

SITUATION REPORT SYRIA



SWITCHBOARD

HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH

On September 10, 2022, the Ministry of Health declared a cholera outbreak, with most cases reported in Aleppo, Deir-ez Zor and Al-Hasakeh governorates ([ReliefWeb, 2022](#)). By September 23, a total 5973 cases had been reported across nine governorates (Ibid.).

The [Syrian British Medical Society](#) (SBMS) delivered a session about the appraisals and revalidation system for Syrian doctors recently arrived in the UK. This session was part of a seminar series that began in October 2021, which aims to provide support, information, and networking for Syrian doctors based in the UK. The SBMS was founded by British medical professionals of Syrian heritage in 2007 and is registered as a non-political non-profit organization.

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

As a result of the Syrian crisis, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey have been hosting a population of around 7.1 million forced migrants. Alongside the humanitarian crisis triggered by the conflict, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan ([2022](#)), argues that more attention be paid to the region's increasing ecological degradation in the form of water insecurity, rising temperatures and decreasing agricultural production. According to the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (Ibid.), as the demand for humanitarian assistance from countries in the region continues to rise, the resulting environmental degradation can "impede the recovery of refugee and host communities who depend on natural resources for their livelihoods, with negative and long-term impacts on their lives and on the environment itself." As such, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan proposes an eight-step plan of action to strengthen community resilience and anticipate risks.

MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

On September 22, 2022, a boat carrying 120–150 migrants sank near the Syrian island of Arwad, near Tartus ([BBC, 2022](#)). The vessel had departed from Minyeh, a city near the Lebanese port city of Tripoli, and was heading to Cyprus when it sank. Officials said that nationals from Syria, Lebanon and Palestine were among those on the boat, and an estimated 100 people have died, including women and children. The survivors were taken to hospitals in Tartus.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND RESPONSE

In September, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic released a new report highlighting the increasing challenges Syrian communities are facing ([UNFPA, 2022](#)). The report emphasized how factors such as unilateral sanctions, economic crises in neighboring Lebanon and Turkey, staggering inflation in food prices, and the recent closure of the Damascus airport have contributed to exacerbating Syrians' living conditions. Further, the conditions in displacement camps in the northwest of the country are dire, to the extent that many are forced to return to their homes if deemed safe enough (Ibid.). Gender-based violence continues to pervade the lives of Syrian women and girls, often normalized as a result of the many years of instability. It has been estimated that 14.6 million people need humanitarian assistance, with 7.2 million being women and girls. With continuous advocacy for cross-border aid to reach Syrians in the northwest, 39 humanitarian actors and NGOs, including many diaspora groups, published a letter to the UN Secretary-General and President highlighting the severity of the humanitarian needs and the necessity of continuous and stable aid streams ([Refugees International, 2022](#)). The letter identified three demands: equitable partnerships, inclusive decision-making, and funds for early recovery and resilience building.

CASE STUDY

RETHINK REBUILD

Rethink Rebuild is a Syrian diaspora organization based in Manchester that won the BBC Radio Manchester Make a Difference Awards in 2022 for their continuous efforts in helping refugees and asylum seekers resume their lives and settle in Greater Manchester. Rethink Rebuild began as an initiative in 2011, at the start of the uprising in Syria. It was formally registered in 2013 as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales and then as a charity in 2018. The organization aims to improve the economic and social wellbeing of new Syrian arrivals and refugees in Greater Manchester by providing an advice service on immigration matters and life in the UK. They also organize several activities throughout the year to bring the Syrian diaspora and others together to highlight and discuss causes and issues related to refugees, migration, and Syria.

One of Rethink Rebuild's astonishing efforts is the annual festival "Celebrating Syria," which sheds light on Syrian culture and presents a bright image often overlooked by mainstream media. The festival highlights Syrian talent who use art to explore political and cultural issues related to Syria.

SOURCES: Refugee and Resilience Plan in response to the Syria Crisis (3RP), 2022
Rethink Rebuild Society (rrsoc.org)

Statement by Paulo Pinheiro Chair of the Independent International Commission Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic