### DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

**NOVEMBER 2020** 

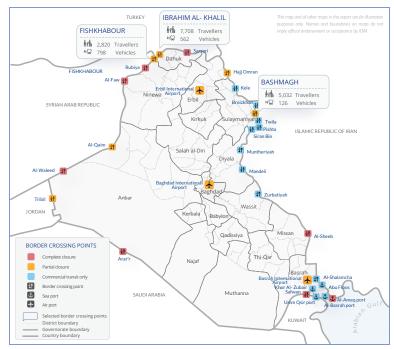
# **MIGRANTS PROFILE**

### DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: JUNE - AUGUST 2020

DTM Iraq collects data at border crossing points with neighboring countries – the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran), the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) and Turkey – to better understand migration movements in the Middle East. Cross-border monitoring is drawn from IOM's DTM standard methodology, designed to capture and describe migration flows, and is part of IOM's DTM Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project, funded by the European Union, which aims to capture and describe migration flows in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan. Data displayed in this report was collected in June, July and August 2020, employing two approaches: 1) headcount of all travellers entering or leaving Iraq, and 2) survey of randomly sampled travellers.

Border crossing points were selected based on observations conducted in May 2019 by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), when five border crossing points were selected for data collection: Ibrahim Al-Khalil, bordering Turkey, Fishkhabour, bordering Syria, and Bashmagh, Zurbatiyah (Wassit Terminal) and Al-Shalamcha, bordering Iran. Due to mobility restrictions imposed by Iraqi authorities since March 2020 aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), data collection took place at three out of five selected border points in June, July and August 2020.<sup>1</sup> Further details on the selection of respondents, survey methodology, and how the border crossing points were selected are available in the Methodological Overview in the last section of this report.<sup>2</sup>

The report presents an overview of the overall movements of travellers observed at any of three selected border crossing points during June, July and August 2020. It is also focused in more detail on those travellers who are crossing the border for three or more months – they are referred to as migrants and comprise 49 per cent of all recorded travellers. Findings presented in this report relate to sociodemographic characteristics, reasons for travel and mobility history of this category of travellers.



### TERMINOLOGY

In this report, the term 'travellers' refers to all individuals crossing the international borders with Iraq and includes several categories of people. Most travellers are entering or exiting Iraq on a temporary basis to visit family; go on holiday or religious pilgrimage; conduct trade or business; or receive medical treatment. Fewer travellers are planning to stay or leave the country for longer periods or indefinitely for work, family, or education, or on humanitarian grounds. Some travellers are planning to change or have already changed their place of usual residence and can hence be considered migrants in all respects.<sup>3</sup>

For analytical purposes, travellers are divided into four groups that consider the intended length of travel,<sup>4</sup> the direction of movement and their nationality.<sup>5</sup>

- Incoming Iraqis entering Iraq for three months or more after being abroad for three months or more;
- Incoming foreigners entering Iraq for three months or more;
- Outgoing Iraqis exiting Iraq to other countries for three months or more;
- Outgoing foreigners exiting Iraq to other countries for three months or more.
- 1 Refer to the report "Iraq Mobility Restrictions due to COVID-19" for more details on the mobility restrictions imposed since March 2020 aimed to curb the spread of the virus. Available at: http:// iraqdtm.iom.int/COVID19/MovementRestrictions
- 2 Additional information on the methodology used for cross-border monitoring can be found on the Iraq DTM portal at: http://iraqdtm.iom.int/Remap#Methodology
- 3 According to the IOM definition, "migrant an umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons" (IOM (2019), Glossary on Migration Switzerland). For the purpose of collecting data on migration, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) defines "international migrant" as "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence" and "usual residence" as "the place at which the person has lived continuously for most of the past 12 months (that is, for at least six months and one day) or for at least the past 12 months, not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least six months" (UN DESA (1998), Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 USA).
- 4 According to the UN Recommendations on International Migration Statistics, the definition of an international migrant used for statistical purposes is "[A] long-term migrant is a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his/her new country of usual residence". However, when studying flows, the Recommendations suggests to further differentiate international migrants by the criterion of duration of stay. Long-term international migrants are defined as those who move to a country other than their country of usual residence for a period of at least one year, while short-term international migrants are people who move to a country of a period of at least three months but less than one year (Global Migration Group (2017), Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development – Global Knowledge Partnership for Migration and Development (KNOMAD), World Bank, Washington, DC).
- 5 Nationality the legal bond between an individual and a State, which can be acquired by birth or at any time after birth, automatic or non-automatic, based on attribution, declaration, or application (IOM (2019), Glossary on Migration – Switzerland). To adjust the term to the survey format, nationality was defined as the country of birth.

