

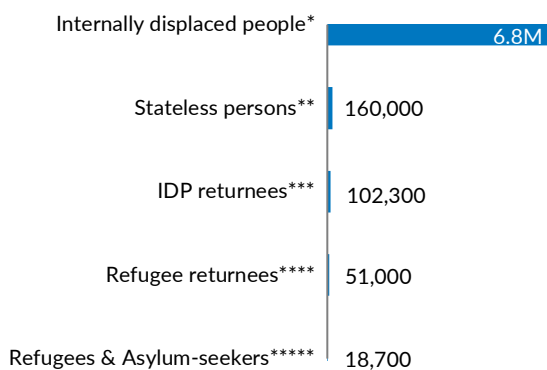
Syrian Arab Republic

January 2023

The protracted crisis in Syria continues to affect millions of lives. The security situation in parts of the country remains unpredictable and the economic situation is increasingly dire. According to the [2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), 15.3 million people need humanitarian assistance, a 5 per cent increase from the previous year.

UNHCR in Syria provides protection services and humanitarian assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, stateless people, and vulnerable host community members based on identified needs and vulnerabilities.

POPULATION OF CONCERN



* Source: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview

** Estimated

*** Source: OCHA, October 2022

**** Source: UNHCR verified returns in 2022 as of 31 December

***** Source: UNHCR, 31 December 2022

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 527

456 National Staff

71 International Staff

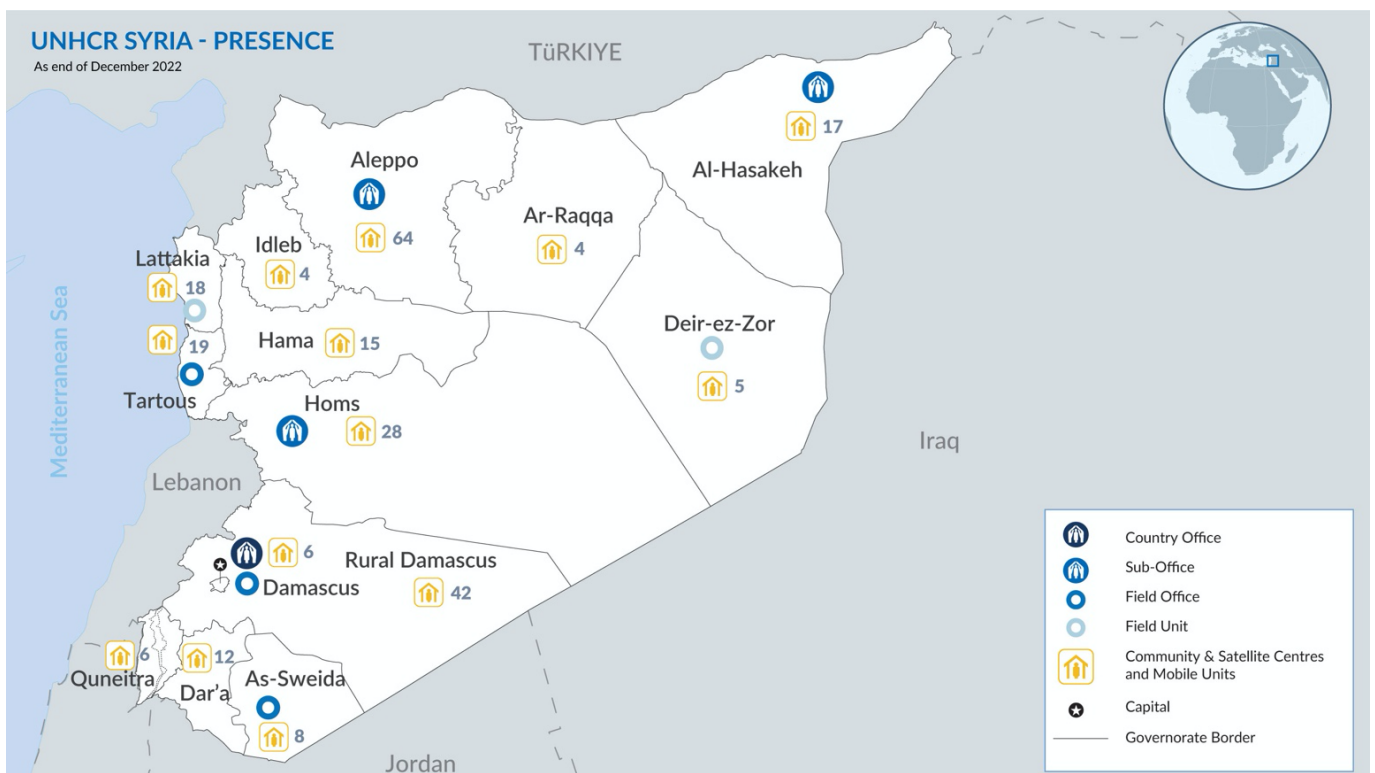
Offices: 9

1 Country Office in Damascus

3 Sub-Offices in Aleppo, Homs and Qamishli

3 Field Offices in As-Sweida, Damascus and Tartous

2 Field Units in Lattakia and Deir-ez-Zor



Partnership and Coordination

As of December 2022, UNHCR was working with 28 partner agencies, including government ministries, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national NGOs and UN agencies.

