

Update on Displacement from Lebanon

1 October 2024

Situation Overview

- In response to the escalating conflict in Lebanon, the Iraqi government continues to voice its support for the Lebanese people. 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 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. This follows the Prime Minister's direction to allow Lebanese who do not have a valid passport and who wish to travel to Iraq to enter with an identity card, an individual or family civil status extract, or an expired passport. Additionally, free entry visas for Lebanese continue to be issued at Iraq's border crossings.
- Since 27 September, [155 Lebanese individuals](#) arrived in Iraq through the [Al-Qaim border crossing](#).¹ The Al-Qaim crossing remains the primary entry point where UNHCR expects further crossings of Lebanese nationals into 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, in coordination with government and local counterparts, have been preparing to receive more Lebanese families expected to arrive over the coming days.

UNHCR and Partner Presence

- UNHCR and its partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are present and monitoring the border at the Al-Qaim border crossing to assess the protection needs 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 is deploying staff to Al-Qaim, Najaf, Karbala, and various locations in Baghdad to ensure timely situational analysis concerning people arriving from Lebanon. UNHCR is also liaising with government and local authorities on the response, with a focus on ensuring the inclusion of these newly arrived individuals into national government services.

¹ These figures come from the Iraq Border Officer and Residency Officer at Al-Qaim through UNHCR's partner IRC. UNHCR is working to verify these statistics.

Government of Iraq Commitments

- The Iraqi Prime Minister has instructed the Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with the Lebanese Embassy in Iraq, to swiftly issue travel documents to Lebanese citizens without passports who wish to enter Iraq.
- 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 location in Karbala, central Iraq, to host and receive Lebanese individuals who may cross the border.
- 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.

