

# Update on Displacement from Lebanon to Iraq

27 November 2024

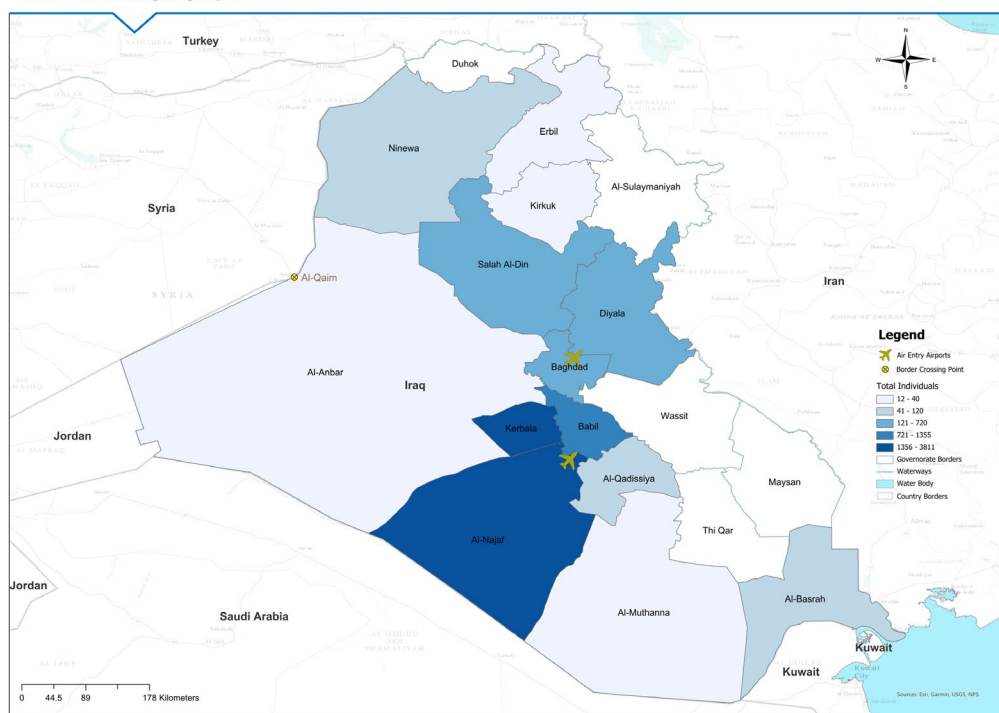
Data referenced is based on information UNHCR has collated from Government sources and partners between 27 September and 26 November.<sup>12</sup>

## Situation Overview

- UNHCR is aware of **41,442 refugees from Lebanon** who have arrived in Iraq since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon through various points including the Al-Qaim border crossing (22,316) and airports in Baghdad (15,110) and Najaf (4,016).
- UNHCR is actively monitoring and gathering data on the movement of refugees from Lebanon into Iraq, noting that most arrivals are Lebanese nationals. Following the announcement of a ceasefire in Lebanon on 26 November, UNHCR will continue to monitor what impact this has on the movement of refugees to Iraq.
- In addition to Lebanese refugees arriving to Iraq, some 115 Syrian households have contacted UNHCR online, identifying themselves as Syrians who have arrived in Iraq from Lebanon after the hostilities in Lebanon started and requested to be registered. UNHCR has started their registration in line with existing procedures.

- Most refugees from Lebanon are hosted in **Karbala and Najaf**.<sup>3</sup> 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).<sup>4</sup>

## 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The latest Flash Updates for Lebanon and Syria can be viewed here <https://reporting.unhcr.org/syrian-arab-republic-emergency-response-brief-3>

<sup>2</sup> 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>.

<sup>3</sup> According to information received from MOMD nearly half of refugees (46%) have arrived in Najaf followed by Karbala (34%) among the population that they have recorded.

<sup>4</sup> 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 support, responding to gender-based violence (GBV), and mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) to individuals seeking assistance at community centres.
- To date, 96 refugee families fleeing Lebanon 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 work on the drafting of the contingency plan for the Lebanese response in Iraq in coordination with the UN Humanitarian Country Team and Government counterparts. So far, the number of Lebanese refugees arriving to Iraq is in line with the agreed on 'most likely' planning scenario.

## 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.
- On Tuesday, November 27, the [Government of Iraq approved an amendment](#) allowing voluntary salary deductions from employees and retirees to support Palestine and Lebanon. The Council of Ministers announced that starting December 1, 2024, a 1% deduction from salaries and pensions will be implemented for a period of six months, applicable only to individuals who voluntarily choose to contribute.