

# UNHCR IRAQ

## MONTHLY UPDATE

### September 2025



"I want to continue my education and one day have a good job. Knowing local Kurdish will help me everywhere in school, at home, and later in life. It is not just a language. It is a key to everything we want to achieve here". To support students, UNHCR, in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council, and in close coordination with the Ministry of Education in the Kurdistan Regional Government, has been running Kurdish language classes. The classes run three days a week, five hours a day, and are taught by both qualified local and Syrian refugee teachers. Read their story [here](#).

## CONTEXT

Iraq generously hosts over 344,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority (88%) of whom are Syrians. Approximately 82% of this population resides in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. While most refugees and asylum-seekers live in urban and peri-urban settings, around 30% remain in nine refugee camps across the country. Additionally, some 102,500 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) live in 20 IDP camps located within the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

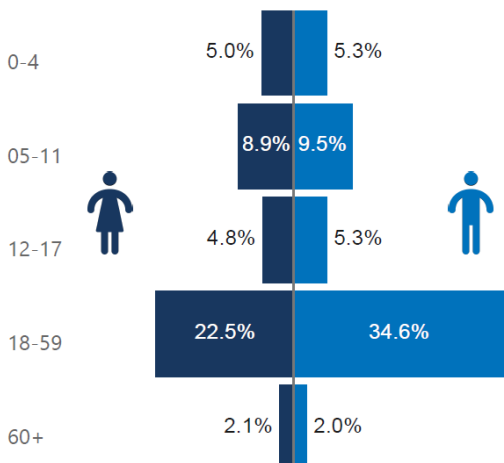
UNHCR works with the Government of Iraq and partners to support the access of refugees and asylum-seekers to protection and their inclusion in public services, such as education and healthcare, as well as their access to economic opportunities and in advancing solutions.

 **27%**  
**Funded**

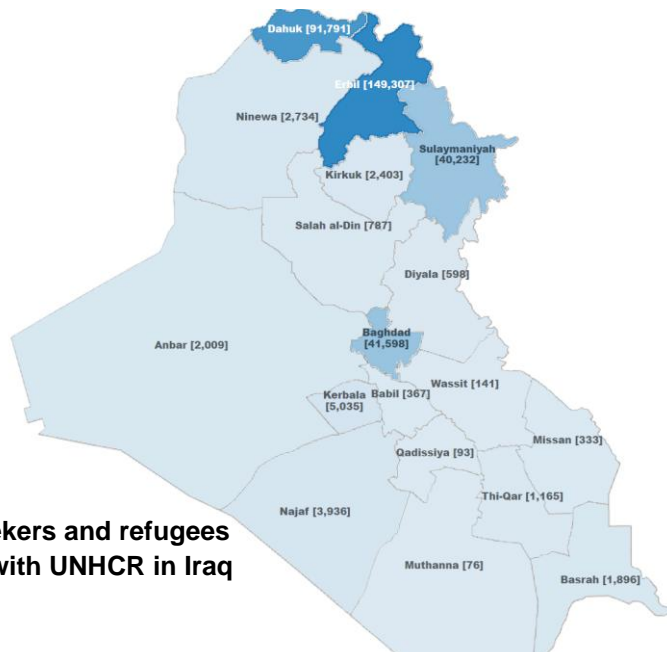
of the \$158.5 million required by UNHCR in 2025 to protect people forced to flee in Iraq

## POPULATION AT A GLANCE

### Age & Gender Breakdown



Asylum-seekers and refugees registered with UNHCR in Iraq



## SEPTEMBER MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS

**Over 15,500**

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



**84** Refugees and asylum-seekers detained on immigration related charges released from detention and **68** deportations prevented thanks to legal support and interventions

**522**

Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR returned voluntarily to Syria.

**236**

Refugees departed to different third countries through resettlement.



## WHAT'S NEW IN IRAQ...

- **522 registered Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers returned to Syria via the Peshkhabour border crossing and Erbil International Airport, marking a 38% decrease compared to August.** This decline is primarily linked to the conclusion of the Kurdistan Regional Government's 60-day waiver on overstay fines for Syrians, which had previously triggered a temporary spike in returns. With the waiver no longer in effect, return figures have reverted to levels similar to the same period last year. Additionally, the start of the school year has led a reduction in returns as families wish to maintain educational continuity.
- **A ceremony was held at the Kawergosk Community Centre to award certificates to refugee and Iraqi host community members who completed sewing and computer training courses.** The community centre, constructed by UNHCR, was recently handed over to the Iraqi authorities and is now operated by the Kurdistan Regional Government's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA). The facility serves as a hub for community activities and the delivery of inclusive protection services by government authorities. These initiatives build on and strengthen the capacities, skills, and priorities defined by the community itself.
- **UNHCR completed construction of a new Unified ID Office in Al-Sadiyah sub-district, Diyala Governorate and handed it over to the government.** This project forms part of UNHCR's support for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and Iraqi returnees and will help them be able to access civil documents, including national ID cards, issued by the Government. Al-Sadiya previously experienced extensive destruction, leading to the displacement of most of its population to camps and urban areas within Diyala Governorate or in other parts of Iraq. Over the past year, return movements of internally displaced people to Al-Sadiya sub-district have gradually increased necessitating improvements in local infrastructure.
- **UNHCR and its legal partner INTERSOS continued to help Iraqi returnees from North -East Syria at Al-Amal Centre get their national ID documents.** This included transporting 360 people to Mosul's Civil Affairs Directorate to submit applications for their documents. So far this year, 2,733 Iraqi returnees have received their IDs thanks to this support. Applications for an additional 1,900 returnees in Al-Amal have also been prepared by UNHCR and INTERSOS and are ready to be submitted to the government authorities so that they can get their IDs.



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