

UPDATE ON CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN IRAQ

SITUATION AS OF 29 JUNE 2026

Regional tensions remained elevated during the second half of June 2026 following the escalations of hostilities that began in late February 2026. Compared with the first half of the month, security incidents in Iraq declined, although isolated cross-border drone activity in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and broader regional instability continued to underscore the fragility of the security environment. Alongside ongoing economic disruptions and heightened uncertainty, these dynamics continue to exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities associated with Iraq's complex security landscape and the protracted displacement resulting from the conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

KEY FIGURES



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).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

Compared with the first two weeks of June, the reporting period saw fewer cross-border security incidents and a shift towards localized developments. New drone-related activity was limited to one isolated incident, compared with multiple drone and missile strikes during the first half of June.

During the reporting period, security incidents remained limited but continued to reflect the volatile regional environment. On 16 June, a drone attack targeted the headquarters of an Iranian Kurdish settlement in Koya District, Erbil Governorate. On 27 June, a drone was discovered in Soran District after becoming exposed by melting snow, having reportedly remained buried since an earlier incident. No casualties or significant damage were reported in either case.

IOM's DTM recorded that 80 of the 93 families displaced from Zirgwezalla village Sulaymaniyah during March 2026 in response to regional insecurity had returned following improvements in the security situation. Returns occurred gradually over the past month, with families commuting between the village and Sulaymaniyah city for the first two weeks before resuming permanent residence as conditions improved.

Public demonstrations over deteriorating basic services were reported in two governorates. On 23 June, residents in Chamchamal District, Sulaymaniyah Governorate, held a peaceful protest over prolonged water and electricity shortages. On 25 June, larger protests took place in Wassit Governorate over severe electricity shortages, where security forces dispersed demonstrators using tear gas and water cannons after they entered the Provincial Council building.

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 (Bashmagh, 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).

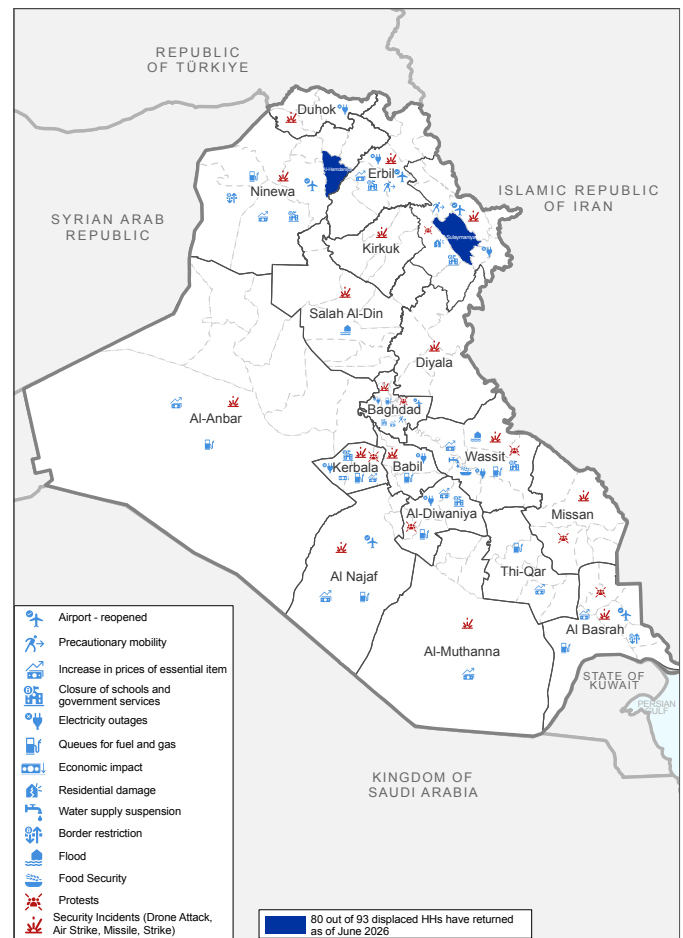


Figure 1: Humanitarian impact of the crisis and displacement risk factors inside Iraq. The information is reported at the governorate level based on reports from DTM field teams and media sources since 1 March 2026 and may not be exhaustive. This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries 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. All BCPs operated normally during the reporting period.

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.

During the reporting period, KIs reported changes in the volume of migratory flows. Higher incoming as well as outgoing flows at the end of both weeks during this reporting period were reported at Al Shalamcha, Bashmagh, Hajj Omran and especially Mutheriya.

Islamic Republic of Iran Flow Monitoring³

Between 16 and 29 June,⁴ Flow Monitoring access was restricted to Bashmagh where DTM teams recorded 2,675 incoming and 1,936 outgoing movements

representing a 13 per cent decrease in incoming movements and 39 per cent decrease in outgoing movements (compared to movements through Bashmagh in the previous two weeks). The decrease is suspected to be linked to the end of pilgrimage related travel recorded in the previous reporting period. Iranian nationals accounted for 70 per cent of incoming and 63 per cent of outgoing movements. Other Third Country Nationals (TCNs) were not reported as having traveled through Bashmagh.

