

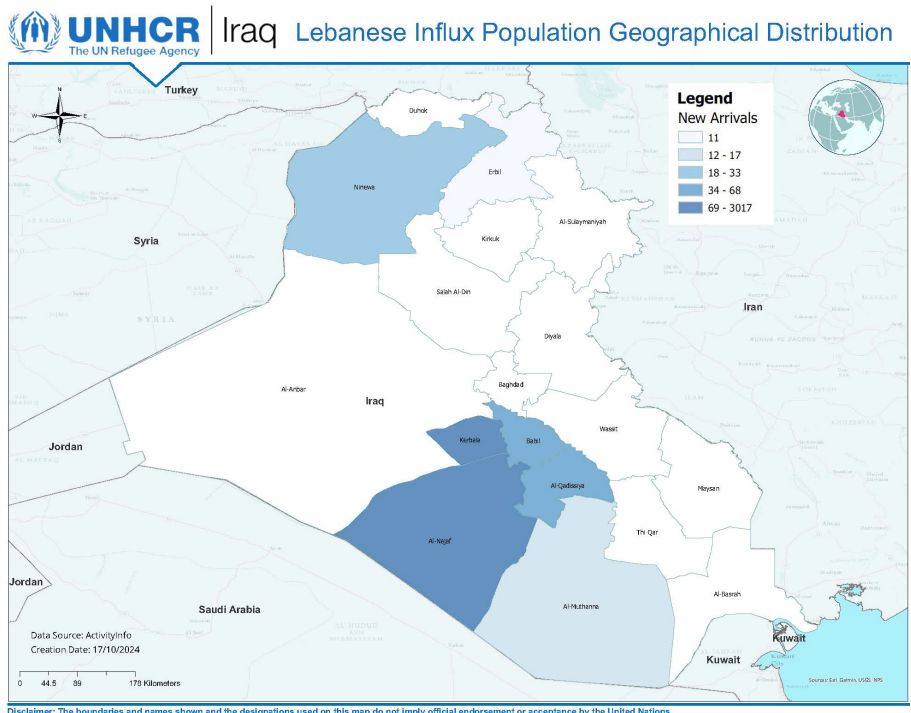
Update on Displacement from Lebanon to Iraq

20 October 2024

Data referenced is based on information UNHCR has collated from Government sources and partners between 27 September and 19 October.¹²

Situation Overview

- UNHCR is aware of **16,727 Lebanese arrivals** to Iraq since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon through various points including the Al-Qaim border crossing (9,552) and airports in Baghdad (6,248) and Najaf (927).³
- Over the last week, the number of Lebanese arriving through Al-Qaim has an average of 375 individuals per day.
- On 18 October there were 54 arrivals through Najaf airport and 250 arrivals through Baghdad airport.
- While UNHCR continues to observe Lebanese as the primary nationality of individuals crossing from Syria to Iraq after fleeing the hostilities in Lebanon, UNHCR has also started to observe a small number of Syrians and other nationals from Lebanon arriving in Iraq and approaching UNHCR.
- 43 percent of the Lebanese new arrivals are hosted in **Najaf and Karbala**. The remaining are spread across different Governorates in central and south Iraq, including **Babil and Ninewa** (refer to heat map).⁴
- An **estimated 62% of the Lebanese arrivals are women and children**. In addition, approximately 50% of households are reportedly headed by women.
- Over the last week, buses bringing Lebanese to Iraq organized by the Ministry of Transport and private entities, have been taking the new arrivals to Babil as opposed to Najaf and Karbala where accommodation facilities have reportedly reached capacity.



¹ Flash Updates for Lebanon and Syria can be viewed here: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/syrian-arab-republic-response-displacement-lebanon-flash-update-15> and <https://reporting.unhcr.org/lebanon-emergency-flash-update-6>

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>

³ Najaf airport only started formally reporting Lebanese arrivals on 12 October.

⁴ Figures are undergoing verification and are subject to change.

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 continues to seek access to the new arrivals at the border through its partner and monitor new arrivals from Lebanon.
- Through its partners, the Legal Clinics Network (LCN) and Intersos, UNHCR is also present in Najaf, Karbala, Baghdad, Babil Salah al-Din and other Governorates maintaining contact with local authorities to gather information on the arrival of Lebanese nationals in these areas.
- In response to the urgent protection needs of new arrivals from Lebanon, UNHCR, in collaboration with existing partners in Federal Iraq, has started providing child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) support, and mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) to individuals seeking assistance at community centres.
- UNHCR continues to liaise with government and local authorities so as to gather information on the government plans which respond to the needs of individuals displaced from Lebanon.

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. The Government of Iraq has also approved the allocation of three billion dinars (approximately \$2.27 million) to assist Lebanese arriving in country.
- During a meeting between the Minister of Education and Lebanese Ambassador to Iraq on Thursday 17 October, [the approval of a proposal to establish Lebanese schools in provinces where Lebanese students are concentrated](#), aiming to facilitate their education and allow them to continue their curriculum, was announced by the Minister. In addition, more than 100 Lebanese students are reportedly already enrolled in Iraqi schools.
- In response to rumours that Iraq planned to distribute salaries to Lebanese arrivals, on Saturday 19 October, the [Political Advisor to the Prime Minister stated that this is not true](#). Instead, he emphasized the government's commitment to providing humanitarian assistance and housing for Iraq's guests.