Map 1: Status of border crossing points as of 24 August 2020

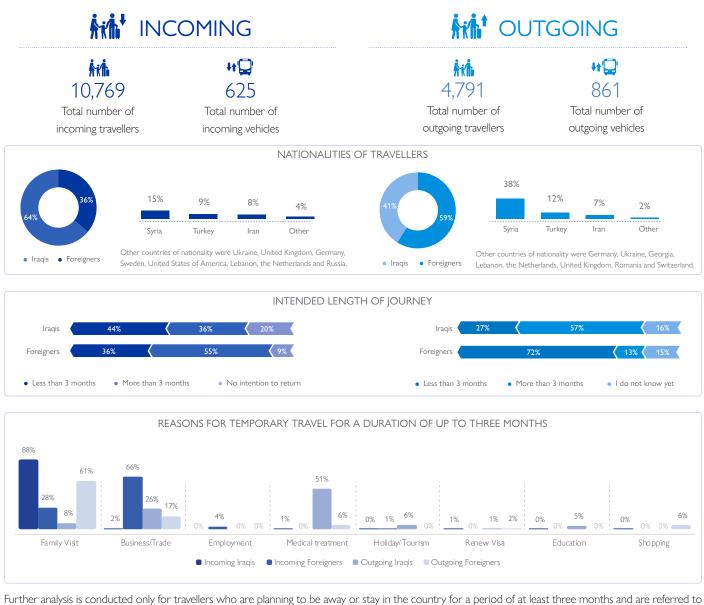
### **TRAVELLERS PROFILE**

Data collection took place at three border crossing points from 8 June to 27 August 2020 on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. During this period, DTM identified 15,560 individuals crossing the border points, with 10,769 entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow), and 4,791 exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow).

Iraqis (64%) outnumbered foreigners (36%) in the incoming flow, while the opposite applies to the outgoing flow, with foreigners (59%) outnumbering Iraqis (41%). The main countries of nationality of foreign travellers corresponded to neighbouring countries, namely Turkey, Syria and Iran – irrespective of the direction of flow.

Generally, the percentage of temporary travels was significantly lower compared to the period before the COVID-19 outbreak, when most travellers entered or exited Iraq for a duration of up to three months. This decrease was especially prominent among incoming foreigners and outgoing Iraqis, as 36 per cent and 27 per cent respectively traveled for up to three months, while these figures were 84 per cent and 92 per cent respectively in the round collected in January and February 2020. The percentage of temporary travel among outgoing foreigners was the same as in the previous round (72%). In contrast, the percentage of temporary travel among incoming Iraqis was slightly higher, 44 per cent in the round collected in January and February 2020.

The reasons for these temporary travels varied across travel groups: most incoming Iraqis travelled for family visits; incoming foreigners travelled for business or trade and to a lesser extent for family visits; outgoing Iraqis travelled for medical treatment and less often for business or trade; and outgoing foreigners travelled for family visits and less frequently for business or trade.

