

Syrian Arab Republic

September 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

91,655

households assisted with core relief items

5,136

people with specific needs received medical in-kind assistance

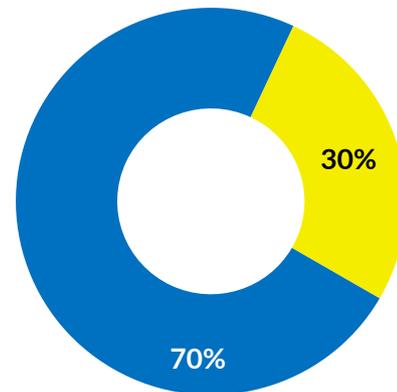
4,241

tents replaced in camps

FUNDING (AS OF 28 SEPTEMBER 2021)

USD 628.6 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2021

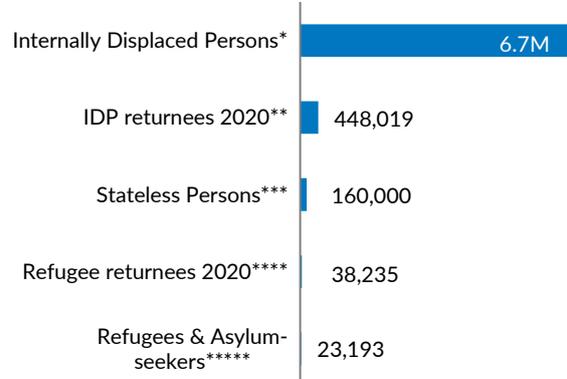


■ Funded ■ Unfunded

POPULATION OF CONCERN



Recreational activity for children with specific needs at a UNHCR-supported community centre in Quneitra Governorate. SARC.



* Source: OCHA, December 2020

** Source: OCHA, 2020

*** Estimated

**** Source: UNHCR verified returns in 2020

***** Source: UNHCR, 30 September 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.

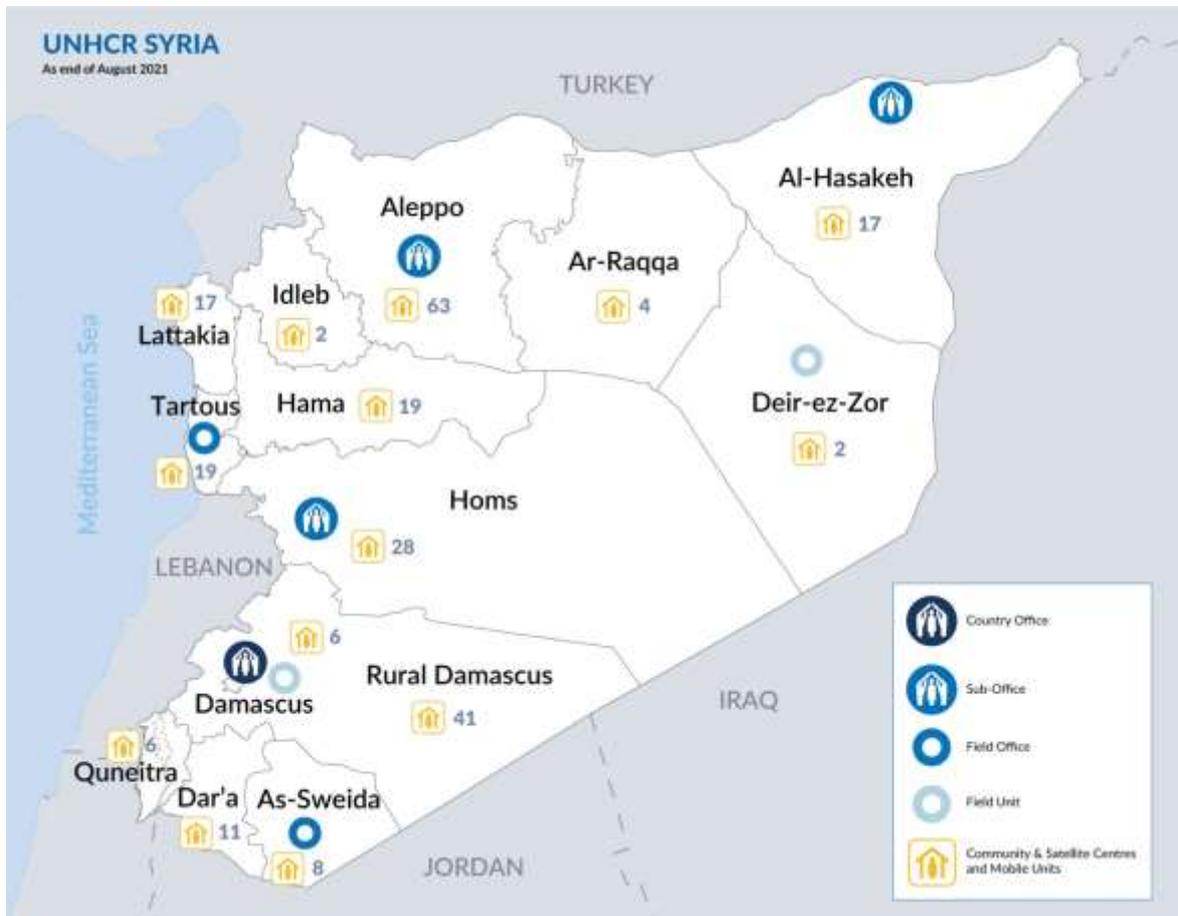
UNHCR works with **27** partners which include **two** government ministries, **six** international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and **19** national NGOs.

