

Update on Displacement from Lebanon to Iraq

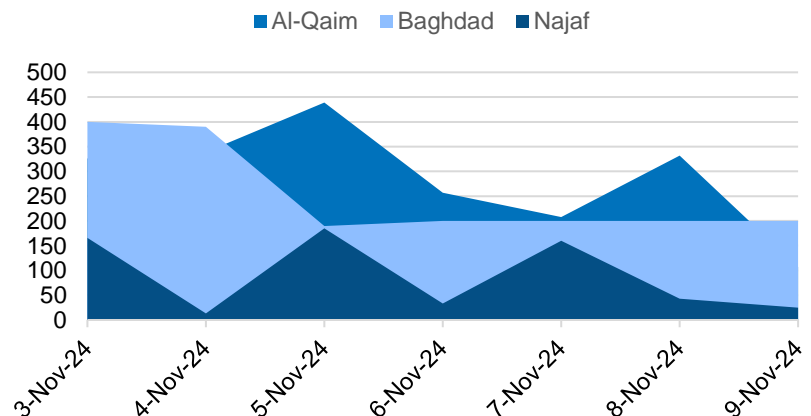
10 November 2024

Data referenced is based on information UNHCR has collated from Government sources and partners between 27 September and 10 November.¹²

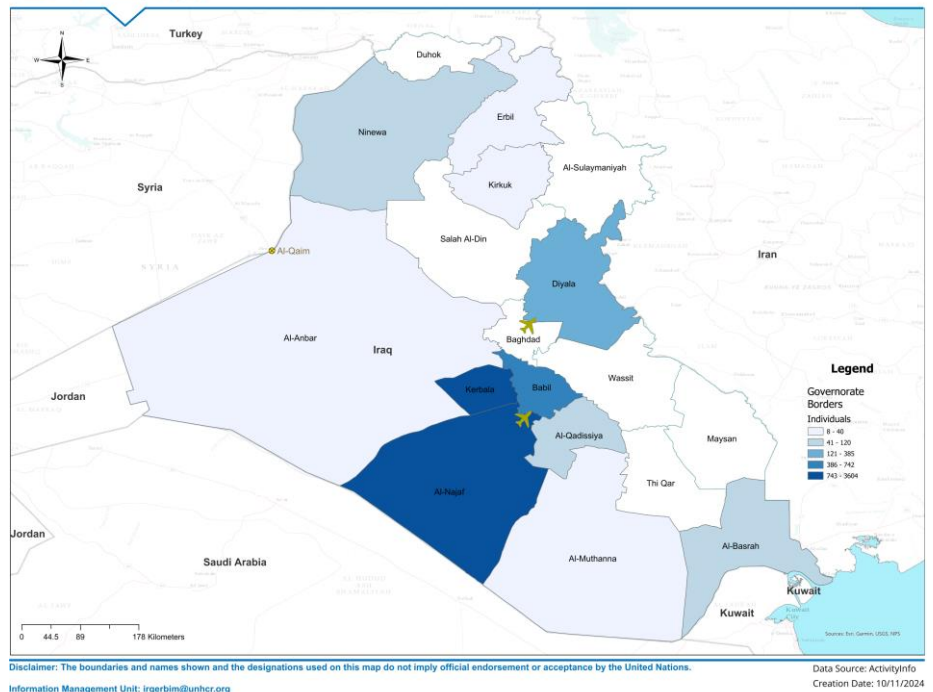
Situation Overview

- UNHCR is aware of **33,138 refugees from Lebanon** who have arrived in Iraq since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon through various points including the Al-Qaim border crossing (17,298) and airports in Baghdad (13,120) and Najaf (2,720). This represents a 7% increase in the number of refugee arrivals from Lebanon compared to the previous update from 6 November.
- 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, **383 households** have contacted UNHCR online, identifying themselves as Syrian refugees who have arrived in Iraq after fleeing Lebanon and requested to be registered. UNHCR will schedule registration appointments for these individuals over the coming weeks.
- 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

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UNHCR | Iraq Lebanese Refugees in Iraq Geographical Distribution



¹ Flash Updates for Lebanon and Syria can be viewed here: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/iraq-flash-update-displacement-lebanon-19> 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, 74 families fleeing Lebanon (67 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.
- 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.
- In response to a request by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), UNHCR, together with the office of the UN Resident Coordinator, OCHA, UNICEF and WHO, participated in an inter-agency mission to Al-Qaim border crossing to explore the possibility of setting up a transit centre. The mission was led by OCHA in coordination with the MoMD. Following this, the authorities determined that the set-up of a transit centre is not yet necessary as Lebanese citizens without passports wishing to travel to Iraq by road must now visit the Lebanese Embassy in Damascus, Syria, to obtain their travel permits. According to the Iraqi authorities, this change is expected to significantly reduce waiting times at the border.

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](#).