

UNHCR Syria Emergency Response Brief

2 December 2024



UNHCR providing assistance to Lebanese returnee families crossing back home to Lebanon from Syria through the Joussieh border crossing after the ceasefire announcement and the repair of the road damaged by the missile attack on 30 November | ©UNHCR Syria, 1 December 2024

Population Movement

Movement into Lebanon



30,000

Estimated Lebanese refugees

who crossed into Lebanon from Syria from the Jdaidet Yabous and Joussieh border crossing points since the ceasefire on 27 November 2024 as of 1 December

Population movements from Syria to Lebanon continued following the ceasefire announcement on 27 November 2024 through the **two only functioning border crossings shared with Lebanon**, namely, Jdaidet Yabous (Rural Damascus) and Joussieh (Homs).

UNHCR also notes that on 1 December, the temporary measures that had been put in place to control congestion at the border crossing were lifted, and the normal measures for Syrians seeking to enter Lebanon were reinstated: namely those allowed to cross were the ones with valid residencies (in Lebanon

or other countries), visas, flight tickets, syndicate IDs, or appointments with embassies in Lebanon. Since the ceasefire was announced, 7,000 Syrians have crossed into Lebanon.

Rural Damascus Governorate

Between 27 November and 1 December, some 24,000 individuals crossed back into Lebanon through the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing alone – the vast majority being Lebanese families returning to home. Some degree of overcrowding remained at the departure side of the border crossing and the Immigration Centre.

The Hurjellah hosting centre in rural Damascus is now empty of Lebanese families following the departure of the last Lebanese families on 1 December.

Homs Governorate

Between 27 November and 1 December, some 13,000 individuals crossed back into Lebanon through the Joussieh border crossing despite the damage caused to the road and surrounding immigration buildings by another missile attack on 30 November. The border crossing remained open, and pedestrian access was maintained throughout. As of 1 December, vehicular movement resumed, and UNHCR observed a high volume of Lebanese return movement by private vehicles and buses.

Many of the families explained that they had decided to cross back to Lebanon through Joussieh due to the inactive status of the Al Arida border crossing.

Since the ceasefire, a total 159 Lebanese families (591 individuals) have vacated the hosting centres in Homs and Hama, leaving all hosting centres in Hama Governorate now empty of Lebanese families.



Reopening of the Joussieh border crossing to vehicular movement on 1 December | ©UNHCR Syria

Tartous Governorate



Repair of the Al Arida border crossing road on 1 December | ©UNHCR Syria

The Al Arida border crossing point has just been reopened with limited functionality.

In Lattakia, 222 households (1,494 individuals) left hosting centres to return to Lebanon, and many of Lebanese families are still waiting for private buses to take them home.

UNHCR notes that Pioneer camp hosting centre no longer hosts Lebanese families.

Movement into Syria



7,785

Estimated Individuals

who arrived in **Syria from Lebanon** since the ceasefire (including non-Lebanese third-country nationals) as of 1 December



3,235

Estimated Lebanese

Individuals who crossed **into Syria from Lebanon** since the ceasefire

4,364

Estimated Syrians

Individuals who crossed **into Syria from Lebanon** since the ceasefire



4,530

Estimated Lebanese

Individuals who crossed **into Syria from Iraq** since the ceasefire



250

Estimated Lebanese

Individuals who crossed **into Syria from Jordan** since the ceasefire

Arrivals into Syria – both Syrian and Lebanese nationals – have continued but at much reduced rates following the ceasefire. The primary reason of crossing seemingly remains to be reaching and accompanying their families who had previously fled to Syria back into to Lebanon.

UNHCR notes that the waiver for the exchange of US\$ 100 or its equivalent in foreign currencies required of Syrian nationals for entry into Syria expired on 30 November and it has not been officially extended.

Movement within Syria

On 27 November, non-state armed groups (NSAGs) launched a military offensive in Aleppo that has since forced **tens of thousands to flee their homes**. Hostilities have spread beyond Aleppo into many surrounding areas, including Idleb and Hama Governorates. As a result, there is widespread displacement of civilians in all affected areas. The security situation remains dynamic, fluid, and extremely volatile. Over 70,000 people have been displaced within Aleppo Governorate and to other parts of Syria.

In **Aleppo** Governorate, significant displacement has occurred, with hundreds IDP families arriving in Menbij City, and many others fleeing to As-Safira City. Within Aleppo City, residents from western neighborhoods have been evacuated, with some hosted by relatives and others left on the streets in harsh winter conditions. In **Idlib** Governorate, where NSAGs have taken control, the humanitarian community was able to deliver core relief items (CRIs) to displaced families in Tamanaah.

In **Tartous**, the Pioneer camp now hosts hundreds of families from Aleppo, having reached its maximum capacity. **Lattakia** has also received high numbers of IDPs, mainly in Al-Basit and Blue Beach areas. **Hama** is accommodating displaced families in a hosting center, while **Homs** temporarily houses displaced students in university residences. In **Damascus** and **Rural Damascus**, around 13,000 individuals have

arrived in Saida Zainab (Rural Damascus), mostly from Nubl and Al-Zahraa villages (Aleppo), hosted either in mosques, with relatives, or in hotels.

There has also been internal displacement from Aleppo to **Al-Raqqqa**, where thousands are now being temporarily sheltered in a sports hall in Tabqa. UNHCR partners are providing them with blankets, mattresses and other core relief items while more permanent shelter is being arranged.

UN Agencies and partners have already started to deliver support to the newly displaced and is stepping up its pace.