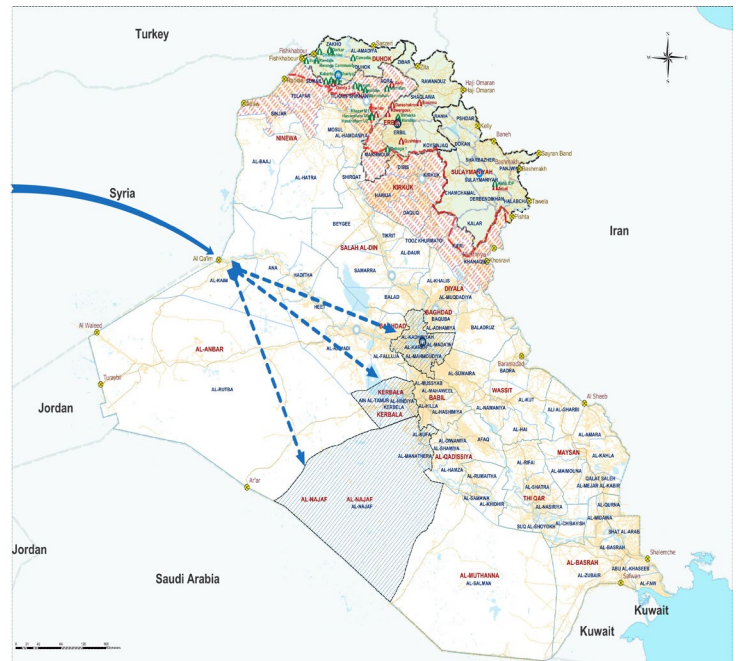


Update on Displacement from Lebanon

4 October 2024

Situation Overview

- UNHCR and partners are aware of at least 4,000 Lebanese individuals who arrived through various points including the Al-Qaim border crossing and airports in Baghdad and Najaf.¹ It includes 686 Lebanese citizens who arrived in Iraq on 03 October through Al-Qaim border crossing.
- A significant number of these individuals are now in Najaf and Karbala. In Najaf, 69% of the population are women and children.
- On the other hand, the Ministry of Interior reported on 2nd October that nearly 5,000 Lebanese citizens have arrived in Iraq since 24 September.
- 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 at Al-Qaim.
- At Al-Qaim border crossing, Lebanese individuals are sometimes having to wait overnight before taking buses to Karbala, Najaf and Baghdad especially given safety concerns around travelling at night. As reported by IOM, the head of the border point has indicated that those staying at the border suffer from a lack of food and water, as well as essential needs for staying overnight.
- At the holy shrines in Najaf and Karbala, private entities have arranged accommodations for the new arrivals in local hotels, which UNHCR and its partners do not have access to. UNHCR continues to advocate for access to these Lebanese arrivals to gather insight on their situation.
- In Najaf, Lebanese arrivals, including pregnant women and children, are able to access the government primary health clinic although given the increase in population, services are stretched with additional needs reported by medical staff.
- Lebanese individuals also continue to arrive to Iraq through Baghdad and Najaf airports.



¹ Data referenced is based on information UNHCR has collected between 27 September and 3 October.

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 access and monitor 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 gather information on the arrival of Lebanese nationals in these areas.
- UNHCR has deployed staff to Al-Qaim, Najaf and Baghdad. UNHCR is also liaising with government and local authorities so as to gather information on the government plans.. .

Government of Iraq Response

- On 03 October, the [Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the Crisis Team and the Committee for the Relief of the Palestinian and Lebanese People](#). The committee, initially formed following the attacks on Gaza, has expanded its support to Lebanon after the onset of hostilities there. The meeting included the presence of the ministers of interior, health, trade, and electricity, alongside other senior officials. Discussions focused on resources to maintain ongoing relief operations including the prioritization of aid for Lebanese families arriving in Iraq.
- 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 or ID cards who wish to enter Iraq. For those with documentation, free entry visas for Lebanese nationals are issued at Iraq's border crossings. 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 arrivals 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. In addition, Lebanese arrivals to Iraq have access to national public health services.