

Update on Displacement from Lebanon to Iraq

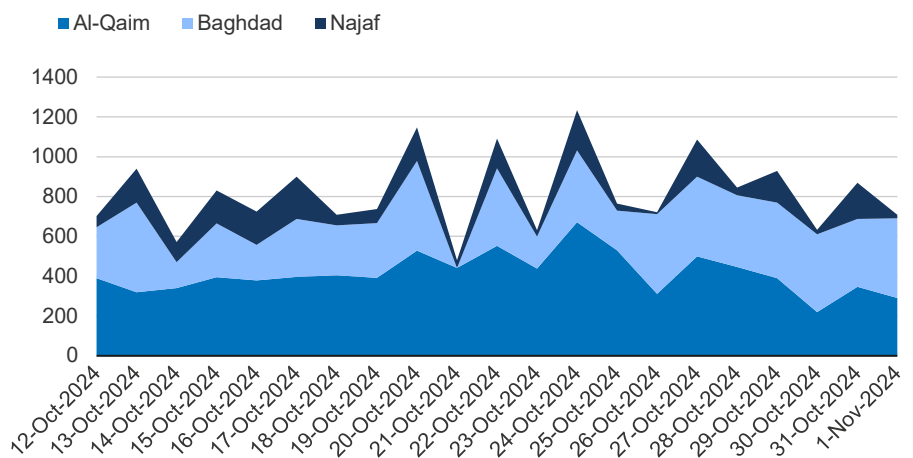
03 November 2024

Data referenced is based on information UNHCR has collated from Government sources and partners between 27 September and 02 November.¹²

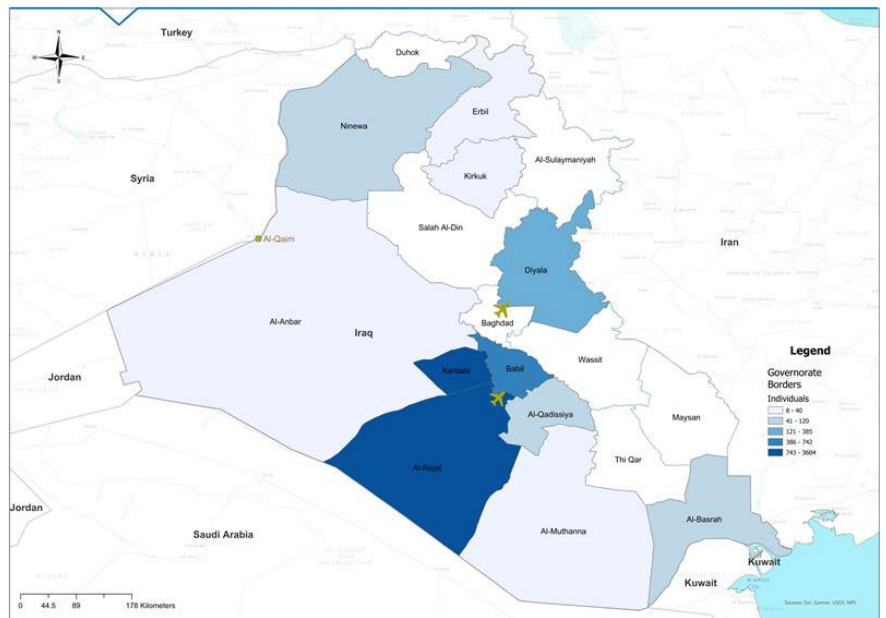
Situation Overview

- UNHCR is aware of **28,350** refugees from Lebanon who have arrived in Iraq since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon through various points including the Al-Qaim border crossing (15,355) and airports in Baghdad (10,753) and Najaf (2,242).
- Over the last week, UNHCR is observing an average of 400-600 Lebanese refugees arriving in Iraq per day.
- While UNHCR continues to observe Lebanese as the primary nationality of refugees crossing from Syria to Iraq after fleeing the hostilities in Lebanon, UNHCR has also observed Syrians and Palestinians arriving in Iraq and approaching UNHCR. 302 Syrian households, for example, have contacted UNHCR requesting registration indicating that they arrived in Iraq after fleeing Lebanon.
- The majority of refugees from Lebanon 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).³⁴
- Official buses organized by the Ministry of Transport and private entities are now taking the new arrivals to Diyala as opposed to previous destinations of Babil, Najaf and Karbala.

Displacement from Lebanon to Iraq | Arrivals 12 Oct -1 Nov



UNHCR | Iraq Lebanese Refugees in Iraq 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: irqebim@unhcr.org
Data Source: ActivityInfo
Creation Date: 03/11/2024

¹ Flash Updates for Lebanon and Syria can be viewed here: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/lebanon-emergency-flash-update-9> 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 Figures are undergoing verification and are subject to change.

⁴ According to MOMD, 9,000 Lebanese individuals are recorded have been recorded by them in Karbala

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 refugees at the border at Al-Qaim 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 refugees from Lebanon in these areas.
- In response to the urgent protection needs of refugees 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, 56 families (50 Lebanese, 4 Syrian and 2 Palestinian) have approached UNHCR seeking these protection services. Almost half of families are requesting registration and cash assistance, services that UNHCR is currently not providing. Others are asking for shelter assistance and resettlement as well as the protection services mentioned above. UNHCR also continues to provide information to refugees from Lebanon on how they can access national services such as education and healthcare.
- On 30 October, UNHCR participated in a UN interagency mission together with MOMD to the Al-Qaim border crossing to discuss the needs of refugees arriving in Iraq with the border crossing authorities.
- 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. 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 refugees 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. On 28 October, [a spokesperson from the Ministry of Education](#), also announced that approvals have been granted to establish schools which will follow the Lebanese education system staffed by Lebanese educators currently in Iraq.
- In addition, Lebanese refugees have access to national public health services. The Government of Iraq has approved the allocation of three billion dinars (approximately USD2.27 million) to assist Lebanese arriving in country.