

Syrian Arab Republic

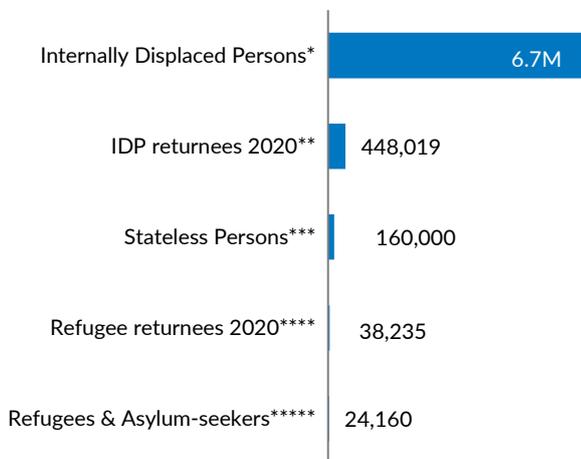
June 2021

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.

POPULATION OF CONCERN



* Source: OCHA, December 2020

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*** Estimated

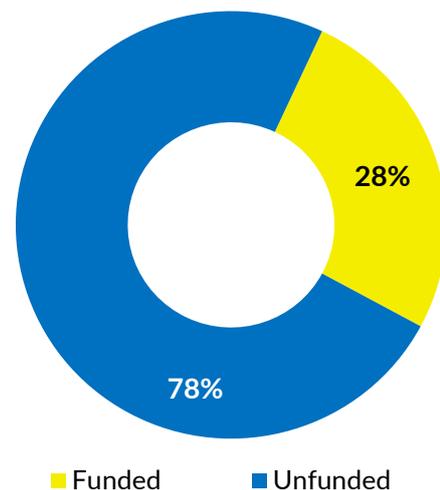
**** Source: UNHCR verified returns in 2020

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

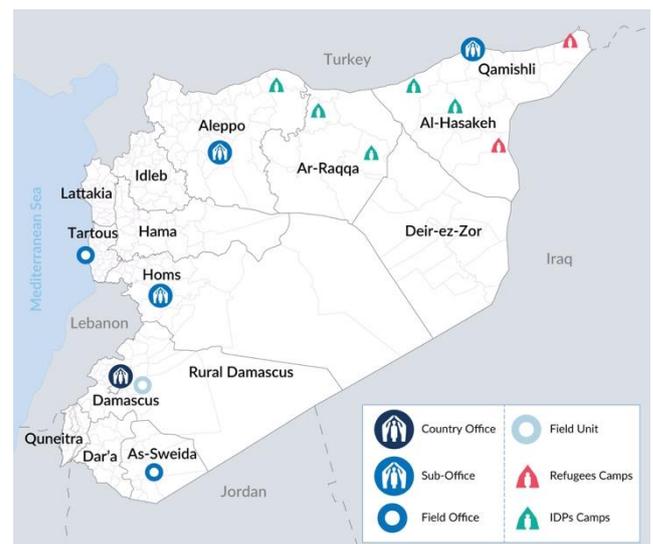
FUNDING (AS OF 02 JULY 2021)

USD 628.6 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2021



Children in Bania, rural Tartous participate in recreational activities as part of awareness raising on child labour. UNHCR partner, SSSD



Operational Context

The 2021 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) puts the number of people in need of 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.

