

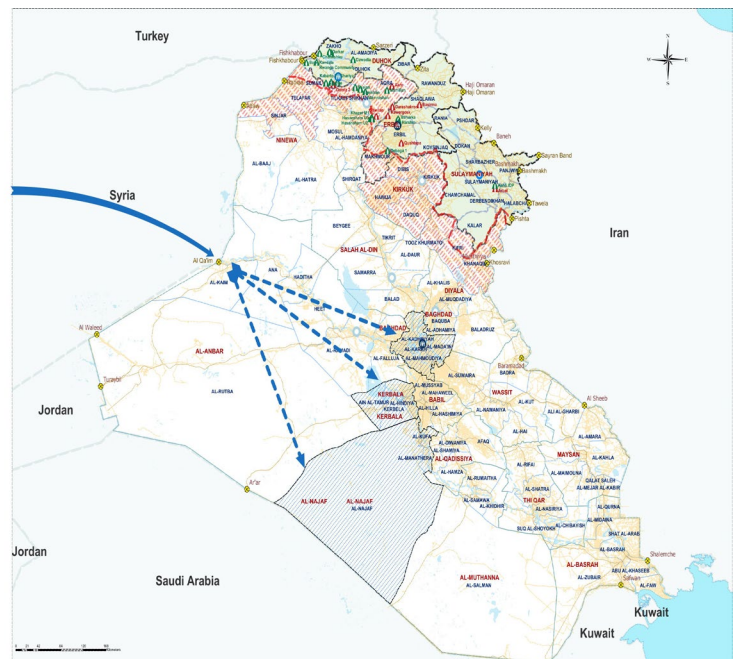
# Update on Displacement from Lebanon

5 October 2024

Data referenced is based on information UNHCR has collated from Government sources and partners between 27 September and 4 October.

## Situation Overview

- On 4 October, Iraq received 366 Lebanese through Al-Qaim border crossing. In total, UNHCR and partners are aware of approximately 5,100 Lebanese individuals who arrived through various points including the Al-Qaim border crossing and airports in Baghdad and Najaf.
- A significant number of these individuals are now in Najaf and Karbala. In Najaf, 69% of the population are women and children. In addition, UNHCR is following up on reports that around 30 families who arrived in Iraq travelled to Samawa in Muthanna governorate.
- On the morning of 4 October, airstrikes hit no man's land at the border between Lebanon and Syria (Masnaa/Jdaidet Yabous) which has been the main route for Syrians and Lebanese fleeing into Syria. UNHCR is extremely concerned about this situation especially given its potential to limit the ability of people to leave Lebanon.
- UNHCR in Iraq continues to coordinate with other UNHCR operations in the region to gain insights into overall population movements to Iraq stemming from the hostilities in Lebanon.
- Access to the population entering through the Al-Qaim border crossing remains restricted to government authorities and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS), who primarily assist with medical cases. Meanwhile, Lebanese individuals passing through Al-Qaim sometimes face overnight waits before boarding buses to Karbala, Najaf, and Baghdad, particularly due to safety concerns around nighttime travel.
- Private accommodation facilities hosting the Lebanese new arrivals in Najaf and Karbala are reportedly nearing capacity. In Najaf, UNHCR is in touch with the private committee supporting the population to understand their additional needs.



## UNHCR and Partner Presence<sup>1</sup>

- As previously reported, UNHCR and its partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) remain 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<sup>1</sup>

- 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 Iraqi government, in coordination with the Lebanese embassy in Syria, has also expedited travel processes, ensuring that Lebanese citizens without passports can receive emergency travel documents, allowing them entry to the country.
- [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.

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<sup>1</sup> These sections contain information on the recent displacement of Lebanese nationals arriving in Iraq over the past week. Some points may reiterate details from previous Flash Updates for ease and relevance.