

Syrian Arab Republic

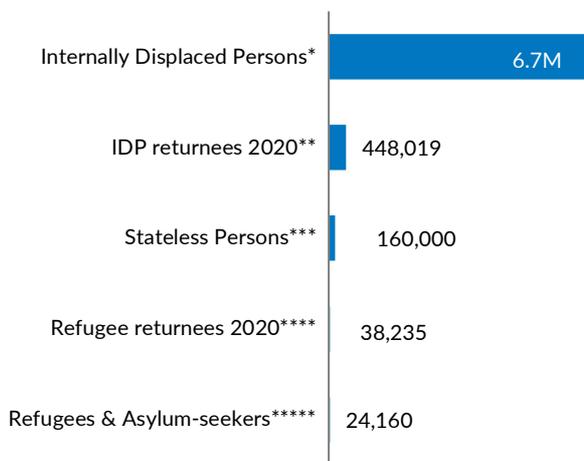
May 2021

The decade-long crisis in Syria continues to affect millions of lives. Humanitarian needs increased in the course of 2020, together with associated protection risks. The security situation is still volatile in certain areas and the socio-economic situation is deteriorating.

According to the 2021 Needs and Response Summary, some 13.4 million people 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 persons, returnees and stateless people based on identified needs and vulnerabilities.

POPULATION OF CONCERN



* Source: OCHA, December 2020

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*** Estimated

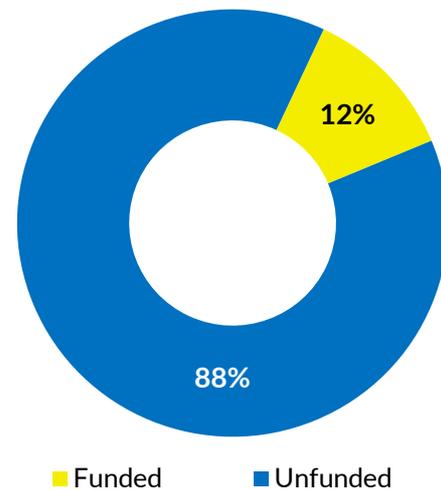
**** Source: UNHCR verified returns in 2020

***** Source: UNHCR, 29 May 2021

FUNDING (AS OF 1 JUNE 2021)

USD 628.6 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2021

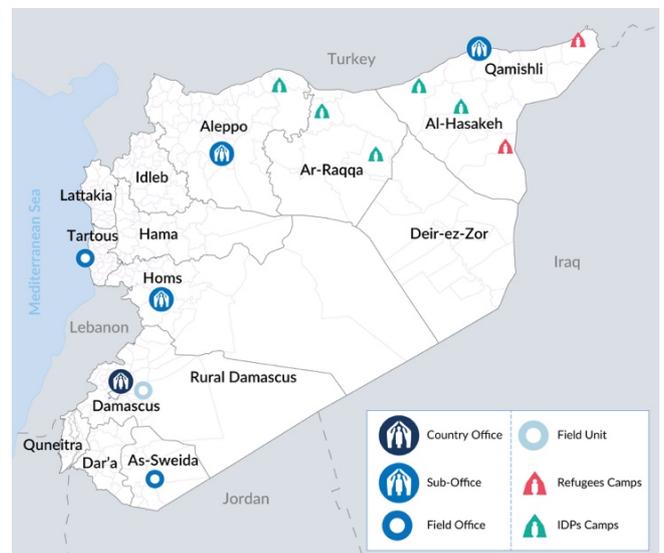


■ Funded

■ Unfunded



UNHCR and partners distributed core relief items for vulnerable returnees in As-Sweida. UNHCR/H. Abo Fakher.



Operational Context

The 2021 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), puts the number of people in need of assistance to over **13.4 million**, including **6.7 million** internally displaced people. 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



Community-Based Protection

UNHCR's protection response strategy applies a community-based approach aimed at reducing vulnerabilities and protection risks in affected communities through a community participation and outreach activities. Under the framework, persons of concern receive psycho-social and other targeted protection support including issues of gender-based violence, child protection and legal services such as helping persons of concern obtain civil documentation and support to register their civil events. At the UNHCR-supported community centres, outreach volunteers engage communities to identify and address specific protection concerns through small-scale community-led or livelihood projects. UNHCR supports **90** community centres, **38** satellite centres and **106** mobile units and engaged some **2,600** community outreach volunteers (ORVs) in all **14** governorates.

In May, UNHCR resumed activities at full capacity at community centres in line with government advice. The resumption facilitated several community-led initiatives (CLIs) to be completed during the reporting period, including the repair of water networks in two schools in Kiwseh, Rural Damascus to provide clean and potable water. A school playground in Kisweh was also upgraded in Rural Damascus. The initiatives will benefit more than **1,800** students.



