

# UPDATE ON CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN IRAQ

SITUATION AS OF 15 JUNE 2026

Regional tensions have flared up in the first half of June 2026 since escalatory military activity in and around the Islamic Republic of Iran started late February 2026. Although a ceasefire announced on 8 April remains formally in place, repeated security incidents this month, including cross-border drone and missile attacks in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and renewed military activity elsewhere in the region, underscore the fragility of the current situation. Compounded by economic disruptions and heightened uncertainty, these insecurity dynamics further exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities associated with Iraq's complex security environment and protracted displacement linked to the conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

## KEY FIGURES

### CURRENT SITUATION



93 displaced households and no new displacement recorded since 13 April



12 Border Crossing Points (BCPs) remain open as of 15 June 2026 with reports of temporary closures at two points during the reporting period<sup>1</sup>



Renewed regional conflict escalation and increased drone and missile activity in northern Iraq resulting in a 1-day closure of the Iraqi airspace on 7 June.



Flow Monitoring access currently remains limited to Bashmakh along the Iranian border.

### DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION CONTEXT



997,334 IDPs<sup>2</sup>



4,954,518 Returnees<sup>3</sup>



349,402 Refugees and asylum seekers<sup>3</sup>



370,980 International migrants<sup>5</sup>



55,516 Iraqi migrants in Iran<sup>5</sup>

### OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

**18 out of 18**

Governorates with active Rapid Assessment and Response Teams monitoring internal displacement.

**14**

Border points monitored in partnership with national authorities

**6**

Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) along the borders with (i) the Islamic Republic of Iran (Bashmakh, Al Sulaymaniyah Governorate; Zurbatiyah, Wassit Governorate; Al Shalamcha, Al Basrah Governorate), (ii) Syrian Arab Republic (Fishkhabor, Duhok Governorate and Al Qaim, Al Anbar Governorate) and (iii) Republic of Türkiye (Ibrahim Al-Khalil, Duhok Governorate). Please note that data collection has been on hold in Zurbatiyah, Al Shalamcha (bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran), and Al Qaim (bordering the Syrian Arab Republic) as of 11 May.

Notes: [1] Pshta and Sumar are trade focused with limited movements of travellers. [2] Estimates from IOM's Flow Monitoring Survey at the border; these estimates are based on random sampling of travellers and subject to statistical error [3] IDP and IDP returnee figures as of December 2025 from IOM DTM, [4] Refugee and asylum seeker population figures in 2026 from UNHCR (link). [5] Migrant stock figures for 2024 from UNDESA (link).

## OPERATIONAL CAPACITY FOR DISPLACEMENT MONITORING

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) plays a key role in the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of data on migration and displacement in Iraq. Working in close coordination with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), IOM monitors mobility dynamics across the country and at its borders. IOM implements its global data collection system, the Displacement Tracking

Matrix (DTM).<sup>1</sup> DTM provides granular, location-level information on displacement trends, population profiles, and mobility patterns, enabling continuous monitoring of evolving dynamics. DTM data serves as a critical evidence base for operational planning and decision-making, supporting humanitarian, recovery, and stabilization interventions. As a global public good, IOM makes DTM data available to government

1 See the DTM Methodological Framework.

counterparts and humanitarian partners to inform coordinated response efforts, enhance targeting of assistance, and optimize the allocation of resources across preparedness, response, and return contexts.

To monitor internal displacement and return in Iraq, IOM DTM relies on trained Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), consisting of 40 local responders with over a decade of operational experience. RARTs maintain deep-rooted institutional connections to local authorities across all governorates, with the capacity for rapid scaling, and leverage a network of over 3,700 Key Informants (KIs).

To monitor cross-border mobility and displacement in Iraq, IOM DTM operates Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) at key transit locations, such as border crossings and major travel routes. At these points, trained enumerators conduct short interviews with travellers to collect data on

## DRIVERS OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Since the start of the escalations, IOM tracked 93 internally displaced households, with no additional instances of displacement recorded since 13 April. Displacement remains limited despite ongoing drone threats in three governorates (Al Sulaymaniyah, Duhok and Erbil) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) during the reporting period and 15 governorates overall since February.

