



UNHCR Syria Emergency Response Brief

13 November 2024

UNHCR team at the Arida border crossing point in Tartous met seven-day-old Bilal. Due to the mother's pregnancy and the overwhelming situation in Lebanese hospitals, the family made the decision to flee south Lebanon and seek refuge in Syria. ©UNHCR

Population Movement*



528,000
Estimated Individuals
Who arrived in Syria from
Lebanon since 24 Sep 2024



142,703
Estimated Households
Who arrived in Syria from
Lebanon since 24 Sep 2024

Several airstrikes took place in the past few days across Syria, posing risk to people as well as UNHCR and partner staff and facilities. Some of the attacks affected the entry of people from Lebanon to Syria.

Homs Governorate

- On 6 and 8 November, airstrikes hit several sites including two unofficial border crossings in the vicinity of Hawsh Al-Sayyid Ali town and Jarmash around 4.5 km from the Joussieh border crossing point.
- On 11 November, an airstrike hit Shamsin area, near a location where Lebanese refugees were gathering to receive assistance. The attack caused significant material damage to the Damascus-Homs Road with no casualties reported.

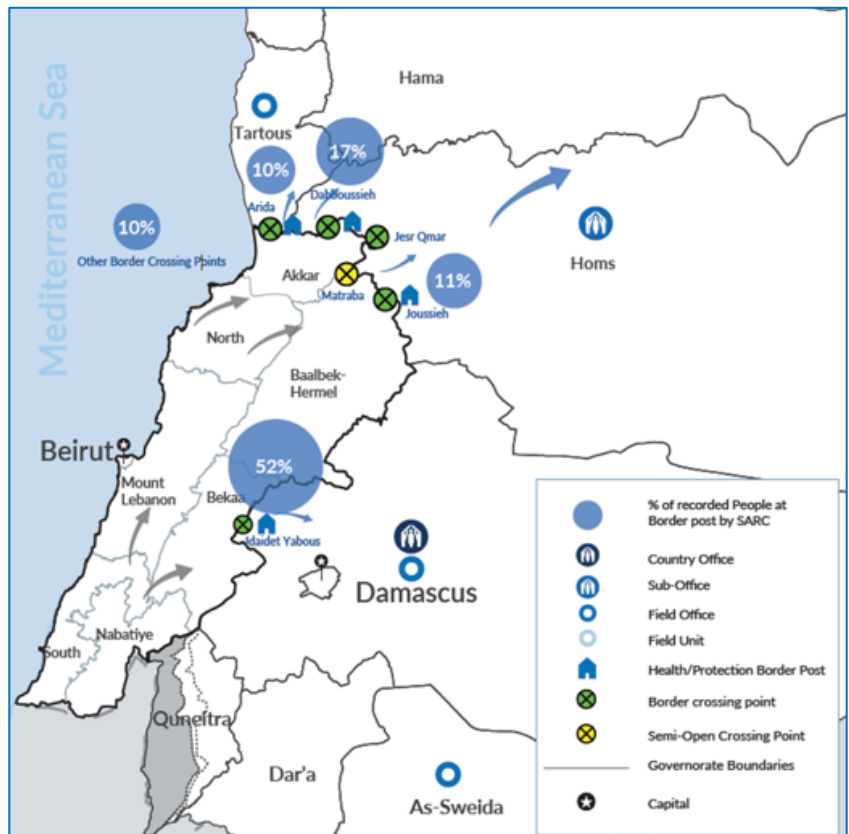
* The numbers of new arrivals in this document are based on "SARC Emergency Response For Lebanese Refugees and Syrian Returnees" (issued 9 November) and daily updates from UNHCR Border Posts. Figures are undergoing verification and are subject to change.

Since the attack on the Joussieh border crossing point in Homs Governorate on 2 November, movement decreased to approximately 100 families per day. Many arrivals expressed concerns of staying at the border due to the security situation, leading to a decrease in the number of families registered by UNHCR partner the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC).

