

Syria

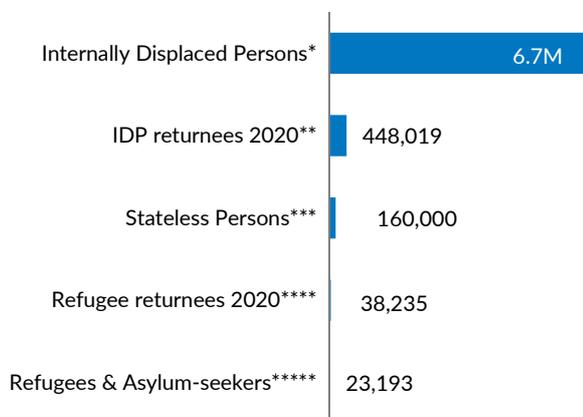
September 2021

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

** Source: OCHA, 2020

*** Estimated

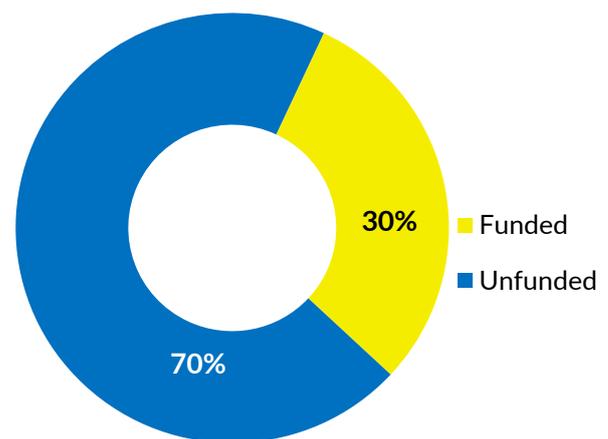
**** Source: UNHCR verified returns in 2020

***** Source: UNHCR, 30 September 2021

FUNDING (AS OF 28 SEPTEMBER 2021)

USD 628.6 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2021



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 506

444 National Staff

62 International Staff

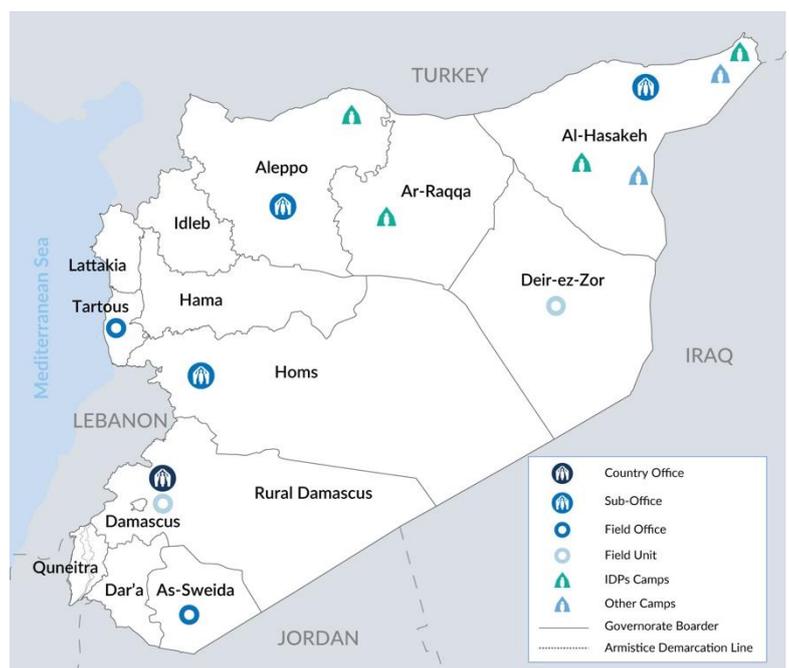
Offices: 8

1 Country Office in Damascus

3 Sub-Offices in Aleppo, Homs and Qamishli

2 Field Offices in Tartous and As-Sweida

2 Field Units in Damascus and Deir-ez-Zor



Partnership and Coordination

UNHCR works with **27** partner agencies which include **six** international NGOs, **19** 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 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, Area Humanitarian Country Teams and the Return and Reintegration Working Group.

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 psychosocial support, child protection services, support to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, and education services such as remedial classes. UNHCR and its partners also provide legal assistance, including to help people obtain civil documentation and support them to register civil events. Outreach volunteers engage communities to identify and address specific protection concerns through small-scale community-led interventions or livelihood opportunities.