In the context of the inter-agency coordination framework in Syria, UNHCR leads the Protection and Community Services Sector and Shelter and Non-Food Items Sector together with relevant line ministries. UNHCR also participates fully in the work of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Area Humanitarian Country Teams (AHCTs), with several heads of field offices acting as Area Humanitarian Coordinators. UNHCR together with other UN agencies participates in the regular cross-line operations delivering humanitarian assistance to north-west Syria. Furthermore, in 2022, UNHCR co-chaired the In-Country Network on Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) together with UNICEF.

UNHCR co-leads inter-agency efforts aimed at enhancing cooperation and coordination in supporting areas experiencing relatively higher numbers of spontaneous refugee and IDP returns through multi-stakeholder and multi-sector area-based return support approaches.

Strategic Directions

UNHCR's Strategic Directions 2023-2025 for Syria, validated in a consultative planning process, will be threefold and in line with the UN Syria Strategic Framework for the Syrian Arab Republic 2022-2024:

- **Support solutions:** UNHCR will further enhance its engagement with partners to facilitate solutions for internally displaced people (IDPs) and for those who have spontaneously returned, including through the UN's area-based return support approach, in order to strengthen humanitarian early recovery and resilience of communities, and therefore the sustainability of return and reintegration.
- **Maintain emergency preparedness and response capacity:** UNHCR will preserve its readiness to respond to new and protracted emergencies. In addition, the Office will be prepared to scale up cross-line assistance.
- **Enhance refugee protection, inclusion, and solutions:** UNHCR will step up its involvement and engagement on refugee protection, enhance the inclusion of refugees into services and assistance provided by other actors (such as livelihoods support) and advocate for solutions.



Distribution of winter core relief items to returnee families in Khan Shaykhun, Idlib Governorate. ©UNHCR/E. Kabbas.

Main Activities

Protection

UNHCR-supported community centres provide protection services such as child protection activities, catch-up classes for children, psychosocial assistance, and support to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. UNHCR and partners also provide legal assistance, for instance to obtain civil documentation and register vital events like births and marriages. The services provided at the community centres are available for refugees and asylum-seekers, IDPs, returnees (i.e., refugees and internally displaced people having returned to their home areas) and host communities.

Besides the community centres, satellite centres (smaller versions of community centres providing only some services) and mobile units also offer protection services based on identified needs in underserved or remote locations. The latter respond flexibly to population movements and increase outreach to the most vulnerable populations who do not have easy access to the community or satellite centres.

The community and satellite centres are supported by a network of outreach volunteers. The outreach volunteers, selected from the IDP and affected communities, are the first responders and assist those in need in a timely manner. They inform communities of the services available, identify needs, provide initial support and refer cases to community centres for further assistance.

As of December 2022, UNHCR was supporting 127 community and satellite centres and 121 mobile units in all 14 governorates of the country and engaging around 2,900 outreach volunteers to strengthen its protection activities.

For refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR conducts refugee status determination, registration, and resettlement, when applicable. Refugees and asylum-seekers can also benefit from additional protection services such as multi-purpose cash grants and scholarships for students.

For more information on UNHCR's protection activities in Syria see:

- [Factsheet on Community Centres](#)
- [Factsheet on Child Protection](#)
- [Factsheet on Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response](#)
- [Factsheet on Legal Assistance](#)
- [Factsheet on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support](#)
- [Factsheet on Education](#)
- [Factsheet on Refugees and Asylum-Seekers](#)

Cash-Based Interventions

UNHCR uses cash-based interventions to help the most vulnerable refugees meet their urgent needs. Vulnerability is determined using either a scoring system based on age and gender specific needs or a panel review of individual protection risks. Eligibility is reviewed every two months. Monthly multi-purpose cash grants equivalent to around USD 110 per family (average of three people) are provided in cash at the counter. For urgent and unforeseen protection needs, a one-off emergency grant is also available for refugees. During the winter, eligible refugee households receive cash grants of approximately USD 375 per family (three to six people) which help them meet additional seasonal costs such as for heating.

While primary and secondary public schools are open to refugees free of charge, they need to bear some associated costs by themselves. To support the continuation of education, UNHCR provides refugee students who do not have the necessary financial means with education grants to cover transportation and education material costs. Scholarships are also provided to university students to help them cover core expenses and tuition.

