

UPDATE ON CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN IRAQ

SITUATION AS OF 1 JUNE 2026

Regional tensions persist following escalatory military activity in and around the Islamic Republic of Iran since late February 2026. Although a ceasefire announced on 8 April remains formally in place, repeated security incidents, including cross-border drone and missile attacks in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and renewed hostilities elsewhere in the region, underscore the fragility of the current situation. These 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



11 open and 1 partially open border crossing points (BCPs) along the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran:¹ Restricted access to Iran for Iraqi nationals at Twila BCP

- Flow Monitoring access currently remains limited to Bashmagh along the Iranian border.
- Increased cross border movements observed due to Eid holidays end of May.

DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION CONTEXT



997,334 IDPs²



4,954,518 Returnees³



349,402 Refugees and asylum seekers³



370,980 International migrants⁵



55,516 Iraqi migrants in Iran⁵

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] Pshtha 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).¹ 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 two governorates (Al Sulaymaniyah and Erbil) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) during the reporting period and 15 governorates overall since February.

During the reporting period, regional escalations continued to affect Iraq, with recurrent drone and missile activity reported in the KRI, particularly in Sulaymaniyah and Erbil governorates. Incidents included attacks targeting areas associated with Iranian Kurdish settlements in Surdash, Zirgwezala, Jezhnikan, Doli Alana and Koya, as well as several reported drone crashes in rural areas. While most incidents reportedly resulted in no casualties, they contributed to a continued sense of insecurity in affected areas.

In parallel, localized service and public health concerns were reported in central and southern Iraq. Fuel shortages in Al-Qadisiyah and Najaf led to reduced availability, long queues and disruptions to transport and daily movement. In Wasit Governorate, a suspected haemorrhagic fever infection prompted local authorities to introduce restrictions on livestock movement to reduce the risk of disease transmission. These developments may affect livelihoods, market access and access to essential services, particularly among livestock-dependent households, transport workers and other vulnerable groups. While no large-scale displacement was reported during the period, the combination of recurring security incidents, public health concerns and localized economic pressures may compound existing vulnerabilities and contribute to localized mobility challenges among populations already affected by insecurity, displacement or fragile livelihoods.

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).

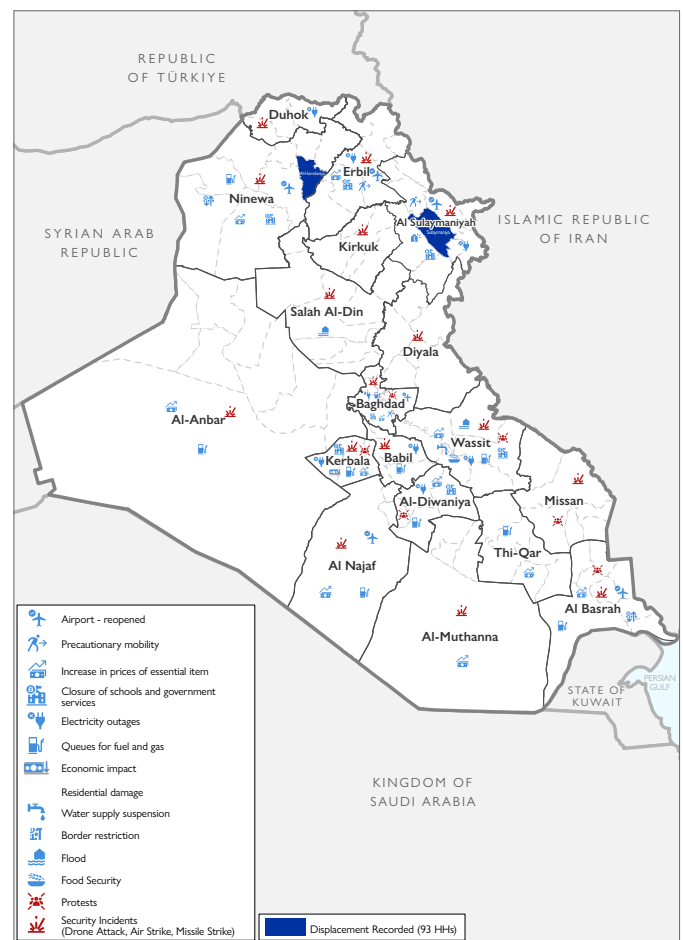


Figure 1: Humanitarian impact of the crisis and displacement risk factors inside Iraq. The information is reported at the governorate level based on reports from DTM field teams and media sources since 1 March 2026 and may not be exhaustive. This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries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

CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY

Islamic Republic of Iran Border Monitoring²

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. Some eleven BCPs remained open during the reporting period and one, namely Twila, has been closed to outgoing Iraqi nationals as of 29 May. The reason for this movement restriction remains unknown.

As of 1 June 2026, border conditions remained broadly stable compared to the previous reporting period (week ending 18 May), with all crossing points remaining fully open apart from Twila. Fully open 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.

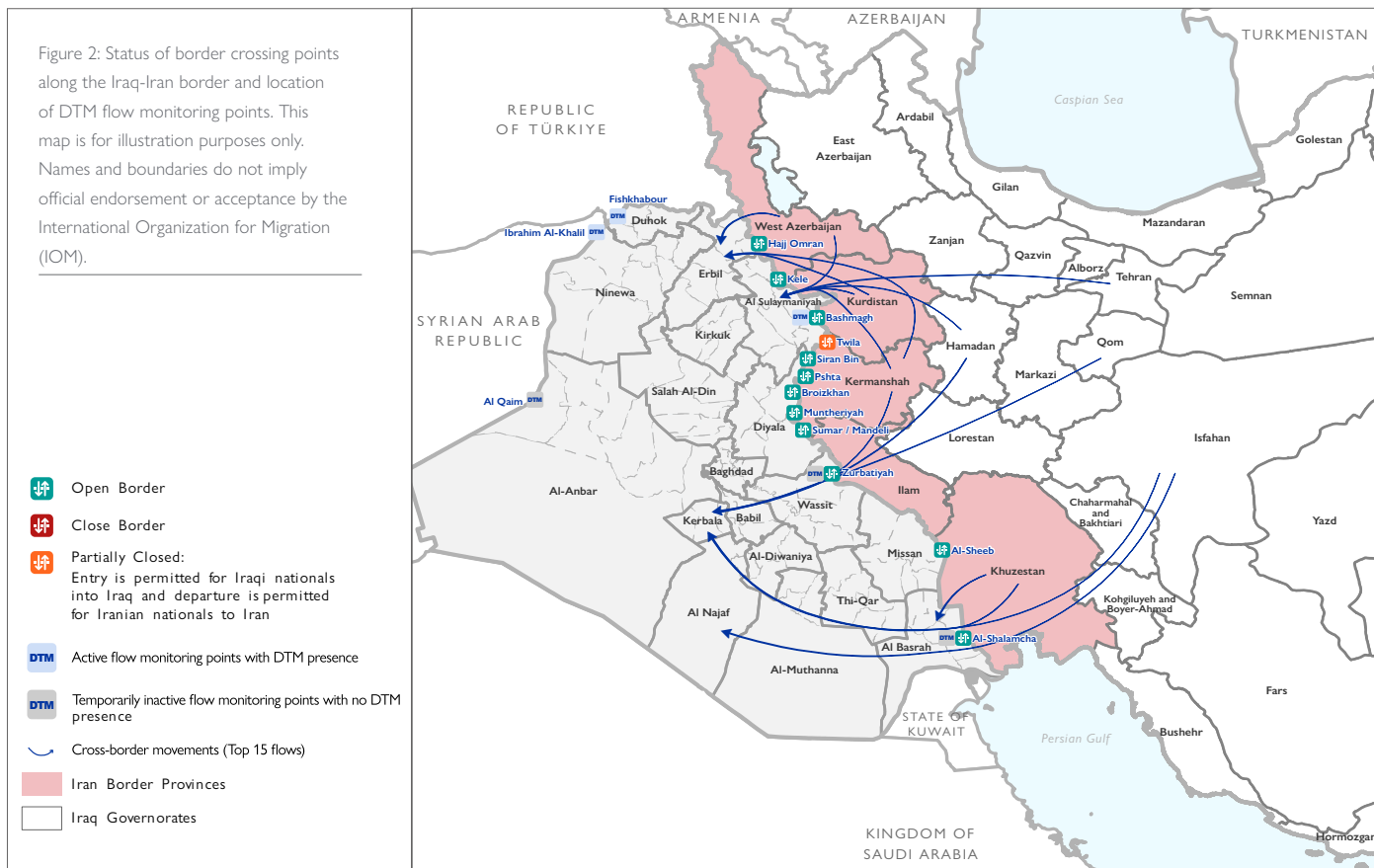
Despite the open BCPs, IOM received information from KIs that travel has not yet reached levels from before the escalations began. On 1 June, KIs reported changes in the volume of migratory flows. Al Shalamcha and Al Sheeb reported more people entering Iraq than before, and Bashmagh and Muntheriyah reporting much higher influxes. Al Shalamcha and Al Sheeb as well as Muntheriyah further reported increased outgoing movements, and much higher movements to Iran were reported at Bashmagh and Zurbatiyah. Key informants attributed increased movements through these points to Eid holiday travel to and from places of pilgrimage. Please note that these changes apply to a limited number of days around 27 to 30 May and don't represent

