

Syria

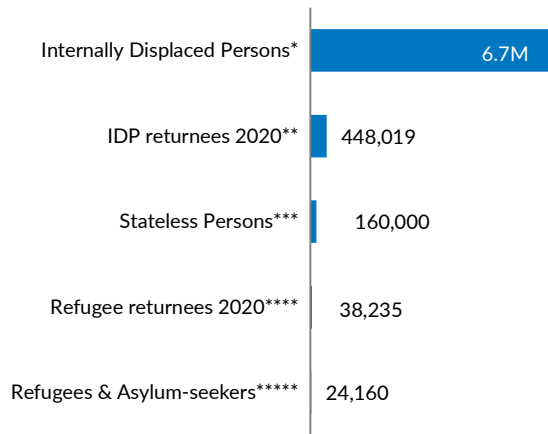
June 2021

The decade-long crisis in Syria continues to affect millions of lives. Humanitarian needs and protection risks are increasing. The security situation in parts of the country is unpredictable and the economic situation is dire.

According to the 2021 Needs and Response Summary some **13.4 million** people are in need of humanitarian assistance. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated an already precarious situation.

UNHCR in Syria provides protection and assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and stateless people based on identified needs and vulnerabilities.

POPULATION OF CONCERN



* Source: OCHA, December 2020

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*** Estimated

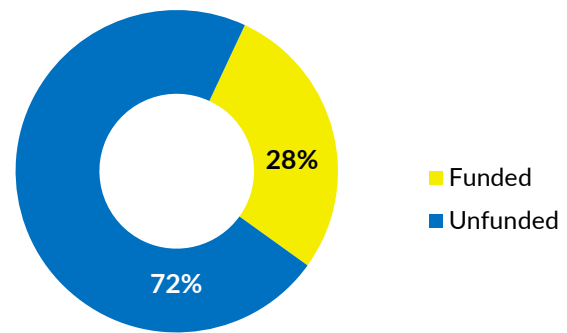
**** Source: UNHCR verified returns in 2020

***** Source: UNHCR, 29 June 2021

FUNDING (AS OF 2 JULY 2021)

USD 628.6 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2021



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 496

435 National Staff

61 International Staff

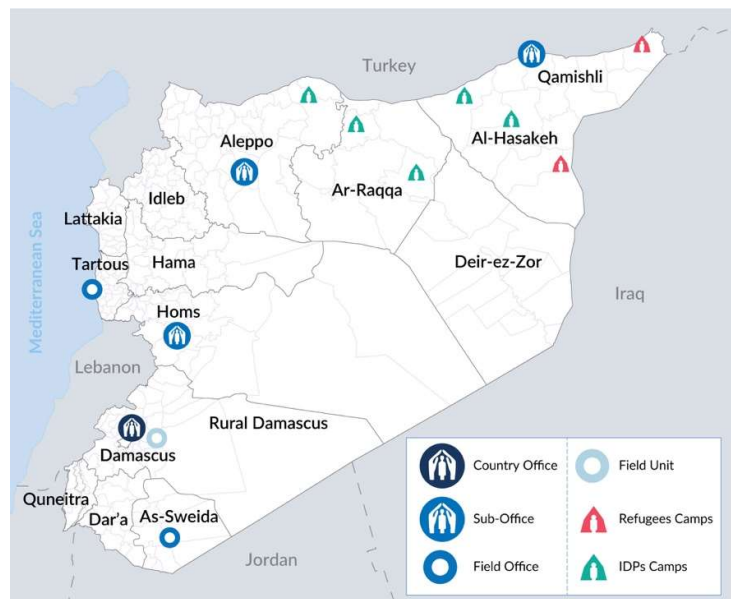
Offices: 7

1 Country Office in Damascus

3 Sub-Offices in Aleppo, Homs and Qamishli

2 Field Offices in Tartous and As-Sweida

1 Field Units in Damascus



Partnership and Coordination

UNHCR works with 28 partner agencies which include six international NGOs, 20 national NGOs and the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment and the Ministry of Higher Education.

UNHCR continues to strengthen its engagement with the government, interagency mechanisms and humanitarian actors. In the context of an interagency coordination framework in Syria, UNHCR leads the Protection and Community Services, Shelter and Non-Food Items sectors together with relevant line ministries.

Strategic Directions

UNHCR's strategic directions and operational priorities in Syria are:

- Prepare for and respond to potential influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) refugees, IDP and refugee returnees.
- Foster an environment for voluntary, dignified, safe and sustainable return of refugees and IDPs focussing on supporting those who have returned spontaneously and their communities.
- Enhance the protective environment for refugees and promote innovative solutions through a community and area-based approach.
- Strengthen delivery-focused partnerships to enable UNHCR achieve its interventions through inter-agency and sector coordination mechanisms. This includes the Special Situations Group, UN Country Team, Humanitarian Country Team, Return and Reintegration Working Group and Area Humanitarian Country Teams.

Main Activities

Protection

UNHCR's protection response strategy follows a community-based approach which aims to reduce vulnerabilities and protection risks. Through community participation and outreach, persons of concern receive psycho-social support, targeted assistance if they have specific needs, and child protection services. UNHCR and its partners provide legal assistance, including to help people obtain civil documentation and support them to register civil events. At community centres, children can attend remedial classes and prepare for exams. Outreach volunteers engage communities to identify and address specific protection concerns through small-scale community-led interventions or livelihood opportunities.

