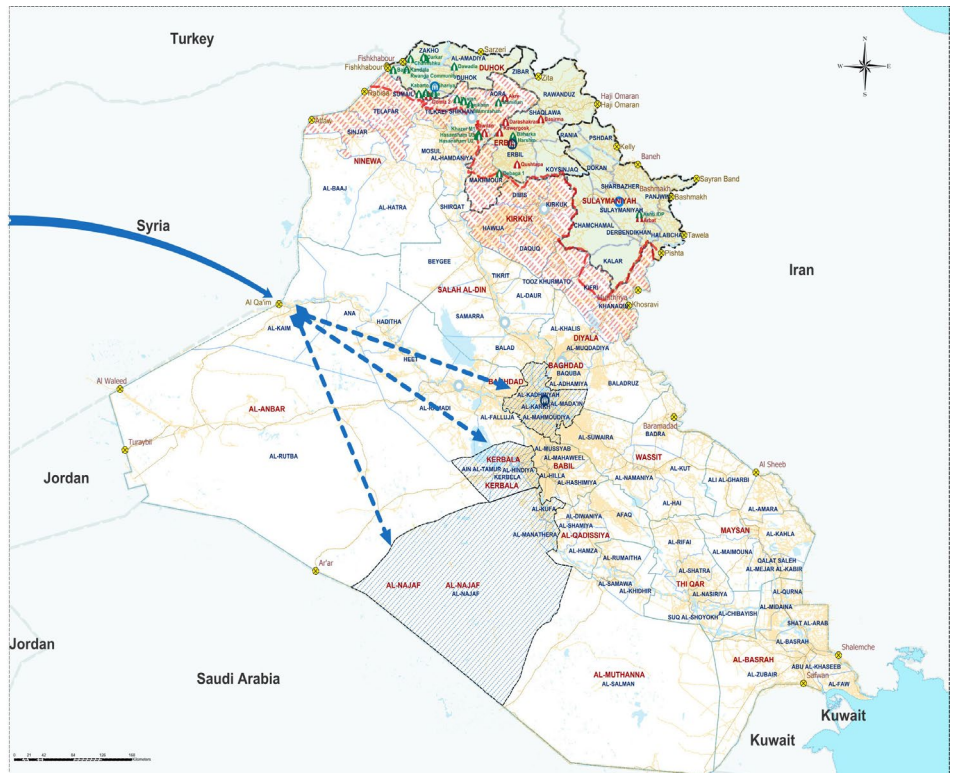


Update on Displacement from Lebanon

2 October 2024

Situation Overview

- On 01 October, 225 Lebanese individuals arrived in Iraq through the Al-Qaim border crossing.¹ This brings the total to 384 Lebanese who have arrived in Iraq since 27 September through Al-Qaim. The Al-Qaim crossing remains the primary entry point where UNHCR expects further crossings of Lebanese nationals into Iraq.
- Currently, the Government of Iraq has instructed that only government authorities and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) are allowed direct access to the border entry area and reception centre. Buses are being organized from Al-Qaim to take new arrivals to other areas of Iraq, mainly Karbala, Najaf and Baghdad.
- In addition, the Government of Iraq is reportedly planning to send buses inside Syria to facilitate the entry of any Lebanese families who wish to head to Iraq.
- Based on reports from UNHCR's partners, 450 Lebanese individuals have arrived and are being hosted in Najaf. In addition, 41 Lebanese individuals (12 families) are reportedly being hosted in Karbala. Most families are currently being accommodated in local hotels which are arranged by private entities.
- UNHCR is aware that 3 flights arrived from Lebanon to Baghdad on 01 October, where some arrivals decided to move onwards to Kerbala, and 1 flight from Lebanon to Najaf. We continue to follow up with government and local authorities about the reception modalities for these individuals.



¹ These figures come from the Iraq Border Officer and Residency Officer at Al-Qaim and are triangulated with numbers reported UNHCR's partner IRC, IRCS, and the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MOMD).

UNHCR and Partner Presence

- UNHCR and its partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are present at the Al-Qaim border. UNHCR is advocating with the Government to get full access to the new arrivals at the border given the current limitations in place to conduct thorough monitoring of new arrivals from Lebanon.
- Through its partner, the Legal Clinics Network (LCN), UNHCR is also present in Najaf, Karbala, and Baghdad, maintaining contact with local authorities to follow-up on the arrival of Lebanese nationals in these areas.
- UNHCR has deployed staff to Al-Qaim, Najaf, Karbala, and Baghdad to ensure timely situational analysis concerning people arriving from Lebanon. UNHCR is also liaising with government and local authorities on their response, with a focus on ensuring the inclusion of these newly arrived individuals into national government services.

Government of Iraq Commitments

- 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 Lebanese Embassy in Syria is issuing travel documents to Lebanese citizens without passports who wish to enter Iraq. For those with documentation, free entry visas for Lebanese nationals continue to be issued at Iraq's border crossings.
- [The Government, through the Ministry of Migration and Displacement, has expressed its readiness to receive Lebanese families, provide the necessary supplies](#) and humanitarian assistance. They have also indicated that they are preparing a locations in Karbala, Najaf, and other Governorates across central and south Iraq, to host and receive Lebanese individuals who may cross the border.
- On 30 September, the Prime Minister of Iraq, in a phone conversation with the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, [reiterated Iraq's commitment to support Lebanon](#), providing all humanitarian and service assistance necessary to help them.
- On 01 October it was reported that the governorates of Diyala and Saladin [have proposed three residential complexes](#) to accommodate individuals fleeing from Lebanon to Iraq.
- Iraq's Minister of Education has also issued urgent regulations and instructions advising schools in Iraq to host students and pupils coming from Lebanon to avoid depriving them of studying this year.