

TRAVELLERS' PROFILE AND POPULATION FLOW OVERVIEW

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: JULY 2020

SEPTEMBER 2020

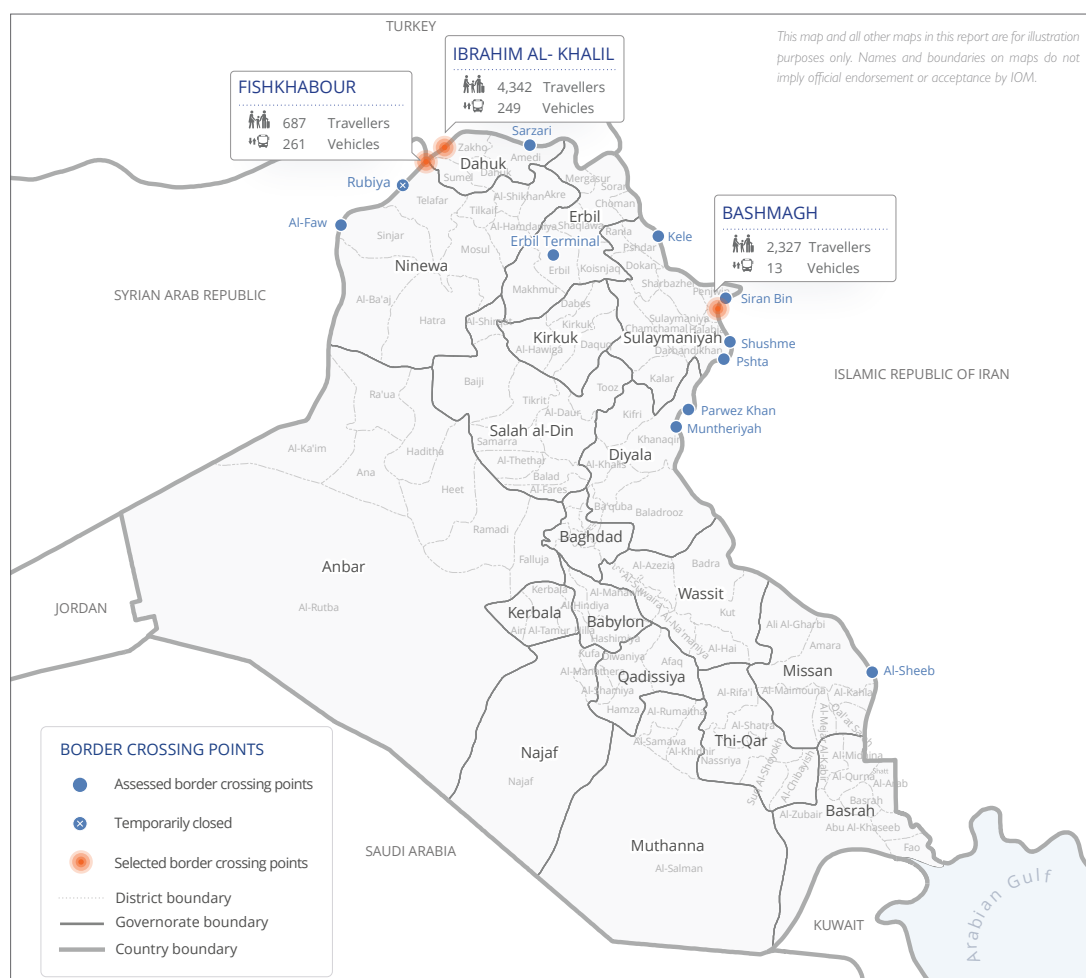
DTM Iraq collects data at border crossing points with neighboring countries – the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey – to better understand migration movements in the Middle East. Cross-border monitoring is drawn from IOM's DTM standard methodology, designed to capture and describe migration flows and is part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project, funded by the European Union, targeting Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Pakistan.

