



UNHCR IRAQ

MONTHLY UPDATE

April 2025

Solin Rasool, a Registration Assistant working for UNHCR renews the registration for a Syrian refugee at the Baherka Registration and Protection Centre in Erbil. In April, UNHCR newly registered or renewed the registration of almost 15,500 refugees and asylum seekers in Iraq, issuing documentation that helps them realize their rights during their time in Iraq.

CONTEXT

Iraq generously hosts over 336,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, 90% of whom are Syrian and live in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.¹ Close to 83% of refugees in Iraq live in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Of these, some 32% live in nine refugee camps while the majority live in urban areas. Iraq also has over 1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). While the majority live in private accommodation in urban settings or informal settlements, 95,412 live in 20 IDP camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.²

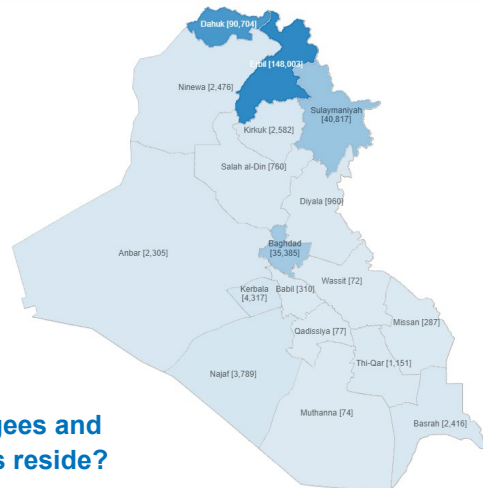
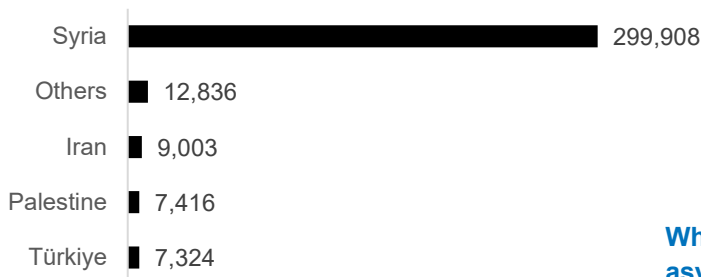
UNHCR works with the Government of Iraq and partners to support the access of refugees and asylum-seekers to protection and their inclusion in public services, such as education and healthcare, as well as their access to economic opportunities and in advancing solutions.

 **20%**
Funded

of the \$158.5 million required by UNHCR in 2025 to protect people forced to flee in Iraq

POPULATION AT A GLANCE

Where do refugees come from?



Where do refugees and asylum seekers reside?

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UN

¹ Some 336,487 refugees are registered with UNHCR in Iraq as of 30 April 2025.
² UNHCR stats as of 30 April 2025. 1,354 IDPs departed camps in April 2025.

APRIL MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS (figures are subject to revision over the course of the year)



15,500

Refugees newly registered or verified their registration with UNHCR. This process allows refugees to access government-issued documentation and protects against refoulement.



204

Refugees and asylum-seekers released from detention thanks to legal support and interventions by UNHCR and partners.



175

Refugees and asylum-seekers prevented from deportation thanks to legal support and advocacy by UNHCR and partners.



481

Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR returned to Syria.



34

Refugees departed to different third countries through resettlement.



WHAT'S NEW IN IRAQ...

- The Permanent Committee for Refugees Affairs (PC-MOI) and Residency Directorates have agreed to **streamline the process for verifying and releasing refugees and asylum-seekers detained on immigration-related charges** using [UNHCR's Verify Plus application](#). This initiative followed a UNHCR workshop on 26 April to foster collaboration among key actors in the administration of refugee and asylum-seeker affairs, **aimed at preventing detention of refugees and asylum seekers on immigration charges and deportation**. Verify Plus allows authorities to scan UNHCR-issued certificates to confirm the UNHCR registration status of detainees, facilitating their release without court involvement. Although refugees and asylum-seekers in Iraq should be exempt from the Residency Law under Article 8 of the 1971 Political Refugee Law, some still face detention and need legal support. The use of Verify Plus aims to reduce these risks.
- In April, UNHCR continued discussions with the World Bank and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) on a **pilot of the Social Safety Net in Dohuk** which is scheduled to start later in the year. The pilot will provide approximately 3,000 vulnerable families living in central Dohuk with monthly social protection support, **including 600 refugees and asylum-seekers**. This is the first time refugees will be included into a national social protection programme in Iraq.
- UNHCR delivered medical equipment, including hospital beds, oxygen equipment, neonatal incubators and patient monitors to hospitals across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in March and April. The equipment is envisioned to **help the public health system respond to the medical needs of both Iraqis and refugees**.
- 454 registered Syrian refugees returned home in April through the Peshkhabour border crossing.** This represents an increase from the monthly average of 252 Syrian refugees who were returning home each month in the first quarter of 2025. In contrast, a decrease of the number of Syrians returning through the Al-Qaim border crossing was noted. UNHCR continues to provide counselling and information to Syrian refugees contemplating return. A page was added to [UNHCR's Help Page](#) in April to guide refugees seeking support for return, including a link to the [Syria is Home](#) website.
- UNHCR donated three generators from the UN Compound in Mosul to the Al-Amal Centre. This contribution will **help address electricity shortages** at Al-Amal Centre which accommodates returnees from North-East Syria. Specifically, the generators will provide power to the newly opened Sector E in Al-Amal Centre, as well as essential facilities including the new school and reception centre. **As of the end of April, Al-Amal is hosting 4,944 Iraqi returnees**, this follows the return of one group of individuals on 15 April.



SPECIAL THANKS TO PARTNERS

UNHCR in Iraq thanks its major partners of unearmarked funds, as well as those who contribute to directly to the Iraq operation and to the regional response for Syrian refugees:

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