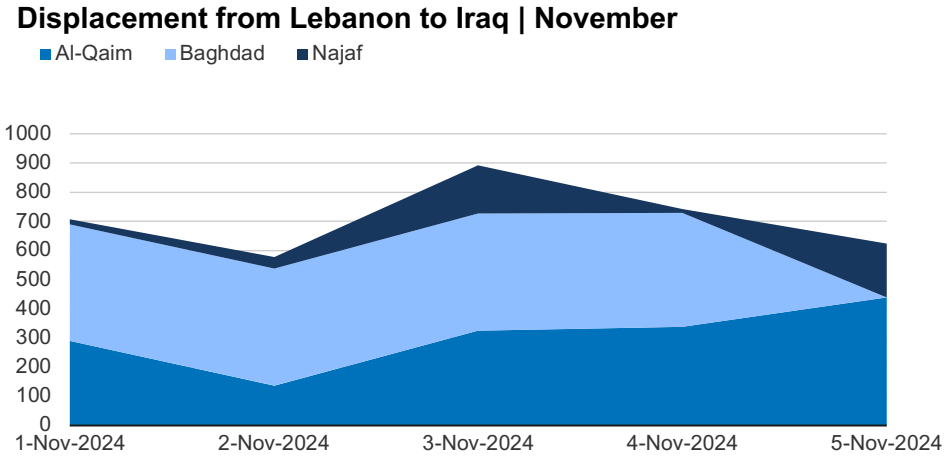
Update on Displacement from Lebanon to Iraq

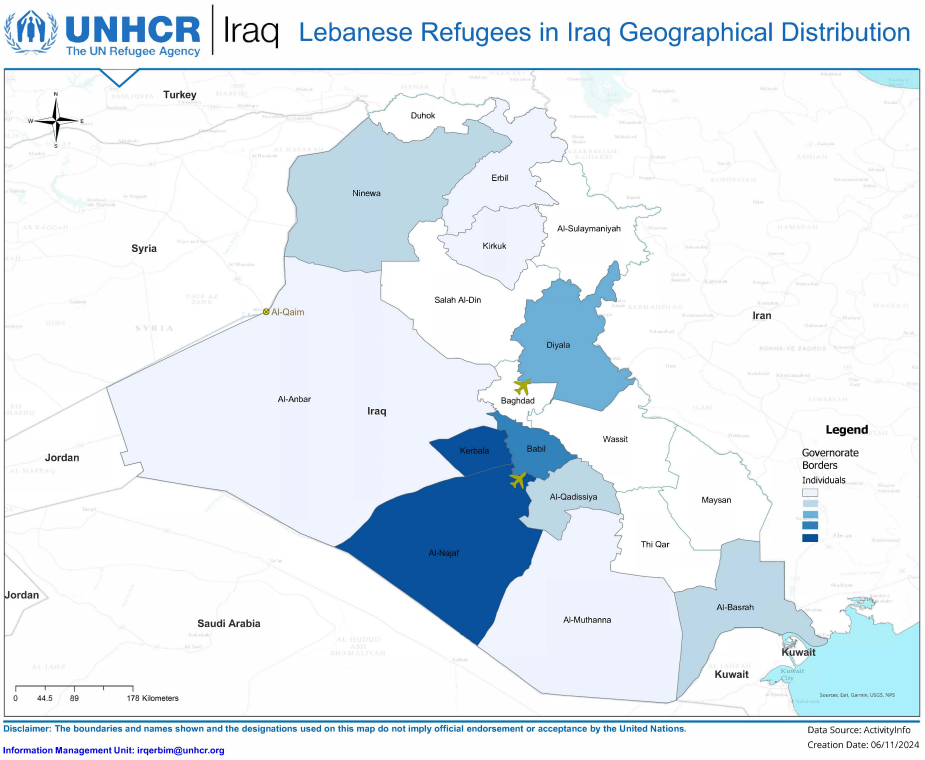
06 November 2024

Data referenced is based on information UNHCR has collated from Government sources and partners between 27 September and 05 November.[1][2]

Situation Overview

- UNHCR is aware of 30,983 refugees from Lebanon who have arrived in Iraq since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon through various points including the Al-Qaim border crossing (16,394) and airports in Baghdad (12,130) and Najaf (2,459).
- Over the last week, UNHCR is observing an average of 700 Lebanese refugees arriving in Iraq per day.
- Lebanese continue to be the primary nationality of refugees crossing from Syria to Iraq after fleeing the hostilities in Lebanon. In addition, 347 Syrian households, have contacted UNHCR online requesting registration indicating that they arrived in Iraq after fleeing Lebanon.
- Most refugees from Lebanon are hosted in Karbala and Najaf.[3] The remaining are spread across different Governorates in central and south Iraq, including Babil, Baghdad, and Diyala. Smaller numbers are also reported arriving in Ninewa Hamdaniya, Saladdin, and Muthanna (refer to heat map).[4]





[1] Flash Updates for Lebanon and Syria can be viewed here: https://reporting.unhcr.org/lebanon-emergency-flash-update-10 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. A report on the one-month impact on the Lebanon Emergency can also be read here https://reporting.unhcr.org/lebanon-emergency-one-month-impact-report

[3] According to information received from MOMD about refugees recorded by them, over half of refugees (55%) have arrived in Karbala followed by Najaf (23%).

[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 of refugees from Lebanon.
- 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, 61 refugees fleeing Lebanon (55 Lebanese, 4 Syrian and 2 Palestinian) have approached UNHCR seeking these protection services. UNHCR also continues to provide information to refugees from Lebanon on how they can access national services such as education and healthcare.
- 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.
- 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". On 01 October, the Council of Minister designated the Ministry of Migration and Displacement as the Ministry in charge of the provision of humanitarian and relief assistance to the Lebanese refugees.
- 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. 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.