"I could never have afforded a private lawyer." After years of abuse, Shylan, a Syrian refugee mother of four, finally escaped violence, but the fight wasn't over. She needed legal help to divorce her husband and gain custody of her children. With free legal assistance from UNHCR, Shylan was able to reclaim her rights and freedom. Now, her children are in safe hands. Read her story here.

CONTEXT

Iraq generously hosts over 341,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority (88%) of whom are Syrians. Approximately 82% of this population resides in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. While most refugees and asylum-seekers live in urban and peri-urban settings, around 30% remain in nine refugee camps across the country. Additionally, some 103,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) live in 20 IDP camps located within the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

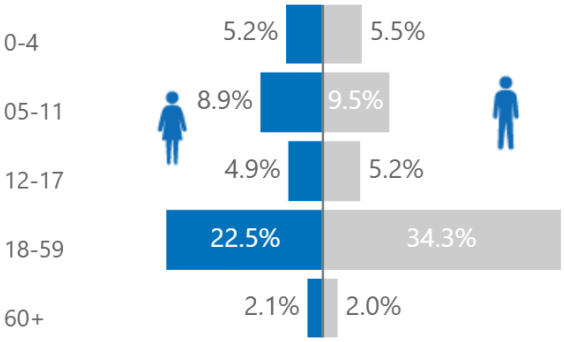
UNHCR works with the Government of Iraq and partners to support the access of refugees and asylum-seekers to protection and their inclusion in public services, such as education and healthcare, as well as their access to economic opportunities and in advancing solutions.

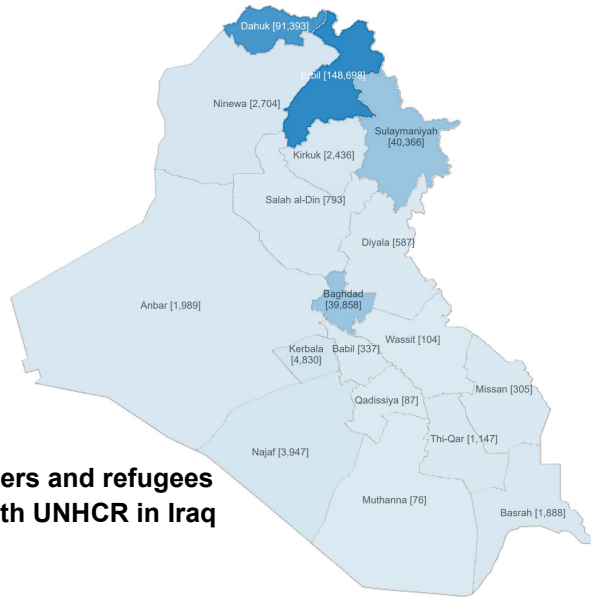
24% Funded

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

POPULATION AT A GLANCE

Age & Gender Breakdown





Asylum-seekers and refugees registered with UNHCR in Iraq

JULY MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS

Over 13,000
Refugees and asylum-seekers newly registered or with registration verified with UNHCR. This process allows refugees to access government-issued documentation and protects against refoulement.

144
Refugees and asylum-seekers released from detention thanks to legal support and interventions

98
Refugees and asylum-seekers prevented from deportation thanks to legal support and advocacy.

1,809
Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR returned voluntarily to Syria.

200
Refugees departed to different third countries through resettlement.

WHAT'S NEW IN IRAQ…

- **From 28 June to 13 July, the Iraqi government´s Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs (PC-MOI) visited Ninewa to issue or renew government documentation of refugees and asylum-seekers living in the Governorate.** During the 16-day visit, 594 cards were issued, including 479 new cards and 115 renewals. UNHCR helped identifying people´s protection and legal needs and making sure that asylum-seekers in Mosul were registered with UNHCR in advance so they could subsequently be registered and receive their documents from the Government. These government issued documentation is particularly important for refugees and asylum-seekers to access public services in central and southern Iraq.

- **In July, UNHCR launched its centralized helpline aimed at strengthening its complaint, feedback and response mechanism for refugees and asylum-seekers.** Managed by national partner Harikar and overseen by UNHCR, the helpline intends to provide refugees and asylum-seekers with reliable information about available service, in particular public services, as well as on procedures, including voluntary return procedures to Syria, and provide guidance on access to services and procedures. This centralized helpline was launched following the scaling back of presence and counselling services by UNHCR and partners in field locations.

- **UNHCR and its partner NRC held a two-day workshop with the Ministry of Education, school staff, and NGOs to discuss integrating two successful education programs – the Parent Teacher Association model and the Adolescent Toolkit Programme - into the national curriculum.** The PTA programme helps parents and teachers work together to support students, while the Adolescent Toolkit Programme teaches life skills to teenagers, including health, safety, and financial knowledge. The goal is to make these programmes part of the regular school curriculum and support their long-term continuation under government leadership.

- **In July, UNHCR and its legal partner INTERSOS continued to help Iraqi returnees from North-East Syria at Al-Amal Centre get their national ID documents.** This included transporting 300 people to Mosul's Civil Affairs Directorate to submit their applications. So far this year, UNHCR and INTERSOS have supported the submission of 1,240 applications, and 1,231 people have successfully received their IDs.

- **1,809 registered Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers returned home in July through the Peshkhabour border crossing and Erbil international airport.** This represents an 80% increase compared to June and the highest number of returns of persons registered with UNHCR so far in 2025. This increase is primarily attributed to the decision of the Kurdistan Regional Government to waive overstay fines for Syrians. UNHCR Iraq continues to provide counselling and information to Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers considering voluntary return.

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 | Australia for UNHCR | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | España con ACNUR | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan for UNHCR | Netherlands | Norway | Private donors in Italy | Private donors in the Republic of Korea Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United Sates of America | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe

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