Regional tensions escalated significantly during the reporting period following the outbreak of direct hostilities between Iran and Israel on 7 June. In response, Iraqi authorities temporarily closed airspace and suspended civilian air traffic across the country, including in KRI, disrupting regional travel and transportation. Security incidents were concentrated in northern Iraq, particularly in Erbil Governorate. On 2 June, a missile attack targeted Rawanduz subdistrict in Soran district without damage or casualties reported, while on 3 June two missiles targeted an Iranian Kurdish settlement in Khalifan subdistrict. Further incidents occurred on 7 June, when a further drone attack targeted Iranian Kurdish settlements in Khalifan and three drones were reportedly intercepted, while two drones crashed in Akre district, Duhok Governorate. On 8 June, drone-related incidents were reported in Erbil (Harir, Koya and Soran) and Sulaymaniyah Governorates, including multiple interceptions over Soran district and the downing of a drone near Harir. Additional strikes were reported on 9 June against Iranian Kurdish settlements in Doli Alana, Khalifan subdistrict. On 11 June, a wheat storage facility in Qushtapa district, Erbil Governorate, was reportedly targeted in a drone attack.

population movements, including routes, demographics, mode of travel, and reasons for crossing. IOM operates three FMPs along the borders with the Islamic Republic of Iran (Bashmakh, Al Sulaymaniyah Governorate, active since 15 March 2026; Zurbatiyah, Wassit Governorate, and Al-Shalamcha, Al Basrah Governorate, active since 17 March 2026), two on the border with Syria (Fishkhabor, Duhok Governorate, and as of 30 April 2026 Al Qaim, Al Anbar Governorate) and one on the border with Türkiye (Ibrahim Al-Khalil, Duhok Governorate), collecting data on a daily basis. As of 11 May, data collection has been temporarily suspended in Zurbatiyah and Al Shalamcha (bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran), as well as Al Qaim (bordering the Syrian Arab Republic). IOM works closely with the Ministry of Interior and the Border Commission to monitor mobility dynamics across a broader set of border crossing points (BCPs).

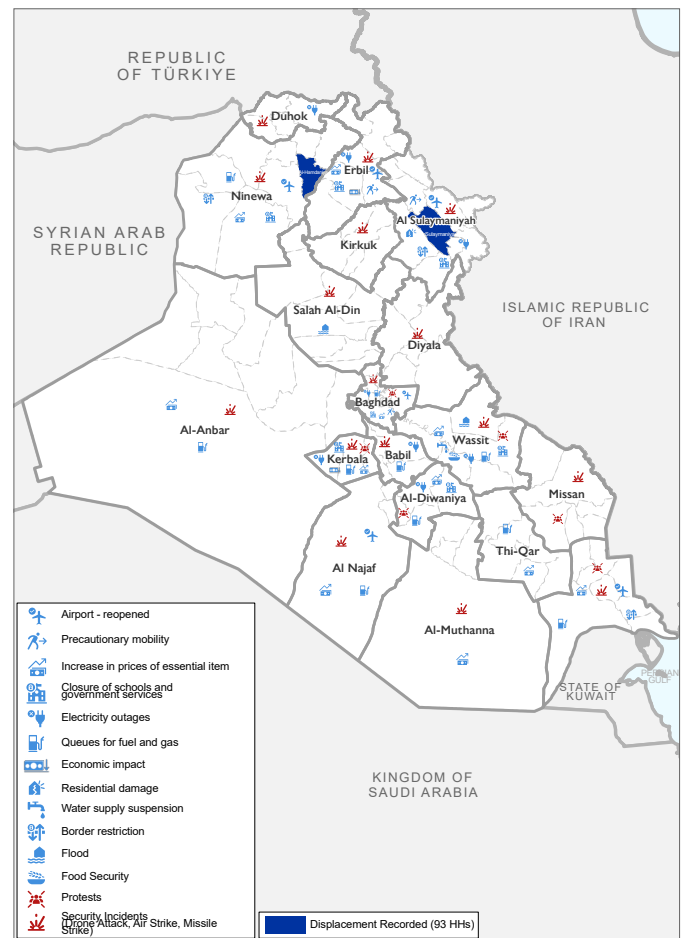


Figure 1: Humanitarian impact of the crisis and displacement risk factors inside Iraq. The information is reported at the governorate level based on reports from DTM field teams and media sources since 1 March 2026 and may not be exhaustive. This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

## CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY

### Islamic Republic of Iran Border Monitoring<sup>2</sup>

Iraq shares a long land border with the Islamic Republic of Iran that runs across six Governorates: four in Federal Iraq - Diyala, Wassit, Missan, and Al Basrah - and two in the KRI, Erbil and Al Sulaymaniyah. Regular cross-border movements take place between the two countries for trade, business, tourism, and religious activities. While all BCPs operated normally by 15 June, two BCPs were temporarily closed:

- Twila BCP was shut to Iraqi nationals entering Iran for four days during the previous reporting period, reopening on 2 June. Trade movements and travel by Iranian nationals continued. Iraqi citizens located in Iran remained able to return through the crossing.
- Bashmagh BCP was closed for several hours on 8 June to travellers and commercial trade due to the recent escalation of regional tensions.

Key informants further reported a substantial decline in commercial activity unrelated to regional escalations across BCPs in KRI compared with the previous month, attributed to seasonal restrictions on agricultural imports.

Apart from these changes, border conditions remained broadly stable compared to the previous reporting period (19 May - 1 June 2026). BCPs reported in- and out-going movements with exceptions unrelated to the current escalations, such as border closures on Fridays or movements being – as before the start of hostilities at the end of February 2026 – restricted to trade at Pshta and Sumar BCPs.

On 15 June, KIs reported changes in the volume of migratory flows. Siran Bin and Al Sheeb reported more people entering Iraq than before, while Bashmagh, Hajj Omran and Al Muntheriyah reporting lower influxes. Siran Bin and Al Sheeb further reported increased outgoing movements to Iran with decreases reported at Bashmagh, Hajj Omran and Muntheriya. Key informants attributed increased movements through these points to religious travel to and from places of pilgrimage.

Official cross border movement figures available on a monthly basis for Al Muntheriya, Al Sheeb, Shalamchah and Zurbatiya further show a stark increase in cross border movements in May compared to April, confirming earlier reporting on increased Eid-related travel. Across these four BCPs, arrivals from Iran increased from 271,751 in April to 535,428 in May, representing a 97 per cent increase. Similarly, departures increased by 91 per cent from 270,142 in April to 517,160 in May. As a result, despite the substantial increase in overall movement volumes, the net inflow remained relatively modest at 18,268 individuals, suggesting that the majority of movements were temporary in nature.

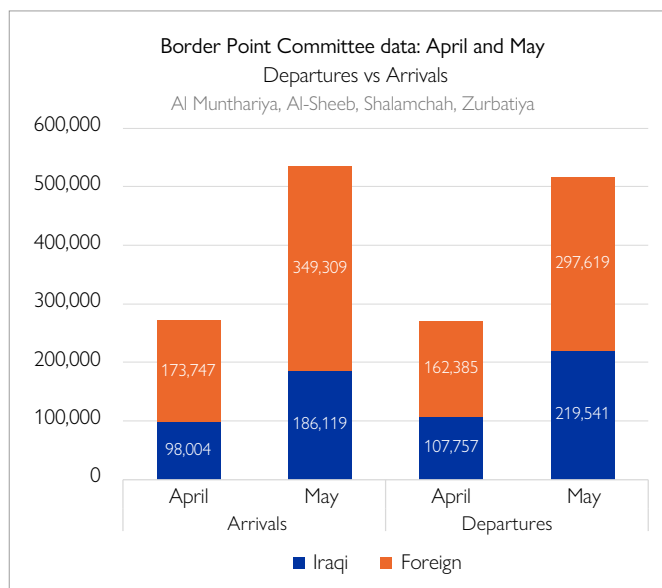


Figure 2: Arrivals and departures at selected border points in April and May

### Islamic Republic of Iran Flow Monitoring<sup>3</sup>

Between 2 and 15 June,<sup>4</sup> Flow Monitoring access was restricted to Bashmagh where DTM teams recorded 3,075 incoming and 3,152 outgoing movements representing a 13 per cent decrease in incoming movements and 12 per cent increase in outgoing movements (compared to movement through Bashmagh in the previous two weeks). Iranian nationals accounted for 67 per cent of incoming and 69 per cent of outgoing movements. Other Third Country Nationals (TCN) were not reported as having traveled through Bashmagh.