Among incoming Iranian movements, the main reported purposes were family visits (36%), employment (33%), and tourism (13%). Meanwhile, no surveyed travellers reported conflict or insecurity as their primary reason for movement. 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 (30%, 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 while those that left the country travelled mainly for family visits (41%), tourism (34%) and shopping (10%). Iraqi nationals who returned to Iraq (over 3 months) moved to locations within Al Sulaymaniyah (98%), with a minority going to Erbil (1%) and Kirkuk (1%).

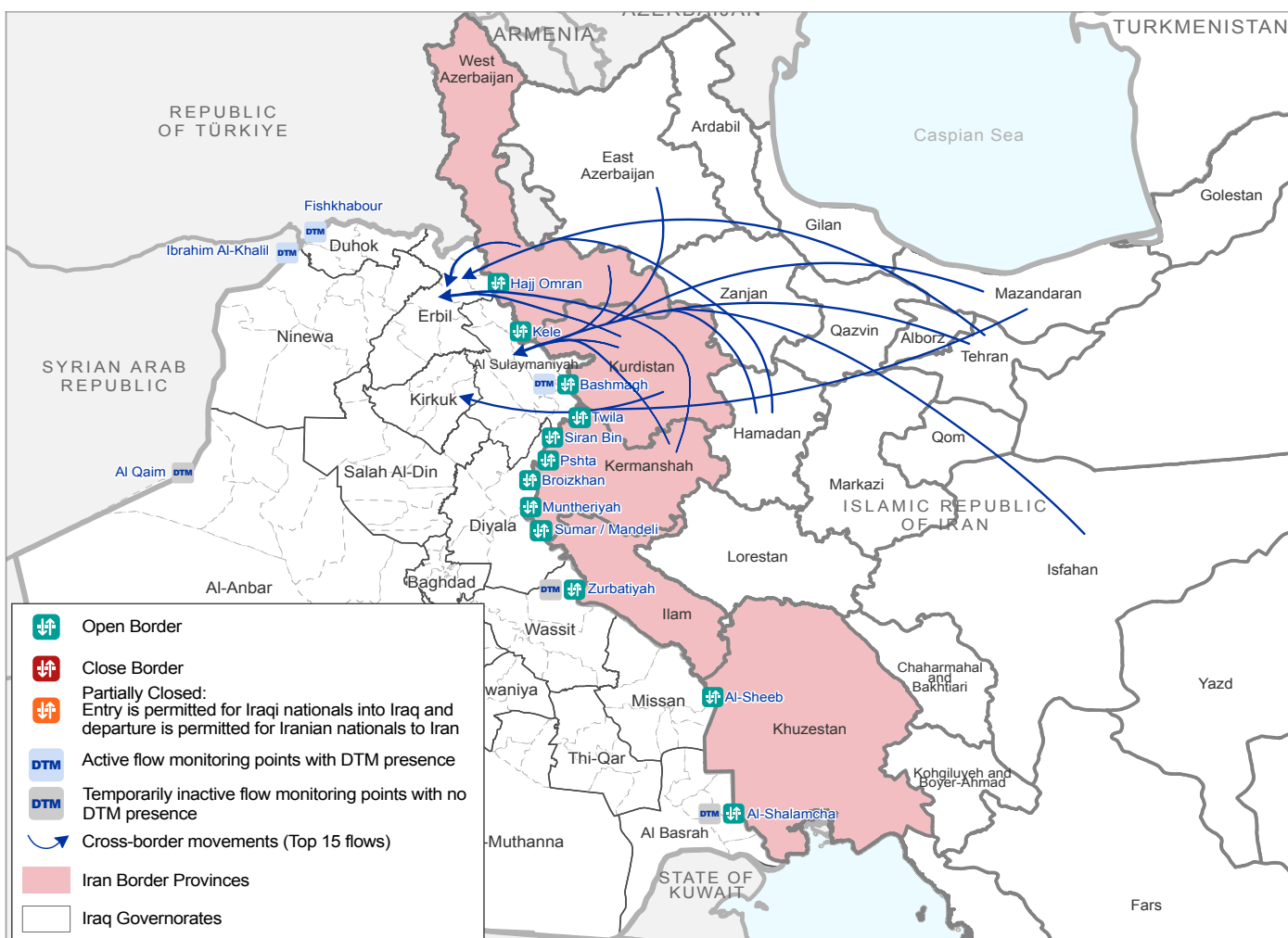


Figure 2: Status of border crossing points along the Iraq-Iran border and location of DTM flow monitoring points. This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

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.

