

IRAQ

MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2025



"We use the money to buy medicine and pay for surgery." Kamila and her husband, who fled Syria to Iraq last year, rely on UNHCR cash assistance to pay for medicine and surgery due to multiple health issues. After selling their home and shop in Syria, they are now fully dependent on this assistance to meet their medical needs. In Iraq, UNHCR's multipurpose cash assistance helps vulnerable refugee families meet their basic needs, including rent, food, and healthcare.

CONTEXT

Iraq generously hosts over 336,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, 90% of whom are Syrian and live in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.¹ Close to 83% of refugees in Iraq live in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Of these, some 32% live in nine refugee camps while the majority live in urban areas. Iraq also has over 1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). While the majority live in private accommodation in urban settings or informal settlements, 107,100 live in 20 IDP camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.²

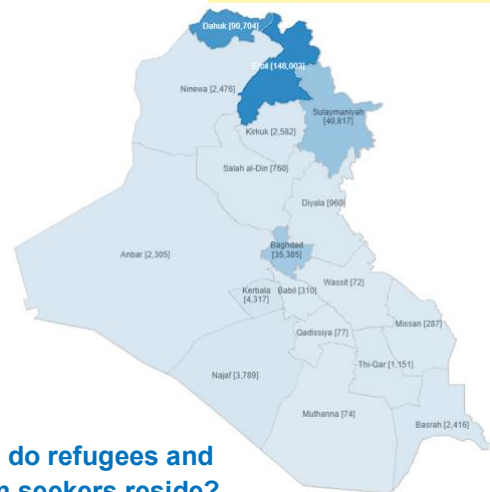
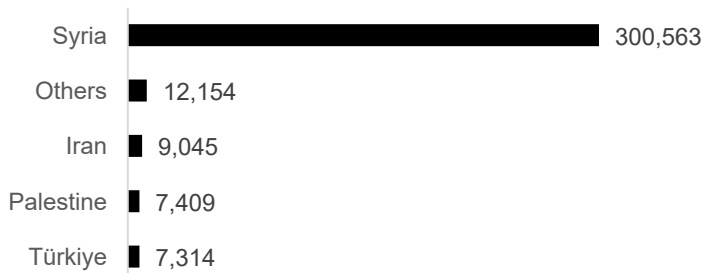
UNHCR works with the Government of Iraq and partners to support the access of refugees and asylum-seekers to protection and their inclusion in public services, such as education and healthcare, as well as their access to economic opportunities and in advancing solutions.

 **18%**
Funded

of the \$158.5 million required by UNHCR in 2025 to protect people forced to flee in Iraq

POPULATION AT A GLANCE

Where do refugees come from?



Where do refugees and asylum seekers reside?

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

¹ UNHCR stats as of 31 March 2025
² UNHCR stats as of 31 March 2025

MARCH MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS (figures are subject to revision over the course of the year)

**13,000**

Refugees newly registered or verified their registration with UNHCR. This process allows refugees to access government-issued documentation and protects against refoulement.

**207**

Refugees and asylum-seekers released from detention on immigration related charges thanks to legal support and interventions by UNHCR and partners.

**182**

Refugees and asylum-seekers prevented from deportation thanks to legal support and advocacy by UNHCR and partners.

**55**

Refugees departed to different third countries through resettlement.

**861**

Refugees received legal aid services, including counselling and representation, before legal and administrative bodies.



WHAT'S NEW IN IRAQ...

- **A second round of focus group discussions with Syrian refugees was conducted across Iraq to gather qualitative information about their intentions to return.**³ A total of 170 refugees took part in 30 focus group discussions, with 21 held in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and nine in central and southern governorates. Syrian refugees in Iraq highlighted several factors influencing their decision to return, including safety concerns at borders and within Syria, lack of basic services such as education, limited job opportunities, difficulties in obtaining documentation, and financial barriers such as transportation costs and overstay fines.
- In the first quarter of 2025, over 12,000 Syrians have returned including over 1,000 registered refugees through both the Peshkhbour and Al-Qaim border crossings. Discussions with the Government on establishing **a voluntary return process** of registered Syrian refugees are ongoing.
- Following the return of 1,274 people, mainly women and children, from North-East Syria camps to Al-Amal Centre (formerly known as Jeddah 1), **UNHCR and its partner conducted legal needs assessment of the newly arrived individuals and are supporting them in obtaining civil documentation, jointly with legal partners.** So far in 2025, a total of eight return movements have taken place, with a total of 4,268 individuals (1,127 households) arriving in Al-Amal Centre, almost double the total number of returnees in 2024 (2,681).
- In March, UNHCR continued to respond to provide feedback on enquiries and communications from refugees through multiple communication channels, including phone calls, in-person, and complaint boxes. In total, 1,186 enquiries were received, 63% which related to cash assistance and 9% related to registration. This is comparable with trends from previous months. UNHCR also continued to use its [help site](#) to communicate important information to the refugee community.



SPECIAL THANKS TO PARTNERS

UNHCR in Iraq thanks its major partners of unearmarked funds, as well as those who contribute to directly to the Iraq operation and to the regional response for Syrian refugees:

[Australia](#) | [Belgium](#) | [Canada](#) | [Denmark](#) | [España con ACNUR](#) | [European Union](#) | [Finland](#) | [France](#) | [Germany](#) | [Ireland](#) | [Italy](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Norway](#) | [Republic of Korea](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States of America](#)

³ See: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/115309>