

Syria

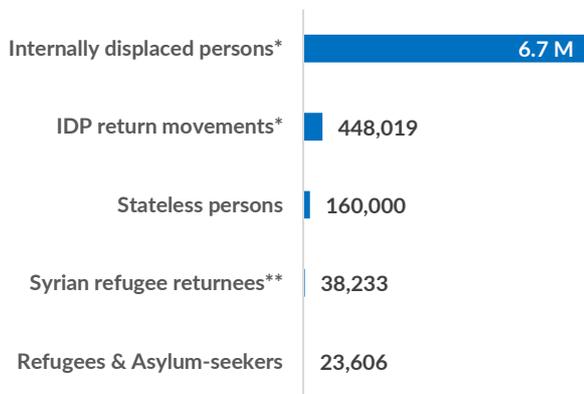
March 2021

The decade-long crisis in Syria does not show any sign of improving. Humanitarian needs and protection risks are increasing. The security situation in some areas of the country is volatile and unpredictable.

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 in-kind or cash assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and stateless people based on identified needs and vulnerabilities.

POPULATION OF CONCERN



*Source: OCHA Needs and Response Summary 2021

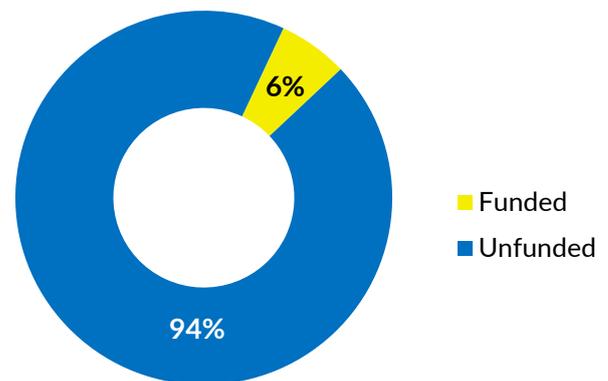
** Source: UNHCR Operational Portal, 31 December 2020

https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions

FUNDING (AS OF 2 MARCH 2021)

USD 628.6 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2021



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 482

420 National Staff

62 International Staff

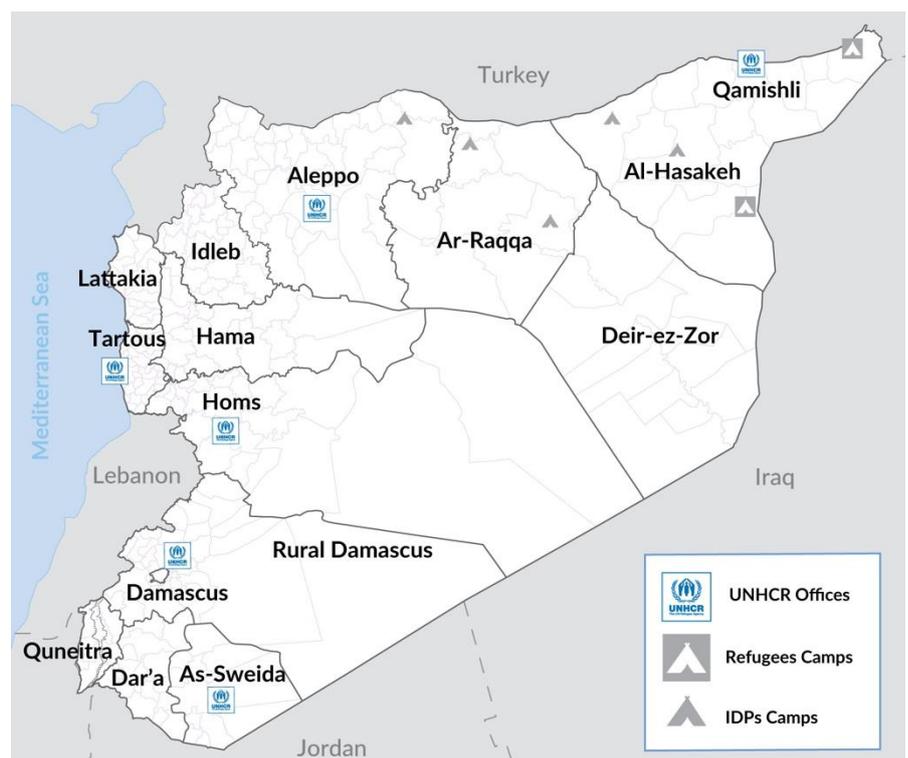
Offices: 7

1 Country Office in Damascus

3 Sub-Offices in Aleppo, Homs and Qamishli

2 Field Offices in Tartous and As-Sweida

1 Field Unit 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, inter-agency mechanisms and humanitarian actors. In Syria, in line with the inter-agency coordination framework, UNHCR leads the Protection and Community Services, Shelter and Non-Food Items sector together with relevant line ministries and coordinates the humanitarian response in the country.

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 for people to 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 91 community centres, 37 satellite centres and 120 mobile units in all 14 governorates of the country and engages over 2,700 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 of about USD 78 (ca. 98,000 Syrian pound) 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 includes 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.

Health

UNHCR adopts a community-based health approach and has established health points in the UNHCR-supported community centres. Staff at these health points provide awareness on good health practices, disease prevention, and support communities to improve overall well-being. Health workers also provide health counselling at community in 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. The Office 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 Rubb halls to serve as quarantine/isolation sites for persons of concern.

Infrastructure and Shelter

A core part of UNHCR's work is providing access to adequate shelter to persons in needs. In Syria, UNHCR provides shelter support to internally displaced people and families who return to partially damaged houses in their areas of origin. Shelter assistance includes provision of materials for minor repairs to doors and windows and comprehensive support to make shelters habitable.

Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

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

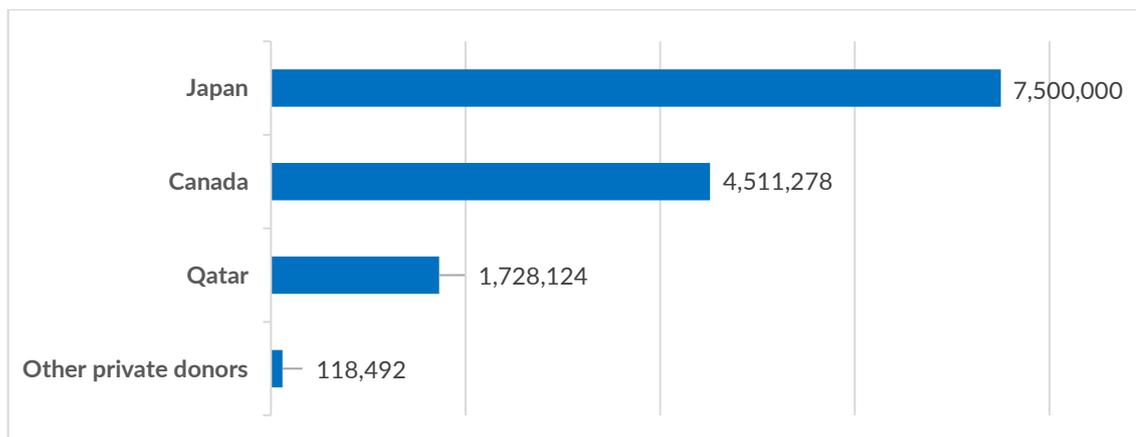
Financial Information

As of 2 March 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\$ 40,237,272**



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 59.2 million | Sweden 5.4 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD¹

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 22.1 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Spain 13.3 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.