

Syrian Arab Republic

February 2022

According to the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview published in February, some **14.6 million** people in Syria need humanitarian assistance. This represents a 9% increase from 2021.

The overall socio-economic situation appears to be deteriorating and the security situation remains volatile in certain areas. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated an already precarious situation in the country.

UNHCR in Syria provides protection and assistance to refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees and stateless people based on identified needs and vulnerabilities.

HIGHLIGHTS

244

UNHCR-supported community/satellite centres and mobile units provide comprehensive protection-related services, with a new community centre established in Deir-ez-Zor in January 2022

122,000

Families received winter core relief items between September 2021 and February 2022

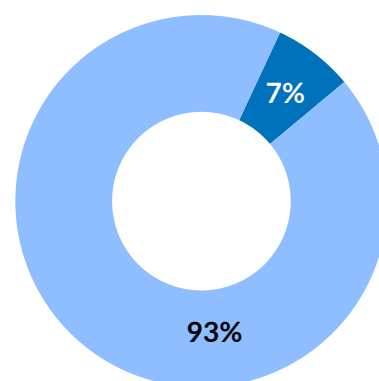
2,600

Refugee families received multi-purpose cash grants in January and February 2022

FUNDING (AS OF 1 MARCH 2022)

USD 465.2 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2022



■ Funded ■ Unfunded

POPULATION OF CONCERN



UNHCR distributed winter assistance including winter clothing kits to IDPs in As-Sweida, southern Syria. UNHCR/H. Abu Fakher.

Internally displaced persons*	6.9M
IDP returnees**	169,100
Stateless persons***	160,000
Refugees & Asylum-seekers****	23,200
Refugee returnees *****	4,900

* Source: 2022 HNO

** Source: OCHA, December 2021

*** Estimated

**** Source: UNHCR February 2022

***** Source: UNHCR verified returns as of 28 February 2022

Operational Context

The 2022 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) estimates that over **14.6 million** people need humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including **6.9 million** internally displaced Syrians. Of that number, approximately **9.6 million** are in severe need of humanitarian assistance. The 2022 HNO **finds** that economic deterioration is now a major driver of needs in areas historically less directly affected by hostilities and displacement.

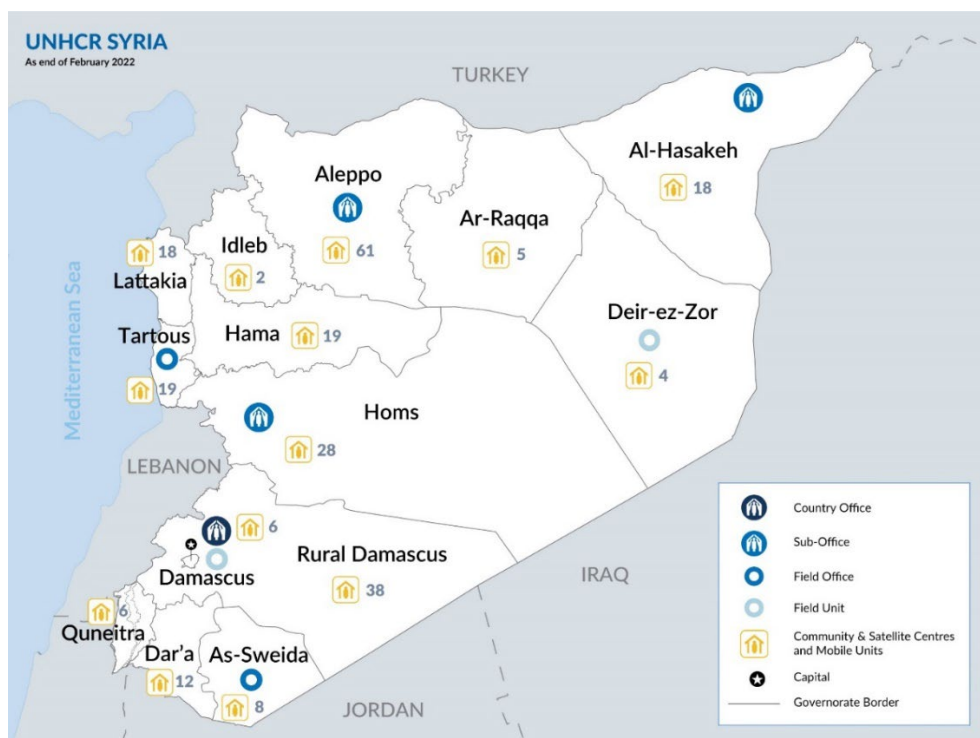
UNHCR supports refugees, IDPs and returnees through targeted assistance following a community-based and area-based approach. UNHCR works with **28** partners which include government ministries, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national NGOs and UN agencies.