an overall increase in migration flows as confirmed by Flow Monitoring in Bashmagh (see below). No BCPs reported emergency response or security incidents during the reporting period.

Islamic Republic of Iran Flow Monitoring³

Between 19 May and 1 June,⁴ Flow Monitoring access was restricted to Bashmagh where DTM teams recorded 3,531 incoming and 2,084 outgoing movements representing a 1 per cent increase in incoming movements and 37 per cent decrease in outgoing movements (compared to movement through Bashmagh in the previous two weeks). Iranian nationals accounted for 69 per cent of incoming and 63 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 (34%), employment (26%), and religious activities (20%). 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 (51%, 3 months or more) or short-term (41%, less than 3 months) stays. Most 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 (35%), religious activities (18%) and tourism (16%). Iraqi nationals who returned to Iraq (over 3 months) moved to locations within Al Sulaymaniyah (97%), with a minority going to Erbil (2%) and Kirkuk (1%).



2 Border monitoring relies on key informant estimates from border officials across all BCPs.
 3 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.
 4 Note that IOM's Flow Monitoring operations have been put on hold in Zurbatiyah, Al Shalamcha, and Al Qaim BCPs as of 11 May.

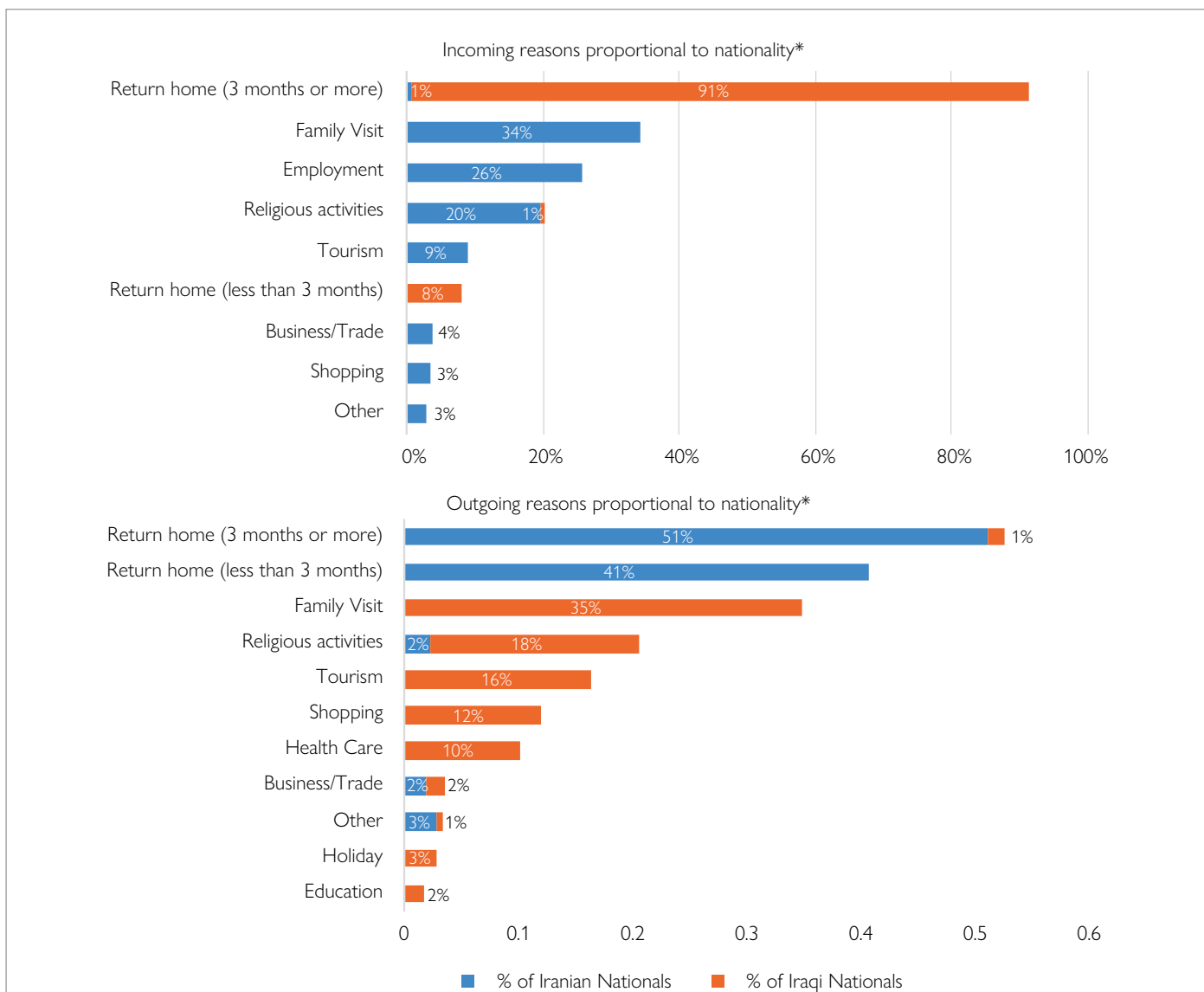


Figure 3 : breakdown of arrivals from and departures to the Islamic Republic of Iran by reason for movement

*TCNs are not represented.

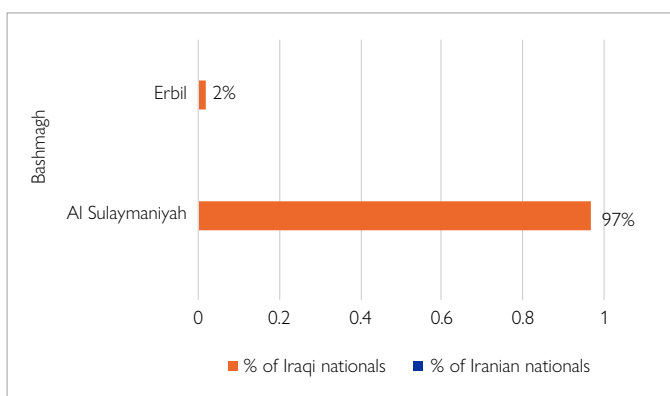


Figure 4: breakdown of arrivals from the Islamic Republic of Iran of Iranian citizens (movements related to the crisis) and Iraqi citizens returning home (3 months or more) by Flow Monitoring Point and governorate of destination.

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 7,568 TCNs returned home from Iraq via these three land crossings between 10 March and 1 June 2026.⁵ The countries of nationality of these travellers included the Republic of Türkiye, the Syrian Arab Republic, Germany, France, Italy, China, Portugal, United States of America, Nigeria, United Kingdom, South Africa, Sweden, Russian Federation, Egypt, Kuwait, Philippines and Islamic Republic of Iran.

5 The estimates are based on a sample size of 2,133 respondents (1,593 at Ibrahim Al-Khalil, 428 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 304 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.