

# UNHCR Syria Emergency Response Brief

30 November 2024



Lebanese returnee families crossing back into their homes in Lebanon from Syria through the Joussieh border crossing after the ceasefire announcement | ©UNHCR Syria, 29 November 2024



## Population Movement

**28,183**

### Estimated Individuals

who crossed into Lebanon from Syria through the Jdaidet Yabous and Joussieh crossing points since the ceasefire on 27 November 2024

**1,266**

**Estimated Lebanese**  
who crossed **into Syria from Lebanon** since the ceasefire

**1,813**

**Estimated Syrians**  
who crossed **into Syria from Lebanon** since the ceasefire

**2,080**

**Estimated Lebanese**  
who crossed **into Syria from Iraq** since the ceasefire

**Reverse movements** from Syria and Lebanon continue to gather pace at both the Jdaidet Yabous (Rural Damascus) and Joussieh (Homs) border crossings since the announcement of the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah on 27 November 2024. They remain the only two functioning border crossings since the attacks on the border crossings at Daboussieh, Jisr Al Kamar and Al Arida that same morning.

Most of the Lebanese with whom UNHCR and SARC teams interacted at both border crossings expressed their strong desire to return home to Lebanon even if their houses had been destroyed.

UNHCR notes that the Government of Lebanon is still prioritizing the entry of Lebanese nationals. Only Syrian nationals in possession of a residency permit in Lebanon or a flight ticket out of Lebanon are being processed for entry. These measures have been taken to decongest the heavy traffic at the border crossings and immigration centres.

Arrivals into Syria – both Syrian and Lebanese – continued but at much reduced rates, with the primary reason being to reach and accompany their families who had previously fled to Syria back to Lebanon.

### Rural Damascus Governorate

Between 27 and 29 November, more than 15,000 individuals have crossed back into Lebanon through the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing – the vast majority being Lebanese families seeking to return home. The Syrian nationals who were crossing into Lebanon were either married to Lebanese nationals, held work or student residencies, or were travelling to third countries from Lebanon.

UNHCR and SARC teams continued to be present at the border crossing to provide assistance to individuals. In response to the increased traffic departing from Syria back to Lebanon, the SARC mobile clinic was relocated to the departure side of the road. Assistance provided includes immediate health services and the distribution of dried food (date bars) from WFP.

### Homs Governorate

More than 11,000 individuals, predominantly Lebanese, have crossed the Joussieh border crossing back to Lebanon after the repairs on the road, which was damaged by previous missile strikes, were completed. Thousands of Lebanese vehicles continue to gather at the border crossing, forming long but orderly queues while awaiting processing.



*Families crossing back to Lebanon through the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing on 29 November 2024 | ©UNHCR Syria*

To deal with overcrowding at the immigration centre, the Immigration Department deployed additional staff, mainly from the Daboussieh and Jesr Qmar border crossings (both currently not operational), to support immigration services, which has visibly improved processing times.

UNHCR and SARC teams continued to be present at the border crossing, providing essential assistance to those in need. This included the provision of drinking water, biscuits and other ready-to-eat food from existing stocks, wheelchairs for people with disabilities and the elderly, and trolleys to transport large luggage items. Medical staff from the Department of Health was also present to provide immediate medical support to those suffering from high blood pressure and nausea.



*Families crossing back to Lebanon through the Joussieh border crossing on 29 November 2024 | ©UNHCR Syria*

**Note that, as a result of a missile strike on Joussieh in the morning of 30 November, the road at the border crossing was again significantly damaged. However, the border crossing remains open and operational. UNHCR will continue to monitor the situation and report on the impact on population movements in future updates.**



*Vicinity of the Joussieh border crossing after the missile strike on 30 November | ©UNHCR Syria*



*Repair efforts close to the Joussieh border crossing after the attack on 30 November | ©UNHCR Syria*

### Tartous Governorate

Repair works continue at the Al Arida border crossing, with an indication that it would be reopened in the coming days. As Lebanese families continue to depart hosting centres, the Governorate has decided to make the Pioneer hosting centre, which previously hosted Lebanese, available to Syrian families displaced from Aleppo and Idlib. Some 60 Syrian families have arrived thus far.