

Syrian Arab Republic

November 2021

The decade-long crisis in Syria continues to affect millions of people, with humanitarian needs and protection risks on the rise. In certain areas the security situation is volatile and overall, the socio-economic situation is deteriorating.

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

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

KEY INDICATORS

26,311

households assisted with winter items

12,760

persons with specific needs received medical in-kind assistance

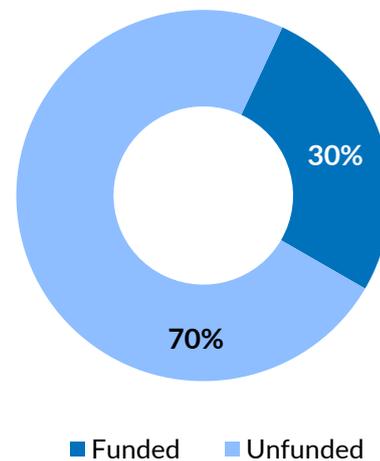
12,652

persons supported with cash assistance

FUNDING (AS OF 29 NOVEMBER 2021)

USD 628.6 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2021



POPULATION OF CONCERN



Children taking part in an activity conducted by the women's committee at UNHCR-supported community center in Deir Ali, Rural Damascus. The children learned how to make bread and bake it. UNHCR/V. Tou'meh.

Internally Displaced Persons*	6.7M
IDP returnees 2020**	448,019
Stateless Persons***	160,000
Refugee returnees ****	32,207
Refugees & Asylum-seekers*****	23,067

* Source: OCHA, December 2020

** Source: OCHA, 2020

*** Estimated

**** Source: UNHCR verified returns as of 20 November 2021

*****Source: UNHCR, 27 November 2021

Operational Context

The 2021 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) puts the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria at over **13.4 million**, including **6.7 million** internally displaced Syrians. Of that number, approximately **5.9 million** are in acute need of humanitarian assistance. UNHCR supports refugees, IDPs and returnees through targeted assistance using a community-based and area-based approach.

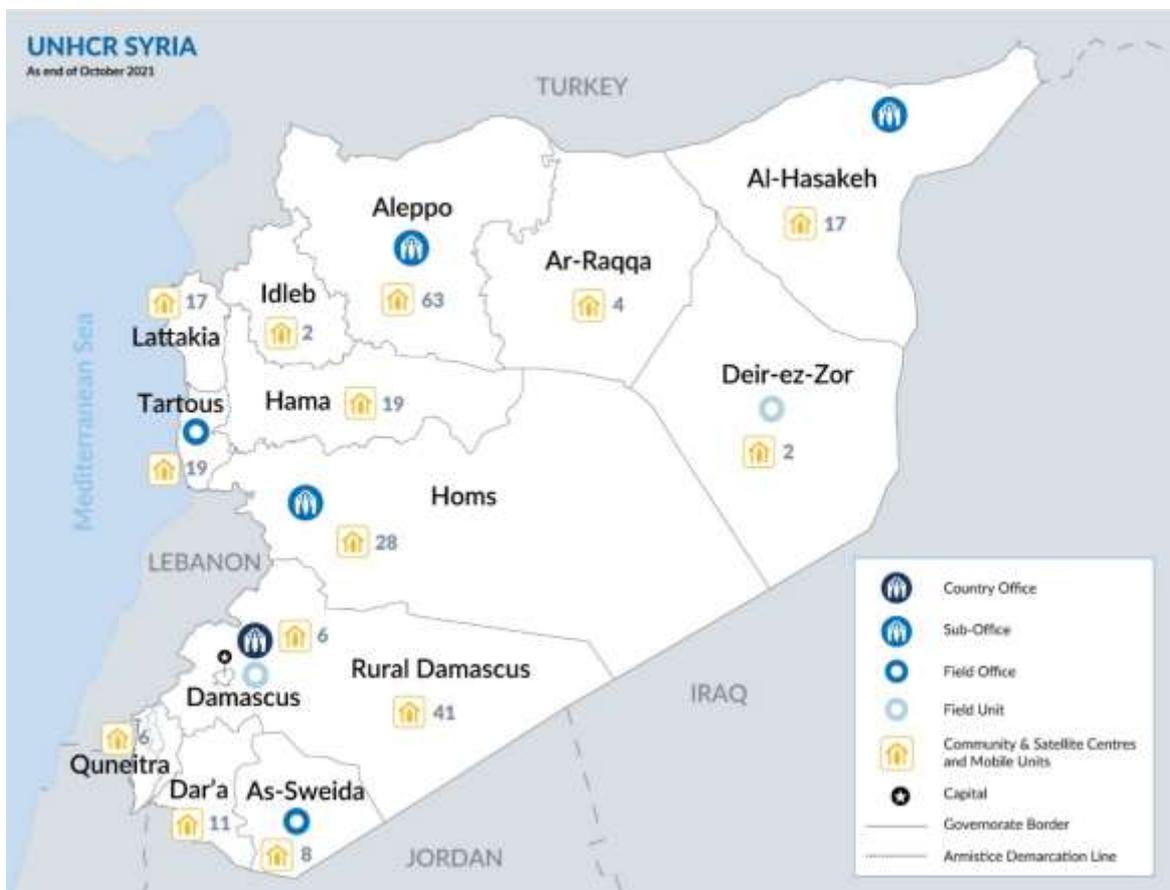
UNHCR works with **27** partners which include **two** government ministries, **six** international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and **19** national NGOs.

