UNHCR IRAQ
MONTHLY UPDATE
July 2026



Hind and her children are among families who returned from Al-Hol camp in North-East Syria to Iraq through a Government-facilitated repatriation process. At Al-Amal Centre, they accessed reintegration support, including assistance to obtain Iraqi Unified ID (UID) cards. Through a reverse mission organized by UNHCR and Intersos, Hind was able to reach the Civil Affairs Directorate in Mosul to submit the family's application. In June 2026, UNHCR and Intersos delivered the UID cards, giving Hind and her children access to essential services and helping them rebuild their lives in Iraq. Read her story here.

CONTEXT

As of the end of July 2026, Iraq generously hosts over 343,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority (88%) of whom are Syrians. Close to 80% of this population resides in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. While most refugees and asylum-seekers live in urban and peri-urban settings, 30% remain in nine refugee camps across the country. Additionally, around 97,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) live in 18 IDP camps.[1]

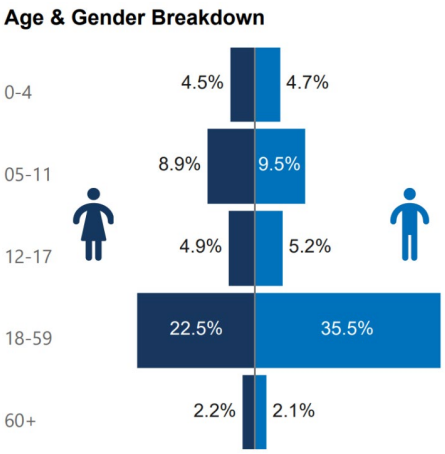
UNHCR works with the Government of Iraq and partners to support refugee and asylum-seeker access to protection and inclusion in public services, such as education and healthcare, as well as access to economic opportunities and in advancing solutions.

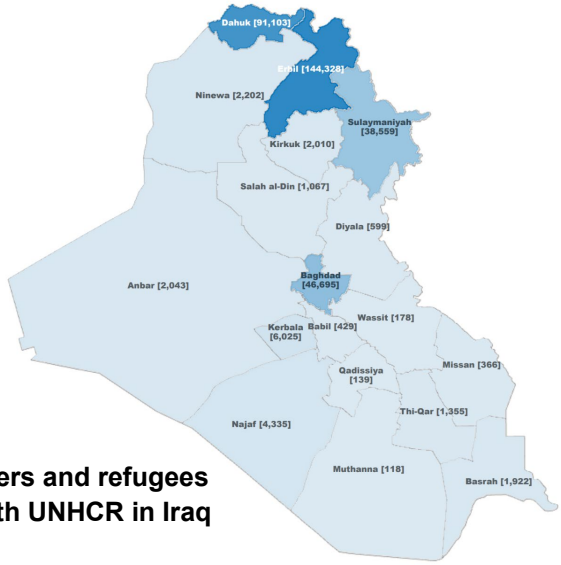
42%

Funded

of the $60.6 million required by UNHCR in 2026 to protect people forced to flee in Iraq

POPULATION AT A GLANCE





Asylum-seekers and refugees registered with UNHCR in Iraq

[1] As of February 2026, UNHCR, together with the Government, have decided to administratively consolidate four IDP camps into two IDP camps in Dohuk Governorate. This means there are now 18 IDP camps in Iraq, although the population figures remain the same.

JULY MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS

16,262

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

271

Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR returned voluntarily to Syria.

As result of close engagement and coordination with relevant Iraqi authorities, **143** refugees and asylum-seekers were released from detention on immigration related charges; this included **111** individuals whose deportation was prevented thanks to legal support and interventions.

2,600 Communications received through UNHCR's HelpLine from refugees and asylum seekers.

WHAT'S NEW IN IRAQ…

- **In July, UNHCR teams travelled to Qadisiya, Thi-Qar, Muthanna and Salah Al-Din governorates to register refugees and asylum-seekers where they live, rather than requiring them to travel to Baghdad.** These were the first mobile missions to governorates outside of Baghdad in central and southern Iraq in 2026 helping to reduce the number of refugees and asylum seekers waiting to be registered or to have expired documents renewed. Mobile missions had previously been on hold due to a lack of funding. Similarly, UNHCR continued working with the Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs of the Ministry of Interior (PC-MOI) to strengthen government registration and documentation activities at the Baghdad Registration Centre. PC-MOI also undertook a mobile mission to Salah Al-Din Governorate at the end of the month to issue government documentation to refugees and asylum seekers.
- **In partnership with the Judicial Institute, UNHCR delivered a technical session on international refugee protection to 96 student judges.** The session covered UNHCR's mandate, key principles of international protection and the refugee protection framework in Iraq. It forms part of ongoing cooperation between UNHCR and the Judicial Institute aimed at strengthening awareness of international legal standards and refugee-related issues within the judiciary.
- **So far in 2026, 1,979 Syrian refugees and asylum seekers have voluntarily returned from Iraq to Syria, including 271 individuals in July**. Of those who returned in July, 225 did so with UNHCR support. As part of the facilitated return process, UNHCR provides Syrian refugees with cash assistance of IQD 130,000 (USD 100) per person to help with logistical costs, with additional financial support available for the most vulnerable.
- In July, the Legal Task Force in Al-Amal – made up of UNHCR, Intersos, UNICEF, Terre des Hommes, IOM and government authorities - **conducted seven reverse missions bringing families from Al-Amal Centre to Mosul Civil Affairs Directorate for the purposes of processing National Unified ID (NUIDs) applications.** This enabled 316 Iraqi returnees to apply for NUIDs. Since the beginning of 2026, 60 such reverse missions have facilitated 2,475 applications and led to 1,597 NUIDs being issued.
- **UNHCR provided tents, jerry cans, cooking stoves and solar lights to the Directorate of Migration and Crisis Response in Duhok and Zakho for distribution in Bersive, Bajed Kandala, and Khanke IDP camps.** The distribution drew on surplus stock available in UNHCR's warehouse, putting it to use where it was needed and helping address shelter conditions in IDP camps. As of the end of June, 4,836 IDP families, comprising 23,538 individuals, reside in these camps.
- In July, UNHCR launched new Farsi and Kurdish WhatsApp channels **to expand access to information for refugee and asylum-seeker communities.** The channels provide updates on registration, legal assistance, voluntary return, anti-fraud messaging and available services in languages used by the targeted forcibly displaced communities.
- **In July, 149 refugees and asylum seekers departed on resettlement to Canada, Australia and the UK.** These departures represent an important milestone in providing the most vulnerable refugees in Iraq with access to durable solutions and opportunities to rebuild their lives in third countries.

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 | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan for UNHCR | Luxembourg | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Private Donors | Spain | Sweden | Sweden for UNHCR | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe

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