

UNHCR Syria Flash Update #2

Response to Displacement from Lebanon to Syria

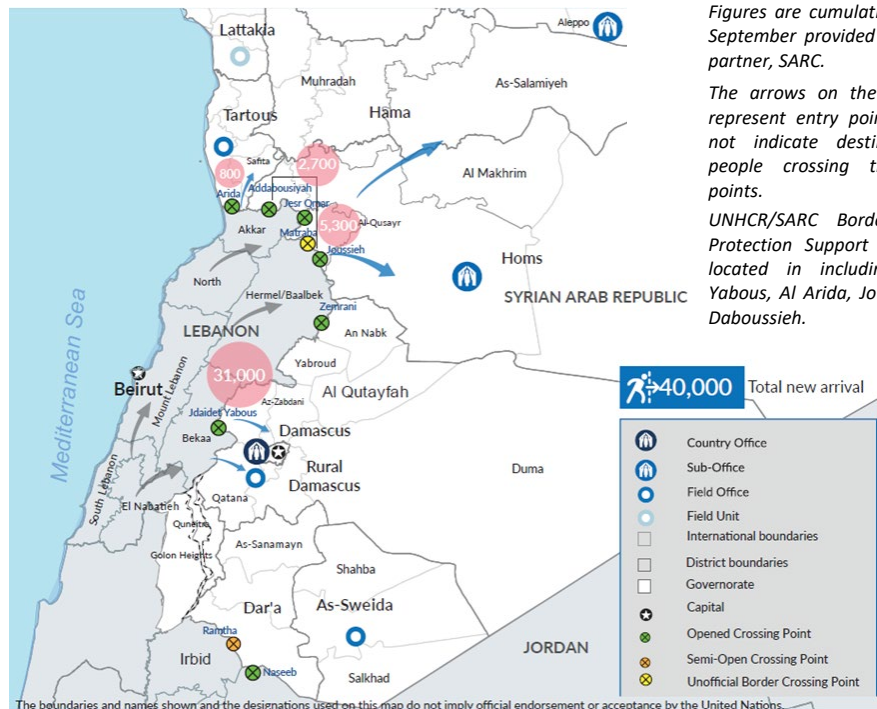
Reporting period: 24-27 September 2024



Families crossing from the Lebanese to the Syrian border at Jdaidet Yabous ©UNHCR Syria

A total of approximately **40,000¹** people (both Lebanese and Syrians) are estimated to have crossed from Lebanon to Syria since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon.

It is estimated that around **80 per cent** are Syrians and **20 per cent** are Lebanese nationals.



Figures are cumulative until 25 September provided by UNHCR partner, SARC.

The arrows on the map only represent entry points and do not indicate destinations of people crossing the border points.

UNHCR/SARC Border Health-Protection Support Points are located in including Jdaidet Yabous, Al Arida, Jousieh, and Daboussieh.

¹ The numbers of new arrivals in this document are from "Middle East Crisis- SARC Emergency Response: Syrian Returnees and Lebanese Refugees Influx" (25 September 2024). The figure also includes people entering through the Matraha crossing point (an unofficial border) where UNHCR is not present.

Overview of Developments

- On 27 September, an influx of Syrian and Lebanese families continues to be observed at the four Lebanese-Syrian border crossings where UNHCR is present.
- Many of those crossing to Syria were women and children in dire conditions. Some of the new arrivals bore injuries both from the long journey and due to the hostilities in Lebanon. At the Jdaidet Yabous crossing point alone, on 26 September, UNHCR witnessed 10 victims with serious injuries caused by the bombardment in Lebanon and a mother carrying the dead bodies of her two children from Lebanon into Syria.
- UNHCR and its partners continue to distribute blankets, mattresses, food, sanitary items and water to those crossing the border points. UNHCR also provides transportation to extremely vulnerable families from the border to their destinations in Syria.
- One collective centre has been opened (Homs) by the authorities, with several others in various stages of preparation. The Homs collective centre hosted 20 families (102 persons) as of 27 September. These centres are among the priorities for UNHCR and its partners.
- The Syrian authorities continue to keep the borders open, with no reports of denial of access to territory observed by, or reported to, UNHCR Syria.

Overview of New Arrivals

- Some 80 per cent of those arriving are Syrian returnees, and 20 per cent are Lebanese refugees. An estimated half of the arrivals are children and adolescents.
- A reduction in the rate of border crossings has been observed since 24 September. While the majority still enter Syria through the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing (Rural Damascus), the congestion has subsided.

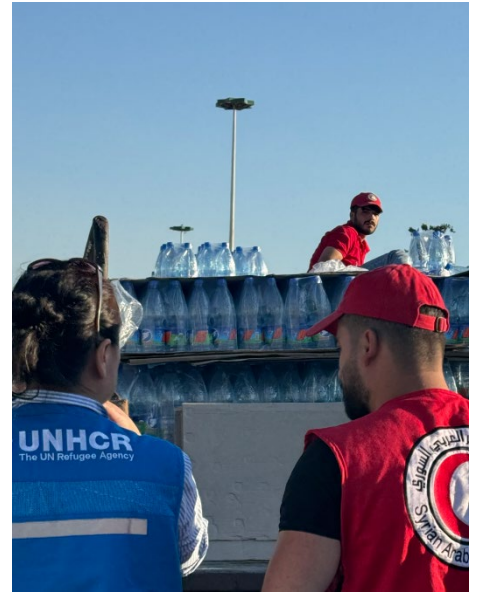


An elderly woman arrived at Jdaidet Yabous from Lebanon with her daughter and grandchildren. ©UNHCR/Ola Kabalan

Response by UNHCR and Partners

- UNHCR and its partner SARC continue to be present at four border crossings that Syria shares with Lebanon, offering support to new arrivals through the Border Health-Protection Support Points, which UNHCR, together with WHO and SARC, has established at each of these crossings over the past year.
- Humanitarian partners provided essential assistance and services at the border points, including:
 - Provision of relief items (UNHCR)
 - Provision of food items and water (UNHCR; ICRC)
 - Provision of dried food rations to new arrivals (WFP)
 - Provision of reproductive health care, GBV services, dignity kits, and sanitary napkins (UNFPA)
 - Addressing identified gaps in WASH (UNICEF)

- UNHCR also shared with new arrivals – Syrians returnees and Lebanese refugees – information on available services at 114 UNHCR-supported community centres in all 14 governorates.
- Specifically the ICRC supplied water at the border crossings on 26 September and is further coordinating the distribution of 50,000 canned food items with SARC. ICRC is also processing a donation of primary health care kits for 10,000 people and some intravenous fluids.
- UNHCR and its partners are providing relief items in their destinations:
 - In Homs, as of 26 September, some 1,000 families hosted by relatives and their communities received essential relief items.
 - In the coastal areas, UNHCR dispatched 300 relief items. The distribution of assistance is ongoing.
- UNHCR and its partners SARC and Syria Trust continue to provide legal assistance to facilitate the provision of civil documentation to Syrians crossing back.



UNHCR and SARC distribution bottled water at Jdaidet Yabous ©UNHCR/Farah Harwida

The voices of people affected on the ground

“The strikes kept getting closer and closer. My children could not bear the sounds any longer”, said Ahmed as his daughter Aseel held on to him. The Syrian father of three crossed from Lebanon to Syria with his family, carrying nothing but the clothes on their backs.*

Now, Ahmed’s future appears bleak as he must start his life over again. “We are returning to nothing but we had to leave Lebanon”.

**Name changed for privacy reasons.*



Ahmed embraces his youngest daughter at a border crossing ©UNHCR/Farah Harwida

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