Key Achievements



Protection

In line with the community-based protection approach, UNHCR is supporting **91** community centres, **35** satellite centres and **119** mobile units, and has engaged **2,790** community outreach volunteers (ORVs) in all **14** governorates.



Community/satellite centres and mobile units in Syria as at 31 October 2021.

The community centres provide comprehensive protection-related services such as support to child protection activities, catch-up classes for children, and legal assistance benefitting IDPs, returnees, host communities and other crisis-affected individuals in all Syrian governorates. At these UNHCR-supported community centres, outreach volunteers also engage with communities to identify and address specific protection concerns by implementing small-scale community-led or livelihood projects.

So far in 2021, more than **755** community-led initiatives and youth-led initiatives have been implemented in all 14 governorates. These projects are identified by the communities and address common protection concerns and improve the well-being of the community or specific groups. The completed initiatives include establishing an education support centre that provides education and life-skills training for children and youth, installing drinking water pipelines for clean water, and rehabilitating child-friendly spaces for children with specific needs.

So far in 2021, UNHCR and partners provided home-based rehabilitation support to more than **3,196** elderly people. Home-based rehabilitation support includes advice on nursing care, physical rehabilitation methods, and assistance to cope with daily tasks. In addition, over **12,670** people with specific needs received medical in-kind assistance such as the provision of glucometers, sphygmomanometers, nebulizers, wheelchairs, or medical mattresses. UNHCR also provided general in-kind assistance such as water tanks, fans and heaters to some **17,473** people with specific needs in all 14 governorates.

UNHCR and partners also provided legal assistance to affected communities by enabling access to legal services, such as counselling, facilitating the registration of civil events, and supporting access to documentation. These services are especially essential to enable reintegration of returning IDPs and refugees within their communities, and to access basic services such as health and education. Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR has provided legal interventions before courts and administrative bodies to over **21,868** IDPs, returnees and host community members, and more than **51,000** IDPs, returnees and host community members have been provided with legal advice.



Health

Between May and end November, a total of **78** refugees (**71** Iraqis, **1** Afghan, **2** Yemenis, **1** Iranian, **2** Sudanese, and **1** Somali) received the COVID-19 vaccine under the national vaccination programme. The actual number is likely to be higher.

