

Intentions Survey with Syrian Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Europe 2025

UN Refugee Agency

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

ECA_2025_ISSR_v01_M

TITLE

Intentions Survey with Syrian Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Europe 2025

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM

ISSR 2024

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
Austria	AUT
Cyprus	CYP
Germany	DEU
Netherlands	NLD
United Kingdom	GBR

STUDY TYPE

Sample Frame, Households [sf/hh]

ABSTRACT

This dataset presents the results of a regional online survey conducted by UNHCR from 14 March to 14 April 2025 to assess the intentions of Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers residing in 14 European countries. A total of 3,736 respondents, representing 17,378 household members, participated in the anonymous, self-administered survey. The data capture intended future movements, factors influencing decision-making, information needs, and interest in return-related activities. The survey aims to inform protection and solutions programming by ensuring refugee perspectives are central to policy discussions.

KIND OF DATA

Sample survey data [ssd]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Household

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

Version 2.1: Edited, cleaned, and anonymised data.

VERSION DATE

2025-06-16

Scope

NOTES

The scope includes:

- Demographic profile
- Legal status and country of residence
- Intentions to remain, move onward, or return to Syria
- Factors influencing decision-making
- Interest in voluntary return and go-and-see visits
- Information needs related to return or integration

TOPICS

Topic
Protection

KEYWORDS

Keyword
Syrian refugees
intentions

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and other EU countries hosting at least 10,000 Syrian refugees or asylum-seekers

UNIVERSE

Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers aged 18 and above residing in 14 European countries at the time of data collection

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
UN Refugee Agency	UN

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Non-probability sampling using a respondent-assisted (snowball) approach. The survey was disseminated via UNHCR Help webpages, social media, refugee-led organizations, and community networks. Automatic screening excluded non-Syrian nationals and individuals who were not refugees or asylum-seekers.

WEIGHTING

Each interview was weighted (``int_weight``) to reflect the relative size of the Syrian refugee and asylum-seeker population in the respondent's country of residence, based on UNHCR population statistics as of end-2024. This ensures proportional representation in regional analyses.

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2025-03-14	2025-04-14

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Self-administered online

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

The survey was self-administered online and designed to be completed in 5–10 minutes. It was anonymous and automatically excluded respondents who did not self-identify exclusively as Syrian nationals or who were not refugees or asylum-seekers. Dissemination was conducted via UNHCR Help platforms, social media, refugee-led organizations, and community networks.

DATA COLLECTORS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
UN Refugee Agency	UNHCR	UN

questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

The questionnaire included closed-ended questions covering demographic characteristics, legal status, intentions to stay, move onward, or return to Syria, factors influencing these decisions, interest in voluntary return or go-and-see visits, and information needs. The survey was self-administered online and available in Arabic.

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email
Curation team	UNHCR	dencomdl@unhcr.org

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2025). Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom: Intentions Survey with Syrian Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Europe. Accessed from: <https://microdata.unhcr.org>

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_ECA_2025_ISSR_v01_M

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
UN Refugee Agency	UNHCR	UN	Metadata producer
Development Data Group	DECDG	The World Bank	Metadata adapted for World Bank Microdata Library

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2025-06-16

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Identical to a metadata (UNHCR_EU_2025_INT) published on UNHCR catalog (<https://microdata.unhcr.org/index.php/home>). Some of the metadata fields have been edited.

data_dictionary

Data file	Cases	variables
Household Data This file contains the household data dictionary.	3738	59

Data file: Household Data

This file contains the household data dictionary.