UNHCR supports 89 community centres, 37 satellite centres and 109 mobile units in all 14 governorates of the country and engages over 2,600 outreach volunteers to strengthen UNHCR's protection activities.

Cash-Based Interventions

UNHCR Syria uses cash-based interventions to help the most vulnerable refugees meet their most urgent needs. Monthly multi-purpose cash grants equivalent to around USD 40 per family are provided to refugees through an over-the-counter modality. Similarly, eligible refugee families receive education grants to encourage school attendance by covering costs of transport, uniforms and education materials.

Core Relief Items

UNHCR provides core relief items to internally displaced persons, returnees and vulnerable host community members based on needs. The standard family kit of core relief items is intended for households of five and in comprise high thermal blankets, sleeping mats, mattresses, jerry cans, plastic sheets, kitchen sets and solar lamps. Supplementary and seasonal items are also distributed and can include winter jackets, rechargeable fans and hygiene kits.

Infrastructure and Shelter

A core part of UNHCR's work is providing access to adequate shelter to persons in need. In Syria, UNHCR responds to sudden emergencies in terms of tent distribution and installation, camp construction and maintenance, emergency shelter kits and collective shelter rehabilitation. UNHCR provides shelter support to refugee and IDP returnees to repair their partially damaged houses in their areas of origin including the provision of materials for minor repairs to doors and windows. UNHCR also works on repair of essential services infrastructure and public facilities in areas of high return rate as per its area-based approach strategy.

Self-Reliance and Livelihoods

UNHCR supports vulnerable people to restart livelihoods and provides vocational training to improve skills and opportunities to generate income. This support aims at increasing their self-reliance and reduces their dependency on assistance. Through training, refugees, IDPs and returnees can learn new or improve existing skills and knowledge and with financial or material support they can start livelihood activities.

Health

UNHCR adopts a community-based health approach and has established 12 health points with clinics in UNHCR-supported community centres where other health care facilities are difficult to access. Staff at these health points provide awareness on good health practices, disease prevention, and support communities to improve their overall well-being. Health workers also provide health counselling at community centres or through outreach volunteers and mobile teams.

With the spread of COVID-19, UNHCR Syria has supported the national health system by procuring critical medical equipment such as ventilators, oxygen cylinders, and hospital beds for health facilities across the country. UNHCR also rehabilitated collective shelters as a decongestion measure to improve hygiene conditions. UNHCR fumigated and sterilized camps and collective shelters, rehabilitated isolation and quarantine centres, and installed rub halls to serve as quarantine/isolation sites for persons of concern. UNHCR has also distributed personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves and sanitising liquids to partner staff and health facilities.

End-June, over 70 refugees mainly Iraqis who fall within the priority groups received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine as part of the national COVID-19 vaccination plan. UNHCR trained its medical volunteers in all governorates to assist refugees to electronically register themselves on the Ministry of Health COVID-19 vaccination portal.

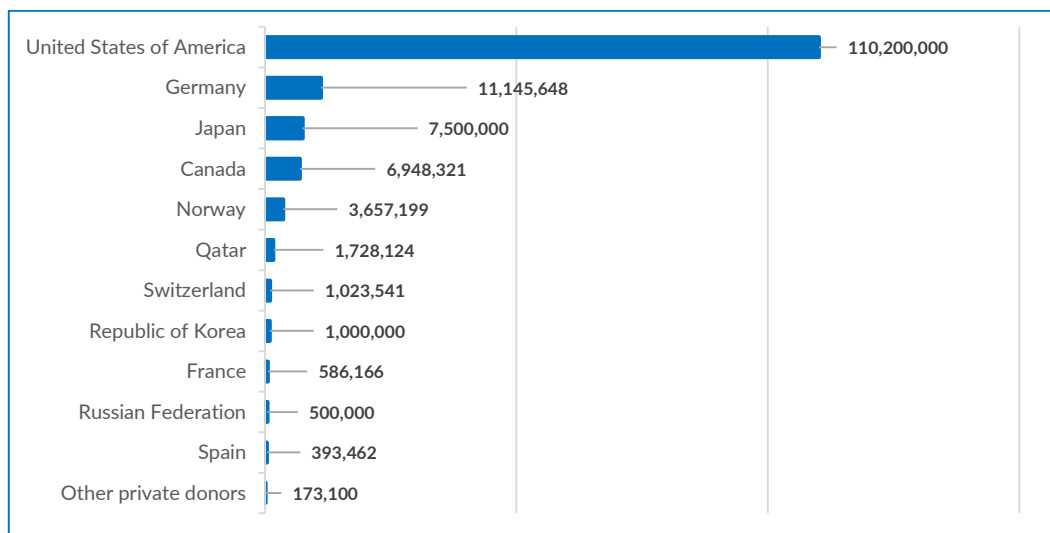
Financial Information

As of 2 July 2021

We are grateful to all donors for the critical support provided to the UNHCR Syria Operation with earmarked and unearmarked funding.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 174,212,985**



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 22.1 million | Finland 6 million | Sweden 5.4 million | Private donors Australia 4.9 million | Private donors Germany 3 million | Canada 2.9 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.2 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD¹

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 42.6 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 26 million | France 20 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 17.9 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Japan 14 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million

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LINKS

www.unhcr.org/sy
<https://twitter.com/UNHCRinSYRIA/status/1118150319341436928>

¹ Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contribution \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.