

Ahmad Alshayeb, 34, and his son Yazan Ahmad, 12, Syrian refugees, installed a fire in front of their shop to warm themselves on a winter day in Za'atari Refugee Camp, Jordan, which is home to around 78,000 Syrian refugees. UNHCR has managed the camp in coordination with the Government of Jordan since its inauguration in 2012. © UNHCR/Shawkat Alharfoush

Syria situation

UNHCR country operations: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Türkiye.

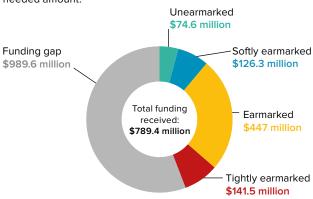
2024 year-end population figures



2024 financial overview

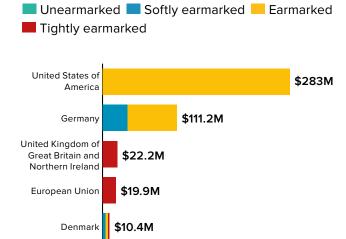
Funding received (USD)

In 2024, UNHCR required a total of \$1.779 billion to address the emergency situation in Syria and received only 44% of the needed amount.



The percentage funded (44%) and total funding amount (\$789,396,174) are indicative. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$989,551,673 representing 56% of the financial requirements.

Top 5 Contributions (USD)





Throughout 2024, the Syria situation remained one of the largest displacement crises globally. More than 12 million Syrians were forcibly displaced, including 5 million Syrian refugees hosted in neighbouring countries, amid active conflict, natural disasters, and deteriorating socio-economic and humanitarian conditions. An estimated nine out of 10 Syrian refugees struggled to meet their basic needs, while the support needed by host communities reached unprecedented levels.

In 2024, UNHCR provided humanitarian assistance to 2.6 million Syrians in Syria and neighbouring countries. These included cash assistance for 1.1 million people, core relief items for 745,000 people, 659,000 health consultations, and shelter and housing assistance for 315,000 people.

In September 2024, intensified Israeli airstrikes in **Lebanon** led to the displacement of approximately 1.2 million people inside the country, according to government authorities, and an estimated 560,000 people who fled from Lebanon into Syria. In response to this influx, UNHCR launched an Inter-Agency Emergency Appeal on 7 October 2024 to assist up to 480,000 people in Syria by March 2025. UNHCR and its partners scaled-up assistance for the new arrivals, distributing relief items, food and water, among other support, to those arriving at the border crossings. In the aftermath, UNHCR also provided critical assistance to those displaced in Lebanon, including shelter, basic assistance (such as cash and core relief items), and protection services, reaching 770,000 refugees and Lebanese.

On 27 November 2024, a 60-day ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon took effect. On the same day, non-State armed groups launched an offensive in northwestern Syria, which rapidly spread across the country, ultimately resulting in the fall of Assad government by 8 December 2024. In the aftermath, Syrians expressed cautious optimism, with some considering the possibility of returning home.

By 30 December 2024, over 58,000 Syrian refugees had returned to Syria, primarily from Türkiye (25,000), Jordan (17,600) and Lebanon (15,000). Throughout this period, UNHCR maintained regular engagement with Syrian refugees, providing up-to-date information, listening to their concerns, and assessing their perceptions and intentions about returning home.

By the end of 2024, displacement patterns within and from the Syrian Arab Republic remained multi-directional and overlapping. Over 7 million Syrians were still internally displaced. Years of protracted conflict have devastated the country's infrastructure and economy. More than 90% of the population required humanitarian assistance, while ongoing clashes between armed groups, unexploded ordnance and criminal activity continued to pose risks for humanitarian operations and for those wishing to return home. Israeli airstrikes against targets in Syria, along with the continued presence of troops in the demilitarized zone in the Golan border region, have further heightened instability. In this uncertain environment, UNHCR released its position on returns in December 2024, which underscored the principles of non-refoulement and called on all States to uphold Syrians' right to seek asylum and to provide access to territory for those fleeing the country.