Among incoming Iranian movements, the main reported purposes were family visits (37%), employment (32%), and tourism (15%). Meanwhile, no travelers reported movement linked to conflict or insecurity. Outgoing movements of Iranian nationals were primarily driven by returns to the Islamic Republic of Iran following long-term (65%, 3 months or more) or short-term (28%, less than 3 months) stays. All incoming movements by Iraqi citizens were instances of return by migrants who had been residing in the Islamic Republic of Iran for over three months (91%) while those that left the country travelled mainly for family visits (39%), tourism (29%) and shopping (13%). Iraqi nationals who returned to Iraq (over 3 months) moved to locations within Al Sulaymaniyah (97%), with a minority going to Erbil (2%) and a lower percentage aiming to reach Kirkuk and Baghdad.

<sup>2</sup> Border monitoring relies on key informant estimates from border officials across all BCPs.

<sup>3</sup> Flow monitoring is implemented by DTM at three BCPs, limited to working hours and subject to security conditions. Unlike border monitoring, which is based on estimates from border officials, flow monitoring relies on interviews with individuals crossing the border.

<sup>4</sup> Note that IOM's Flow Monitoring operations have been put on hold in Zurbatiyah, Al Shalamcha, and Al Qaim BCPs as of 11 May.



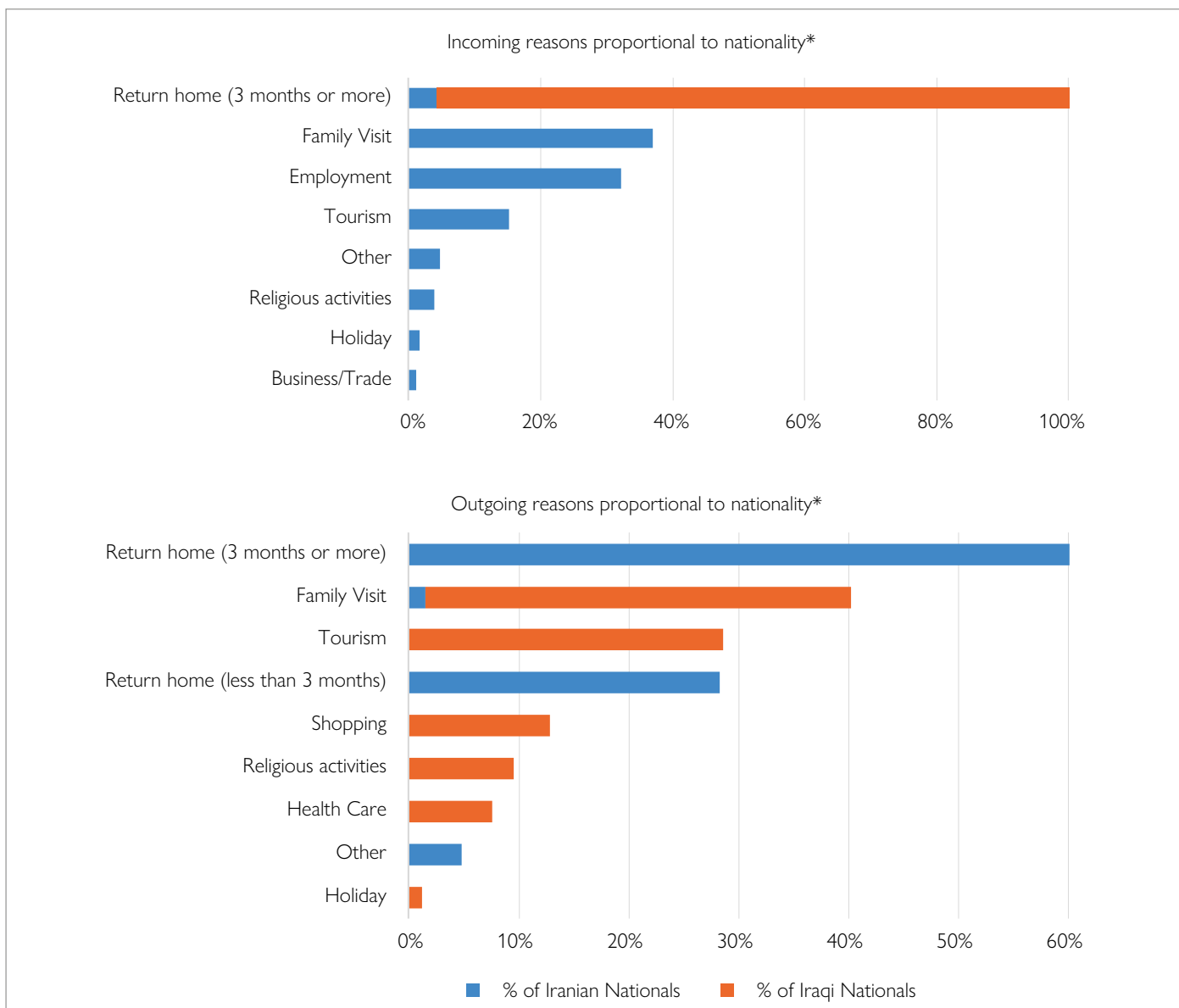


Figure 4: breakdown of arrivals from and departures to the Islamic Republic of Iran by reason for movement

\*TCNs are not represented.

