

Update on Displacement from Lebanon to Iraq

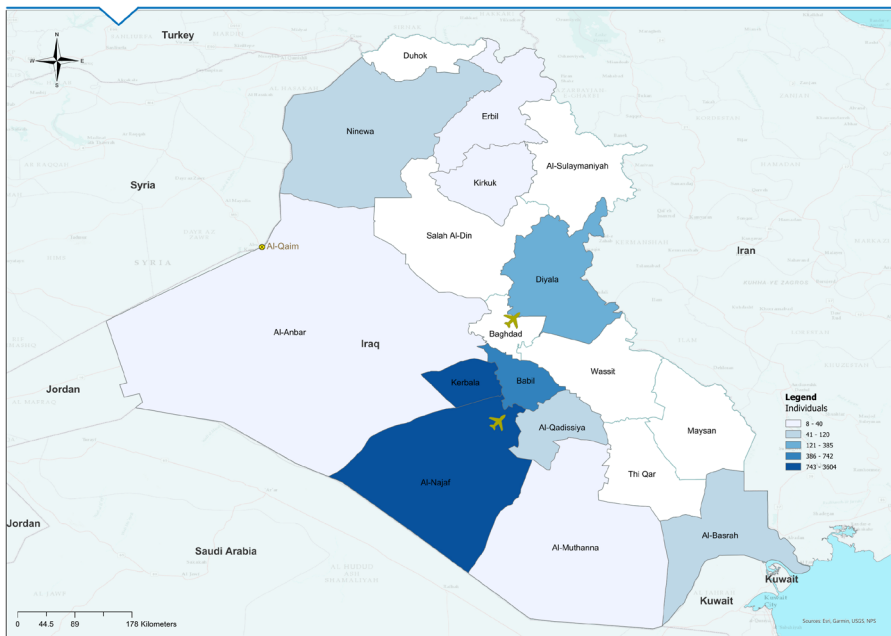
30 October 2024

Data referenced is based on information UNHCR has collated from Government sources and partners between 27 September and 29 October.^{1,2}

Situation Overview

- UNHCR is aware of **25,464 refugees from Lebanon** who have arrived to Iraq since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon through various points including the Al-Qaim border crossing (14,361) and airports in Baghdad (9,243) and Najaf (1,860).³
- Based on numbers triangulated from different sources including the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) and airport authorities, over the last week, an average of 900 refugees from Lebanon have been arriving to Iraq every day through the three different entry points.
- While UNHCR continues to observe Lebanese as the primary nationality of refugees crossing from Syria to Iraq after fleeing the hostilities in Lebanon, UNHCR has also observed Syrians and Palestinians arriving in Iraq and approaching UNHCR. 284 Syrian households, for example, have contacted UNHCR requesting registration indicating that they arrived in Iraq after fleeing Lebanon.
- 32 percent of the refugees from Lebanon are hosted in **Najaf and Karbala**. The remaining are spread across different Governorates in central and south Iraq, including **Babil, Basra, Diyala and Ninewa** (refer to heat map).⁴

UNHCR | Iraq Lebanese Influx Population Geographical Distribution

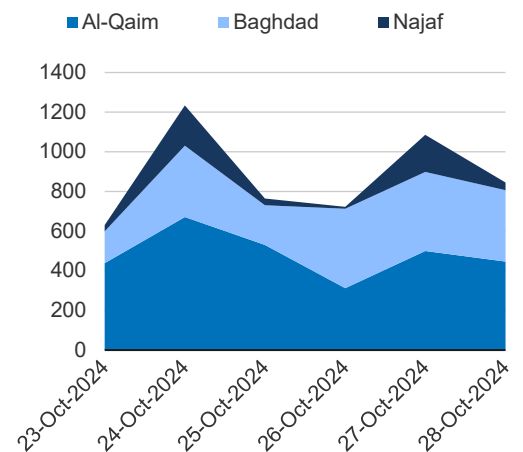


Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Data Source: ActivityInfo
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Displacement from Lebanon to Iraq | Arrivals 23 - 28 October



¹ Flash Updates for Lebanon and Syria can be viewed here: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/lebanon-emergency-flash-update-9> and <https://reporting.unhcr.org/syrian-arab-republic-response-displacement-lebanon-flash-update-18>

² Interagency Flash Appeals for Lebanon and Syria can also be viewed here: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/lebanon-flash-appeal> and <https://reporting.unhcr.org/inter-agency-emergency-appeal-influx-lebanon-syria>

³ Najaf airport only started formally reporting Lebanese arrivals on 12 October.

⁴ Figures are undergoing verification and are subject to change.

UNHCR and Partner Presence

Some points may reiterate details from previous Flash Updates for ease and relevance.

- UNHCR and its partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) remain present in Anbar. UNHCR continues to seek access to refugees at the border at Al-Qaim through its partner and monitor new arrivals from Lebanon.
- Through its partners, the Legal Clinics Network (LCN), Terre des hommes (TdH) and Intersos, UNHCR is also present in Najaf, Karbala, Baghdad, Ninewa, Babil and other Governorates maintaining contact with local authorities to gather information on the arrival of refugees from Lebanon in these areas.
- In response to the urgent protection needs of refugees from Lebanon, UNHCR, in collaboration with existing partners in Federal Iraq, is providing child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) support, and mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) to individuals seeking assistance at community centres. To date, 44 families (41 Lebanese, 2 Syrian and 1 Palestinian) have approached UNHCR seeking these protection services. Most families request registration, cash assistance and shelter assistance when they approach UNHCR as well as the protection services mentioned above. UNHCR also continues to provide information to refugees from Lebanon on how they can access national services such as education and healthcare. Following referrals by UNHCR partners, 19 children were enrolled in public schools through coordination with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and nearby schools to ensure children have access to education.
- UNHCR continues to liaise with government and local authorities so as to gather information on the government plans which respond to the needs of individuals displaced from Lebanon.

Government of Iraq Response

- A directive issued by the [Iraqi Prime Minister's office on 07 October](#), instructed that Lebanese citizens who are arriving in Iraq should be called “guests of Iraq” instead of “displaced”.
- 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. 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 refugees 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. On 28 October, [a spokesperson from the Ministry of Education](#), also announced that approvals have been granted to establish schools which will follow the Lebanese education system staffed by Lebanese educators currently in Iraq.
- In addition, Lebanese refugees have access to national public health services. The Government of Iraq has approved the allocation of three billion dinars (approximately USD2.27 million) to assist Lebanese arriving in country.