

UNHCR Syria Flash Update

Response to Displacement from Lebanon to Syria

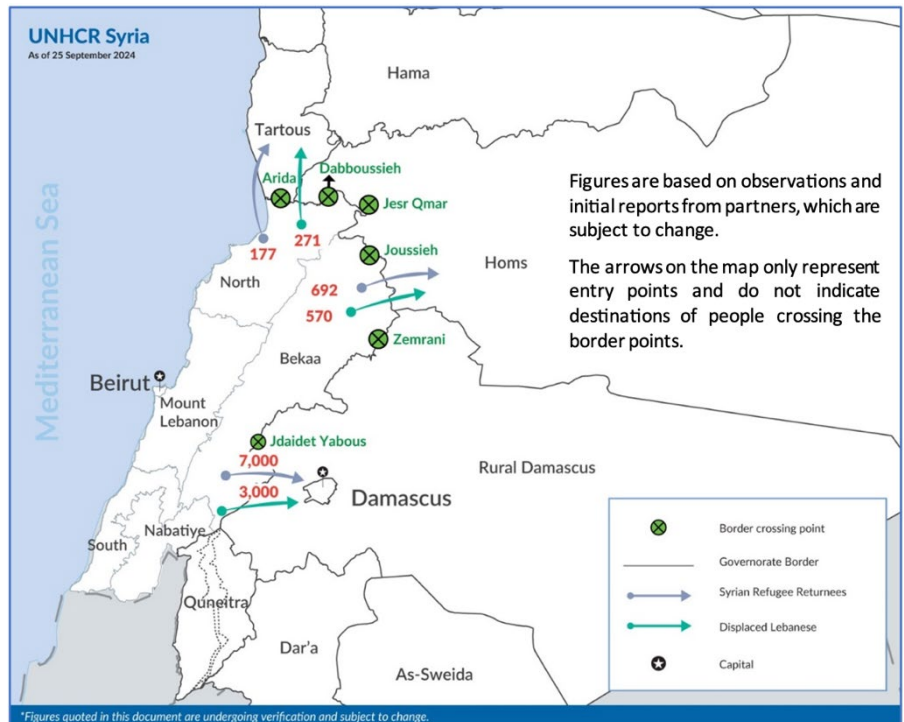
25 September 2024 / Updated as of 18:00 hrs



Syrian and Lebanese families at the Syrian-Lebanese border ©UNHCR Syria

11,000¹
people (both Lebanese and Syrians) are estimated to have crossed from Lebanon to Syria due to hostilities in Lebanon.

It is estimated that around **70 per cent** are Syrians and the remaining **30 per cent** are Lebanese nationals.



¹ The verification of the number of people crossing the borders is on-going, and the number is subject to change.

Overview of Developments

- Over the last week, there was a significant escalation of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Hostilities in Lebanon are considered at its worst since the start of the war in Gaza in October last year.
- The Israeli attacks on Lebanon targeted mainly southern Lebanon, southern suburb of Beirut, and Bekaa which affected civilians including women and children.
- On 23 and 24 September, around 550 people were reportedly killed- including one UNHCR staff and a UNHCR contractor- and some 1,800 were injured due to the attacks in Lebanon.
- An increase in border crossing from Lebanon to Syria has been observed since 23 September.
- According to estimates by our partner, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent the Syria (SARC), some 10,000 persons crossed from Lebanon into Syria over the past two days. It is estimated that around 70% are Syrians and the remaining 30% are Lebanese nationals.
- The largest border crossing movement is observed at Jdaidet Yabous border.
- The Syrian authorities are keeping the border open, with no reports of a denial of access to territory observed by, or reported to, UNHCR Syria.
- Many displaced families (both Syrian and Lebanese) crossing to Syria have reportedly travelled to Homs, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Tartous Governorates. UNHCR Syria is verifying data on the exact number of Lebanese and Syrian families who crossed the borders to Syria.
- On 25 September, the crowds at the main border crossing at Jdaidet Yabous, on the Syrian side of the crossing, had visibly reduced.

UNHCR Response

- UNHCR and its partner SARC are present at the four border crossings that Syria shares with Lebanon and continue to offer support and assistance to the people who have arrived through the Border Health-Protection Support Points, which UNHCR has established, together with WHO and SARC, at each of these crossings over the past year.
- As of 24 September, due to the increase of people entering Syria from Lebanon, UNHCR partner staff at the four UNHCR Border Health and Protection Support Points-Jdaidet Yabous (Rural Damascus), Joussieh and Dabboussieh (Homs), and Arida (Tartous)- all bordering Lebanon- have shifted presence from partial to 24 hours.
- On 25 September, UNHCR delivered 10,000 bottles of water and snacks to over 1,500 individuals, in addition to 5,000 mattresses and blankets, and 300 hygiene kits at Jdaidet Yabous border crossing point. In addition, WFP has prepositioned 75,000 ready-to-eat dry food in Rural Damascus, Damascus, Homs, and Tartous Governorates. Some 22,000 dry food arrived tonight (25 September) at Jdaidat



Families at Jdaidat Yabous border crossing point with Lebanon
©UNHCR Syria



Cars loaded with belongings for families crossing Jdaidet Yabous border point
©UNHCR Syria

Yabous border crossing point. Meanwhile, International Committee of the Red Cross provided 50,000 bottles of water and 5,000 canned food items. In Homs, UNHCR is ready to distribute some 200 hygiene kits. UNHCR is also processing the delivery of 300 hygiene kits and 4,000 packages of non-food items in Homs. WHO, with the Ministry of Health and SARC, ensured the presence of medical equipment and doctors with ambulances at all four border crossing points. UNFPA distributed dignity and hygiene kits to women of reproductive age.

- At UNHCR Border Health and Protection Support Points, in addition to medical and protection assistance, UNHCR and SARC are providing information to people at the border on available humanitarian services in the areas of return where longer-term assistance for (re)integration can be offered to them in their own communities, including through more than 100 UNHCR-supported community centres across the country. These services will now also benefit Lebanese, most of whom are being hosted by relatives, or have rented homes for temporary shelter.



UNHCR providing counselling at Jdaidet Yabous © UNHCR Syria

The voice of people affected on the ground



Mohamad and his ten family members waiting outside at Jdaidet Yabous crossing point © UNHCR Syria

Yesterday morning (24 September), Mohamad, a Syrian refugee in Lebanon and his Lebanese wife, along with four children and five grandchildren, returned to Syria by walking.

On 23 September, right after Mohamad's family left a house in Bekaa, Lebanon, an air strike completely destroyed the house. Mohamad injured his right hand due to the air strike.

UNHCR and SARC staff are addressing needs at the border and are ensuring that follow-up is provided in the place of destination, based on need.

DONORS - As of 31 August 2024

Special thanks to our donors including major donors of unearmarked contributions to UNHCR:

Australia | Belgium | Canada | Country -based pooled funds | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Luxembourg | Malta | Netherlands | Norway | Other private donors | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Sweden | Switzerland | Syria Humanitarian Funds | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security | United States of America

CONTACT: UNHCR Syria External Relations Unit, Email: SYRDAREPORTING@unhcr.org

LINKS: [UNHCR Global Focus](#) | [UNHCR Syria Data Portal](#) | [UNHCR Syria Website](#) | [UNHCR Syria Twitter \(@UNHCRinSYRIA\)](#) | [UNHCR Syria Facebook](#)