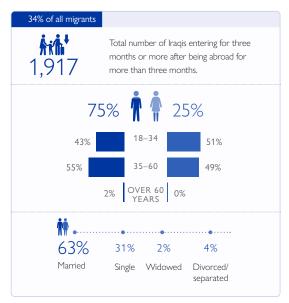


Further analysis is conducted only for travellers who are planning to be away or stay in the country for a period of at least three months and are referred to as migrants in this report (36% of all travellers).<sup>6</sup>



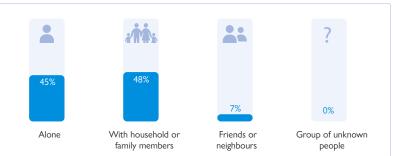
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# **MIGRANTS PROFILE:** INCOMING IRAQIS – SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS



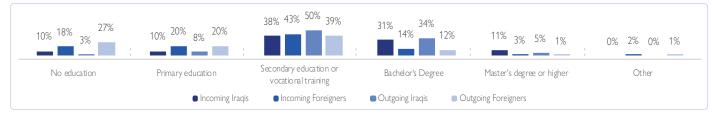
Incoming Iraqis accounted for 34 per cent (1,917 individuals) of all migrants. This group included more males (75%) than females (25%). Around half were middle-aged (35–60 years old) and another half were young adults (18–34 years old), with a small percentage of travellers aged over 60 years (2% of men). In addition, most migrants of this group were recorded as either travelling alone (45%) or with family (48%); however, this varied by individuals' country of residence: those residing abroad were more likely to travel with family, while those residing in the country more often travel alone.

TRAVEL GROUP



Generally, incoming Iraqis were well educated: around two fifths had completed secondary education or vocational training and another two fifths hold a Bachelor's, a Master's or a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree. The remaining one fifth either had completed primary education or did not have an education. Additionally, three fifths were economically active across the following categories: self-employed (33%), workers with daily wages (9%), and employees in the private (13%) or public sectors (1%). Two per cent were unemployed and were looking for a job. Around two fifths belong to the economically inactive population: students (17%), persons who are doing housework (6%), or retired persons (4%). The percentage of students was noticeably higher among incoming Iraqis compared to other migrant groups.

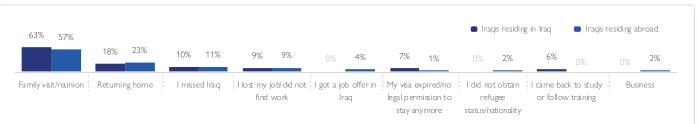




#### Economically active: 59% Economically inactive: 41% 33% 30% 29% 21% 13% <sup>18% 25%</sup> 24% 22% 21% 13% 11% 10% 4% 8% 10% 6% 2% 6% 2% 7% 4% 6% 7% 1% 0% 3% 2% 0% Daily wages Self-employed Employed (private) Employed (public) Doing housework Retired Student Other Unemployed Incoming Iraqis Incoming Foreigners Outgoing Iraqis Outgoing Foreigners

Family visits, returning home and homesickness were the main travel reasons for incoming Iraqis. Only around one in ten people from this group reported travelling due to work reasons, either because they lost their job (9% of Iraqis residing in the home country and 9% of Iraqis residing abroad) or got a job offer (4% of Iraqis residing abroad).

#### REASONS TO ENTER IRAQ

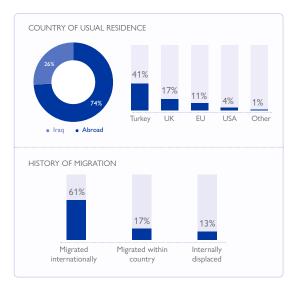


Note: Respondents could choose more than one option, response options 'other reasons' and 'I don't know' are not shown on this chart.

### CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

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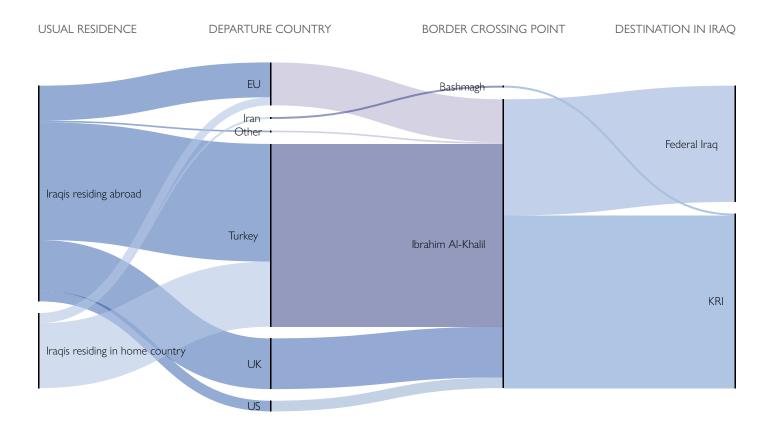
# MIGRANTS PROFILE: INCOMING IRAQIS – MOBILITY HISTORY



Three quarters of incoming Iraqis usually reside abroad (74%) and could hence be considered emigrants. Amongst this group, most reside in Turkey, with the remaining living in the United Kingdom (UK), some countries in the European Union (EU) and in the United States of America (US). Most emigrants were already familiar with international migration (70%) and some with domestic migration (18%) and forced displacement (12%). In fact, one fifth of the incoming Iraqis who usually reside in Turkey were internally displaced persons (IDPs).<sup>7</sup>

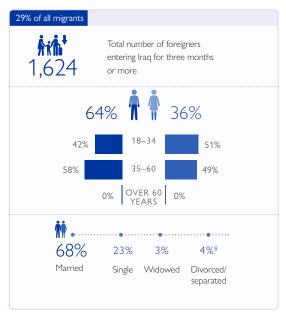
Incoming Iraqis who reported usually residing in Iraq (26%) also have a history of migration, around one third were familiar with international migration and some with domestic migration (16%) as well as forced displacement (16%).

Generally, three fifths of incoming Iraqis were heading towards the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and two fifths towards Federal Iraq. Around half of incoming Iraqis residing abroad and most incoming Iraqis residing in the home country arrived from Turkey and were heading either towards KRI or Federal Iraq. Around a quarter of incoming Iraqis residing abroad arrived from the UK and one fifth form EU countries, transiting through Turkey; almost all were heading towards KRI.



7 Experts and scholars identify three main waves of displacement antecedent the ISIL crisis 2014-2017. The first one began around the time when Saddam Hussein formally became the head of state in 1979 and lasted until 2003; the second one followed the 2003 intervention led by the United States of America which toppled Hussein's regime; and the third took place between February 2006 and the end of 2008. During this last wave, the widespread sectarian violence and persecution of minorities brought the number of IDPs to 2.7 million and that of refugees to Syria, Jordan and other neighbouring countries to an estimated 1.8 million (IOM (2013), Barriers to Integration. Available at: https://reliefiweb.int/sites/reliefiweb.int/files/resources/Internal%20Displacement%20in%20Iraq-%20 Barriers%20to%20Integration.pdf.

# **MIGRANTS PROFILE:** INCOMING FOREIGNERS – SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS



Incoming foreigners accounted for 29 per cent (1,624 individuals) of all migrants. There were more males (64%) than females (36%). Around half of the females were middle-aged and another half were young adults, while three fifths of males were middle-aged and two fifths were young adults.

Generally, half of incoming foreigners travelled with family, one third travelled alone and the rest travelled with friends. However, this depended on whether or not they had established their usual residence in Iraq: foreigners residing in Iraq more often travel with family, foreigners residing in Iran more often travel alone and foreigners residing in Turkey more often travel with friends.





