UNHCR Iraq 2025 Achievements

As of end of December 2025, Iraq hosted around 349,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, 88% of whom were from the Syrian Arab Republic. 30% lived in nine refugee camps across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. In 2025, UNHCR contributed to the protection of refugees in Iraq strengthening national capacity and providing technical assistance to further refugee inclusion in public services and increase self-reliance.

Protection and assistance

Refugee law and policies

UNHCR supported the advancement of an updated **Refugee Law** in collaboration with the State Council and the Refugee Law Drafting Committee with the objective that the draft legislation reflects international refugee law and is operationally viable within the Iraqi legal system.

Roll out of **Verify+ tool** with authorities enabling real-time verification of UNHCR documentation. Workshops organized to support use.

Registration and documentation

29,000 new refugees and asylum-seekers were registered by UNHCR and issued a UNHCR certificate.

144,000 refugees and asylum-seekers had their UNHCR certificate renewed.

8,839 refugees and asylum seekers obtained government-issued documentation through UNHCR support

Legal aid

1,867 refugees and asylum-seekers released from detention after being arrested on immigration-related charges.

1,647 refugees and asylum-seekers prevented from being deported thanks to UNHCR advocacy and legal support.

15,000 refugees and asylum-seekers received legal assistance, including counselling and representation.

Protection of children and support for survivors of gender-based violence*

2,749 refugee children and caregivers received child protection services, including psychosocial support, recreational activities and parenting skills sessions.

555 survivors of gender-based violence provided with support including counselling, psychosocial support and safety plans tailored to the needs of individuals.

29 GBV and 50 child protection cases among refugees referred to government services for tailored support by national actors reflecting positive inclusion.

*As of June 2025, UNHCR phased out from several protection services, includig child protection, gender-based violence prevention and response, community centres, and MHPSS.

Cash assistance

8,712 socio-economically vulnerable refugee households (46,066 individuals) received cash assistance to help them pay for rent, food, and address other basic needs.

351 households were female-headed families.

1,780 households had a family member with a disability.

Solutions

Return

6,976 Syrian refugees voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin.

Third-country solutions

1,254 refugees departed Iraq on resettlement.

165 refugees departed through complementary pathways opportunities, including family reunification, scholarships and job opportunities.

Inclusion in national systems

Education

48,000 refugee students enrolled in schools in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq as of the start of the 2025/26 academic year, an increase from 51% in 2022 to 75% in 2025.

4 new schools and **37 new classrooms** in existing schools built by UNHCR supporting refugee inclusion

2,000 school desks procurred and provided to public schools which are attended by high numbers of forcibly displaced children.

5,033 refugee children attended Kurdish language classes to facilitate transition into public education.

3,336 refugee children completed non-formal education classes.

528 boys and girls enrolled in Adolescent Clubs promoting social cohesion, peacebuilding and integration.

Mental Health

6,047 consultations provided by UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services, including psychiatric care, individual counselling, and group support.

293 refugees and asylum-seekers in need of health and mental health care referred to the government services for support through public health care.

Social protection

Progress made towards **refugee inclusion in the Social Safety Net through UNHCR technical support,** paving the way for 600 refugee households to receive financial social assistance from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in 2026.

Pursuing durable solutions for Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

UNHCR continued to advocate for dignified durable solutions for all IDPs as part of the wider UN in Iraq in 2025. UNHCR also supported IDPs to obtain civil documentation during the first quarter of the year enabling access to public services such as education, healthcare and social services.

102,000 IDPs living in 20 IDP camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. UNHCR supported the Government to provide camp management services.

3,800 IDPs provided with legal counselling among whom 3,300 individuals received legal representation to obtain their civil documents.

1,500 IDP families departed IDP camps in 2025 to return to their areas of origin.

Supporting Iraqi nationals returning from North-East Syria to obtain Civil Documentation

UNHCR provided legal assistance for civil documentation to Iraqi nationals returning from North-East Syria in Al-Amal Centre. Legal assessments were conducted to identify civil documentation needs. Of the 9,416 individuals assessed in 2025, nearly all were missing at least one core civil document, most commonly the National Unified ID Card (NUID).

3,100 applications for NUIDs were successfully processed through legal support from UNHCR.

2,500 NUIDs were issued by authorities to Iraqis in Al-Amal prior to return to areas of origin.

8 mobile missions deployed by the Ministry of Interior and the court for facilitating access to documentation with UNHCR support

UNHCR registration staff supports a Syrian refugee renewing his UNHCR certficate at the Baherka Registration and Protection Centre in Erbil

UNHCR thanks its major donors of unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as those who contributed directly to the Iraq operation in 2025.

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