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 **2,815** community outreach volunteers (ORVs) in all **14** governorates.



Community/satellite centres and mobile units in Syria.

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 across Syrian governorates. At the 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.

During the reporting period, two new community centres were opened in the Aleppo Governorate following needs assessment on where the greatest needs were observed. The centre in Al Khaldea sub-district was relocated from Al Salheen neighbourhood in the centre of Aleppo city, and it will serve about **22,000** households. The other centre in the Zebdiya neighbourhood of Aleppo city will provide protection services to around **21,000** IDP and returnee households.

So far in 2021, close to **300** community-led initiatives (CLIs) and youth-led initiatives were implemented in all governorates. These projects are identified by the communities and aim to address common protection concerns and improve the well-being of the community or specific groups. Some recently concluded initiatives included securing safe water by installing water tanks, distributing medical glasses to IDPs and returnees after free eye examination, and school painting and illuminating.

UNHCR and its partners provided home-based-rehabilitation support to more than **2,000** elderly persons. Home-based rehabilitation support consists of the provision of different services such as nursing care, physical rehabilitation services through exercise, and assistance with activities of daily living. In addition, over **12,000** people with specific needs received adult diapers and over **5,100** people with specific needs received medical in-kind assistance. Medical assistance includes provision of glucometers, sphygmomanometers, wheelchairs, or medical mattresses. General in-kind assistance such as water tanks, fans and heaters were provided to some **600** people with specific needs.

UNHCR and its partners also provide legal assistance to affected communities by enabling access to legal services by providing 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 access to basic services such as health and education. Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR has provided legal interventions before administrative bodies to over **8,600** IDPs, returnees and host community members. Close to **3,400** people benefitted from legal interventions before courts.

Legal Developments

Also in September, Circular No. 30 was issued which requires people who want to designate a power of attorney on behalf of absent or missing individuals to obtain prior security approval. The circular also requests the Judicial Inspection Department and public attorneys to report any violation of this provision to relevant authorities. The circular indicated that during the crisis in Syria, many powers of attorney were issued for absent or missing individuals who appeared to be either dead or may have committed crimes. There were also cases in which the power of attorney was used to exploit the absent or missing person's assets and dispose of them against their interests. UNHCR is analysing the implications of the circular and how it relates to earlier measures which may affect people of concern.

Following the issuance of Circular No. 30, the First Sharia'a Judge in Damascus issued a clarification that such approvals were only needed for powers of attorney granted to regulate financial matters for the absent or missing person. This clarification may simplify the overall process given the narrower applicability of the Circular. This clarification is expected to simplify the issuance of powers of attorney especially for civil documentation, women's and children's personal matters which will no longer require the security approval.



Core Relief Items

UNHCR through its partners supports IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host community families 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 and is intended for a family of five members. So far in 2021, UNHCR has assisted **91,655** households in all **14** governorates with core-relief items.

Of the total number of households assisted, more than **22,341** households were living in newly accessible communities in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-Ez-Zor, Idleb, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama, Lattakia, and Homs Governorates.

To respond to the critical situation that developed in Dara'a Governorate in August and September, UNHCR prepositioned some 5,000 core-relief item kits to support affected displaced people. As part of the support, UNHCR distributed core-relief items to some 600 IDP households.



Distribution of core relief items to IDP returnee families in Rural Damascus Governorate. UNHCR/Z. Mreyoud.



Shelter and Infrastructure

UNHCR's main shelter programme comprises of damaged house repairs, distribution of basic shelter materials, removal of debris, and distribution of solid waste bins. UNHCR and partners also provide emergency shelter support for displaced people. This emergency support includes the rehabilitation of collective shelters, the distribution of materials such as timber, plastic and MDF sheets for minor shelter repairs, and upgrading damaged buildings.

So far in 2021, UNHCR has replaced over **4,200** tents in **eight** formal and informal camps in the Al Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir Ez-zor Governorates of north-east Syria. This regular replacement of the old and damaged tents aims to improve the shelter situation of the families to withstand the harsh weather situations, especially the windstorms which usually increase in summer.