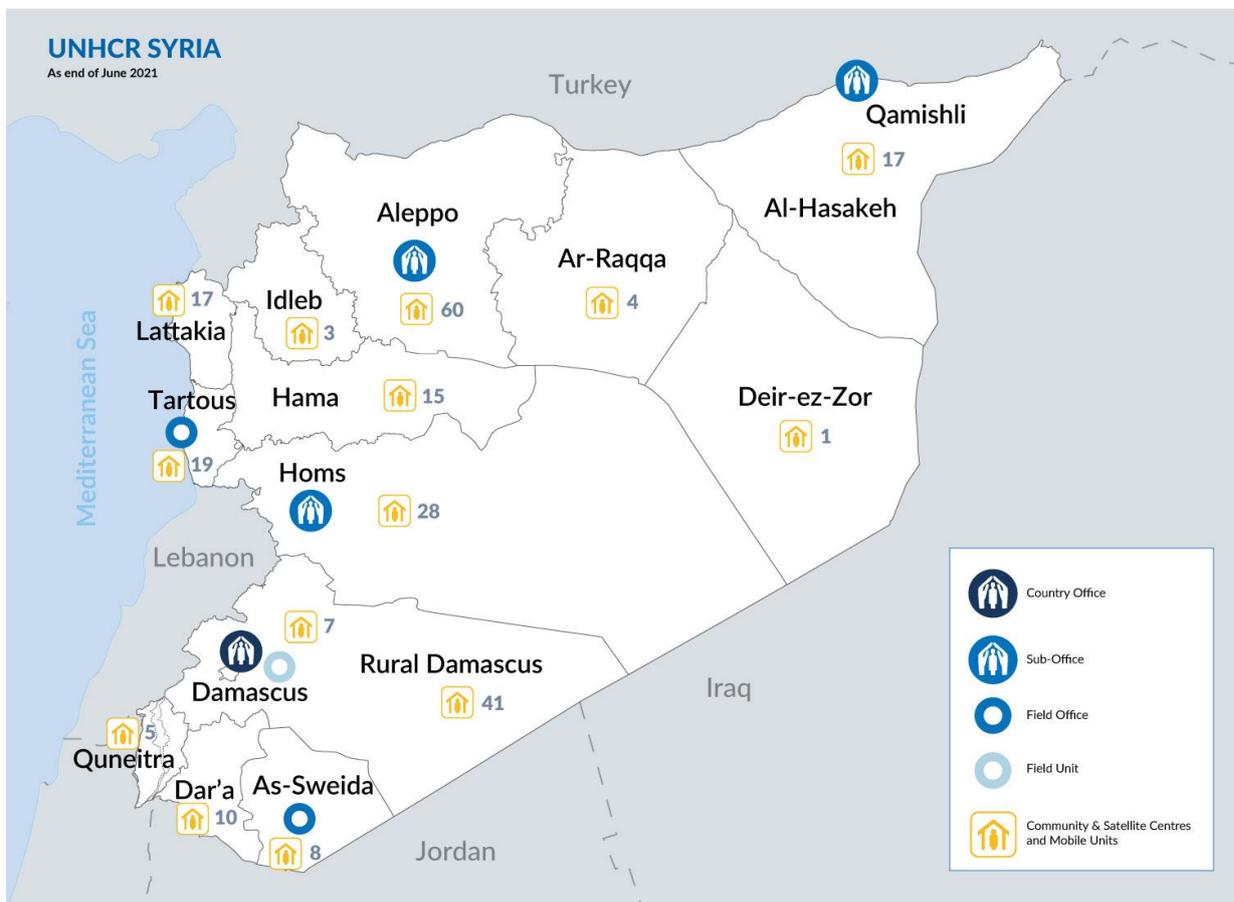
UNHCR works with **28** partners which include **two** government ministries, **six** international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and **20** national NGOs.

Key Achievements



Protection

UNHCR supports **89** community centres, **37** satellite centres and **109** mobile units, and has engaged some **2,600** community outreach volunteers (ORVs) in all **14** governorates.



Community/satellite centers and mobile units in Syria.

The centres provide comprehensive protection-related services such as to support child protection activities, to provide 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 communities to identify and address specific protection concerns by implementing small-scale community-led or livelihood projects.

In June 2021, close to **1,000** individuals participated in some **100** awareness-raising sessions on the prevention of and response to gender-based violence in the As-Sweida, Aleppo, Homs, Ar-Raqqa, Tartous, Hama, Dar'a, Damascus and Rural Damascus Governorates. Since January, almost 39,000 individuals participated in these sessions.

Also in June, **621** children participated in child protection awareness-raising sessions covering topics such as child labour and its harmful effects, child rights, dangers of war remnants, importance of education, the effects of bullying, and how to report/identify child abuse. So far, some 50,000 children participated in these sessions across the country.



