

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Conflict/insecurity is the root cause of displacement and acute food insecurity among refugees in the region.

The 13-year conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic is at the root of Syrian refugees' acute food insecurity. Conditions in their home country are not yet conducive for large-scale voluntary returns in safety and dignity.

Syrian refugees in Egypt

PEAK 2023 (JANUARY–MARCH)

 **0.2M** people or 69% of the Syrian refugee population in Egypt faced high levels of acute food insecurity (WFP, January 2023).

No data were available in 2022 but this represents a significant deterioration since 2021 when 27 percent of the analysed population faced high acute food insecurity (WFP, 2021).

The conducive protection environment in Egypt allows regular residency permit renewal for registered refugees, though permit renewal delays impact access to essential services. Syrian refugees, mainly in urban areas, access public services and government subsidies, but Egypt is facing economic strains including high inflation which stood at over 40 percent each month in May–August 2023 (WFP, 2023).

Increased living costs led to refugees adopting negative coping mechanisms (3RP, January 2024). By early January 2024, 0.4 million Sudanese refugees had sought safety in Egypt since the start of the Sudan crisis in April 2023, according to the Government of Egypt (UNHCR, January 2024).



Syrian refugees in Iraq

PEAK 2023 (AUGUST–SEPTEMBER)

 **19 000** people or 7% of the registered Syrian refugees living in camps faced high levels of acute food insecurity (WFP, August 2023).

Data were not available for 2022. Syrian refugees in Iraq fare relatively better than in other countries in the region. They mostly live in the Kurdistan region and are largely of Kurdish origin, which may explain the high degree of acceptance by both authorities and the local population and thus, of inclusion. Refugees have access to public services and have their rights fulfilled on a par with the local community (3RP, January 2024).

Relative stability in Iraq has facilitated refugees gaining greater access to public services and social protection schemes provided by the Government, but years of conflict have weakened the capacity and resilience of national institutions (3RP, January 2024).

Syrian refugees in Jordan

PEAK 2023 (JULY–SEPTEMBER)

 **0.5M** people or 62% of the Syrian refugee population in Jordan faced high levels of acute food insecurity (WFP, June 2023).

Although food security overall improved compared with the previous year, in 2023 certain groups, such as female-headed households, unemployed people and disabled people have become more vulnerable. Debt levels have risen as refugees borrow to cover their basic food expenses.

While 81 percent of refugees in Jordan live outside of camps, the rest live in Za'atari and Azraq camps where they have limited freedom of movement. The average income of Syrian refugees in Jordan decreased by 12 percent between the fourth quarter of 2022 and the first of 2023. Over 90 percent were in debt to cover their basic needs. Unemployment stood at 28 percent for Syrian refugees, affecting women and youth the most. Around 0.02 million Palestine refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic (PRS) also faced

significant vulnerabilities stemming from high unemployment rates and rising living costs. According to an August 2023 UNRWA survey, only 30 percent of adult PRS in Jordan were employed (3RP, January 2024).

Syrian refugees in Türkiye

PEAK 2023 (SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER)

 **4 000** people or 8% of Türkiye's 52 500 registered Syrian refugees living in camps faced high levels of acute food insecurity (WFP, 2023).

No analysis was available for the more than 3 million Syrians in Türkiye living outside of camps (DGMM, February 2024).

High inflation and currency fluctuations are straining both refugees and host communities. Official figures in September 2023 put inflation at 61.5 percent, with disproportionate impact on low-income households, especially in transport, food and housing. Some 85 percent of Syrian families reported a deterioration/decline in their financial situation in the past year and 92 percent reported not being able to cover all their monthly basic households needs (UNHCR, December 2023).

In southeast Türkiye, 1.7 million Syrian refugees were among the 9 million individuals affected by the earthquakes in February 2023 (3RP, January 2024).

Algeria has been hosting Sahrawi refugees in five camps near Tindouf since 1975 as a result of the Western Sahara conflict. It is understood to be the second longest standing refugee situation in the world (SSRP, November 2023).

Sahrawi refugees in Algeria

PEAK 2023 (JUNE)

 **38 000** people or 28% of Algeria's 0.2M Sahrawi refugees in camps faced high levels of acute food insecurity (WFP, 2023).

This represents a significant improvement since 2022 when 74 percent of the analysed population faced high acute food insecurity.

Living in isolated camps near Tindouf in the Sahara desert, Sahrawi refugees face limited livelihood opportunities and harsh environmental conditions. Due to the critical shortage of funding, minimum humanitarian standards cannot be met in most sectors, and most refugees are believed to live below the poverty line (UNHCR, 2023).