Since January 2021, close to **181,930** individuals benefited from primary health care services while more than **1,940** individuals were referred to secondary health care services, and some **16,262** individuals received health consultations. Through a broader community-based health approach, beneficiaries receive information on good health practices, disease prevention and support to improve their general health and well-being. In addition, **10,830** persons with specific needs received psycho-social counselling during the same period.



Core Relief Items

UNHCR through its partners supports IDPs, returnees, vulnerable host community families and registered asylum-seekers with essential core-relief items. A standard core-relief items kit contains plastic sheets, mattresses, solar lamps, high thermal blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, and kitchen sets. In September, UNHCR started the 2021/2022 winter programme with the distribution of winter clothing, sleeping bags, and additional plastic sheets to some **168,500 households**. All standard core relief and winter items are intended for a family of five members. So far in 2021, UNHCR has assisted **159,059** households in all **14** governorates with core-relief and winter items.

Of the total number assisted, more than **26,304** households were living in newly accessible communities in the Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-Ez-Zor, Idleb, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama, Lattakia, and Homs Governorates.



A team from UNHCR visits a distribution point to assess the distribution of core-relief items and winter assistance to asylum-seekers in Damascus. UNHCR/V. Tou'meh.



Self-reliance and Livelihoods

UNHCR's livelihood strategy supports internally displaced and returning Syrians to re-engage in livelihood activities while ensuring potential risk factors are addressed. It includes the provision of small business start-up support to IDPs, returnees and host communities who have completed a basic business training and submitted a suitable project proposal.

So far in 2021, UNHCR supported almost 1,104 people in 14 governorates with basic business training and business support packages. Out of this number, 565 small start-up livelihood projects have been supported in 10 governorates. In accordance with UNHCR's age, gender and diversity mainstreaming (AGDM) approach, the selection of people of concern is based on vulnerability criteria that supports persons with disabilities and parents whose children have dropped out of school in order to contribute to the family income persons. It also takes capabilities into consideration giving priority to those who have previous experience of business ownership.

UNHCR also provided livestock and agriculture support to 1,922 IDPs and returnees in rural communities in Al-Hassakeh, Rural Damascus, As-Sweida, Dara'a, Quneitra, Tartous, and Lattakia Governorates where farmers and pastoralists/herders are particularly vulnerable. The support will enable farmers particularly those in return areas to resume their only source of livelihoods through improved productivity.

UNHCR partners are also engaged in the rehabilitation of 16 important economic infrastructure facilities such as vocational training schools, bakeries, and irrigation channels. These facilities would help IDPs and returnees in restoring access to basic livelihood services in their communities. Through this programme, UNHCR also explores partnerships and joint project with UN agencies within the area-based approach.



Amal is an IDP who received a sewing materials to establish a workshop at her home, she also provides training for other women at the community centre in Deir Ali, Rural Damascus, UNHCR/V.Tou'meh.



Assistance to Refugees

Registration

Registration and providing documentation are key to ensuring the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria such as enabling them to access basic rights like freedom of movement and access to assistance. End-November, there were **23,067** registered refugees (**14,285**) and asylum-seekers (**8,782**) in Syria.

In November, UNHCR renewed identification cards for some **1,418** individuals. This brought to **24,563**, the total number of refugees and asylum-seekers whose identification cards have been renewed since the start of this year. These documents provide protection against refoulement, ensure access to basic rights and assistance, and facilitate freedom of movement. Many registered refugees originate from Iraq and reside primarily in urban areas in Damascus, Aleppo, Tartous, Homs and Qamishli governorates. Of the total number of registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria, some **20,153** individuals have been biometrically enrolled. This represents **88 per cent** of the registered population above three-years-old qualified for the iris (biometric) enrolment.

Refugee status determination (RSD)

UNHCR uses its refugee status determination procedures to help asylum-seekers realize their rights under international law. Since February 2021, UNHCR has been piloting the alternative approach to in-person interviews to ensure that access to refugee-status determination procedures for persons of concern continue with COVID-19 preventative measures in place. Cases are processed remotely with caseworkers and individuals communicating via secured video-conferencing tools in UNHCR premises. Interview rooms are fitted with all the necessary ICT equipment, COVID compliant PPE and disinfectants.