Education

UNHCR contributed to the inter-agency assistance for Syrian students to enable them take their national examinations in June. UNICEF, as the education sector lead agency, coordinated the response with four UN agencies and three NGO partners. As part of the response, UNHCR and its partners repaired students' accommodation centres, provided core relief items, remedial classes, hot meals, transportation, and protection services to students in need. UNHCR's assistance reached more than **11,800** students including those from Ar-Raqqa, Deir-Ez-Zor, Al-Hasakeh and Idlib Governorates in Syria and those normally residing in Lebanon. UNHCR and partners supported students coming from Lebanon with transportation from the borders to the accommodation centres. UNHCR also supported **180** students to obtain their personal identification cards for the first time from the Directorate of Civil Affairs. These are necessary for movement and to access basic services, as well as to be able to sit for the national exams.



Health

By 30 June, **74** refugees who belonged to priority groups had received the first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. This followed UNHCR's advocacy earlier in the year for refugees to be included in the national COVID-19 vaccination plan. To assist refugees electronically register themselves on the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 vaccination portal, UNHCR trained medical volunteers in all governorates. In late April, 203,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine arrived to the country as part of the COVAX facility.

The medical staff of UNHCR's implementing partner Al-Birr were also vaccinated through the Directorate of Health in their Governorate. This partner operates three UNHCR-supported clinics in Qamishli, Al-Hasakeh City and Tal Hamis, Al-Hasakeh Governorate for refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR also provided a steam sterilizer device to sterilize the equipment used during the PCR tests at the Jdeidet Yabous border crossing point health post between Syria and Lebanon.

In June, the Syrian government announced that individuals who had received the two recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and whose work involves regular travel between Syria and Lebanon can submit a proof of vaccination instead of a PCR test to enter the country. Moreover, Syrian citizens who have a certificate of vaccination in addition to a negative PCR test will be exempt from institutional quarantine but will still undergo home quarantine.



Self-reliance and Livelihoods

UNHCR's livelihood programme supports internally displaced and returning Syrians re-engage in livelihood activities. It includes the provision of small business start-up grants people who have completed a basic business training and submit a suitable project proposal. These beneficiaries are selected by a committee established at UNHCR-supported community centres based on their vulnerability and suitability of the project proposal. UNHCR also provides livelihoods support to returnee households in rural areas by providing agriculture inputs such as seeds or livestock and tools to resume previous livelihoods. In addition, UNHCR also rehabilitates important economic infrastructure with the potential to support resilience building of IDPs and returnees.



An IDP was able to set up a clothes shop in Kafrayya after receiving a small business start-up grant from UNHCR.

Since January 2021, UNHCR **206** people completed business training courses in Aleppo, Quneitra, Tartous, and Latakia Governorates allowing them to apply for business start-up support. Another **1,500** individuals received seeds, livestock assets and agricultural tools in Tartous and Latakia governorates to restart their livelihood activities. To date, UNHCR has identified **16** projects to be supported in 2021 as part of the livelihood infrastructure rehabilitation programme. The projects include the rehabilitation of vocational training schools and of irrigation channels in several governorates including Al-Hasakeh, Deir-Ez-Zor, Dar'a, and Tartous Governorates.



Shelter and Infrastructure

UNHCR's shelter programme comprises of the repair of damaged houses, 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 and individuals, either in protracted situations or newly displaced. This 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.

Since January, UNHCR has distributed over **2,000** tents in four camps in north-east Syria in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa Governorates as part of regular replacement of emergency shelters in camps. The majority of tents were distributed in Al-Hol camp (1,625) followed by Areesha camp (164), Mahmoudli (203) and Newroz camp (179). UNHCR also carries out care and maintenance of basic infrastructure in camps such as road repair, installation of lighting for roads and WASH facilities.