Key Achievements



Protection

In January 2022, UNHCR opened a community centre in a newly accessible area of Deir-ez-Zor where needs were observed to be high. This is currently the only centre in the area providing services to six villages. A satellite centre in Lattakia Governorate was also expanded to a community centre, increasing the overall number of community centres supported by UNHCR from 92 to **94** by end-February. In addition, UNHCR supports **32** satellite centres and **118** mobile units, and engages **2,800** community outreach volunteers in all **14** governorates.



UNHCR-supported community/satellite centres and mobile units in Syria as of February 2022

The community centres provide comprehensive protection-related services such as support to child protection activities, catch-up classes for children, and legal assistance benefitting IDPs, returnees, host communities and other crisis-affected people. At these UNHCR-supported community centres, outreach volunteers also engage with communities to identify and address specific protection concerns by identifying small-scale community-led or livelihood projects.



Core Relief Items

UNHCR through its partners supports IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable host community families with essential core relief items. A standard core relief items kit contains plastic sheets, mattresses, solar lamps, high thermal blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, and kitchen sets. In total in 2021, UNHCR distributed core relief items to some 110,000 families and winter core relief items to 143,000 families.

UNHCR's winter programme in Syria started in September 2021. By end-February 2022, UNHCR had provided winter core relief items to over 122,000 families representing about 72% of the planned target. A winter core relief items kit includes mattresses, blankets, winter clothing, sleeping bags and plastic sheets.



Shelter and Infrastructure

In camps, UNHCR distributes tents, emergency shelter kits and maintains camp infrastructure. In urban areas, UNHCR helps returnees repair damaged shelters by providing materials to repair doors and windows, electrical connections, water and sanitation facilities. UNHCR also repairs public infrastructure such as pavements, installs streetlights and rehabilitates communal facilities. In areas of high return, UNHCR removes debris, repairs sewage systems, distributes solid waste bins and repairs public water networks and boreholes.

In 2021, UNHCR and partners repaired 1,900 damaged houses and provided shelter material packages to some 10,700 families. To support communities and the implementation of other infrastructure interventions, close to 120,000 cubic metres of debris and rubble were removed in 2021, almost 180 damaged common/community buildings were repaired, and 1,200 solar streetlights were installed.

In north-east Syria, UNHCR provided more than 100 families living in camps with replacement tents in February 2022. They will improve families' shelter situation and will help them better withstand harsh weather conditions. Also this month, UNHCR completed the reorganization and expansion of the main distribution point in Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh Governorate). The area can now accommodate eight Rubb-halls that are being set up by UNHCR and other partners working in the camp.

Field Highlight: Mission to Dara'a Al-Balad

On 10 February, members of the UNHCR Country Office management team conducted a mission to the Dara'a Governorate, southern Syria, to visit some of UNHCR's projects, meet partners and local authorities.

The UNHCR Country Office team visited a primary health clinic in Dara'a Al-Balad which was repaired in 2021. The repair works included the removal of rubble, installing doors and windows, repairing the sanitary system and installing electrical connections, insulating the roof and installing solar energy panels. The clinic now offers health care support, including emergency and trauma treatment, and is accessible to approximately 50,000 people living in Dara'a Al-Balad and neighbouring communities.

In addition, UNHCR and its partner have supported more than 100 families in the Dara'a Al-Balad neighbourhood to repair their damaged houses, providing privacy and enabling safe living conditions.



UNHCR and its partner visit a primary health care centre in Dara'a Al-Balad, southern Syria, where solar panels were installed last year. UNHCR/F. Al Saleh



Assistance to Refugees

Registration

Registration and providing documentation are key to ensuring the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria, such as enabling them to access basic rights like freedom of movement and access to assistance. By end-February 2022, there were almost **23,200** registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria.

In February, UNHCR renewed identification cards for **1,530** people. These documents provide protection against refoulement, ensure access to basic rights and assistance, and facilitate freedom of movement. Most registered refugees originate from Iraq and reside primarily in urban areas in Damascus, Aleppo, Tartous, Homs and Qamishli governorates. Of the total number of registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria, around **20,200** individuals have been biometrically enrolled.

Refugee status determination (RSD)

UNHCR uses RSD procedures to help asylum-seekers realize their rights under international law. So far in 2022, UNHCR interviewed **15** cases comprising **33** individuals. In addition, **18** assessed cases comprising **40** individuals were submitted for review. In January and February 2022, **21** cases comprising **43** individuals were recognized as refugees enabling them to access protection and health services. UNHCR also continued to provide counselling on the RSD process and individual cases through its hotline.

Resettlement

UNHCR continues to actively communicate with people of concern on resettlement through weekly counselling over a dedicated hotline. In February, UNHCR provided counselling to **77** people on their resettlement cases, providing them with accurate information and helping to manage expectations in relation to resettlement.

Cash-Based Assistance

UNHCR provides multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) to the most vulnerable refugee families. UNHCR enrolls families for MPCG assistance on a bi-monthly basis and beneficiaries' continued eligibility is reviewed every two months. Vulnerability is determined either through a scoring system based on demographics, special needs, or a panel review of individual

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