Around two fifths of incoming foreigners either had completed primary education or did not have an education, another two fifths had completed secondary education or vocational training, and one fifth had some form of higher education (Bachelor's, Master's or PhD degree). Additionally, around two thirds of incoming foreigners were economically active across the following categories: self-employed (30%), employees in the private sector (18%), and workers with daily wages (13%). Seven per cent were unemployed and were looking for a job. Around one third belong to the economically inactive population, including persons who are doing housework (21%) or students (4%). The percentage of persons doing housework was noticeably higher among incoming foreigners compared to Iraqi migrant groups.





Generally, family reunion and job offer were the two main reasons for travel for incoming foreigners. However, reasons for travel varied according to whether foreigners have established their usual residence in Iraq or not. Family reunification was the main reason for the majority foreigners residing in Iraq. By contrast, incoming foreigners usually residing in their home countries more often entered Iraq for work-related reasons.

Outgoing Iraqis

Outgoing Foreigners

Incoming Foreigners





Note: Respondents could choose more than one option, response options 'other reasons' and 'I don't know' are not shown on this chart.

Incoming Iraqis

# **MIGRANTS PROFILE: INCOMING FOREIGNERS –** MOBILITY HISTORY



Three fifths of incoming foreigners were Syrians, one fifth were Turkish, one tenth were Iranian, and the remaining one tenth were EU nationals or nationals of other countries such as the UK, the US, Lebanon, and Romania. Syrians have mainly established their usual residence in Iraq (96%) and could hence be considered immigrants. By contrast, other nationals usually reside abroad. Most incoming foreigners were already familiar with international migration (71%), some with domestic migration (17%) and few with forced displacement (2%).

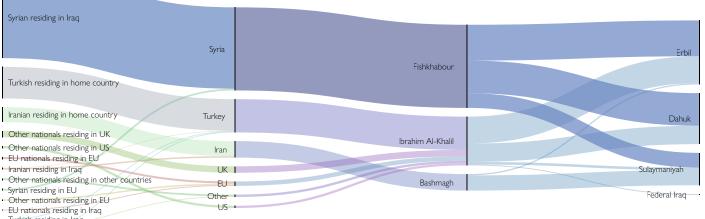
Generally, almost all incoming foreigners were heading towards KRI: Erbil (43%), Dahuk (34%) and Sulaymaniyah (22%). Around three fifths of this flow were Syrians residing in Iraq who entered at Fishkhabour and were heading towards Erbil (24%), Dahuk (22%) and Sulaymaniyah (9%). Around one fifth were Turkish nationals residing in their home country who entered at Ibrahim Al-Khalil and were heading towards Erbil (15%) and Dahuk (6%). One tenth were Iranians residing in their home country who entered at Bashmagh and were heading towards Sulaymaniyah (9%) and Erbil (1%). The remaining one tenth were nationals of other countries who entered Iraq at the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border crossing point and intended to stay in Dahuk.

#### **USUAL RESIDENCE**

DEPARTURE COUNTRY

### BORDER CROSSING POINT

DESTINATION IN IRAQ



Turkish residing in Iraq

Other nationals residing in Iraq

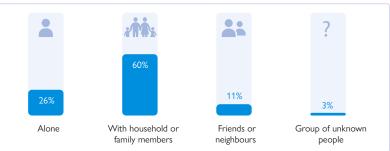
· Syrian residing in Turkey

# **MIGRANTS PROFILE:** OUTGOING IRAQIS – SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS



Outgoing Iraqis account for 10 per cent of all migrants. This group included more males (70%) than females (30%). Most males were middle-aged, while three fifths of females were middle-aged, and two fifths were young adults. Most of outgoing Iraqis were married – representing similar characteristics to incoming Iraqis. Outgoing Iraqis were generally travelling either with family (60%) or alone (26%). Iraqis residing in Turkey were more often travelling with friends and neighbours (28%) or with a group of unknown people (15%), which can be explained by the high percentage of males (87%) and young adults (46%) among them.



