



Flash Update

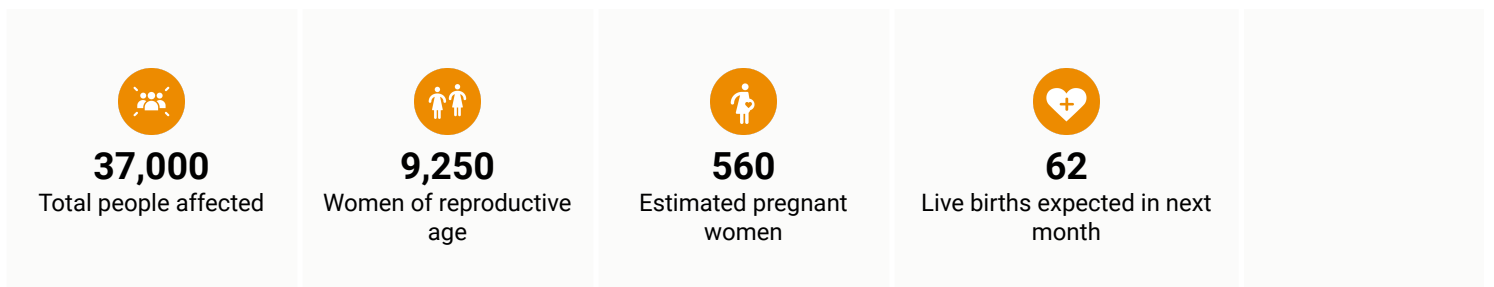
Influx of Syrian Returnees and Refugees from Lebanon to Syria



Photo: ©UNFPASyria

Country:	Syria
Emergency type:	Conflict
Start Date of Crisis:	24 September 2024
Date Issued:	27 September 2024
Covering Period:	24-25 September 2024
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Key Figures (Estimated)¹



Highlights

- As hostilities in Lebanon escalate, tens of thousands of people, mainly Syrians, have crossed into Lebanon in the past 72 hours, arriving in Rural Damascus, Homs, and Tartous Governorates. People are reported to be in a state of desperate need and exhaustion. While needs assessments for the

¹ Based on cumulative actual numbers of returnees and refugees in 2024, and MISP calculation.

new arrivals are ongoing, preliminary identified priorities include protection, health, food, non-food items, water, and dignity and hygiene kits. The humanitarian support for this crisis is being coordinated through UNHCR and the Syrian Arab Red Cross (SARC).

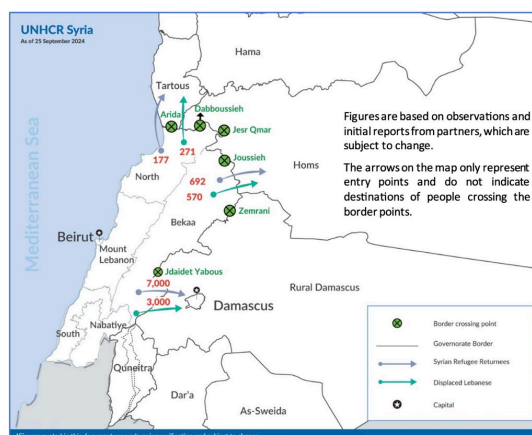
- In collaboration with partners, UNFPA has started delivering sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) services to people returning from Lebanon through existing health facilities in Homs, Daraa, and Tartous.

Situation Overview

- Prior to the current escalation in Lebanon, Syria had received 27,091 returnees from Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt as of July 2024.
- As of 25 September, thousands of Syrian returnees and Lebanese nationals have crossed into Syria – the majority women and children (UNHCR) – and the situation continues to evolve as a result of the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon. Entry to Syria is through four border crossing points in Homs¹, Tartus, Daraa, and Rural Damascus governorates. Some people have traveled for days before crossing the borders.
- SARC estimates some 10,000 persons entered Syria from Lebanon between 24 to 25 September 2024 – 70% Syrians and 30% Lebanese nationals.
- The arrival of Syrians and Lebanese from Lebanon will further increase the strain on basic services and exacerbate an already dire humanitarian situation in these governorates, where 4.6 million people are already in need of assistance, and capacities to absorb additional needs are limited.

UNFPA Response

- UNFPA is actively engaged in the inter-agency coordination mechanism, led by UNHCR, for the response at the national level in Damascus and field office level (Homs, Tartous and Rif Damascus). An interagency assessment mission to Homs Governorate will be conducted early next week; UNFPA will participate to ensure the integration of reproductive health and protection services in the response.
- As part of earlier contingency planning, UNFPA has prepositioned 38,000 female dignity kits.
- In the immediate response phase, UNFPA will deliver 5,000 female dignity kits and 10,000 sanitary



Map disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement by the United Nations.

pads, sufficient to cover the menstrual needs of 660 women and girls for one month, to its implementing partner SARC for distribution to women and girls at the four newly-established Border Health-Protection Support Points (Border Posts).

- UNFPA is coordinating with SARC to deploy midwives and psychosocial support workers by next week.
- From 26 September, the Syria Family Planning Association and Greek-Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch & All East, with the support of UNFPA, has started to provide integrated SRH and GBV services through mobile teams, including psychosocial support (PSS) and referral services, in Homs and Tartous governorates. The Syrian Society for Social Development will provide SRH and GBV services in Daraa governorate. Other implementing partners are on alert to deploy mobile teams to provide integrated GBV and SRH services.
- The GBV Sub-Sector is assessing the situation and coordinating the response with its partners at the national and sub-national level, including mapping the availability of GBV services and distributing dignity kits to women and girls in need.