Within Syria, integrated protection services were provided through 114 UNHCR community centres, 119 mobile units, and 2,221 outreach volunteers. Emergency shelter helped 16,700 households (83,500 individuals), and 2,300 households (11,400 individuals) benefited from longer-term shelter repairs to dwellings, improving safety and livability, especially for returning families. Shelter interventions also enhanced access to basic infrastructure for affected communities. benefiting around 129,000 individuals, including IDPs, returnees, and host communities. To support the basic needs of refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria, more than 16,600 people received multipurpose cash grants and winterization assistance, as well as access to health care and education grants to cover enrolment expenses.

Support for host countries, which have been sheltering millions of Syrians for over a decade, remained imperative. The economies of neighbouring countries were marked by weak growth, high public debt, declining foreign investment, high unemployment, and active conflict in the case of Lebanon. These challenges limited fiscal space for services, eroded household purchasing power, and pushed more refugees and vulnerable populations into poverty.

Throughout 2024, UNHCR helped highly vulnerable populations in Syrian refugee-hosting countries through life-saving interventions. UNHCR's multipurpose cash assistance remained a vital key lifeline, with 1.1 million vulnerable refugees receiving cash assistance in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. Some 180,000 refugees also received non-food items.

To support adequate living conditions, UNHCR's life-saving shelter interventions assisted 178,000 refugees living in tents in informal settlements in Lebanon. In two camps in Jordan, UNHCR supported maintenance of camp infrastructure and communal facilities benefitting close to 120,000 refugees; more than 1,000 families received new shelters and almost 20,000 people received shelter assistance. UNHCR also supported the management of nine refugee camps across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, housing approximately 27% of the refugee population.

More than 510,000 refugees were supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation in Jordan and Lebanon, and 147,500 refugees received legal assistance in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt. This helped to address critical issues such as protection from refoulement, redress for exploitation, harassment, and abuse, as well as evictions, family law, and labour rights. Forcibly displaced populations faced heightened risks of intimate partner violence due to overcrowding, substandard living conditions, and economic dependency.

Deepening poverty and economic collapse also increased the risks of child and forced marriage and child labour. In 2024, some 54,000 refugees benefited from UNHCR's gender-based violence response and prevention programmes and 123,000 refugee children and caregivers received child protection services.

In 2024, 754,000 Syrian refugees were projected to be in need of resettlement globally, continuing to represent the refugee population with the highest global resettlement needs. During the year, UNHCR made 29,300 refugee resettlement submissions from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye and 22,300 refugees departed for resettlement.

Inter-agency coordination of support to refugees and host communities, as well as on refugee return, has been in place for several years at both the regional and host country levels through the UNHCR and UNDP-led Regional Refugee Response Plan (3RP). This initiative, involving 230 partners from UN agencies and civil society organizations, has played a crucial role in supporting affected communities. In 2024, more than 1 million individuals engaged in or benefited from protection services provided through community outreach mechanisms and community-led initiatives. Additionally, 1.1 million children between the ages of 5 and 17, both girls and boys, were enrolled in formal and non-formal education programs. Efforts to prevent genderbased violence (GBV) and empower women and girls reached 45,000 individuals through various awareness and engagement activities. Meanwhile, 22,400 businesses received support through business development services, including grants, in-kind assistance, and access to financial mechanisms, helping to strengthen economic resilience among affected populations.



AlAhli Bank of Kuwait and Saïd Foundation provide a lifeline to refugees and returnees amidst crisis

The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic continued into a 14th year in 2024, prolonging one of the largest refugee crises in modern history. The 2024 crisis in Lebanon further exacerbated the situation, forcing many refugees to return to Syria under adverse conditions.

In response to these dire needs, companies and foundations stepped up. The AlAhli Bank of Kuwait swiftly donated \$500,000, enabling the distribution of shelter kits to more than 15,000 individuals from both refugee and host communities. Meanwhile, the Saïd Foundation's generous donation provided cash assistance to 12,200 Syrian refugee families in north Lebanon during Ramadan, allowing them to feed their families, pay rent, and purchase essential items like toiletries and medicine.

Together, these contributions offered crucial support to thousands of refugee families from Syria and Lebanon, helping them rebuild their lives with dignity.