Between January and November, **77** cases comprising **160** individuals were interviewed. In addition, **57** assessed cases comprising **82** individuals were submitted to reviewers by case workers. To date, **86** cases comprising **167** individuals have been reviewed. Of that number, **43** cases comprising **79** individuals from Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Sudan were recognized as refugees enabling them to receive cash assistance and to access additional health services.

Resettlement

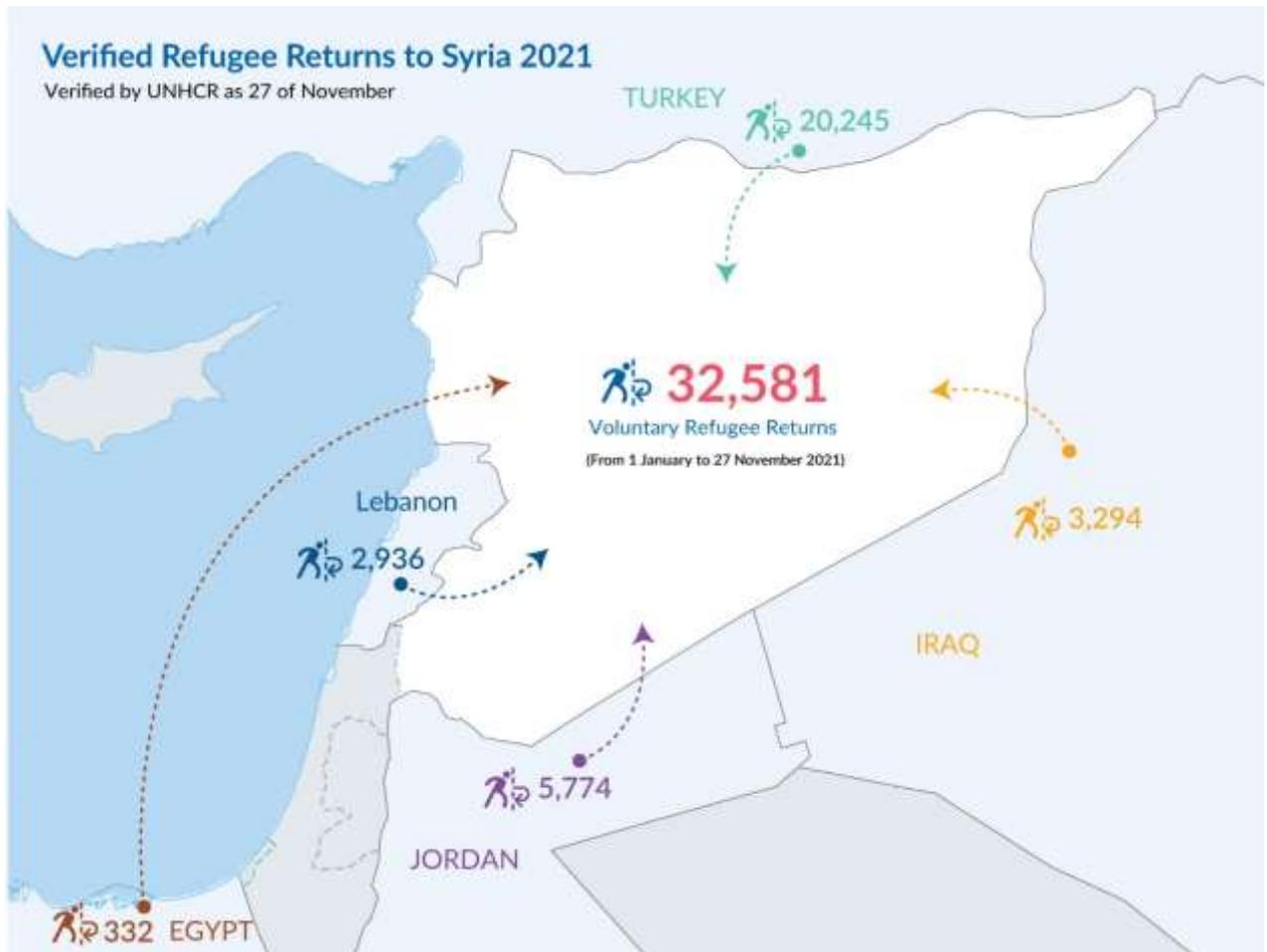
UNHCR maintained effective communication with persons of concern through weekly counselling over a dedicated hotline. During the period, **149** individuals were counselled about their resettlement cases - providing accurate information and managing people's expectations in relation to resettlement.