Cases: 3738

variables: 59

variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
household_data_V1	consent	Do you agree to take part in the survey?	
household_data_V2	age	1. What is your age?	
household_data_V3	nationality	2. What is your nationality / citizenship?	
household_data_V4	legal_status	3. What is your legal status in your current country of residence?	
household_data_V5	valid_residency	4. Do you have a valid/active residency permit?	
household_data_V6	current_country	5. In which country are you currently living?	
household_data_V7	arrival_year	6. In which year did you arrive to \${current_c}?	
household_data_V8	gender	7. Please specify your gender	
household_data_V9	family_size	8. Including yourself, how many persons are there in your current family?	
household_data_V10	living_family_spouse	8. Including yourself, how many persons are there in your current family? / Spouse	
household_data_V11	living_family_child	8. Including yourself, how many persons are there in your current family? / Child	
household_data_V12	living_family_old	8. Including yourself, how many persons are there in your current family? / Old	
household_data_V13	spouse_nationality	10. What is your spouse/partner's nationality / citizenship?	
household_data_V14	needs_care	11. Do you or any of your family members currently living with you need care due to a long-term physical or mental illness or disability? \${family_size}	
household_data_V15	future_intentions	12. What would best describe your intentions __within the next 12 months__ ?	
household_data_V16	preparations_return	13. Have you or any member of your family made any preparations for your return to Syria?	
household_data_V17	return_family	14. Whom are you planning to return to Syria with?	
household_data_V18	return_reasons_security_improved	Return reason: Improved security in area of return	
household_data_V19	return_reasons_reunite_family_friends	Return reason: To reunite with family or friends	
household_data_V20	return_reasons_good_return_package	Return reason: Offered a good return package	
household_data_V21	return_reasons_pressured_to_return	Return reason: Felt pressured to return	
household_data_V22	return_reasons_reconstruction_transition	Return reason: Reconstruction or transition in area of return	
household_data_V23	return_reasons_access_property_housing	Return reason: To access property or housing	

ID	Name	Label	Question
household_data_V24	return_reasons_work_livelihood_opportunities	Return reason: Work or livelihood opportunities in area of return	
household_data_V25	return_reasons_difficulties_integrate	Return reason: Difficulties integrating in host country	
household_data_V26	return_reasons_legal_status_uncertain	Return reason: Legal status in host country is uncertain	
household_data_V27	return_prep_obtain_renew_documents	Return preparation: Need to obtain or renew documents	
household_data_V28	return_prep_education_equivalence	Return preparation: Equivalence of education qualifications	
household_data_V29	return_prep_support_to_return	Return preparation: Need for general support to return	
household_data_V30	return_prep_assistance_upon_return	Return preparation: Need for assistance upon return	
household_data_V31	return_prep_impact_on_legal_status	Return preparation: Concerns about impact on legal status	
household_data_V32	return_prep_entry_formalities	Return preparation: Entry procedures or formalities	
household_data_V33	stay_better_housing_conditions	Reason to stay: Better housing conditions	
household_data_V34	stay_feel_safer	Reason to stay: Feel safer	
household_data_V35	stay_better_job_earn_money	Reason to stay: Better job or income opportunities	
household_data_V36	stay_better_services	Reason to stay: Better access to services	
household_data_V37	stay_dont_know_arabic	Reason to stay: Don't speak Arabic	
household_data_V38	stay_closer_to_family	Reason to stay: Closer to family	
household_data_V39	stay_feel_integrated	Reason to stay: Feel integrated in current location	
household_data_V40	stay_dont_want_to_lose_legal_status	Reason to stay: Don't want to lose legal status	
household_data_V41	stay_not_enough_resources	Reason to stay: Not enough resources to return	
household_data_V42	stay_support_current_legal_status	Stay support: Maintain current legal status	
household_data_V43	stay_support_extend_legal_stay	Stay support: Extend legal stay	
household_data_V44	stay_support_social_prot_benefits	Stay support: Access to social protection benefits	
household_data_V45	stay_support_losing_legal_status	Stay support: Fear of losing legal status	
household_data_V46	stay_support_compulsory_return	Stay support: Avoid compulsory return	
household_data_V47	return_permanently	19. Do you hope to __return permanently to Syria one day__?	
household_data_V48	temp_visit	20. If it was possible, would you consider making a temporary visit to Syria to be able to decide on whether you should return or not (go and see visit)?	
household_data_V49	factors_preventing_visit_losing_status	Factor preventing visit: Risk of losing legal status	
household_data_V50	factors_preventing_visit_lack_resources	Factor preventing visit: Lack of financial resources	
household_data_V51	factors_preventing_visit_lack_documentation	Factor preventing visit: Lack of documentation	
household_data_V52	factors_preventing_visit_security_conditions	Factor preventing visit: Poor security conditions	
household_data_V53	factors_preventing_visit_work_commitments	Factor preventing visit: Work or study commitments	