Cash-Based Interventions (CBIs)

By the end of May, the number of registered refugees stood at **15,360** individuals. Primary countries of origin are Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Sudan. Most refugees reside in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Al-Hasakeh, and Deir-Ez-Zor Governorates. UNHCR provides multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) to the most vulnerable refugee families. Considering the volatile context, UNHCR enrolls families for MPCG assistance initial on a bi-monthly cycle. Families' continued

eligibility is reviewed every two months. The eligibility criteria are based on an individual's vulnerability determined either through a scoring system based on demographics, special needs or through a panel review of individual protection risks by a multi-functional team.

UNHCR targets approximately 86 per cent of registered refugee families with the cash grant, which is delivered via a cash-over-the-counter modality. Each family of three receives **98,000** Syrian pounds a month (approximately USD **38**). In April, UNHCR assisted **2,271** refugee households (**6,155** individuals) with multi-purpose cash grants. Also, over **1,000** families called the hotline and received information regarding their grants.

Since January 2021, a total of **4,366** refugee households comprising **12,315** individuals received a multi-purpose cash grant at least once.



Core Relief Items

UNHCR through its partners supports refugees, IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host community families by providing essential core relief items (CRIs). 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. In May, UNHCR assisted **8,273** refugee, returnee and IDP families (approximately **41,000** individuals in all 14 governorates).



Education

UNHCR is contributing to inter-agency efforts to support students attend examinations in the month of June. As Education Sector lead, UNICEF is coordinating the response with some four UN and three NGO partners. As part of this support, UNHCR and its partners are repairing accommodation centres, providing core-relief items (CRI), transport and remedial classes to students who need them. The repair of accommodation centres includes electrical work, maintenance of latrines and fumigation. Some 12,000 students will receive mattresses, blankets, pillows, solar lamps, and kitchen sets as part of the CRI assistance.



