



2.10.7. Conflict-induced displacement and return

IOM's population movements assessments in Syria, which started as of February 2025, show that Damascus' IDP population hardly changed between February 2025 (around 589 000 out of a total population of approximately 1.96 million, 30 %)[1059](#) and April 2026 (around 589 000 out of a total population of approximately 1.9 million, 31 %).[1060](#)

The fall of Assad has encouraged voluntary returns of Syrians from Türkiye.[1061](#) As of March 2026, about 38 000 Syrians in Egypt had prepared their return to Syria since December 2024. 41 % (about 15 000) had origins in Damascus.[1062](#) In February[1063](#) and March 2026,[1064](#) return activities even to the heavily destroyed district of Yarmouk, and, in April 2026, to the Qaboun and Tishreen neighbourhoods, were reported - though not to Jowbar.[1065](#)

According to UNHCR estimates, as of 21 May 2026, around 288 000 people had returned from abroad[1066](#) and around 53 000 IDPs[1067](#) had returned to Damascus governorate since December 2024. Since the end of February 2026, cross-border movements into Syria from Lebanon intensified. Between 2 March and 12 April 2026, 1 001 to 5 000 returnees intended to resettle in Damascus.[1068](#)

- [1059](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Community Baseline Assessment – Round 1 – February 2025, 6 March 2025, [url](#), p. 8

- [1060](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment – Round 15 – April 2026, 18 May 2026, [url](#), p. 7

- [1061](#)

UNHCR, Voluntary Repatriation of Syrian Refugees in Türkiye: UNHCR in Türkiye - April 2026, 14 April 2026, [url](#)

- [1062](#)

UNHCR, Regional Flash Update #69 - Syria Situation, 20 March 2026, [url](#), p. 6

- [1063](#)

DW, Back to Yarmouk: A Syrian family rebuilds and seeks justice [Video], 9 February 2026, [url](#); DW, Return to Syria: Rebuilding and seeking justice in Yarmouk [Video], 7 February 2026, [url](#)

- [1064](#)

Wohlan, M. et al., Weltzeit - Die Kriegsverbrechen in Yarmouk [World Time - The War Crimes in Yarmouk] [Podcast], Deutschlandfunk, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

- [1065](#)

Syria Direct, Reconstruction plan for eastern Damascus neighborhoods alarms residents, 20 April 2026, [url](#)

- [1066](#)

UNHCR, Syrian Arab Republic: Comprehensive Overview of Refugee Returns Dashboard [Map], 21 May 2026, [url](#)

- [1067](#)

UNHCR, Syrian Arab Republic: Comprehensive Overview of IDPs and IDP Returns Dashboard [Map], 21 May 2026, [url](#)

- [1068](#)

UNHCR, Syria: Flash Update #2 - Middle East Situation (13 April 2026) [Map], 14 Apr 2026, [url](#)