ID	Name	Label	Question
household_data_V54	factors_preventing_visit_links	Factor preventing visit: No remaining family or social links	
household_data_V55	governorate	22. Where did you use to live in Syria?	
household_data_V56	poses_document	23. Do you and your family members currently possess at least one valid, official civil document issued by the Government of Syria, showing your Syrian origin?	
household_data_V57	main_activity	24. What is your main activity currently?	
household_data_V58	weight	Weight	
household_data_V59	pseudo_id	ID	

total: 59

CONSENT: Do you agree to take part in the survey?**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

LIVING_FAMILY_SPOUSE: 8. Including yourself, how many persons are there in your current family? / Spouse**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3165 Invalid: 573
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

AGE: 1. What is your age?**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3735 Invalid: 3
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Factor

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	18-24
2	25-34
3	35-59
4	60 or older
Missing value	

NATIONALITY: 2. What is your nationality / citizenship?**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

LEGAL_STATUS: 3. What is your legal status in your current country of residence?**Data file: Household Data**

Overview

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

VALID_RESIDENCY: 4. Do you have a valid/active residency permit?

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3413 Invalid: 325
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

CURRENT_COUNTRY: 5. In which country are you currently living?

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3688 Invalid: 50
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Factor

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	Austria
2	Cyprus
3	Germany
4	Netherlands
5	Others
6	United Kingdom
Missing value	

ARRIVAL_YEAR: 6. In which year did you arrive to \${current_c}?

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

GENDER: 7. Please specify your gender

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3624 Invalid: 114
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Factor

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	Female
2	Male
3	Other
Missing value	

FAMILY_SIZE: 8. Including yourself, how many persons are there in your current family?

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3737 Invalid: 1
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Factor

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10+
Missing value	

LIVING_FAMILY_CHILD: 8. Including yourself, how many persons are there in your current family? / Child

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3165 Invalid: 573
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

LIVING_FAMILY_OLD: 8. Including yourself, how many persons are there in your current family?/ Old

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3165 Invalid: 573
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

SPOUSE_NATIONALITY: 10. What is your spouse/partner's nationality / citizenship?

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: Invalid: 3738
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

NEEDS_CARE: 11. Do you or any of your family members currently living with you need care due to a long-term physical or mental illness or disability? \${family_size}

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

FUTURE_INTENTIONS: 12. What would best describe your intentions __within the next 12 months__?

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

PREPARATIONS_RETURN: 13. Have you or any member of your family made any preparations for your return to Syria?**Data file:** Household Data**Overview**

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_FAMILY: 14. Whom are you planning to return to Syria with?**Data file:** Household Data**Overview**

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_REASONS_SECURITY_IMPROVED: Return reason: Improved security in area of return**Data file:** Household Data**Overview**

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_REASONS_REUNITE_FAMILY_FRIENDS: Return reason: To reunite with family or friends

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: Invalid: 3738
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_REASONS_GOOD_RETURN_PACKAGE: Return reason: Offered a good return package

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: Invalid: 3738
 Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_REASONS_PRESSED_TO_RETURN: Return reason: Felt pressured to return

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_REASONS_RECONSTRUCTION_TRANSITION: Return reason: Reconstruction or transition in area of return**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_REASONS_ACCESS_PROPERTY_HOUSING: Return reason: To access property or housing**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE

1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_REASONS_WORK_LIVELIHOOD_OPPORTUNITIES: Return reason: Work or livelihood opportunities in area of return

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_REASONS_DIFFICULTIES_INTEGRATE: Return reason: Difficulties integrating in host country