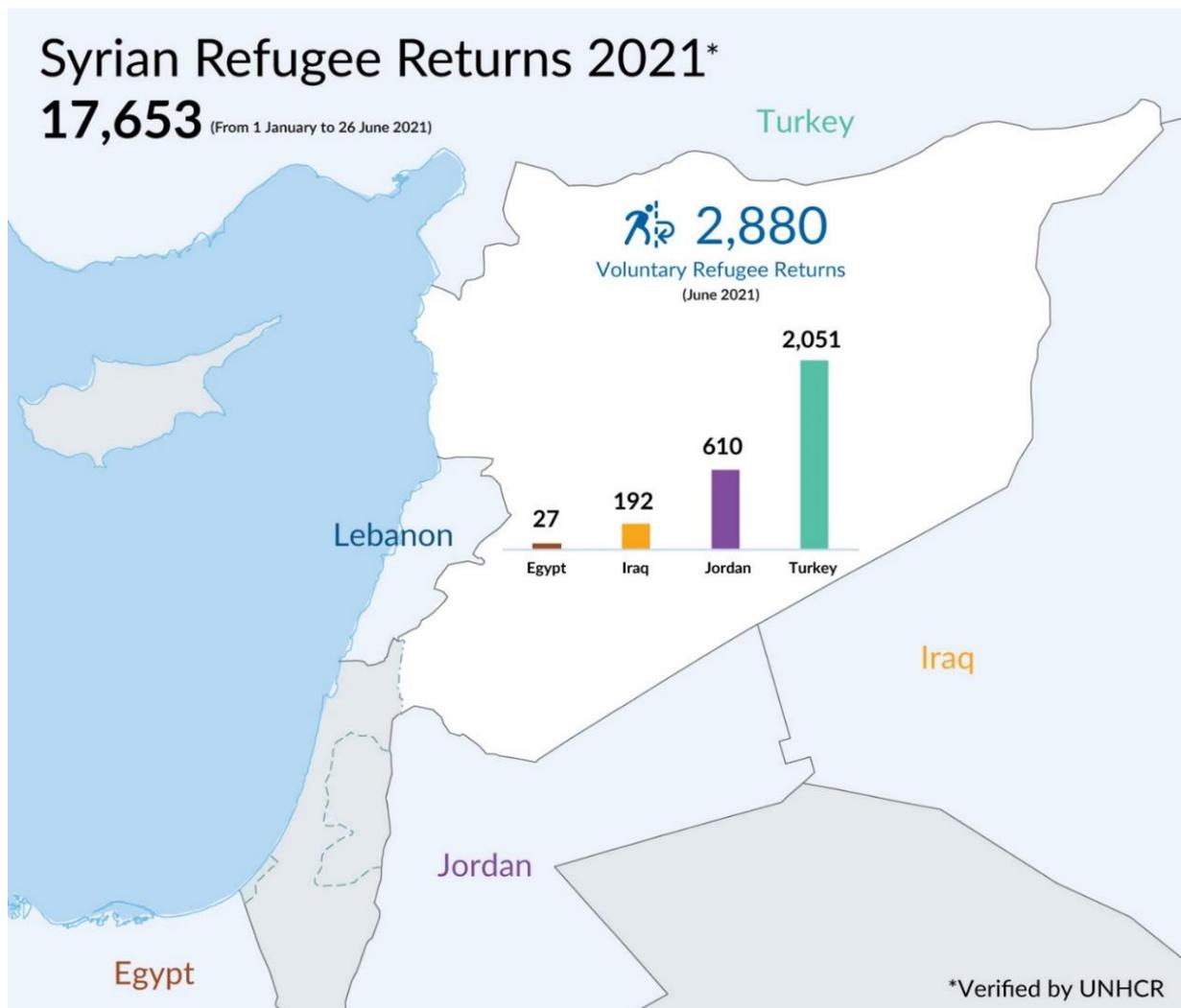
Office Opening in Deir-ez-Zor

In June, UNHCR conducted a mission to the location of the new office in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, north-east Syria to prepare for its opening in August. In January 2021, UNHCR received approval to establish an office in Deir-ez-Zor. The humanitarian needs in Deir-Ez-Zor Governorate are significant and the area has recently seen a high number of IDP returnees in the recent past. With the opening of this office, UNHCR will have a physical presence in 7 governorates and be able to regularly access all 14.



Refugee Returns

In June, UNHCR verified the return to Syria of **2,880** individual refugees from the five neighbouring asylum countries, bringing the total number of refugee returnees from these countries since 1 January 2021 to **17,653** individuals. Most returns took place from Turkey, followed by Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq. In 2020, UNHCR verified the return of **38,235** individual refugees from the five neighbouring asylum countries, with most returns taking place from Turkey, Iraq, and Lebanon.



In May and June 2021 meetings of the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Return and Reintegration Working Group (RRWG) took place, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNDP. The meetings took stock of efforts to support IDP and refugee returnees and measures to strengthen collaboration in this regard.

