

# SITUATION REPORT SYRIA



SWITCHBOARD

## HIGHLIGHTS

### HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND RESPONSE

The Syrian crisis is now in its twelfth year. The UN estimates that 14.6 million people are in need humanitarian assistance across the country, a 9% increase from the previous year ([ReliefWeb, 2022](#)). In October, WFP dispatched enough humanitarian assistance across all its activities in Syria for an estimated 5.5 million people ([WFP, 2022](#)). This is the twelfth consecutive winter in displacement for many in Syria, with the overall number of people needing core relief increasing to 4.9 million in 2022 ([ReliefWeb, 2022](#)).

### POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

On October 17, 2022, UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir O. Pedersen met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faysal Mekdad in Damascus. In a press conference, Pedersen acknowledged that the political process had not delivered results and emphasized that the UN will continue promoting a nationwide ceasefire and addressing the Syrian people's humanitarian needs ([Security Council Report, 2022](#)).

### SECURITY

According to the US military, a US helicopter raid on a government-held village in the northeast of Syria on October 7 killed an Islamic State militant, Rakkan Wahid al-Shammri, who was hiding out there. A separate US air strike on October 6 killed two others ([Reuters, 2022](#)).

### MIGRATION & DISPLACEMENT

Lebanese President Michel Aoun announced that Lebanon will soon begin returning Syrian refugees to Syria, despite the UN Syria Commission's September report stating that the country "is still not a safe place to return" ([OHCHR, 2022](#)). Between October 19 and November 1, 2022, 109 people were repatriated to France, Canada, Australia, The Netherlands and Ukraine. Of these, 54 were children, most of whom were separated from their families or unaccompanied ([ReliefWeb, 2022](#)). In October 2022, the Turkish authorities deported hundreds of refugees, men and boys, back to Syria, according to Human Rights Watch ([HRW, 2022](#)).

### HEALTH

As of October 8, 2022, the Ministry of Health had reported 3079 cholera cases, 692 confirmed, and 40 deaths ([ReliefWeb, 2022](#)). The disease also hit Syrian refugees sheltering in camps in Lebanon, with at least 220 cases recorded as of 21 October, 2022, and one death ([Reuters, 2022](#)).

### ECONOMY

According to ETANA Syria, the Syrian Pound has plummeted to an historic low and the government continues to carry out aggressive austerity measures, stripping additional categories of Syrians of state subsidies.

## CASE STUDY



### SOURIYAT ACROSS BORDERS (SAB)

Souriyat Across Borders (Syrian women across borders) is a Manchester-based, women-led organization co-founded by Syrian women in the diaspora and registered in the UK. The charity works with Syrian refugees in Jordan and displaced communities in northern Syria, where thousands of displaced families still live in tents at high risk, especially during harsh winter months. In October, SAB continued its fundraising campaign to provide safer and more dignified homes for displaced families.

This project is co-designed and run by another Syrian diaspora organization, Hand in Hand for Aid and Development, which has technical expertise in shelter projects. This is an excellent example of how diaspora organizations collaborate and combine resources to address the needs of communities in countries of origin.