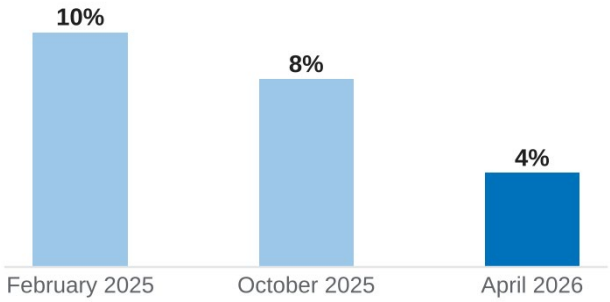


Figure 17: **Respondents considering return to Syria within the next 12 months**
Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Among those considering returning in the coming year, Aleppo emerged as the most frequently cited intended destination, with **47 per cent** indicating plans to return there. This was followed by Idleb, identified by **24 per cent** of prospective returnees. While most intend to return to their areas of origin, a minority do not plan to do so. These findings are consistent with observations from voluntary repatriation monitoring. The most commonly cited reasons for considering a different area were greater safety and security (**26 per cent**) and the availability of livelihood opportunities (**22 per cent**).

Longer-term perspectives on return are more mixed. Among respondents who do not intend to return within the next year, 24 per cent expressed a desire to return at some point in the future, while 38 per cent hope to return in the coming five years. However, uncertainty remains a defining feature of future planning, with nearly half (**47 per cent**) unsure about returning within five years and one-quarter (**11 per cent**) uncertain about returning at all. Notably, **51 per cent** of all respondents indicated that they are not considering return to Syria at any point in the future.

Regional differences in return intentions were evident across all time horizons. Respondents in the Southeast consistently reported the highest levels of willingness to return, while those in Marmara were the least likely to express return intentions. Gender differences were limited with regard to intentions over the coming year, but became more apparent over longer timeframes. Male-headed households were slightly more likely than female-headed households to indicate an intention to return within the next five years or eventually in the future, although the differences remained relatively modest.

Decisions regarding return or continued stay in Türkiye are most commonly made collectively within the household. More than half of respondents (**54 per cent**) indicated that such decisions would be taken jointly by all adult household members, while **28 per cent** reported that the head of household would decide alone and **13 per cent** stated that decisions would be made jointly by the father and mother. These patterns are largely unchanged from October 2025, suggesting a continued preference for shared household decision-making on matters related to return.

Among respondents considering return, the overwhelming majority (**80 per cent**) indicated that they would return together with all family members, while **9 per cent** reported that they would return alone. **This suggests that return planning is generally viewed as a family-level decision and process rather than an individual undertaking**.

Factors Shaping Return Decisions

For the much larger group not considering return, conditions in Syria continue to constitute the primary obstacle. Economic challenges and the lack of livelihood opportunities in Syria were the most frequently cited barriers, reported by **48 per cent** of respondents. Concerns related to housing, land, and property followed at **38 per cent**, while safety and security concerns were cited by **29 per cent**. **This pattern, in which overall conditions in Syria – including the economic situation, housing, land and property, and security – constitute the main barriers to return, is consistent with findings from February 2025.**

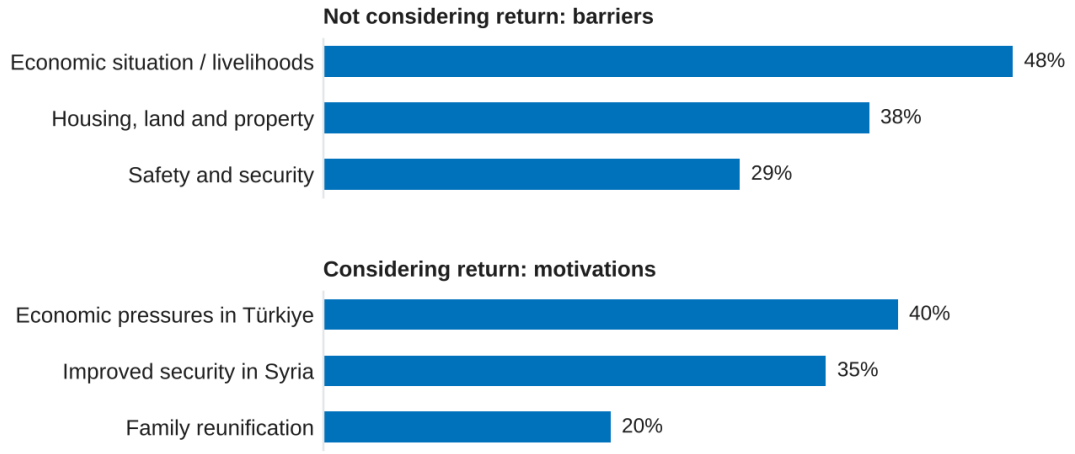


Figure 18: **Main barriers to return and motivations for return**
Right panel base: the small group considering return within the next year. Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Among the small proportion of respondents considering return within the next year, motivations reflect a combination of conditions in Syria, family considerations and economic pressures in Türkiye. Improved security conditions in Syria were identified by 35 per cent of these respondents and family reunification by 20 per cent, while two in five (40 per cent) cited economic pressures in Türkiye, including high living costs and limited employment opportunities, as a complementary factor. Compared to previous assessment rounds, where improving security conditions in Syria were the dominant motivation for return, economic considerations appear to play an increasing role in return decisions alongside conditions in Syria.

Considerations around return also differed across demographic groups. Female respondents and female-headed households were more likely to cite economic challenges as a consideration, whereas male respondents more frequently pointed to improvements in Syria's security environment. Family reunification was also a more prominent consideration among female-headed households. These differences suggest that return-related decision-making may be shaped by distinct economic, social, and household priorities.

Respondents were also asked what changes would need to occur before they would consider returning to Syria. The most frequently cited condition related to military service, with **19 per cent** indicating that they would consider return if compulsory military service were no longer in place or if fears of conscription were removed. This consideration was particularly prominent among male-headed households.

Beyond conscription-related issues, respondents emphasized the importance of improvements in governance and social support systems. **Fifteen per cent** indicated that a reduction in criminality and stronger rule of law would be necessary for them to consider return, while **14 per cent** highlighted the need for a functioning social assistance system in Syria. **These findings suggest that return considerations extend beyond immediate security conditions and are also influenced by broader expectations regarding rule of law, governance, and access to support services that would enable sustainable reintegration.**

Perceptions of Conditions in Syria

Perceptions of current conditions in Syria remain predominantly negative and are a key driver of continued reluctance to return. Respondents generally hold pessimistic views regarding current employment opportunities in Syria. Nearly three-quarters (**72 per cent**) rated employment prospects as very poor, while a further **11 per cent** described them as somewhat poor. By contrast, only **one per cent** considered opportunities to be somewhat good, and no respondents rated employment opportunities as good. **These findings suggest that limited livelihood prospects in Syria continue to be a significant concern and may contribute to the low levels of near-term return intentions observed elsewhere in the assessment.**

Most respondents were able to provide an assessment of current employment conditions in Syria, with only a minority (11 per cent) indicating that they do not know enough to do so. This share was higher among female-headed households, **18 per cent** of whom reported being unable to assess employment opportunities, compared to **9 per cent** of male-headed households.

Despite these generally negative perceptions of the labour market in Syria, employment remains a key component of return planning among those considering return within the next year. Seven in ten prospective returnees (**70 per cent**) indicated that they intend to work upon return. However, substantial gender differences were observed, with **91 per cent** of male respondents planning to seek employment compared to **38 per cent** of female respondents.

Among those intending to work, employment aspirations were concentrated in a small number of sectors. Manufacturing and industrial work emerged as the most frequently cited sector (**19 per cent**), followed by agriculture (**17 per cent**) and construction (**17 per cent**). The prominence of these sectors broadly reflects the occupations in which respondents are currently engaged in Türkiye, suggesting that prospective returnees may anticipate relying on existing skills and work experience when re-establishing livelihoods in Syria.

Views on safety conditions in Syria also remain largely unfavorable. Nearly three-quarters of respondents (**74 per cent**) indicated that they would feel unsafe if they were to return today, including **61 per cent** who reported they would feel very unsafe and **13 per cent** who would feel somewhat unsafe. In contrast, only **9 per cent** felt they would be safe upon return, including **7 per cent** who reported feeling somewhat safe and **2 per cent** who felt very safe. No significant differences were observed across genders, suggesting that concerns regarding safety are broadly shared among respondents.