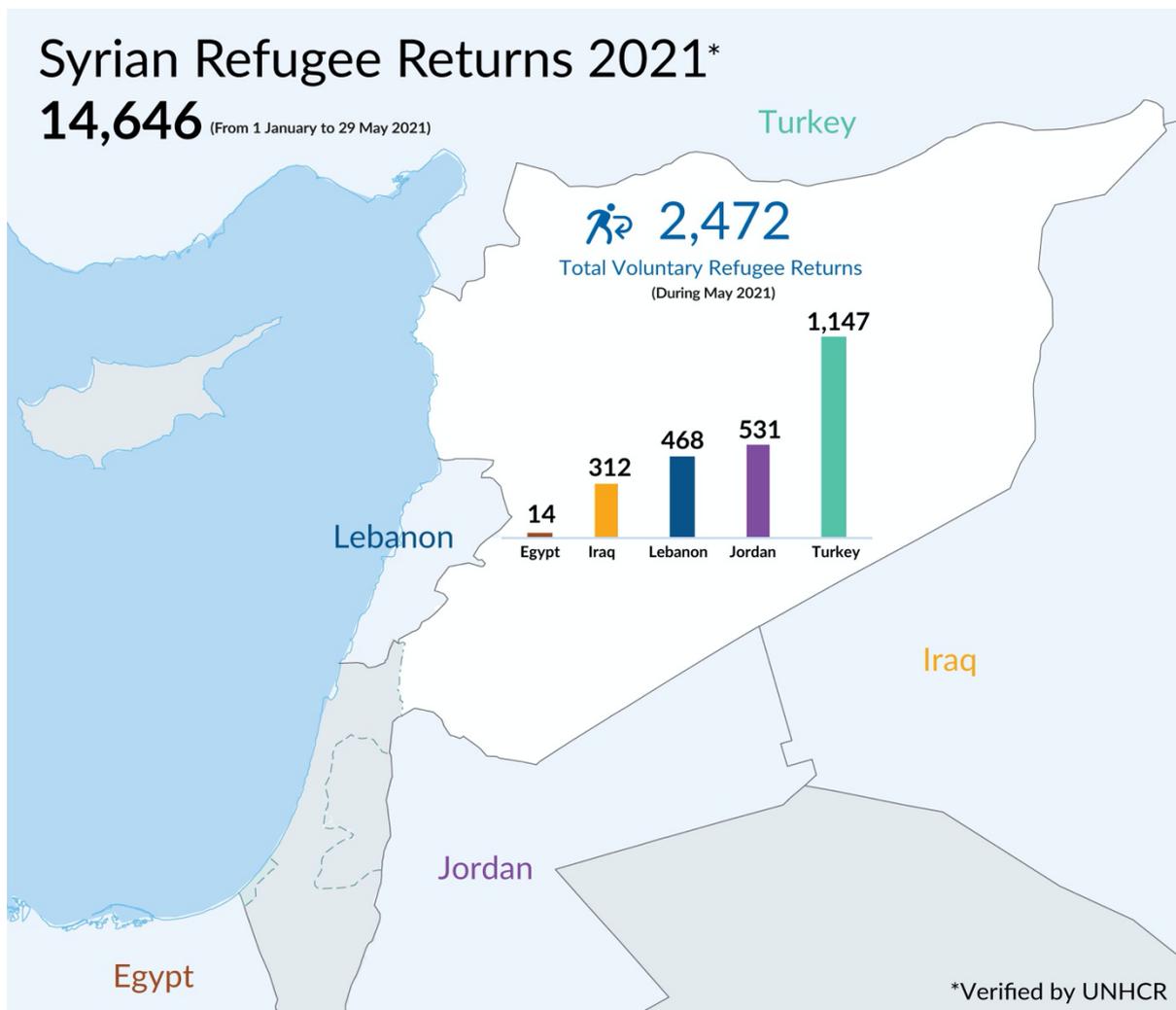
Health

In May, **33** refugees (**29** Iraqi, **2** Yemeni, **1** Somali, **1** South Sudanese) who are in the priority groups received the first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. In late April, 203,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine arrived in country as part of the COVAX facility. Following UNHCR's advocacy, refugees have been included in the national COVID-19 vaccination plan. To assist refugees electronically register themselves on the Ministry of Health COVID-19 vaccine portal, UNHCR began the training of medical volunteers in all governorates.



Refugee Returns

The number of the verified refugee returns by UNHCR during May stood at **2,472** individuals bringing the total number of refugee returns since January 2021 to **14,646** individuals. Overall, most returns are from Turkey followed by Lebanon and Jordan.



Meetings

The UNHCR Representative in Syria Sivanka Dhanapala continued his extensive follow-up engagements with government and donor counterparts during the reporting period. In addition to meeting the Minister Foreign Affairs and Minister of Social Affairs and Labour and other senior Syrian officials, the Representative also met with the Russian Ambassador in Damascus. Mr. Dhanapala also conducted regular rounds of meetings with other embassy counterparts in Syria and undertook a mission to Amman from 9-11 May to meet donors and Regional Bureau officials. The meetings are part of continued efforts by the Representative to strengthen government and donor relations and collaboration in support of the Syria Operation.

Financial Information

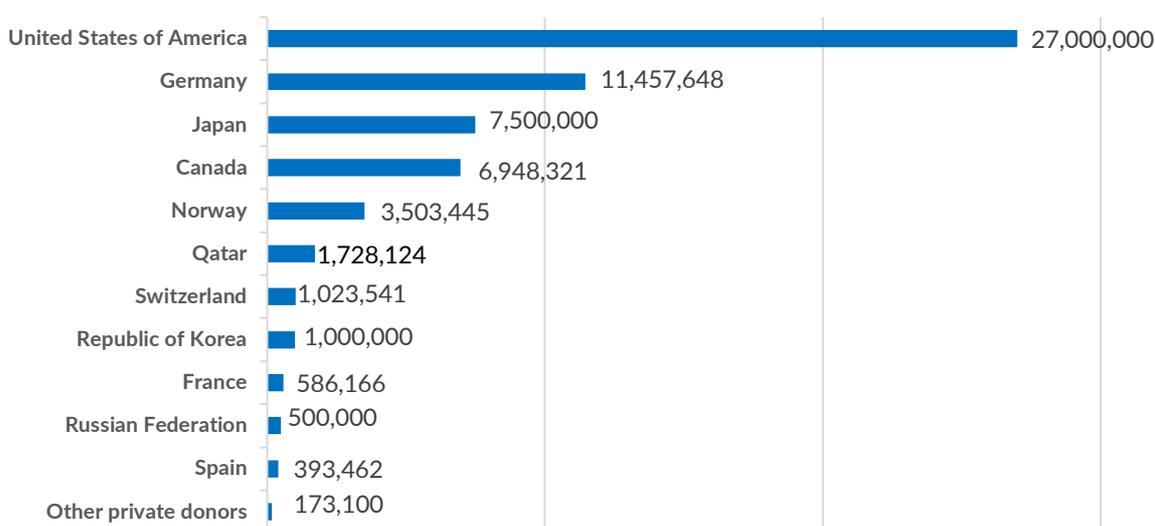
As of 1 June 2021

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\$ 75,140,108**

as of 1 June 2021



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Finland 6 million | Sweden 5.4 million | United States of America 4.2 million | Private donors Australia 3.7 million | Private donors Germany 3 million | Canada 2.9 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD¹

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Spain 28.3 million | Germany 26 million | France 20 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 14.3 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Japan 10.9 million

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