

IRAQ UPDATE January 2025



For years, Abu Faisal and his family, Syrian refugees living in Mosul, struggled without proper documentation. Without a marriage certificate, his children couldn't access basic services like school or healthcare. But everything changed when he received legal aid from UNHCR and its partner to resolve his family's documentation issues. In 2024, Faisal stepped into a classroom for the first time at 11 years old. Read their [story](#).

CONTEXT

Iraq generously hosts over 339,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, 90% of whom are Syrian and live in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.¹ Over 70% of refugees live in urban areas while 30% reside in nine refugee camps in the Kurdistan Region. 40% of refugees are children under 18. Iraq also has over 1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). While the majority live in private accommodation in urban settings or informal settlements, some 108,000 live in 20 IDP camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.²

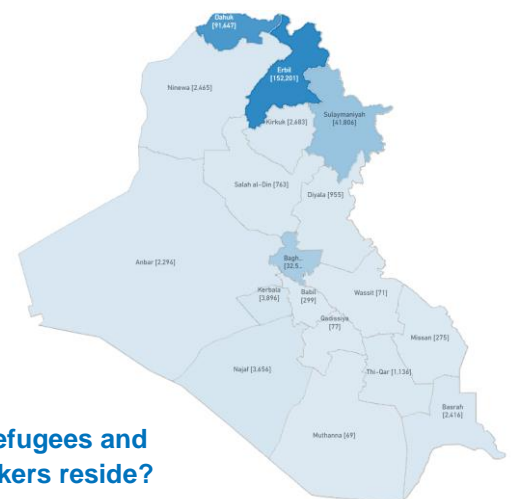
Under its 2025–2029 strategy, UNHCR works at the nexus of humanitarian programming and development approaches, supporting the Government of Iraq to include refugees in its policy frameworks and provide them with access to quality public services, such as education and healthcare, as well as economic opportunities and solutions.

 **11%**
Funded

of the \$158.5 million required by UNHCR in 2025 to protect people forced to flee in Iraq

POPULATION AT A GLANCE

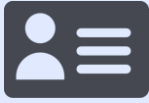
Where do refugees come from?



Where do refugees and asylum seekers reside?

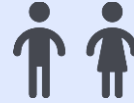
¹ UNHCR stats as of 31 January 2025
² UNHCR stats as of 31 December 2024

JANUARY MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS (figures are subject to revision during the course of the year)



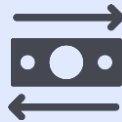
Over 14,000

Refugees newly registered and verified by UNHCR. This process allows access to government-issued documentation and protection against refoulement.



81

Refugee children provided with counselling, psychosocial support, and Best Interests Assessments for at-risk children



10,236

Vulnerable refugee families provided with cash assistance to contribute to covering their basic needs (rent, food, healthcare)



619

Refugee students provided with Non-Formal Education programmes (catch-up classes and remedial classes)



132

Refugees and asylum-seekers released from detention thanks to legal support and interventions by UNHCR and partners



WHAT'S NEW IN IRAQ...

- UNHCR, WHO and the Ministry of Health of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq joined forces to open a **Primary Health Centre** in Qushtapa, Erbil Governorate. The new public health facility will provide healthcare services for an estimated 10,000 refugees from Qushtapa camp, as well as IDPs and the host community living in the surrounding areas.
- In support of the Kurdistan Regional Government's Ministry of Education and the Refugee Education Integration Policy (REIP) a **new 18-classroom school in Sumel District** was opened. The school will benefit approximately 13,000 local and refugee and asylum-seeker children of school age (grades 1-9) living in Sumel district, Domiz, in Dohuk governorate.
- A **newly inaugurated multi-functional Community Centre** in the heart of Zakho city will provide space for the local community as well as refugees and asylum-seekers to come together and access support services provided by local authorities and civil society organizations.
- Following the return of 1,647 people, mainly women and children, from North-East Syria camps to Al-Amal Centre (formerly known as Jeddah 1), UNHCR and its partner conducted legal needs assessment of those newly arrived individuals and are supporting them in obtaining **civil documentation**, jointly with legal partners.



SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS

UNHCR in Iraq thanks its major donors of unearmarked funds, as well as those who contribute to directly to the Iraq operation and to the regional response for Syrian refugees:

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