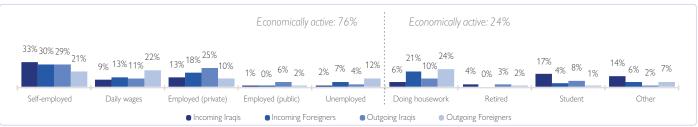


Outgoing Iraqis' level of education was high compared with other migrant groups: around two fifths hold some form of higher education, half had a secondary education or vocational training, and only one tenth had completed primary education or did not have an education. In addition, nearly three quarters were economically active (76%), which is higher than the other groups due to the relatively high share of people employed in the private (25%) and public sector (6%). Only four per cent were unemployed and were looking for a job. Around one quarter belong to economically inactive population groups: persons who are doing housework (10%), students (8%) or retirees (3%).



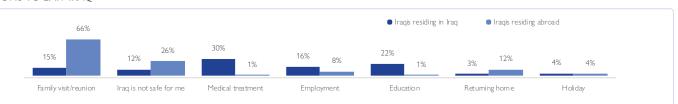


#### CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



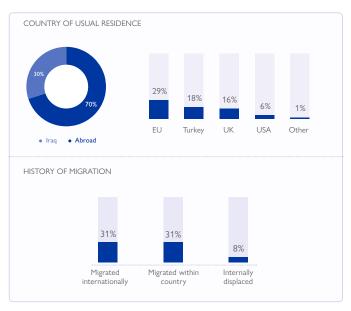
Outgoing Iraqis reported various reasons for leaving the country, which varied according to whether they usually reside in Iraq or not. Most Iraqis residing abroad were either reuniting with family (66%) or returning home (12%), which is consistent with the fact that three quarters report having relatives at a destination country. Around one quarter were leaving due to security reasons and around one tenth due to work- or education-related reasons, including losing their job in Iraq or getting a new job in a destination country. By contrast, for outgoing Iraqis residing in the home country, main reasons for travel were medical treatment (30%), education (22%), employment (16%), family visits (15%) and security situation in the country (12%).





**IOM IRAQ** 

# **MIGRANTS PROFILE: OUTGOING IRAQIS – MOBILITY HISTORY**



Only 30 per cent of outgoing Iraqis reside in Iraq, and the remaining 70 per cent live abroad, mainly in the EU (29%), Turkey (18%), the UK (16%) and the US (6%) and can hence be considered immigrants.9

Around one third of the group of outgoing Iraqis have a history of migration within the country and/or across the border. Around one tenth were also internally displaced. Iraqis residing in Turkey more frequently reported experiencing internal migration and displacement.

Nearly all outgoing Iraqis were travelling through Ibrahim Al-Khalil border crossing points - only 5 per cent of those residing in Iraq crossed at Bashmagh towards Iran. Immigrants were mainly headed to their countries of habitual residence: EU countries (40%), Turkey (25%), UK (22%), US (8%) and other countries (5%).

#### BORDER CROSSING POINT

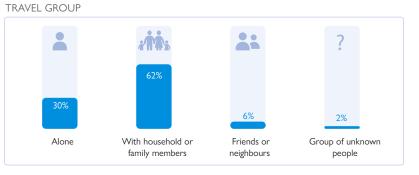
USUAL RESIDENCE DESTINATION COUNTRY Iraq Turkey EU Ibrahim Al-Khalil EU Turkey UK UK US Bashmagh Iran US Other Other

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# **MIGRANTS PROFILE:** OUTGOING FOREIGNERS – SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

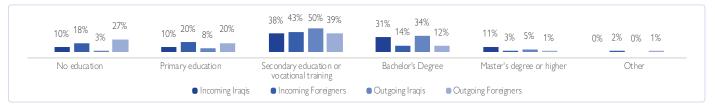


Outgoing foreigners represent 28 per cent of all migrants across the three assessed border points, nearly equalling the flow of incoming foreigners. Women represented 43 per cent of outgoing foreign migrants, which is a much higher percentage compared to the other three migrant groups. Around half were middle-aged and another half were young adults, with a small percentage of travellers aged over 60 years (2% of men and 1% of women). Three quarters were married. Outgoing foreigners were travelling either with family (62%) or alone (30%). Women more often travelled with family (76%), whereas over two fifths of males travelled alone.

