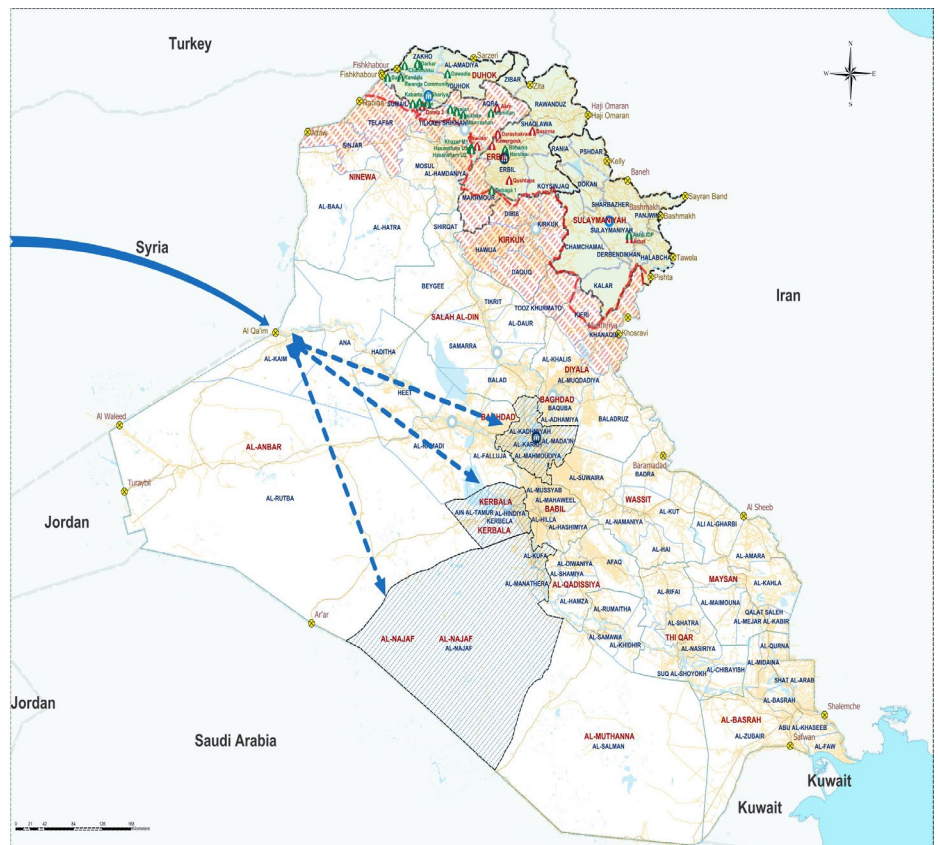


Update on Displacement from Lebanon

3 October 2024

Situation Overview

- On 02 October, the Ministry of Interior in Iraq reported that nearly 5,000 Lebanese citizens had arrived in Iraq over the past ten days following the escalation of conflict in Lebanon. As per information collected by UNHCR and partners, we are aware of 1,413 Lebanese individuals who have crossed through the Al-Qaim border crossing and approximately 300 Lebanese individuals who arrived through Baghdad airport.
- Among the new arrivals, it is reported that 855 Lebanese individuals are currently being hosted in Najaf, where 69% of the population are reportedly women and children, and 700 Lebanese people are located in Karbala.
- Currently, the Government of Iraq has instructed that only government authorities and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) are allowed direct access to the border entry area and reception centre at Al-Qaim. Buses are being organized from Al-Qaim to take new arrivals to other areas of Iraq, mainly Karbala, Najaf and Baghdad. In addition, the Government of Iraq is reportedly planning to send buses inside Syria to facilitate the entry of any Lebanese families who wish to head to Iraq.
- At the holy shrines in Najaf and Karbala, private entities have arranged accommodations for the new arrivals in local hotels, which UNHCR and its partners do not have access to. UNHCR continues to advocate for access to these Lebanese arrivals in order to gather insight on their situation.
- Lebanese individuals also continue to arrive to Iraq through Baghdad and Najaf airports. UNHCR and its partners are deploying staff to monitor the situation of Lebanese arriving through the airports.



UNHCR and Partner Presence

- UNHCR and its partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are present at the Al-Qaim border. UNHCR is advocating with the Government to get full access to the new arrivals at the border given the current limitations in place to access and monitor new arrivals from Lebanon.
- Through its partner, the Legal Clinics Network (LCN), UNHCR is also present in Najaf, Karbala, and Baghdad, maintaining contact with local authorities to gather information on the arrival of Lebanese nationals in these areas.
- UNHCR has deployed staff to Al-Qaim, Najaf and Baghdad. UNHCR is also liaising with government and local authorities so as to gather information on the government plans. .

Government of Iraq Response

- Following a directive from the Iraqi Prime Minister's, Lebanese citizens without a valid passport are allowed to enter Iraq using an identity card, an individual or family civil status extract, or an expired passport. In addition, the Lebanese Embassy in Syria is issuing travel documents to Lebanese citizens without passports who wish to enter Iraq. For those with documentation, free entry visas for Lebanese nationals are issued at Iraq's border crossings. The Directorate of Residency Affairs also continues to extend the stay of Lebanese citizens present in Iraq without the need for them to leave the country. Their stay is extended for 30 days and can be renewed under the Residency Law.
- On 01 October, the Iraqi Prime Minister chaired a session of the Council of Ministers (CoM) focusing on support for Gaza and Lebanon. During the meeting, Sudani stressed the importance of balancing Iraq's national interests and avoiding entanglement in the regional conflict, emphasising Iraq's ongoing efforts to provide humanitarian aid to Lebanon and Palestine. In this regard, the CoM also allocated 40 billion Iraqi dinars from the emergency reserve and the budgets of several government institutions to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza and Lebanon.
- [The Government, through the Ministry of Migration and Displacement, has expressed its readiness to receive Lebanese families, provide the necessary supplies](#) and humanitarian assistance. They have also indicated that they are preparing locations in Karbala, Najaf, and other Governorates across central and south Iraq, to host and receive Lebanese individuals who may cross the border.
- Iraq's Minister of Education has also issued urgent regulations and instructions advising schools in Iraq to host students and pupils coming from Lebanon to avoid depriving them of studying this year.