In addition, around **3,750** individuals benefitted from the removal of **7,500** cubic metres of debris in Rural Damascus. Also, **220** individuals benefitted from the repair of damaged houses in Lattakia and Rural Damascus, as well as distribution and installation of **247** shelter material kits in Rural Damascus.

UNHCR and its partners also completed the rehabilitation of a civil registry office in the Old City of Aleppo. The centre will help over **600,000** individuals to obtain their legal documents.



UNHCR and partners rehabilitated the civil registry office in the Old City, Aleppo. UNHCR/H. Maarouf.



Assistance to Refugees

Registration

Registration and providing documentation are key to ensure the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria and enable access to basic rights such as freedom of movement and access to assistance. End September, there are **23,185** registered refugees (**14,422**) and asylum-seekers (**8,763**) in Syria.

In September, **1,781** individuals renewed their UNHCR identification cards bringing the total number of refugees and asylum-seekers who have renewed their identification cards this year to **23,130** individuals. These documents provide protection against refoulement, ensure access to basic rights and assistance, and facilitate freedom of movement. The majority of registered refugees originate from Iraq and live primarily in urban areas in Damascus, Aleppo, Tartous, Homs and Qamishli Governorates. Out of the total number of registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria, some **19,500** individuals were biometrically enrolled, representing **88 per cent** of the total registered population above three-years-old who are suitable for 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 is piloting the alternative approach to in-person interviews to ensure that access to refugee-status determination procedures for persons of concern continues 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, PPE and disinfectants.

Between January and September, **51** cases comprising **112** individuals were successfully interviewed. The assessment of **35** cases comprising **56** individuals was submitted to reviewers by case workers. To date, **71** cases comprising **137** individuals were reviewed of which **30** cases comprising **60** individuals were recognized as refugees.

