

UNHCR IRAQ

MONTHLY UPDATE

June 2025



"Dilan's pain runs deep. He needs more follow-up and consistent support to begin healing and to have even a chance at a normal childhood. Yet now, even that hope is slipping away." Dilan, a 12-year-old Syrian refugee, fled at age five with his sister and grandmother after losing his father and being abandoned by his mother. He received support from UNHCR child protection programs, but due to funding cuts, these are ending. UNHCR now works to integrate refugee support into Iraq's public child protection systems, training staff to help vulnerable children like Dilan. Read his story [here](#).

CONTEXT

Iraq generously hosts over 340,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, 90% of whom are Syrian and live in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.¹ Close to 89% 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. There are also still over 1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Iraq. While the majority live in private accommodation in urban settings or informal settlements, over 104,600 individuals live in 20 IDP camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.²

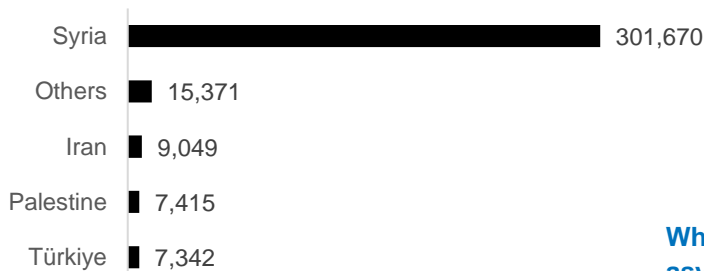
UNHCR works with the Government of Iraq and partners to support the access of refugees and asylum-seekers to protection and their inclusion in public services, such as education and healthcare, as well as their access to economic opportunities and in advancing solutions.

 **21%**
Funded

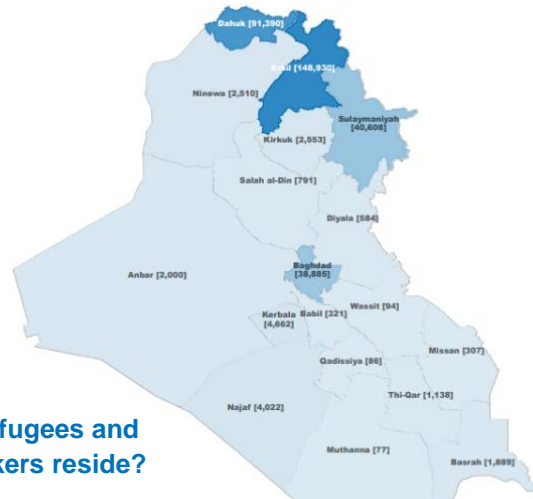
of the \$158.5 million required by UNHCR in 2025 to protect people forced to flee in Iraq

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 340,847 refugees are registered with UNHCR in Iraq as of 30 June 2025.

² UNHCR stats as of 30 June 2025.

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


12,646

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


87

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


67

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


1,004

Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR returned voluntarily to Syria.


11

Refugees departed to different third countries through resettlement.



WHAT'S NEW IN IRAQ...

- The Kurdistan Regional Government announced a decision to waive overstay fines for Syrians residing in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Under this directive, Syrians whose residence permits have expired, or who entered irregularly, will be granted 60 working days from 15 June to regularize their stay in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.** Syrians who fall under this category and instead plan to return to Syria will also be exempt from financial penalties related to delayed renewal or lack of residence permits and their return will be facilitated. UNHCR welcomes this decision and has disseminated information on this decision among refugee and asylum-seekers through different communication channels, including [UNHCR HelpPage](#) and [social media platforms](#). This decision is a key milestone in the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. At the same time, it means that the most vulnerable Syrian refugees - who were accepted for resettlement to third countries on humanitarian grounds but were previously unable to depart due to unaffordable overstay fines to exit the country - can depart on resettlement and continue rebuilding their lives in dignity.
- In June, UNHCR Iraq launched its official [WhatsApp Channel](#) as a new communication tool to strengthen engagement with refugees and asylum-seekers across Iraq.** This platform provides a trusted and accessible source of information, including UNHCR announcements, updates on available services and support, as well as legal guidance. The channel aims to enhance one-way communication with refugees and asylum-seekers so that they have timely access to accurate and relevant information.
- 1,004 registered Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers returned home in June through the Peshkhabour border crossing and Erbil international airport.** This represents the highest number of returns of persons registered with UNHCR in any month so far in 2025 and is primarily attributed to the decision of the Kurdistan Regional Government to waive overstay fines for Syrians. UNHCR Iraq continues to provide counselling and information to Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers considering voluntary return.
- In June, UNHCR and legal partner INTERSOS continued to support Iraqi returnees in Al-Amal Centre to obtain their civil documentation. This included transporting 240 Iraqi returnees to the Civil Affairs Directorate in Mosul to submit their applications for national identity documents. **So far in 2025, UNHCR and INTERSOS have supported the preparation and submission of 1,086 applications for national identity documents for Iraqi returnees in Al-Amal, with 1,075 national identity documents having been obtained to date.**
- As of the end of June, UNHCR **phased out its programmes on child protection, support for survivors of gender-based violence, community programmes and mental health and psychosocial support** which were delivered by NGO partners. The phase-out was accelerated earlier than initially planned and refugees are expected to have access to these protection services through public programmes provided by the Government of Iraq. UNHCR continues to monitor the impact on refugee communities.



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: [Australia](#) | [Belgium](#) | [Canada](#) | [Denmark](#) | [España con ACNUR](#) | [European Union](#) | [Finland](#) | [France](#) | [Germany](#) | [Ireland](#) | [Italy](#) | [Japan for UNHCR](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Norway](#) | [Republic of Korea](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States of America](#) | [UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe](#)