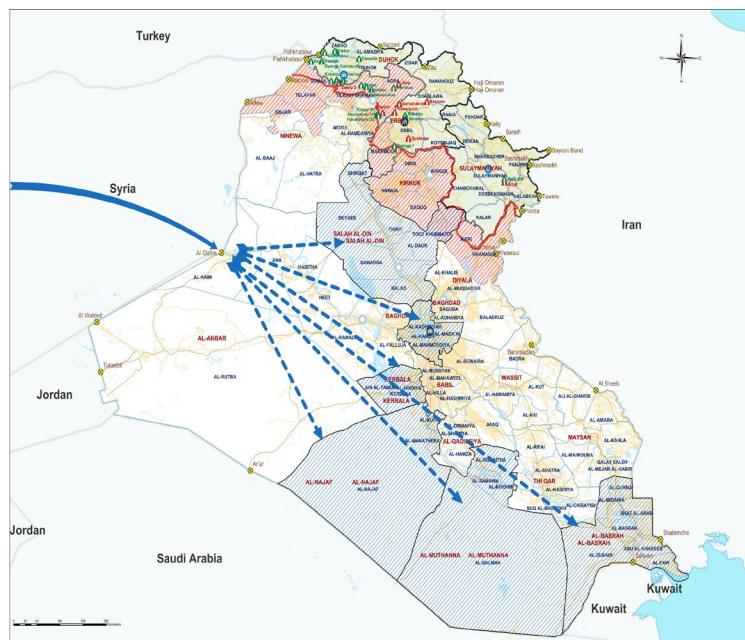


# Update on Lebanese Arrivals in Iraq

10 October 2024

*Data referenced is based on information UNHCR has collated from Government sources and partners between 27 September and 9 October.<sup>12</sup>*

## Situation Overview



- On 8 October, Iraq received **403** Lebanese through Al-Qaim border crossing. UNHCR is aware of over approximately **8,000** Lebanese who have arrived in Iraq since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon through various points including the Al-Qaim border crossing (5,619) and airports in Baghdad and Najaf.<sup>3</sup>

- Many Lebanese arrivals to Iraq are currently hosted in **Najaf** and **Karbala** (approximately 49% of the new arrivals). In addition, there have been reports of Lebanese arriving in Ninewa (64 families), Basra (200 individuals), Babil (75 individuals), Diwaniyah (61 individuals), Samawa (30 families), Salah al-Din (96 individuals), Diyala (10 families) and Erbil (3 families). The local authorities in

these Governorates have largely designated residential buildings to accommodate the new Lebanese arrivals, although many Lebanese are also reportedly staying with friends and family.

- An estimated **62%** of the **Lebanese arrivals** are **women and children**. In addition, approximately 50% of households are reportedly headed by women.
- A small number of Lebanese (**13 families to date**) have started approaching UNHCR through our community centres in Mosul, Baghdad, Erbil and Najaf requesting support with accommodation and information on available services in the area such as health and education. Some families in Ninewa, for instance, report that they are currently residing in housing provided by community members, but these homes are either empty or still under construction and lack basic amenities. These requests vary depending on the specific location of arrival and existing services available in the area.

<sup>1</sup> Flash Updates for Lebanon and Syria can be viewed here:

- <https://reporting.unhcr.org/syrian-arab-republic-response-displacement-lebanon-flash-update-10>
- <https://reporting.unhcr.org/lebanon-emergency-flash-update-3>

<sup>2</sup> Interagency Flash Appeals for Lebanon and Syria can also be viewed here:

- <https://reporting.unhcr.org/lebanon-flash-appeal>
- <https://reporting.unhcr.org/inter-agency-emergency-appeal-influx-lebanon-syria>

<sup>3</sup> On 07 October, the Spokesperson for the Ministry of Migration and Displacement announced that Iraq has so far received 7,700 new arrivals from Lebanon.

*These sections contain information on the recent arrivals of Lebanese nationals in Iraq over the past week. Some points may reiterate details from previous Flash Updates for ease and relevance.*

## UNHCR and Partner Presence

- 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 partners, the Legal Clinics Network (LCN) and Intersos, UNHCR is also present in Najaf, Karbala, Baghdad, Salah al-Din and other Governorates maintaining contact with local authorities to gather information on the arrival of Lebanese nationals in these areas.
- UNHCR has deployed staff to Anbar (covering Al-Qaim border crossing as well as Salah Al-Din and Diyala governorates), Najaf, Karbala and Baghdad. UNHCR continues to liaise with government and local authorities so as to gather information on the government plans.

## Government of Iraq Response

- A directive issued by the [Iraqi Prime Minister's office on 07 Iraq](#), instructs that Lebanese citizens who are arriving in Iraq should be called “guests of Iraq” instead of “displaced”.
- On 08 October, the Governor of Anbar instructed the Youth and Sports Directorate in Anbar to [prepare all youth centres in Anbar to be ready to accommodate potential new arrivals from Lebanon](#) and/or Palestine. In addition, the youth and sports centres in the governorate are instructed to start a financial donation campaign to support displaced Lebanese and Palestinians.
- 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 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.
- The Presidency of the Najaf Provincial Council has proposed to the Iraqi Council of Representatives to allow Lebanese to work in different sectors in Iraq especially the medical field. In a document issued on 07 October, the Head of Najaf Council indicates this is needed to support Lebanese who have newly arrived in Iraq.