Core Relief Items

UNHCR provides core relief items including blankets, sleeping mats, mattresses, jerry cans, plastic sheets, kitchen sets, and solar lamps to IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable host community members. Supplementary seasonal items such as winter clothing and rechargeable fans are also distributed to IDPs, returnees, host community members and asylum-seekers based on needs.

Shelter Interventions

In camps in north-east Syria hosting mainly Iraqis and Syrian displaced persons, UNHCR distributes tents and emergency shelter kits and maintains camp infrastructure. In urban and rural areas, UNHCR helps people repair houses damaged during the years of crisis by providing materials such as doors, windows, electrical equipment and water and sanitation facilities at the household level. At the community level, UNHCR also restores basic services such as pavements and communal facilities and installs solar streetlights. In areas where spontaneous returns of IDPs and refugees are ongoing, UNHCR removes debris, restores sewage systems, water networks and boreholes, and distributes solid waste bins.

Self-Reliance and Livelihoods

UNHCR supports vulnerable people to increase their self-reliance and reduce their dependency on assistance by providing agricultural support (seeds and livestock), restoring vocational training schools and irrigation systems, and assisting people to start-up small businesses through trainings and grants.

Health

UNHCR has established health counselling offices (health points) in UNHCR-supported community centres in areas where health care facilities are difficult to access. Primary health care and health counselling are provided in these health offices, while in remote areas outreach volunteers and mobile teams offer these services. Trained doctors provide medical consultations in some health points such as specialized mental health and psychosocial services. The health points are also actively contributing to joint inter-agency efforts in response to the cholera outbreak (declared in Syria in September 2022) through awareness raising on risk prevention.

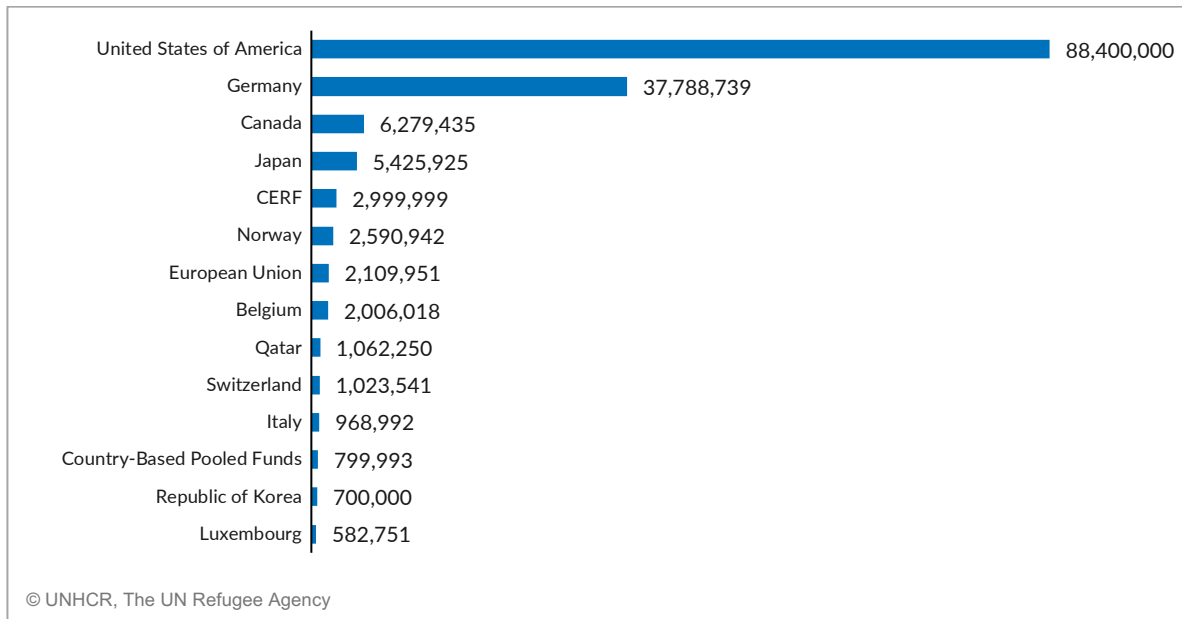
Funding Update | 2022

As of 29 December 2022

UNHCR Syria is grateful to all donors providing critical financial support to address the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, returnees, stateless people and host communities.

CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions and indicative allocation of funds for the operation in 2022 amounted to **\$ 177,565,411**



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Private donors Germany 23.9 million | United States of America 14 million | Private donors Australia 11.4 million | Private donors USA 7.5 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 3.9 million | Denmark 3.6 million | Sweden 2.6 million | Finland 2.3 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 99.3 million | Norway 72.5 million | Private donors Spain 72.1 million | Private donors Japan 59.1 million | United Kingdom 40.1 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 34.4 million | Private donors USA 29.9 million | Germany 24.4 million | Japan 21.7 million | Private donors Italy 19.2 million | France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Canada 13.6 million | Private donors Sweden 13.3 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million

CONTACT

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LINKS

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