Since 2017, UNHCR has been conducting Regional Perception and Intention Surveys (RPIS) of Syrian refugees to ensure the centrality of refugee voices in discussions about their future. In early 2021, UNHCR published the findings of the 6th RPIS conducted in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan. The survey found that most Syrians wish to return to Syria one day (70%). However, only a small number plan to return in the next 12 months (2.4%). Respondents noted safety and security, livelihood opportunities, housing, and basic services as key factors influencing their return decision-making. A significant number of males mentioned military service as one of their primary reasons for not returning in the near term. Nearly 90 per cent of respondents stated that they cannot meet their basic needs in their host countries. At the same time, most individuals said that host country conditions and COVID-19 have had a limited impact on decision-making. Overall, the hope for refugees to return home to Syria remains relatively strong compared to earlier in the crisis. However, a smaller number are reporting their intention to return in the near term compared with the previous survey. This is consistent with the number of actual returns observed by UNHCR to date.



World Refugee Day

On 20 June, UNHCR marked World Refugee Day. More than 82 million people are displaced worldwide including 26.4 million refugees. The 6.7 million Syrian refugees living in other countries are among the top five refugee populations and combined with the internally displaced in the country make Syria the largest displacement crisis in the world. At the same time, Syria has been a longstanding host of refugees from other countries. Syria was once the third largest refugee-hosting country in the world, hosting more than a million Iraqi refugees at the end of 2009. At mid-year, there are some 15,370 registered refugees and 8,763 asylum seekers from various nationalities.

To mark World Refugee Day, and in line with the global themes of inclusion in sport, drawing and other recreational activities, UNHCR Syria published seven stories of notable refugees who have contributed to the COVID-19 response, are musicians, sport champions, and volunteers with UNHCR. The stories highlighted refugees' experiences and showed their resilience in the face of adversity. Several activities were conducted by UNHCR partners in community and satellite centres including discussions with refugees and host community members to promote social cohesion and integration, organisation of a trip for refugee children in Rural Damascus to the Zoo in Damascus, and a drawing competition in Damascus amongst others. The stories of refugees in Syria are posted on UNHCR social media platforms and on the UNHCR global website (www.unhcr.org) under the title(s) [Refugee Voices Matter, 7 Refugee Stories you need to hear from Syria](#).

Financial Information

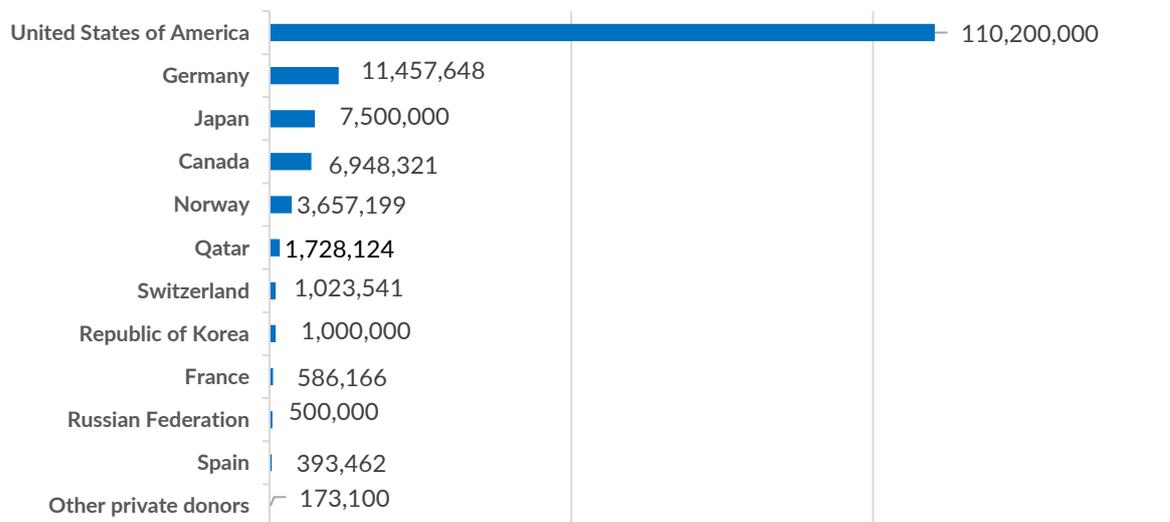
As of 02 July 2021

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\$ 174,212,985**

as of 02 July 2021



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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