

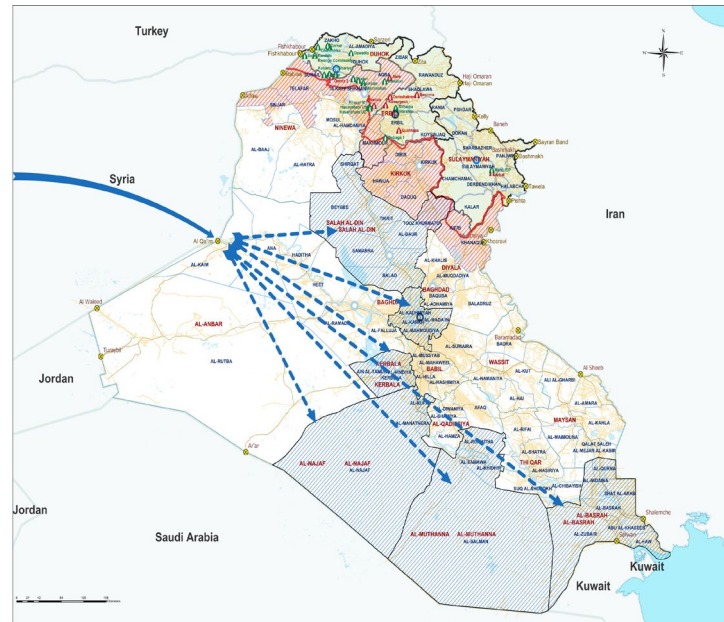
Update on Lebanese Arrivals in Iraq

13 October 2024

Data referenced is based on information UNHCR has collated from Government sources and partners between 27 September and 12 October.¹²

Situation Overview

- UNHCR has received information of over **11,000 Lebanese new arrivals to Iraq** (in comparison to 8,000 reported on 10 October) since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon through various points including the Al-Qaim border crossing (6,925) and airports in Baghdad and Najaf.
- On 12 October, Iraq received 390 Lebanese new arrivals through the Al-Qaim border crossing. This is in addition to 510 individuals who crossed on October 11 and 406 individuals on October 10.
- Many Lebanese arrivals to Iraq are currently hosted in **Najaf and Karbala (approximately 46% of the new arrivals)**. In addition, there have been reports of Lebanese arriving in Ninewa (64 families), Basra (200 individuals), Babil (75 individuals), Diwaniyah (61 individuals), Samawa (30 families), Salah al-Din (96 individuals), Diyala (10 families) and Erbil (3 families). The local authorities in these Governorates have largely designated residential buildings to accommodate the new Lebanese arrivals, although many Lebanese are also reportedly staying with friends and family. The mukhtars and the religious leaders are also playing a pivotal role in ensuring the comfort of the new arrivals at the holy shrines in Najaf and Karbala.
- An **estimated 62% of the Lebanese arrivals are women and children**. In addition, approximately 50% of households are reportedly headed by women.
- In Najaf, several Lebanese families have expressed the need to register their children in schools. Despite the commitment of the Government of Iraq to include Lebanese children in national schools, it is important to note there are no schools near their current area of residence in Najaf.
- On 12 October, **the Iraqi Red Crescent Society stated in a media interview that nearly 300 cases of injured Lebanese** have been received in Iraq with over 100 transferred to hospitals and the rest treated in field hospitals.



¹ Flash Updates for Lebanon and Syria can be viewed here: <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unhcr-syria-flash-update-12-response-displacement-lebanon-syria-reporting-period-24-september-11-october-2024> and <https://reporting.unhcr.org/lebanon-emergency-flash-update-3>

² Interagency Flash Appeals for Lebanon and Syria can also be viewed here: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/lebanon-flash-appeal> and <https://reporting.unhcr.org/inter-agency-emergency-appeal-influx-lebanon-syria>

- On 10 October, Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meeting was organized by Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq. The meeting focused on updating on the situation surrounding the arrival of Lebanese to Iraq and discussing coordination among the different UN agencies in Iraq in support of the Government's response.
- During the past two weeks, UNHCR's priority has been gathering information on population movements from Lebanon to Iraq. Based on the insights gained, UNHCR will be working together with other UN agencies, partners, and the Government counterparts on scenario planning and estimated population figures of Lebanese, and other nationalities, arriving in Iraq.

UNHCR and Partner Presence

These sections contain information on the recent arrivals of Lebanese nationals in Iraq over the past week. Some points may reiterate details from previous Flash Updates for ease and relevance.

- UNHCR and its partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) remain present at the Al-Qaim border. UNHCR has requested 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 partners, the Legal Clinics Network (LCN) and Intersos, UNHCR is also present in Najaf, Karbala, Baghdad, Salah al-Din and other Governorates maintaining contact with local authorities to gather information on the arrival of Lebanese nationals in these areas.
- UNHCR has deployed staff to Anbar (covering Al-Qaim border crossing as well as Salah Al-Din and Diyala governorates), Najaf, Karbala and Baghdad. UNHCR continues to liaise with government and local authorities so as to gather information on the government plans.

Government of Iraq Response

- A directive issued by the [Iraqi Prime Minister's office on 07 October](#), instructed that Lebanese citizens who are arriving in Iraq should be called "guests of Iraq" instead of "displaced".
- 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 Iraqi government, in coordination with the Lebanese embassy in Syria, has also expedited travel processes, ensuring that Lebanese citizens without passports can receive emergency travel documents, allowing them entry to the country. 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.
- [The Government of Iraq has committed to include Lebanese arrivals in national systems.](#) Iraq's Minister of Education has issued instructions advising schools in Iraq to host students and pupils coming from Lebanon to avoid depriving them of studying this year. In addition, Lebanese arrivals to Iraq have access to national public health services.

- On 10 October, the Ministry of Migration and Displacement called for a meeting with heads of UN agencies and NGOs. During the meeting, they reiterated that Lebanese are seen as guests of Iraq. UNHCR welcomed the current inclusion approach into the existing public services and asked for access to the population and highlighted the need for assessing the situation as well as scenario setting and projection of the potential population movement for preparedness planning.
- On 12 October, the Iraqi Prime Minister spoke with the French President to discuss mobilizing efforts to stop the conflict in Gaza and Lebanon. Prime Minister Al-Sudani confirmed Iraq's readiness to participate in a conference that President Macron plans to hold in Paris, aimed at rallying international and regional efforts to establish security in the region.
- On 12 October, [the Lebanese Ambassador to Iraq confirmed](#) that there is close cooperation between the embassy and the Iraqi Ministries of Immigration and Interior to facilitate the entry of Lebanese guests and organize their residency file.