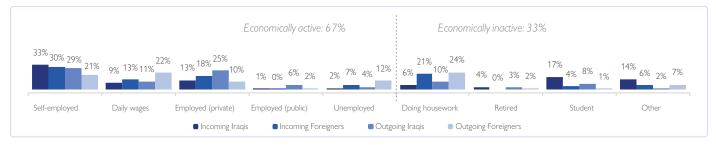


Around half of outgoing foreigners have no education or have only completed primary school, two fifths had a secondary education or vocational training and only 13 per cent hold some form of higher education. However, most outgoing foreigners were economically active (67%) and compared to other migrant groups, included more workers with daily wages (22%) and migrants who were actively looking for a job (12%, nearly all of whom men). This migrant group also included a larger percentage of persons who are doing housework (24%), compared to Iraqi migrant groups.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



#### CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



Family visit was the main reason for the majority of outgoing foreigners residing in Iraq, with some leaving for medical treatment or unemployment. For foreigners residing abroad, family visit was also the most frequently mentioned reasons for travelling, although a higher percentage reported lack of job in Iraq or job offer in a destination country. In addition, 13 per cent left due to the security situation, almost all of whom Syrians.

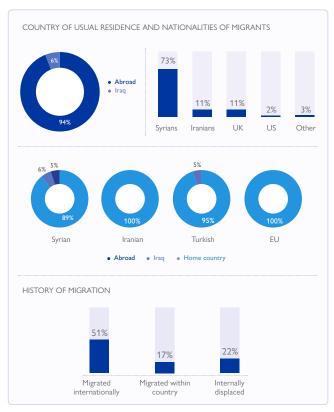
### REASONS TO EXIT IRAQ

<sup>96%</sup> 77%								Foreigners residing in Iraq					Foreigners residing abroad					
	7%	16%	10%	3%	0%	13%	0%	8%	5%	2%	0%	7%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Family visit/reunion	l lost my not find w	·		reatment		ot safe for ne	the de	b offer in stination ntry	Poor f situa	inancial ati on	Retumir	ng hom e	refi	et obtain ugee ationality	Busi	ness	To study trai	or follov ning

Note: Respondents could choose more than one option, response options 'other reasons' and 'I don't know' are not shown on this chart.

10 Three per cent of outgoing foreigners did not want to answer to that question.

# MIGRANTS PROFILE: OUTGOING FOREIGNERS – MOBILITY HISTORY



Nearly three quarters of the outgoing foreigners were Syrians, around one tenth were Iranians and one tenth were Turkish. The remaining were EU nationals or nationals of other countries such as Ukraine, Georgia, Lebanon, or the UK. Nearly all of them have kept their habitual residence in their home country, with only few having moved habitually to Iraq or other countries abroad.

Half of all outgoing foreigners had a history of international migration, one fifth had migrated within their countries and one fifth reported that they were forced to leave their house because of a natural disaster or conflict. Syrians reported experiencing international migration and forced displacement more frequently, while Iranians and Turkish nationals more commonly reported experiencing migration within their country.

Most outgoing foreigners (70%) left Iraq through Fishkhabour, mainly Syrians travelling to their home country, and around one tenth crossed the border at the Bashmagh crossing, all Iranians returning to their home country. The remaining one fifth travelling through Ibrahim AI-Khalil were Turkish, EU nationals and nationals of other countries who were heading towards their home countries and only Syrians travelled towards Turkey, the EU and the UK through Ibrahim AI-Khalil.