Furthermore, UNHCR provided over-the-hotline counselling to people of concern seeking individual counselling regarding resettlement.



Refugee Returns

In November, UNHCR verified **2,032** individuals as Syrian refugee returnees from Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Egypt. This brought the total number of returnees to **32,581** individuals since January this year. In 2020, UNHCR verified the return of **38,235** individual refugees mainly from Turkey, Iraq, and Lebanon.



*verified by UNHCR

Financial Information

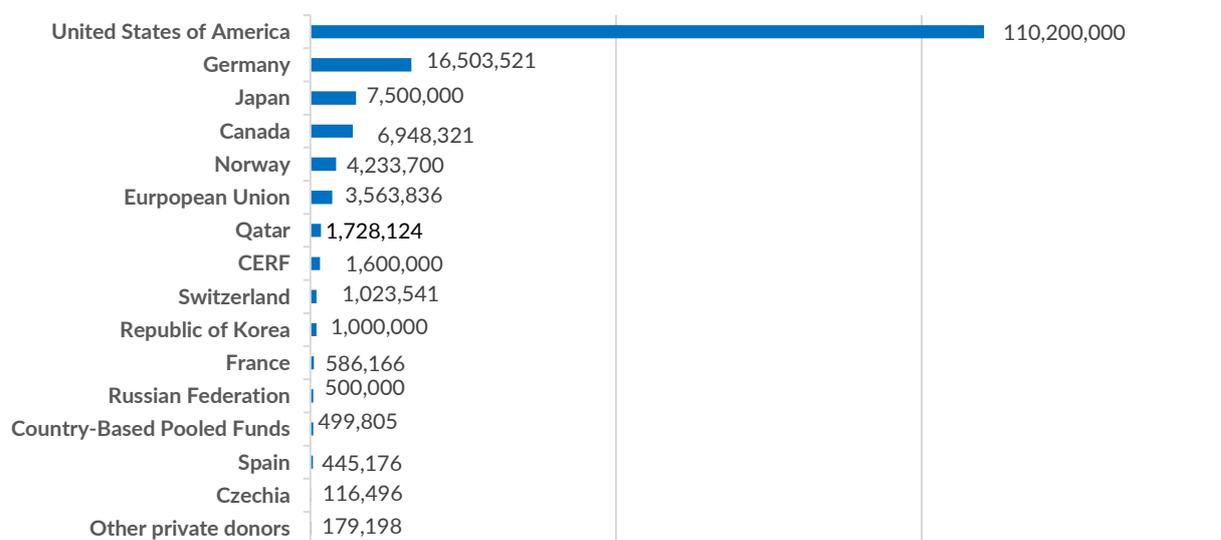
As of 29 November 2021

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

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 189,051,265**

as of 29 November 2021



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 29.7 million | United States of America 22.1 million | Private donors Australia 9.8 million | Private donors Germany 9.2 million | Denmark 8 million | Finland 6 million | Sweden 5.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 4.3 million | Japan 2.9 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Norway 80 million | Sweden 75.4 million | Private donors Spain 69.3 million | United Kingdom 40.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 35.3 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Japan 30.9 million | Germany 26 million | Japan 23.4 million | France 20.2 million | Private donors Italy 17.6 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Sweden 14.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million

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