

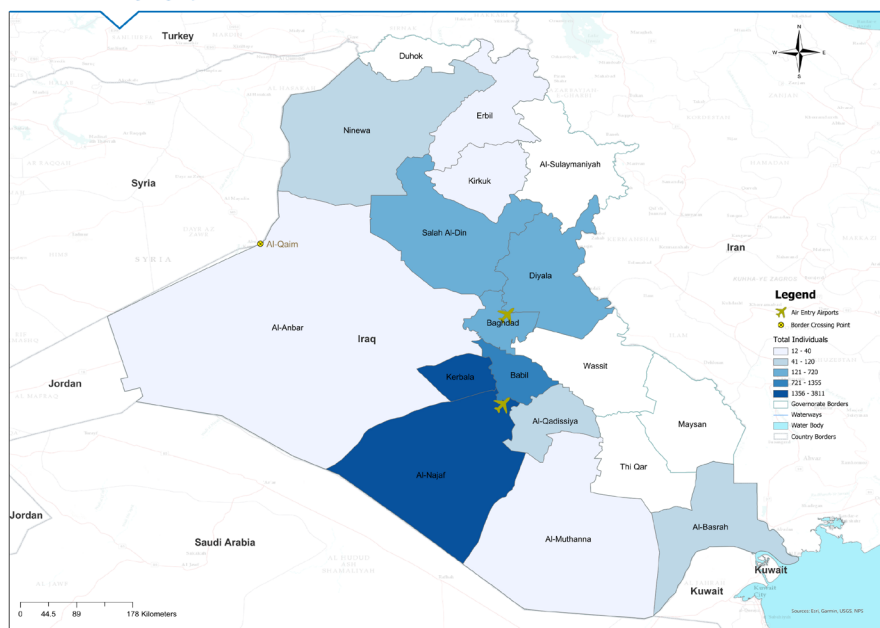
Update on Displacement from Lebanon to Iraq

20 November 2024

Data referenced is based on information UNHCR has collated from Government sources and partners between 27 September and 19 November.¹²

Situation Overview

UNHCR | Iraq Lebanese Refugees in Iraq Geographical Distribution



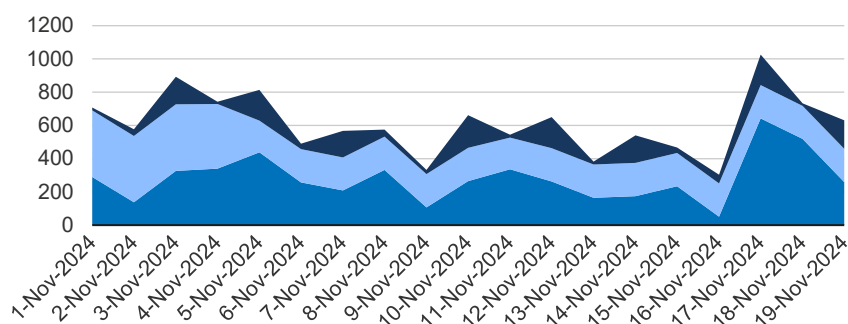
Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Information Management Unit: irqerbin@unhcr.org

Data Source: ActivityInfo
Creation Date: 20/11/2024

Displacement from Lebanon to Iraq | November

■ Al-Qaim ■ Baghdad ■ Najaf



individuals) arrived in KR-I from Lebanon through Erbil airport. UNHCR is following up to meet with them after the census and better understand their situation and prospects.

- UNHCR is aware of **39,071** refugees from Lebanon who have arrived in Iraq since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon through various points including the Al-Qaim border crossing (20,206) and airports in Baghdad (15,110) and Najaf (3,757).
- Over the last week, UNHCR has observed a decrease in the number of Lebanese refugees arriving in Iraq at an average of 500 Lebanese refugees arriving in Iraq per day (compared to average of 700 per day the previous week).

- UNHCR is actively monitoring and gathering data on the movement of refugees from Lebanon into Iraq, noting that most arrivals are Lebanese nationals. In addition, some 493 Syrian households have contacted UNHCR online, identifying themselves as Syrian refugees who have arrived in Iraq after fleeing Lebanon and requested to be registered. UNHCR is scheduling registration appointments and has started registration for these refugees in line with existing procedures.

- On 14 November, a group of reported Syrian Ezidi refugees comprised of 20 families (71

¹ The latest Flash Updates for Lebanon can be viewed here: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/lebanon-emergency-flash-update-15> and response brief for Syria <https://reporting.unhcr.org/syrian-arab-republic-emergency-response-brief-9822>

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>.

- 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](#), [Salah Al-Din](#), and [Al-Muthanna](#) (refer to heat map).⁴
- In a meeting between UNHCR and the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MOMD) on 12 November, MOMD highlighted the need to identify more sustainable accommodation solutions for Lebanese refugees, as prolonged stays in hotels are unaffordable for many and shrine accommodations are not suitable for long-term use. Other pressing needs emphasized by MOMD include hygiene products for women and girls and nutritional support for children, such as baby formula. It was agreed with MoMD that joint assessments are to be undertaken.

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, 81 families fleeing Lebanon (74 Lebanese, 5 Syrian, 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.
- On 17 November, UNHCR met with the Ministry of Education (MOE) regarding the provision of education to Lebanese refugees following the announcement on October 28 that schools following the Lebanese education system would be established, staffed by Lebanese educators in Iraq. During the meeting, the MOE confirmed that a parallel school using the Lebanese curriculum will be established in Kerbala and is scheduled to open on November 24, with 900 Lebanese children already registered to attend. This system is intended to be temporary for one academic year and based on the request of the Shrine and Lebanese community in Kerbala to open such a school. Despite this, the MOE emphasized that, where possible, Lebanese refugee children will be integrated into public schools.
- During the last week, UNHCR met with the MOMD to discuss the scenario planning for the Lebanese response, whereby they agreed on the proposed best-case, most likely and worst-case scenarios. Consequently, UNHCR is proceeding to lead the contingency planning process with the government, the UN Country Team, and humanitarian partners with the next steps to focus on thematic discussions.

³ According to information received from MOMD [nearly half of refugees \(46%\) have arrived in Najaf followed by Karbala \(34%\)](#) In addition MOMD stated to media that 48,341 Lebanese nationals entered Iraq through airports and border crossings from September 20 to November 3. 11,444 of them have returned and 36,897 remain in Iraq.

⁴ Figures are undergoing verification and are subject to change.

Government of Iraq Response

- A directive issued by the [Iraqi Prime Minister's office on 7 October](#), instructed that Lebanese citizens who are arriving in Iraq should be called “guests of Iraq” instead of “displaced”. On 1 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 are allowed to enter Iraq and are issued with a 30-day visa which is currently possible to renew twice under the Residency Law. The Lebanese Embassy in Syria is also issuing travel documents to Lebanese citizens without passports or other documentation who wish to enter Iraq.
- [The Government of Iraq has committed to include Lebanese refugees in national systems and approved the allocation of three billion dinars \(approximately USD 2.27 million\) to assist Lebanese arriving in country](#). 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. As of November 11, 2,500 Lebanese children are reported by the MOE to be enrolled in public schools across the country. In addition, Lebanese refugees have access to national public health services.