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_REASONS_LEGAL_STATUS_UNCERTAIN: Return reason: Legal status in host country is uncertain

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_PREP_OBTAIN_RENEW_DOCUMENTS: Return preparation: Need to obtain or renew documents

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_PREP_EDUCATION_EQUIVALENCE: Return preparation: Equivalence of education qualifications

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_PREP_SUPPORT_TO_RETURN: Return preparation: Need for general support to return**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_PREP_ASSISTANCE_UPON_RETURN: Return preparation: Need for assistance upon return**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_PREP_IMPACT_ON_LEGAL_STATUS: Return preparation: Concerns about impact on legal status**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

RETURN_PREP_ENTRY_FORMALITIES: Return preparation: Entry procedures or formalities

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: Invalid: 3738

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Logical

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
	FALSE
1	TRUE
Missing value	

STAY_BETTER_HOUSING_CONDITIONS: Reason to stay: Better housing conditions

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_FEEL_SAFER: Reason to stay: Feel safer

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692

Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_BETTER_JOB_EARN_MONEY: Reason to stay: Better job or income opportunities

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_BETTER_SERVICES: Reason to stay: Better access to services

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_DONT_KNOW_ARABIC: Reason to stay: Don't speak Arabic

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_CLOSER_TO_FAMILY: Reason to stay: Closer to family

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_FEEL_INTEGRATED: Reason to stay: Feel integrated in current location

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_DONT_WANT_TO_LOSE_LEGAL_STATUS: Reason to stay: Don't want to lose legal status

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_NOT_ENOUGH_RESOURCES: Reason to stay: Not enough resources to return**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_SUPPORT_CURRENT_LEGAL_STATUS: Stay support: Maintain current legal status**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_SUPPORT_EXTEND_LEGAL_STAY: Stay support: Extend legal stay**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_SUPPORT_SOCIAL_PROT_BENEFITS: Stay support: Access to social protection benefits**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_SUPPORT_LOSING_LEGAL_STATUS: Stay support: Fear of losing legal status**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

STAY_SUPPORT_COMPULSORY_RETURN: Stay support: Avoid compulsory return**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3046 Invalid: 692
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

RETURN_PERMANENTLY: 19. Do you hope to _return permanently to Syria one day_?**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3653 Invalid: 85
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

TEMP_VISIT: 20. If it was possible, would you consider making a temporary visit to Syria to be able to decide on whether you should return or not (go and see visit)?**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

FACTORS_PREVENTING_VISIT_LOSING_STATUS: Factor preventing visit: Risk of losing legal status**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

FACTORS_PREVENTING_VISIT_LACK_RESOURCES: Factor preventing visit: Lack of financial resources**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

FACTORS_PREVENTING_VISIT_LACK_DOCUMENTATION: Factor preventing visit: Lack of documentation**Data file: Household Data****Overview**

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

FACTORS_PREVENTING_VISIT_SECURITY_CONDITIONS: Factor preventing visit: Poor security conditions

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

FACTORS_PREVENTING_VISIT_WORK_COMMITMENTS: Factor preventing visit: Work or study commitments

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

FACTORS_PREVENTING_VISIT_LINKS: Factor preventing visit: No remaining family or social links

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

GOVERNORATE: 22. Where did you use to live in Syria?

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

POSES_DOCUMENT: 23. Do you and your family members currently possess at least one valid, official civil document issued by the Government of Syria, showing your Syrian origin?

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

MAIN_ACTIVITY: 24. What is your main activity currently?

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3732 Invalid: 6
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

WEIGHT: Weight

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3738 Invalid: Mean: 1 Standard deviation: 2.3
Type: Continuous Range: - Format: Numeric

PSEUDO_ID: ID

Data file: Household Data

Overview

Valid: 3738 Invalid:
Type: Discrete Range: - Format: Character

study_resources

questionnaires

Questionnaire

title Questionnaire
filename questionnaire.xlsx

reports

Report

title Report
filename Report.pdf