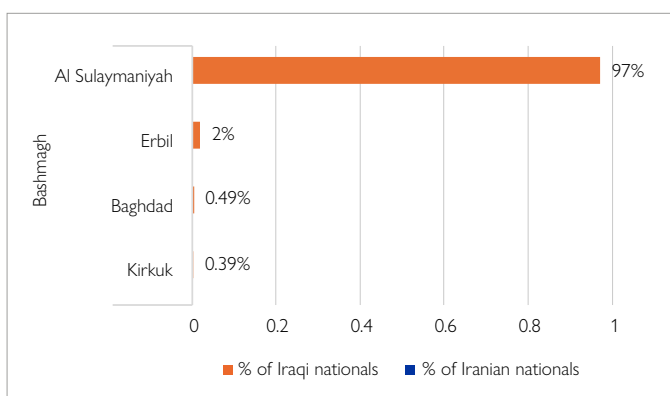


Figure 5: breakdown of arrivals from the Islamic Republic of Iran of Iranian citizens (movements related to the crisis) and Iraqi citizens returning home (3 months or more) by Flow Monitoring Point and governorate of destination.

### Republic of Türkiye and Syrian Arab Republic Flow Monitoring

IOM is also conducting Flow Monitoring Surveys at Ibrahim Al-Khalil (Duhok), on the border with the Republic of Türkiye, in addition to Fishkabor (Duhok) and Al Qaim FMP on the border with the Syrian Arab Republic. Due to the volume of traffic, these surveys are conducted with a random sample of travellers using interval sampling and are therefore subject to statistical error. Based on this data, IOM estimates that 9,319 TCNs returned home from Iraq via these three land crossings between 10 March and 15 June 2026.<sup>5</sup> The countries of nationality of these travellers included the Republic of Türkiye, the Syrian Arab Republic, Germany, France, China, Italy, United Kingdom, Portugal, United States of America, Nigeria, South Africa, Sweden, Russian Federation, Egypt, Kuwait and the Philippines.

<sup>5</sup> The estimates are based on a sample size of 2,475 respondents (1,840 at Ibrahim Al-Khalil, 523 at Fishkabor and 112 at Al Qaim with no new data from Al Qaim since 11 May due to a temporary FMP inactivity), out of whom 354 were TCNs returning home, weighted for the overall volume of traffic at each location. Data collection takes place only during regular working hours and was suspended 1-9 March as a security precaution.