IRAQ AT A GLANCE
February 2025

Iraq is at a turning point, leaving behind the effects of three decades of political turmoil and armed conflicts that deeply impacted its people. The country has been experiencing relative stability and advancing towards sustainable development but continues to face protracted humanitarian and development needs, as well as a volatile security situation. In Iraq, UNHCR prioritizes strengthening public systems and institutions to facillitate inclusion and the delivery of quality public services to refugees, asylum-seekers, displaced Iraqis and the host community, addressing protection needs and furthering their self-reliance.

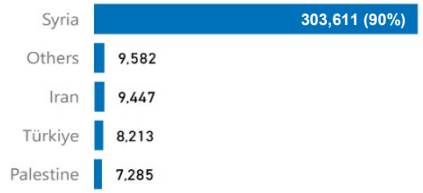
REFUGEE POPULATION FIGURES (Dec 2024)

338,138 refugees and asylum-seekers are registered with UNHCR Iraq.

45% women
55% men

40% children
4% elderly

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (Dec 2024)

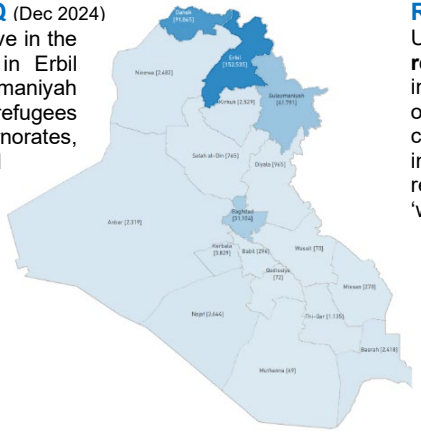


REFUGEE PRESENCE IN IRAQ (Dec 2024)

Almost 85% of all refugees in Iraq live in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), in Erbil (53.3%), Dohuk (32.1%) and Sulaymaniyah (14.6%). The remaining 15% of refugees reside in central and southern governorates, primarily in Baghdad (60%), followed by Kirkuk and Ninewa.

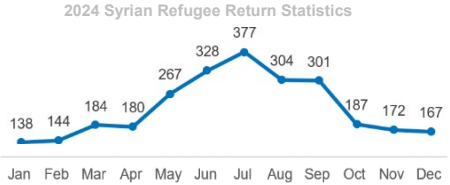
27% of refugees live in **9 refugee camps** in the KR-I (1 in Sulaymaniyah, 4 in Dohuk and 4 in Erbil).

73% of refugees reside in **urban areas**, alongside the Iraqi host community.



RETURNS TO SYRIA (Jan-Dec 2024)

UNHCR recorded **2,749 spontaneous refugee returns to Syria in 2024**. Following developments in Syria, the number of returns from Iraq to Syria as of January 2025 remains low. Most Syrians continue to express concerns about the ongoing insecurity in North-East Syria (from where many refugees in Iraq originate) and state they are in a 'wait and see' mode.



INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON (IDPs)

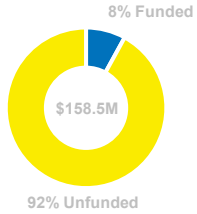
Over 1 million Iraqis are internally displaced, with approximately 109,000 IDPs living in 21 camps in the KR-I.

While many IDPs hope to return to their homes, many may be unable or unwilling to do so because of their specific profiles or the situation in their areas of origin. As a general principle and in line with global policies, UNHCR supports closure of camps as long as all durable solutions are made available to IDPs and decisions are made on a voluntary and well-informed basis.

In 2024, UNHCR provided 37,500 IDPs and other vulnerable Iraqis with legal counselling and representation, helping them overcome administrative and legal barriers to obtaining their national civil documents, and supported IDPs in obtaining 41,000 civil documents.

2025 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

UNHCR needs USD **158.5 million** to meet the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and other displaced and vulnerable populations. 13% will be used to undertake protection activities, such as registration and legal aid, while 87% will go towards cash assistance programmes for the most vulnerable as well as to support refugee inclusion in public services (including education, health, and social services).



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

- UNHCR advocacy contributed to the adoption of two new **Administrative Instructions** to regulate the management of asylum matters in Iraq, including specifically in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.
- Over 17,000 refugees received **legal assistance**, including counselling and representation, supporting them to resolve a range of legal challenges and obtain government-residency documents.
- UNHCR and partners intervened, preventing forcible return and a **risk of refoulement** in the cases of 1,835 refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Around 56,000 refugees who were assessed to be socio-economically vulnerable received multipurpose **cash assistance** to help them meet their basic needs.
- A total of 55,000 Syrian refugee children were enrolled in **public schools** in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq for the 2024-2025 academic year (74 per cent of the total Syrian school-aged refugee population). To support the inclusion of refugees in the public education system, UNHCR constructed 6 new schools, provided Kurdish langugae training to students, parents and teachers, and provided education materials.
- Over 177,000 medical consultations were provided in **primary healthcare centres,** supported by UNHCR in Iraq and the construction of two primary healthcare centres in Dohuk (Domiz) and Erbil (Qushtapa) to strengthen capacity of the public health system.
- UNHCR is working with the government, development actors, International Finance Institutions and the private sector to improve **self-reliance** opportunities for refugees.

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