

Update on Displacement from Lebanon to Iraq

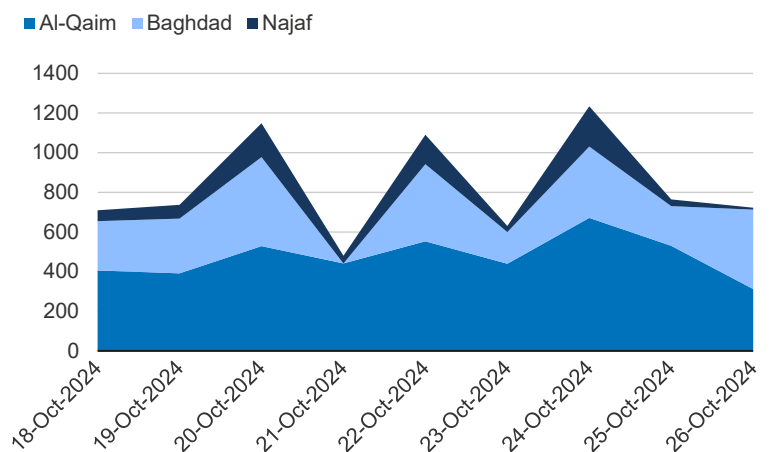
27 October 2024

Data referenced is based on information UNHCR has collated from Government sources and partners between 27 September and 26 October.^{1,2}

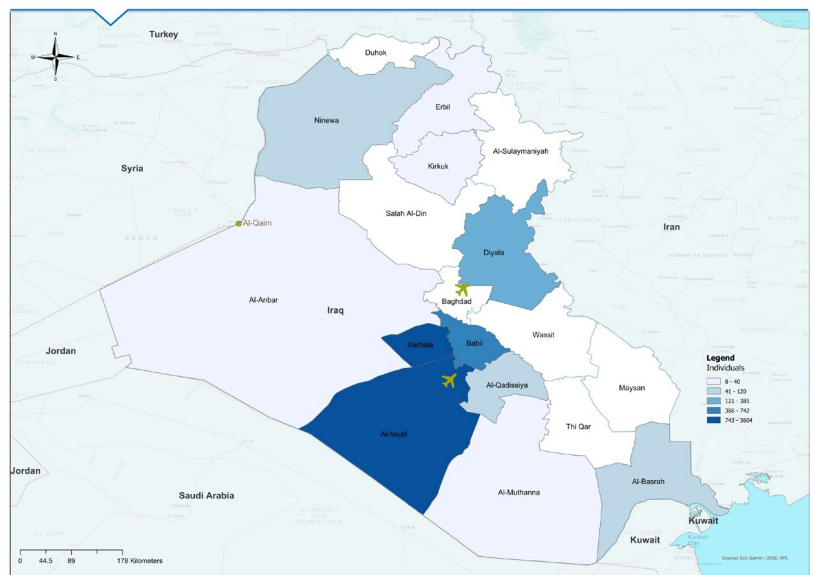
Situation Overview

- UNHCR is aware of **22,498 Lebanese arrivals** to Iraq since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon through various points including the Al-Qaim border crossing (13,025) and airports in Baghdad (7,883) and Najaf (1,590).³
- Based on numbers triangulated from different sources including the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) and airport authorities, October 24 witnessed **the highest number of Lebanese arrivals in Iraq in one day with 1,234 individuals since 27 September**.
- Over the last week, an average of 500 Lebanese per day have been arriving to Iraq through the Al-Qaim border crossing. 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 continued to observe 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, Basra, Diyala 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.

Displacement from Lebanon to Iraq | Arrivals 18 - 24 October



UNHCR | Iraq **Lebanese Influx Population Geographical Distribution**



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Information Management Unit: irqerbin@unhcr.org
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¹ Flash Updates for Lebanon and Syria can be viewed here: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/lebanon-emergency-flash-update-7> and <https://reporting.unhcr.org/syrian-arab-republic-response-displacement-lebanon-flash-update-18>

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.

- Due to the increasing number of arrivals, MOMD has indicated that they will set up a waiting space at the border at Al-Qaim for new arrivals until they are transported to their destinations in Iraq. Arrivals from Lebanon are typically able to cross the border at Al-Qaim during late afternoon/evening and as a result many are having to wait overnight before transportation is available.
- On 25 October, the Jousseih and Al-Masnaa/Jdeidet Yabous border crossings between Lebanon and Syria were hit by airstrikes. As a result, the Jousseih border crossing, which previously saw an average of 500 persons crossing daily, has been closed. These attacks have significantly limited the number of people crossing. UNHCR, and the wider UN, continue to monitor the situation closely.

UNHCR and Partner Presence

Some points may reiterate details from previous Flash Updates for ease and relevance.

- UNHCR and its partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) remain present in Anbar. 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), Terre des hommes (TdH) and Intersos, UNHCR is also present in Najaf, Karbala, Baghdad, Ninewa, Babil 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, is providing child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) support, and mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) to individuals seeking assistance at community centres. To date, 30 families (most are Lebanese) have approached UNHCR seeking these protection services. These include six women at risk cases and 16 children at risk aged between 4-12 years old.
- 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.