BORDER CROSSING POINT	NATIO	NALITY	USUAL RE	SIDENCE	Destination C	ountry
Fishkhabour	Syrians		Syria			Syria
			Turkey			Turkey
Ibrahim Al-Khalil	Iranians		Iran			Turkey
	Turkish		Iraq			Iran
Bashmagh	Other EU nationals		EU Other UK			Other EU UK

### **METHODOLOGY**

The data collection for this report took place in June, July and August 2020 on weekdays only, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a lunch break of 30 minutes between 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. Data was collected through IOM's enumerators, composed of 14 staff members deployed across Iraq (35% of enumerators are female).

Travellers who crossed the border for three or more months are referred to as migrants in this report and comprise 49 per cent of all recorded travellers. Analysis findings presented within this report relate to this category of travellers.

The border crossing points were selected based on observations conducted in May 2019 by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs).<sup>11</sup> Specific criteria were used to select the border crossing points, including: 1) high volumes of daily crossings to and from neighbouring countries; 2) diversity, both in geography and type of border point (official/unofficial border points, bus stations, etc.); and 3) ability of staff to reach and operate from the location for daily data collection and fund optimization.

Out of 16 locations assessed, five border crossing points were selected for data collection:

- Ibrahim Al-Khalil in Dahuk Governorate, bordering Turkey;
- · Fishkhabour in Dahuk Governorate, bordering the Syrian Arab Republic;
- · Bashmagh in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- · Zurbatiyah (Wassit Terminal) in Wassit Governorate, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- Al-Shalamcha in Basrah Governorate, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The data collection methodology for cross-border monitoring in Iraq was developed in cooperation with IPAZIA Ricerche. The methodology employs two different approaches: 1) headcount of all travellers entering or leaving Iraq, and 2) survey of randomly sampled travellers identified as entering or exiting Iraq.

The counting exercise aims to count all individuals crossing national borders and to identify the total volume of travellers who enter Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and travellers who exit Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). Counting was conducted by observation, using tablets to record the type of flow (incoming/outgoing), the time of crossing (day, hour, minutes), and the number of travellers as well as their means of transport (whether by private car, taxi, bus or minibus – up to 15 seats).

The survey aims to collect information about travellers and was conducted through face-to-face interviews, using tablets to record sociodemographic characteristics, mobility history, and reasons for travel. Respondents were selected randomly through the adoption of a 'systematic step/interval' – i.e. travellers are systematically selected at fixed intervals from the start of the workday. The interval was fixed at 1:3 (one in every three individuals were selected for an interview). All travellers aged 18 years and older who were crossing borders were eligible for an interview, regardless of their nationality. Sampling weights were applied to generalize the characteristics of travellers.

DTM identified 15,560 individuals crossing the border points during the reporting period, 1,455 travellers were sampled using systematic selection, 1,268 interviews were conducted and 187 refused to take part in the survey or were not able or not eligible to answer. Among all sampled travellers, 683 crossed the border for three or more months and are the focus of this report:

TRAVELLERS	INCOMING IRAQIS	INCOMING FOREIGNERS	OUTGOING IRAQIS	OUTGOING FOREIGNERS	OTHER SURVEYED TRAVELLERS	
	Iraqis entering Iraq for three months or more after being abroad for three months or more	Foreign travellers entering Iraq for three months or more	Iraqis exiting Iraq to other countries for three months or more	Foreign travellers exiting Iraq to other countries for three months or more	Travellers entering or exiting Iraq on a temporary basis – for less than three months	
Weighted value	1,917	1,624	541	1,584	4,672	
Sample size	144	153	110	276	585	

Data presented in this report is representative of the migrants crossing at any of the three border points between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 pm during weekdays only. Data should not be generalized to all of inter and intra-regional migration; rather, the data captures information on migration at the three border points monitored. Data collected in assessed border points should not lead to assumptions about flows in non-assessed border points or areas without monitoring points.

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11 Please refer to the methodological note for more details. Available online at: http://iraqdtm.iom.int





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