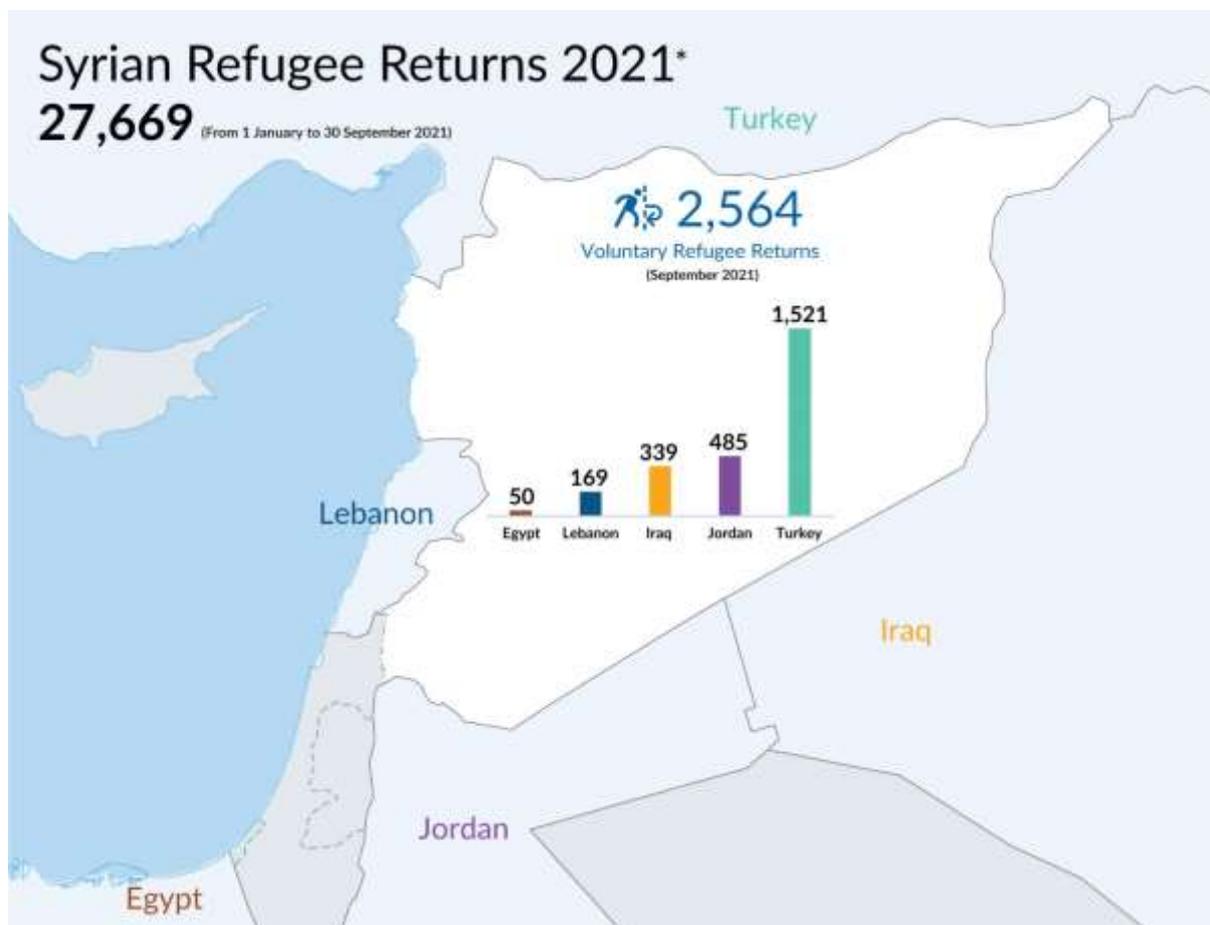
Resettlement

UNHCR provides counselling to refugees through a hotline on the resettlement process and individual resettlement case status. The hotline is open once a week and allows persons of concern to receive updates on their case status. Since January 2021, almost **583** refugees called the hotlines and were counselled.



Refugee Returns

In September, UNHCR verified the return to Syria of **2,564** individual refugees from neighbouring asylum countries, bringing the total number of refugee returnees from these countries since January to **27,669** individuals. Most returns in 2021 took place from Turkey, followed by Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Egypt. In 2020, UNHCR verified the return of **38,235** individual refugees from neighbouring asylum countries, with most returns taking place from Turkey, Iraq, and Lebanon.



*verified by UNHCR

Setting up presence in Deir-ez-Zor

Early in 2021, UNHCR received approval to establish an office in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. UNHCR has completed the recruitment of staff and the field unit started operations in September. The humanitarian needs in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate are significant and the area has seen a high number of IDP returnees in the recent past. With this, UNHCR now has a physical presence in seven governorates and can regularly access all 14 governorates.

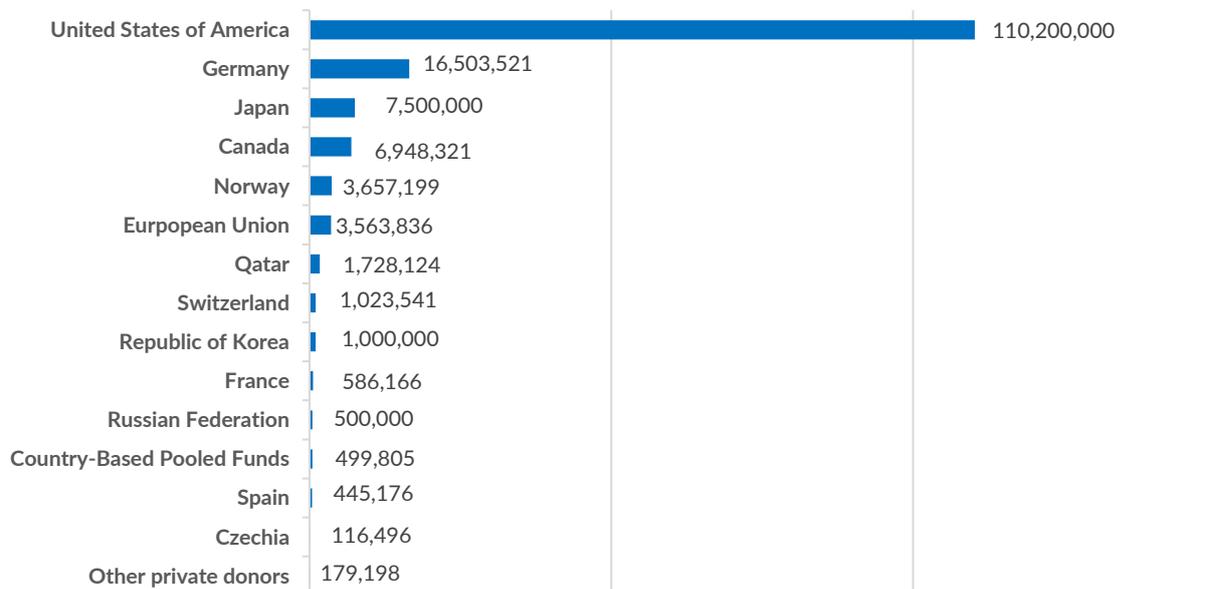
Financial Information

As of 28 September 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\$ 188,071,132**



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 29.7 million | United States of America 22.1 million | Private donors Australia 8.8 million | Denmark 8 million | Finland 6 million | Private donors Germany 5.7 million | Sweden 5.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 3.5 million | Japan 2.9 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 55.7 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 28.5 million | United Kingdom 28.4 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Japan 23.6 million | Japan 23.4 million | France 20.2 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Italy 14 million | Private donors Sweden 13 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million

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