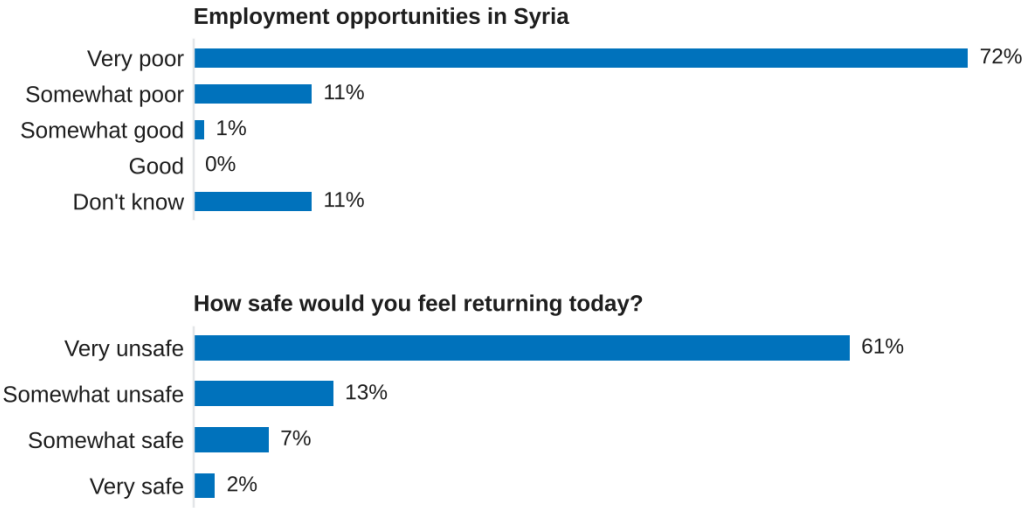


Figure 19: **Perceptions of current conditions in Syria**
Remaining responses are not broken down in the report. Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

When asked about their primary safety concerns, respondents most frequently cited theft (**28 per cent**), kidnapping (**22 per cent**), lack of law enforcement (**19 per cent**), and the absence of safety in public spaces (**19 per cent**). While the main safety concerns were reported across all respondent groups, they were somewhat more pronounced among male-headed households. At the same time, female-headed households expressed distinct protection concerns, with **15 per cent** identifying gender-based violence as a key safety risk, compared to 5 per cent of male-headed households.

Conditions and Support Needed to Return

Despite greater awareness of the situation in Syria and continued reliance on relatives there for information, Syrians still see value in a temporary visit before making a final return decision, with a large majority of respondents considering such a visit important. More than half (**56 per cent**) described such a visit as extremely important, while a further **16 per cent** considered it moderately important. Women were slightly more likely than men to emphasize the importance of a preliminary visit (59 per cent versus 53 per cent). The strong preference for temporary visits highlights the importance of direct observation and personal assessment of safety, services, livelihoods, and living conditions as part of return-related decision-making.

Asked what support would be needed to return, financial assistance for transportation and relocation emerged as the most commonly identified need, cited by 47 per cent of respondents. The demand for financial assistance was particularly pronounced among respondents in the Aegean (52 per cent) and Southeast (50 per cent), and male respondents more frequently identified it as a priority (50 per cent).

Other priority needs relate to conditions inside Syria rather than to support in Türkiye. Respondents identified support to reclaim housing, land or property in Syria (38 per cent) and assistance in identifying livelihood opportunities or establishing a business upon return (33 per cent). Female respondents were more likely to emphasize the need for support in reclaiming housing, land and property (41 per cent). These needs point to the importance of enhanced liaison and support inside Syria. Overall, the findings suggest that both the immediate costs of return and the ability to secure housing and sustainable livelihoods in Syria are key considerations for prospective returnees.

Households with children were also asked about the types of support they would require to facilitate their children's education in Syria. The most commonly identified need was Arabic language catch-up support, cited by **73 per cent** of respondents. This was followed by emotional and psychosocial support (**27 per cent**) and assistance with educational resources and supplies (**25 per cent**). These findings are consistent with earlier results on children's Arabic language proficiency and suggest that language readiness remains a key concern for families considering educational continuity in a return context.