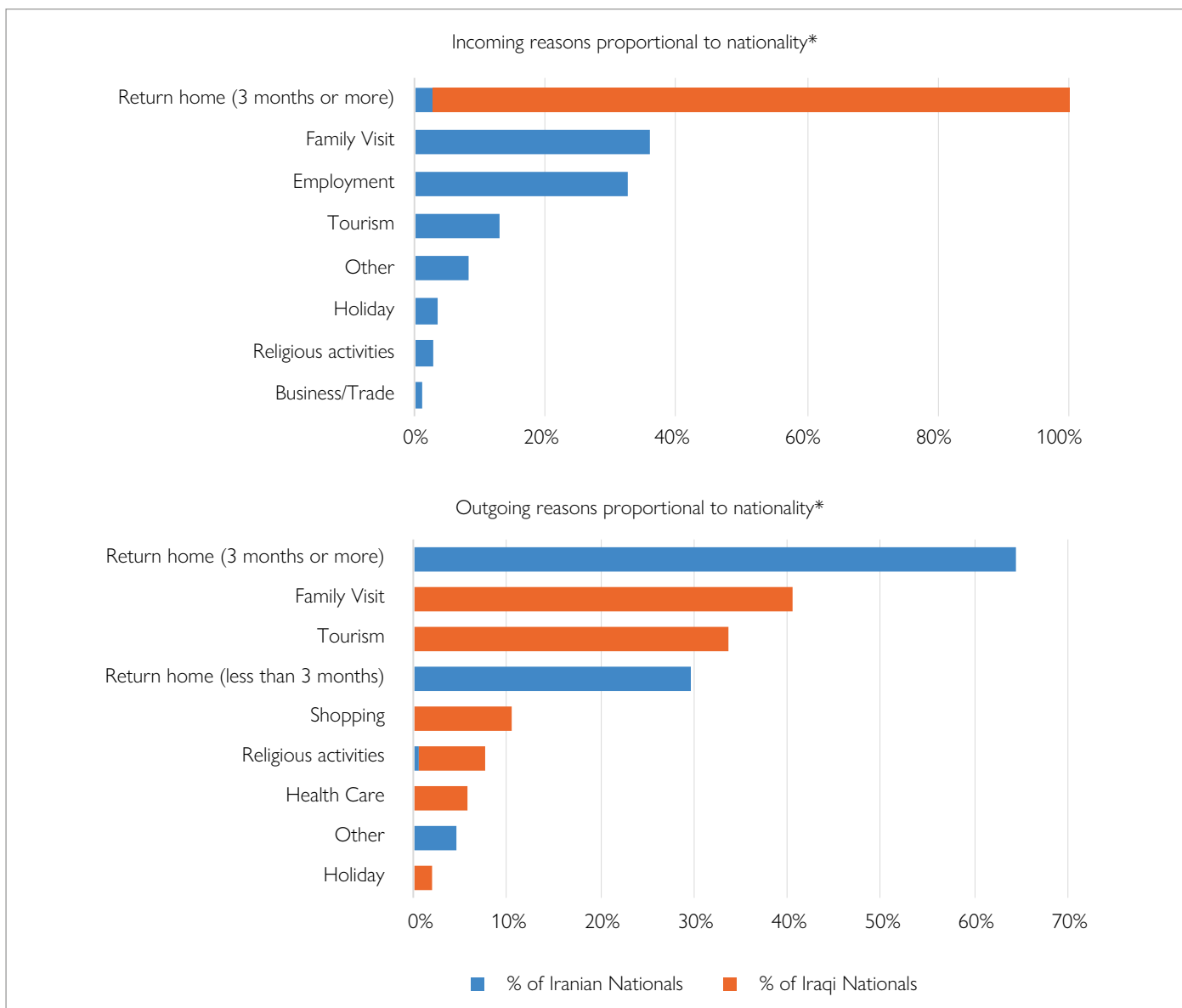


Figure 3: breakdown of arrivals from and departures to the Islamic Republic of Iran by reason for movement

*TCNs are not represented.

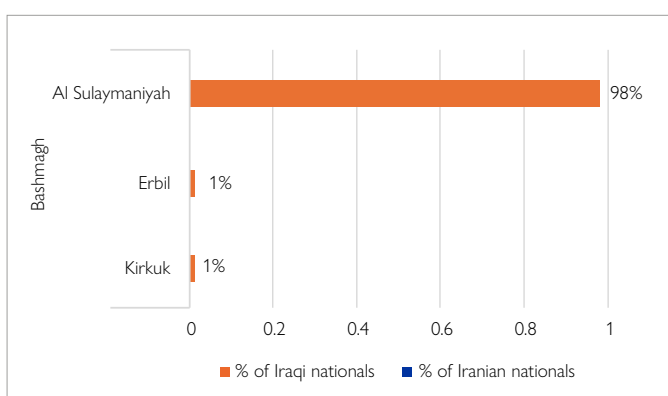


Figure 4: breakdown of arrivals from the Islamic Republic of Iran of Iranian citizens (movements related to the crisis) and Iraqi citizens returning home (3 months or more) by Flow Monitoring Point and governorate of destination.

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 10,348 TCNs returned home from Iraq via these three land crossings between 10 March and 29 June 2026.⁵ 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.

5 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.