



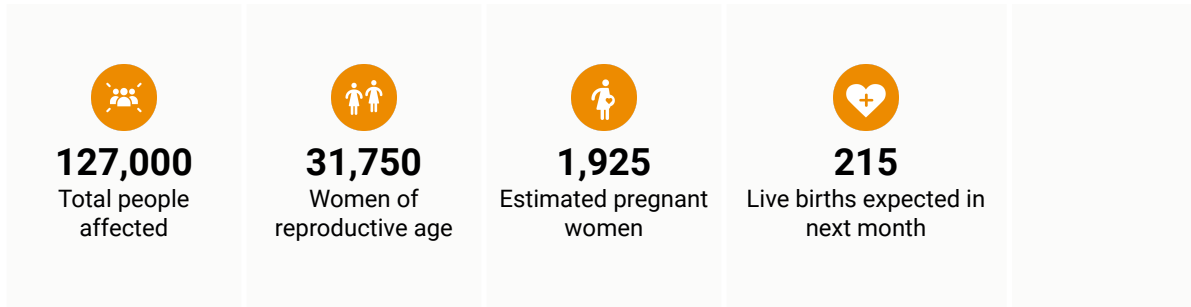
Flash Update #2

Influx of Syrian Returnees and Refugees from Lebanon to Syria

Photo: ©UNFPA Syria- GOPA - Fadi AL Hakeem

Country:	Syria
Emergency type:	Conflict
Start Date of Crisis:	23 September 2024
Date Issued:	1 October 2024
Covering Period:	23-29 September 2024
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Key Figures (Estimated)¹



Highlights

- UNFPA and its partners are accelerating the provision of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and protection services for Syrian and Lebanese arrivals from Lebanon, and the communities hosting them, to mitigate the additional strain on already overstretched health infrastructure.

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

- 10 Integrated Mobile Teams (IMTs), providing SRH and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, have been deployed by UNFPA through its implementing partners (IPs).
- Nine SRH and 10 GBV static service facilities, supported by UNFPA, in Rural Damascus, Homs, Daraa, and Tartous are providing life-saving SRH, gender-based violence (GBV) and MHPSS services. Awareness raising activities on MHPSS and available services are underway.
- As part of the initial assessment for the response, the SRH Working Group, led by UNFPA, with relevant SRH health actors in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Lattakia, and Tartou, is identifying key gaps and mapping available SRH services, health facilities and mobile clinics, especially for vulnerable populations. Information on referral pathways is regularly shared with stakeholders and beneficiaries to facilitate and improve access to SRH services.
- The GBV Sub-Sector, led by UNFPA, has initiated partner capacity mapping at border points as well as at influx destinations. Coordination is conducted with partners to ensure the distribution of emergency SRH supplies and provision of mobile prevention and risk mitigation services according to needs. Preparations for a GBV risks and needs assessment are ongoing, in consultation with the protection sector including OCHA, UNHCR and the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG).

Situation Overview

- The escalation of hostilities in Lebanon between 27 to 29 September has led to a significant rise in the number of Syrian returnees and Lebanese refugees crossing the border into Syria. The main border crossing point is Masnaa/Jdeidet Yabous. An estimated 3,290 people crossed through Tartous, 12,466 people through Homs and 82,758 people through the Rural Damascus border points between 23 to 29 September 2024.
- An estimated 100,000 people have crossed into Syria since 23 September. It is estimated that around 60 percent are Syrians and 40 percent are Lebanese nationals – the majority are women and children, including people with disabilities. Approximately 50 percent of those crossing through border points are under the age of 18.
- In many governorates, notably Homs, Hama, Tartous, Aleppo, Damascus, Daraa, Lattakia and Rural Damascus, newly arrived persons are predominantly hosted by extended families and host communities.
- Collective shelters are being established by the Government at destinations for a small number of Lebanese refugees. As of 29 September, one collective shelter (Al-Karnak collective shelter) and two temporary centres are fully operational in **Tartous Governorate**, primarily designated for Lebanese refugees (approximately 30 families, totaling 140 individuals). In **Lattakia Governorate**, two collective shelters (Sports City Collective Shelter and Al-Nakheel Beach Shelter) are currently being established to provide shelter for newly arrived individuals. In **Homs**, the authorities have opened two collective shelters that can accommodate 30 Lebanese families (totaling 150 individuals). There are ongoing discussions to open three collective shelters in rural Damascus.

UNFPA Response

- UNFPA, through its partners, is providing comprehensive SRH and protection services to pregnant women, women of reproductive age and girls at four border points on the Syria/Lebanon border and in host communities. Services include psychological first aid and the provision of hygiene items and supplies for menstruation. Other humanitarian organizations present at the border points are complementing these efforts by providing essential food and non-food items, including hygiene kits, to meet the urgent needs of those seeking refuge inside Syria.
- UNFPA, through its IPs, has established and deployed 10 Integrated SRH and GBV Mobile Teams (IMTs) to provide essential SRH and GBV services, including psychosocial support (PSS), and to distribute essential medicines, nutrition supplies, and dignity kits, containing essential hygiene items, to women and girls. At some IMTs, ultrasounds are also performed. Awareness raising on PSS and available services compliments the provision of services.
 - **Jdeideh Yabous border, Rural Damascus:** 27 September, the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) established an IMT which is working double shifts, providing medical examinations, distributing essential medicines and nutrition supplements, and performing diagnostic procedures including ultrasounds. Psychological first aid services are also being provided.
 - **Homs:** FPA Homs established an IMT at **Jusiyah crossing point and in Al Qasir village**. Together with the Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD), UNFPA has provided SRH services, awareness raising, PSS and referrals for 20 females through the **IMT in Talkalakh**. UNFPA and the Greek-Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch & All East have started providing SRH and GBV services through an **IMT in Alqusir district**, and have already reached 300 women and adolescent girls, also providing them with a dignity kit.
 - **Lattakia:** An IMT, deployed through UNFPA's IP SSSD, provided SRH services in Talkalakh city and rural Talkalakh for arrivals from Lebanon crossing through the Al Areidah border in Tartous. Thirty-nine (39) people received SRH and GBV services on 28 September. SFPA also provided SRH services and female dignity kits to 25 women and adolescent girls, and supported 16 individuals with PSS and awareness raising sessions, by **deploying an IMT** to the government accommodation centre in **Alsheer, Lattakia**.
 - **Al Areidah border** crossing point, **Tartous:** The UNFPA/SFPA IMT provided SRH services to 24 women arriving from Lebanon (13 Lebanese and 11 Syrian returnees) and distributed 23 female dignity kits. Services are being provided at SARC's facility at the crossing point, ensuring privacy, in coordination with the Department of Health team. A second IMT is providing services to Lebanese arrivals in the villages in Akar plain (villages near to the borders).
- UNFPA is delivering Inter-Agency Reproductive Health (IARH) kits to the Ministry of Health (MOH) to support the provision of life-saving SRH services at MOH health facilities. The kits include medicines, medical equipment and supplies for safe childbirths, emergency obstetric care and the treatment of sexually transmitted infections.