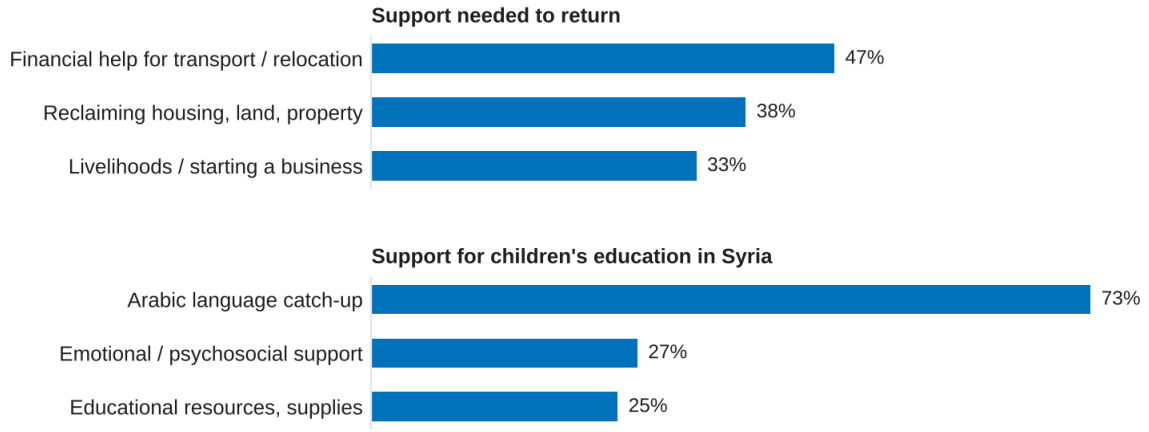


Figure 20: **Support needed for return**
Right panel base: households with children. Source: Inter-Agency Community Pulse Survey, April 2026.

Regional variations were evident, particularly with regard to language support needs. In the Aegean, more than nine in ten households with children indicated a need for Arabic language catch-up courses, highlighting concerns about children's ability to transition into Arabic-language education systems. Emotional and psychosocial support needs were most pronounced in Central Anatolia, where **44 per cent** of respondents identified this as a priority.

Some gender differences were also observed. Female-headed households were more likely than male-headed households to report the need for emotional and psychosocial support for their children (**33 per cent** compared to **25 per cent**). Overall, the findings suggest that educational support needs extend beyond academic preparation alone and include psychosocial considerations that may affect children's ability to successfully reintegrate into schools in Syria.

Preliminary Recommendations

- **Strengthen access to healthcare services for vulnerable refugee households,** including targeted outreach to individuals with closed health coverage, improved information-sharing on eligibility and procedures, and support to address financial barriers to healthcare and medication access.
- **Expand livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions**, with a particular focus on increasing access to formal employment opportunities, vocational training, language acquisition, and targeted support for women and female-headed households who face heightened economic vulnerability.
- **Address declining school attendance and support educational continuity**, including identifying the factors contributing to non-attendance, reducing remaining financial and administrative barriers, and strengthening outreach to at-risk households.
- **Promote social cohesion and community engagement initiatives** that build on generally positive perceptions of integration and belonging, while addressing concerns related to discrimination, access to employment, and uncertainty about the future.

- **Prioritize support for households with specific needs**, particularly those affected by serious medical conditions, disabilities, or other vulnerabilities, through targeted assistance and strengthened referral pathways to specialized services.
- **Prioritise return-related programming** including financial assistance for transport and relocation, alongside enhanced liaison and support inside Syria for reclaiming housing, land and property and for livelihoods — the two most-cited support needs, which, alongside security concerns, also correspond closely to the two leading barriers preventing return — and continue to facilitate access to reliable, first-hand information on conditions in areas of origin, given the strong preference for a temporary visit before any final return decision.
- **Invest in children's preparedness for potential future return and reintegration**, including Arabic language support, information on educational equivalency procedures, and measures that facilitate continuity of learning regardless of whether families remain in Türkiye or eventually return to Syria.

Conclusion

The April 2026 round of the Community Pulse points to a Syrian refugee population in Türkiye that remains well-registered and largely settled, with improving self-reported awareness of rights and services and markedly more positive perceptions of integration and belonging since February 2025. Turkish language proficiency emerges as a cross-cutting factor, positively linked to employment, social interaction with the host community and access to services. At the same time, this round surfaces two significant, round-specific deteriorations — in access to health provision and in children's school attendance — that depart from the broadly stable or improving trends observed in prior rounds and merit immediate, targeted follow-up. Gender differences run through nearly every thematic area of this round, from documentation status and employment to perceptions of happiness and discrimination and the reasons given for and against return, underscoring the continued importance of gender-disaggregated analysis and gender-responsive programming rather than treating the Syrian refugee population as a homogenous group. Return intent remains very low and continues to decline, in line with normal trends in return processes, even as uncertainty about the future persists, and the reasons underlying both return and staying have remained remarkably consistent since February 2025. Overall conditions in Syria, including security, remain the main consideration, while economic factors, both in Türkiye and in Syria, may increasingly play a role in decisions both to return and not to return. These findings reinforce the continued need for sustained investment in Syrian refugees' inclusion and self-reliance in Türkiye, alongside support for the sustainability of returns to Syria.

Since data collection in March–April 2026, most of the recommendations in this report have already been acted upon, and efforts to address the issues identified are continuing, particularly in relation to access to healthcare (see Box: Health developments since data collection).