On 11 November, after a suspension of one week due to the attacks, UNHCR resumed missions to Dabbousieh border crossing point in Homs Governorate.

Tartous Governorate

At Al-Arida border point, UNHCR observed in the past days several families arriving from southern Lebanon and Baalbek due to the escalation of hostilities there. Some indicated plans to travel to Iraq, while others stated that they will stay in Syria after some collective shelters in Lebanon were closed to revert to the original function as schools.



A small number of Lebanese have also been observed to have crossed back to Lebanon through the border point. They cited the lack of access to basic services, poor living conditions and the absence of livelihood opportunities, as well as a preference to return to Lebanon to stay in collective shelters rather than to remain in Syria.

Rural Damascus Governorate

At Jdaidet Yabous border crossing point, the crater in Masnaa (Lebanon) created by previous airstrikes rendered the road unusable for vehicles. UNHCR and SARC continue providing transportation from the crater to the border crossing point.



Operational Highlights

Daily buses supported by UNHCR and SARC continue to provide transportation to vulnerable new arrivals to travel from the border points to their intended destinations. Since the onset of the emergency in Lebanon, 44,683 individuals have been supported with transportation arrangements.

At the places of destination, mainly Ar-Raqqa, Latakia, Homs, Hama and Damascus Governorates, protection support is already being provided through a network of existing facilities (community centres, women and girls' safe spaces, child-friendly spaces, and mobile teams). UNHCR continues to provide core relief items and winter items to the Lebanese refugees and Syrian returnees. To date, a total of 47,500 families (376,000 individuals) benefitted from the assistance at the borders, in hosting centres and in host communities.

Overall, out of the new arrivals, an estimate of 255,000 are under 18 years of age. This demographic profile places an emphasis on the need to provide access to primary basic education to ensure that the displacement does not affect the continuity of education of children of the households who have fled Lebanon. The Ministry of Education has issued a circular, opening all schools for the arrivals regardless of whether they are Lebanese or Syrian origin. The increase in the number of students in the Syrian education system adds pressure to its already strained resources, such as the limited number of facilities and teachers, impacting the quality of education for Syrian and Lebanese new arrivals as well as children from host communities.

In the past few days, **WFP** provided fresh meals to arrivals at the Jdaidet Yabous crossing point in Rural Damascus and food baskets to families at their final destination in Aleppo Governorate. **UNFPA** offered health services along with distribution of nutrition kits and dignity kits to individuals at Jdaidet Yabous crossing point as well as reproductive health services in Ar-Raqqa Governorate. Health services were also provided by **SARC and Shabab El Kheyreya** to arrivals at the Jdaidet Yabous crossing point.



Protection

**114**

Community Centres

**81,613**

Individuals Reached

UNHCR continues to identify and reach Lebanese and Syrian arrivals at their intended destinations through UNHCR-supported community centres, mobile teams and outreach volunteers. Since the start of the emergency, 81,613 individuals who fled Lebanon to Syria approached UNHCR-supported community centres across the country. UNHCR is conducting focus group discussions and home visits to assess and follow-up on the needs of both Syrian and Lebanese arrivals. The common needs identified through assessments are shelter, food, non-food items, solar panels, legal assistance, medical assistance and psychosocial support.

To respond to the needs, UNHCR and partners are providing protection services including child protection, mental health and psychosocial support, education, health and legal services, livelihood support, gender-based violence prevention and response, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

The key legal services delivered through partners in the past few days included support for children to register and enroll into schools, access to legal documentation and resolving issues relating to family lineage. UNHCR and partners also resolved legal issues for the new arrivals at the border points, such as cases of unaccompanied children, unregistered births, and unauthorized access to some hard-to-reach areas.



Inter-Agency Coordination

The rapid inter-sectoral needs assessment is progressing across the country. However, data collection in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Latakia, and Deir-ez-Zor is pending the required approvals. Currently, data collection at the community level has reached 48% of the targeted 1,347 communities, with over 100 outreach volunteers from UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, and local partners actively participating. The data collection phase is expected to be completed soon, with data analysis and results available by the end of November.