Refugees and asylum-seekers benefit from additional protection services such as refugee status determination, registration, resettlement, multi-purpose cash grants, and scholarships for students.

UNHCR currently supports **91** community centres, **35** satellite centres and **119** mobile units in all 14 governorates of the country and engages over **2,815** outreach volunteers to strengthen its 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 119 per family are provided to refugees to cover their basic needs through an ATM or over-the-counter modality. A one-off emergency grant is also provided to refugee families to address urgent unforeseen protection needs. Eligible refugee families receive

education grants to encourage school attendance and should cover transportation and education material costs. Scholarships are also provided to university students to help them cover core expenses and university registration fees. During the winter months, registered refugee households receive cash grants of approximately USD 340 which help meet additional costs such as for heating.

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 comprises of high thermal blankets, sleeping mats, mattresses, jerry cans, plastic sheets, kitchen sets and solar lamps. Supplementary seasonal items are also distributed and can include winter clothing and rechargeable fans.

Infrastructure and Shelter

A core part of UNHCR's work is providing access to adequate shelter to persons in need. In Syria, UNHCR distributes tents in camps and emergency shelter kits, and maintains camp infrastructure. In urban areas, UNHCR helps refugee and IDP returnees repair damaged houses in their areas of origin by providing materials for minor repairs to doors and windows. UNHCR also repairs public infrastructure such as pavements, installs streetlights and rehabilitates communal facilities. In areas of high return, UNHCR removes debris, repairs sewage systems, distributes solid waste bins and repairs public water networks and boreholes.

Self-Reliance and Livelihoods

UNHCR supports vulnerable people to restart livelihoods by providing agriculture support, rehabilitating key economic infrastructure and supporting people start-up small businesses. These interventions aim to increase their self-reliance and reduce their dependency on assistance.

Health

UNHCR adopts a community-based health approach and has established 12 health points 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 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 also distributed personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves and sanitising liquids to partner staff and health facilities.

As of end-September, over 78 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.

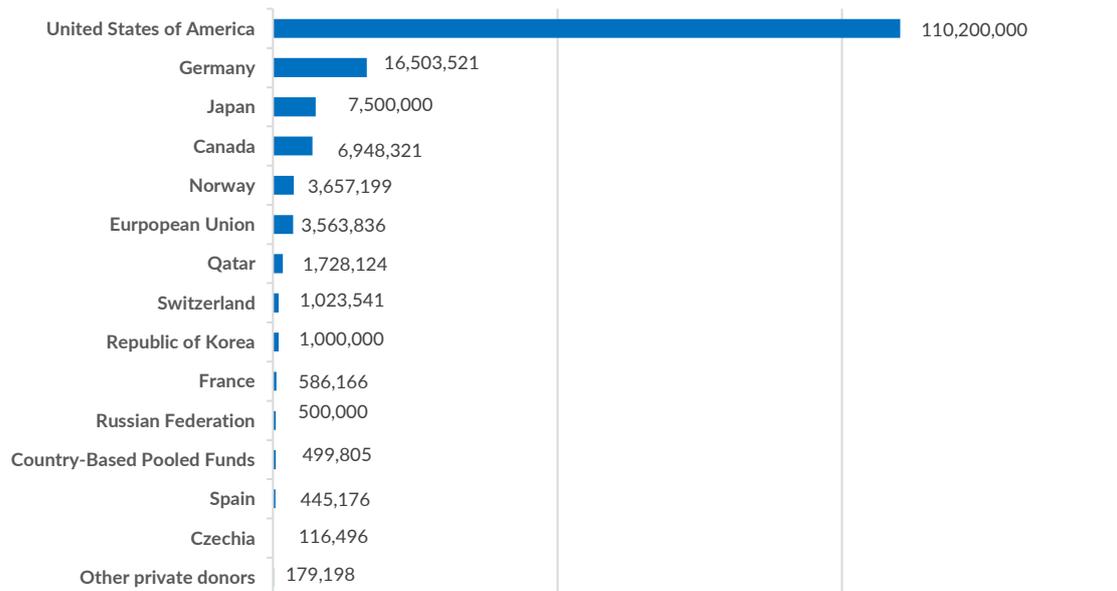
Financial Information

As of 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

CONTACT

Tom Winston Monboe
 Reporting Officer
 UNHCR Syria
 Email: monboe@unhcr.org

LINKS

www.unhcr.org/sy
 UNHCR Syria (@UNHCRinSYRIA) / Twitter
 UNHCR Syria | Facebook