Annex 1: Summary of Key Disaggregated Findings

Indicator	Female	Male	Female-headed HH	Male-headed HH
Paid employment (yes)	**40%**	**68%**	**44%**	**58%**
Full TP registration document	**57%**	**33%**	**50%**	**47%**
Own house in Syria	**—**	**—**	**25%**	**34%**
Feel very informed on rights/services	**46%**	**47%**	**49%**	**46%**
Accessed NGO services (6 mo.)	**61%**	**50%**	**64%**	**53%**
Believe Syrians are happy in Türkiye	**64%**	**55%**	**—**	**—**
Perceive discrimination in Türkiye	**43%**	**35%**	**—**	**—**
Perceived sufficiency of information to decide on return	**46%**	**55%**	**—**	**—**
Intend to work if returned to Syria	**41%**	**91%**	**—**	**—**
Cannot use Turkish at all	**28%**	**32%**	**25%**	**32%**

Annex 2: Gender and Age Considerations

This round's data confirm several consistent gender patterns also observed in previous rounds, alongside some new or round-specific dynamics worth highlighting for programming:

- **Documentation:** overall registration remains very high (98 per cent) with no meaningful gender gap; the gap between female and male respondents on TP registration-document status (57% vs. 33%) is far wider than the corresponding gap by gender of household head (50% vs. 47%), suggesting this may partly reflect who is available/willing to respond to phone surveys within a household rather than a true documentation gap between women- and men-headed households — worth testing directly in the next round by asking about the status of all household members, not just the respondent.
- **Labour market:** the 28-point gender gap in paid employment (68% men vs. 40% women) is consistent with every previous round and remains the most persistent gender disparity in this survey series. It widens further, to 50 points, when respondents are asked about intended employment upon a hypothetical return to Syria (91% men vs. 41% women) — suggesting gendered employment expectations may harden rather than soften in a return scenario.
- **Service access and care burden:** women report both higher NGO/health/social-service access than men and a higher rate of personal/household responsibilities as a barrier to service access (23%) — not necessarily contradictory, but indicating that women's service interactions may be more effortful or constrained even where access rates are nominally higher.
- **Perceptions:** women report both higher happiness in Türkiye (64% vs. 55%) and higher perceived discrimination (43% vs. 35%) than men — a combination that should not be read as contradictory, and likely reflects different reference points and lived experiences rather than measurement error. Other factors may also shape reported happiness, such as children's access to education and access to services.
- **Age:** The household-level age structure (7,776 individuals: 3,869 female and 3,907 male) confirms a very young population. Children aged 0–17 number 3,771 (49 per cent), of whom 1,821 are girls and 1,950 are boys. By age group, this is 379 girls and 394 boys aged 0–4, 795 and 877 aged 5–11, and 647 and 679 aged 12–17. Adults aged 18–59 number 3,769 (49 per cent): 1,929 women and 1,840 men. By age group, this is 598 women and 607 men aged 18–25, 769 and 699 aged 26–40, and 562 and 534 aged 41–59. Persons aged 60 and above number 236 (3 per cent), with 119 women and 117 men. The sex balance is close to even

across age groups. Boys slightly outnumber girls among children, while women slightly outnumber men among adults aged 26–59. This age structure has corresponding implications for education, child protection, and demand for services oriented toward children and youth rather than older persons. Disability and older-person-at-risk needs, while present, affect a small minority of the population relative to child-related needs. The structure also has particular implications for refugee women. There are nearly two children for every woman aged 18–59 in the sample, and in this round personal and household responsibilities are already a greater barrier to accessing services for women than for men.

Annex 3: Geographic Priorities by Zone

Zone	Share of sample	Notable finding
Southeast	**52% (718)**	**Highest registration (99%) and highest full-attendance education rate (36%); largest concentration of respondents from Idleb governorate (23%, vs. 7–8% elsewhere).**
Marmara	**26% (365)**	**Highest paid-employment rate (66%) and highest share of long-tenured residents (83% over 10 years); lowest registration rate (96%) of the four zones.**
Central/East Anatolia & Black Sea	**15% (204)**	**Lowest full TP registration-document holding (25%, vs. 67% in Aegean/Southeast); lowest share of long-tenured residents (69% over 10 years).**
Aegean	**8% (105)**	**Highest self-reported awareness of rights/services (50%); lowest "cannot use Turkish at all" rate (25%, vs. 32% Southeast); smallest sample — findings here should be read with more caution given the smaller base size.**