The data for this report was gathered through two separate approaches – a headcount of all travellers entering or leaving Iraq and a sample surveys of travellers, which took place at three border crossing points in July 2020. Border crossing points were selected based on observations conducted in May 2019 by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs). Out of 16 locations assessed, five border crossing points were selected for

data collection: Ibrahim Al-Khalil, bordering Turkey, Fishkhabour, bordering the Syrian Arab Republic, and Bashmagh, Zurbatiyah (Wassit Terminal) and Al-Shalamcha, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran.¹ 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.²

In this report, the term 'travellers' refers to all individuals who are crossing the international border with Iraq for any given reason and thus includes several categories of people. Most travellers are entering or exiting Iraq temporarily to visit family, do trade or business, or receive medical treatment. Fewer are planning to stay or leave the country for a longer period – or even indefinitely – for work-, family-, or education-related purposes, or humanitarian reasons. Some of them are planning to change or have already changed their place of usual residence.³

Map 1: Monitored border crossing points



1 Further details on the selection of respondents, survey methodology and how the border crossing points were selected are available in the Methodological Overview on the last page or at the Iraq DTM portal. Available at http://iraqdtm.iom.int/files/Remap/iom_dtm_CROSS_BORDER_MOVEMENT_MONITORING_METHODODOLOGICAL_OVERVIEW.pdf

2 Please 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>

3 According to the IOM definition, "migrant – is 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).



BORDER POINT PROFILE

IBRAHIM AL-KHALIL

BORDERING COUNTRY: TURKEY



4,342

Total number of
travellers

197

Average number of
travellers per day

249

Total number of
vehicles

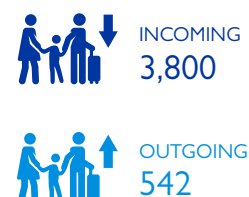
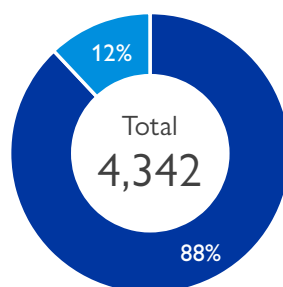
11

Average number of
vehicles per day

At the Ibrahim Al-Khalil point, data collection took place from 1 July to 30 July 2020, weekdays only from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. From 1 July to 25 July 2020, incoming flow at the Ibrahim Al-Khalil crossing point was allowed only on Monday and Thursday. Starting from 26 July 2020, incoming flow was allowed every day. Incoming travellers needed permission from the Ministry of Interior except for Iraqis and individuals with a residence permit in Iraq. Iranians were not allowed to enter. Outgoing travellers could exit every day without permission except for Iraqis who needed permission from the Ministry of Interior and were not allowed to enter Turkey for tourism. Iranians were not allowed to cross.

All residents of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) had to be tested for Covid-19 when they entered the border points. They were afterwards required to quarantine at home for 48 hours for the test results to be processed. Travellers residing in Federal Iraq were not subject to this testing and quarantine rule.

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



During this period, the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border crossing point witnessed a larger flow of travellers as compared to other points assessed and the previous round collected in June. DTM identified 4,342 individuals crossing the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border point between 1 and 30 July, with 3,800 of them entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 542 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border was crossed by 197 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) and 11 vehicles (including private cars, buses and minibuses). These are significantly larger numbers compared to the previous round collected in between 8 and 30 June when 1,293 individuals crossed the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border point. Most travellers crossed this border point on foot, with only a few crossings by private car or bus, which is consistent with the previous round of data collection.

Percentage of travellers by means of transportation

- Outgoing 0%
- Incoming 0%



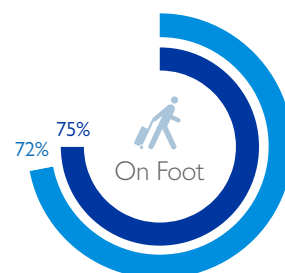
Minibus



Bus



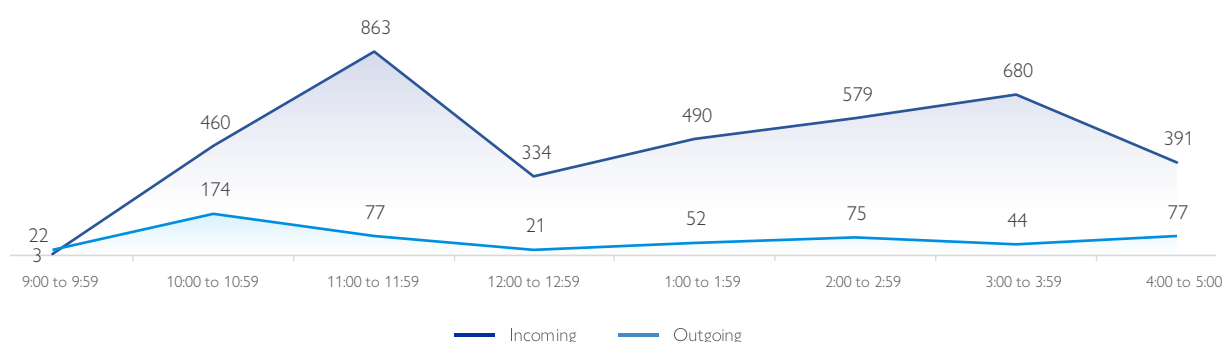
Car



On Foot

The number of incoming travellers significantly exceeds the number of outgoing travellers for this border crossing point with peak crossings between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)





TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

IBRAHIM AL-KHALIL

BORDERING COUNTRY: TURKEY

Most incoming and outgoing travellers were men. Women represented 36 per cent of incoming and 25 per cent of outgoing flows. Around three fifths of incoming travellers and half of outgoing ones were aged 35–60 years, while the rest were aged 18–34 years with a small portion of travellers aged over 60 years – that is, one per cent of incoming and three per cent of outgoing travellers.

The majority (86%) of incoming flows were Iraqis and the rest were from Turkey, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, the Netherlands, or the United States of America. Most incoming travellers usually reside abroad, i.e. 78 per cent of Iraqis, 97 per cent of Turkish nationals and 85 per cent of other nationals. The main reasons for entering Iraq were visiting family, (67%), followed by returning home (10%) and having obtained a job offer (8%). Half of incoming flows entered Iraq temporarily for a duration of up to three months, around one third entered for three months or more and the remaining were undecided as to the duration of their travel. The portion of temporary travel increased compared to the to the previous round collected in June when around one third of incoming flow entered Iraq for a duration of up to three months.

A little more than half of outgoing flows were Iraqis either residing in Iraq (60%) or abroad (40%) and around one third were Turkish nationals residing in their home country (47%) or in Iraq (53%). The main reasons for exiting Iraq were family reunion (56%), followed by medical treatment (14%) and loss of employment (7%). Outgoing travellers exited Iraq either temporarily for a duration of up to three months (42%) or for three months or more (39%). The remaining 19 per cent were undecided as to the duration of their travel. The portion of temporary travel increased compared to the to the previous round collected in June, when around quarter of outgoing flow exited Iraq for a duration of up to three months.

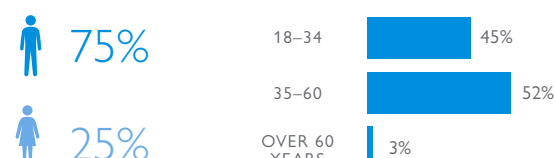
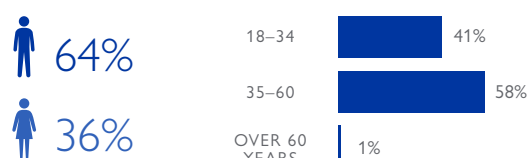


INCOMING

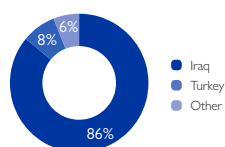


OUTGOING

AGE AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF TRAVELLERS

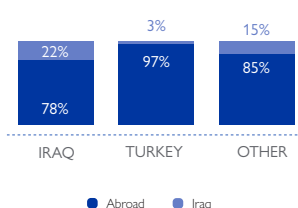


MAIN NATIONALITIES OF TRAVELLERS

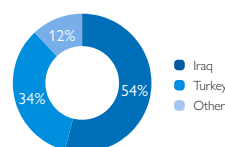


Other countries of nationality were United Kingdom, Ukraine, the Netherlands, and United States of America

COUNTRY OF USUAL RESIDENCE BY NATIONALITIES

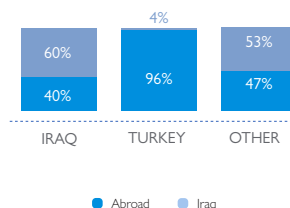


MAIN NATIONALITIES OF TRAVELLERS

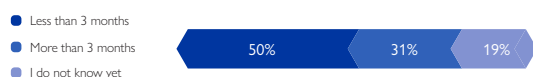


Other countries of nationality were Ukraine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Georgia, and Lebanon

COUNTRY OF USUAL RESIDENCE BY NATIONALITIES



INTENDED LENGTH OF JOURNEY



REASONS FOR TRAVEL





COVID-19 AWARENESS OF TRAVELLERS

IBRAHIM AL-KHALIL

BORDERING COUNTRY: TURKEY

Travellers were asked about their awareness of COVID-19 symptoms, prevention measures and risk factors. The majority of incoming and outgoing travellers were aware of main symptoms such as fever and dry cough, but fewer reported knowing that difficulty breathing/shortness of breath is a common symptom – that is, 41 per cent of incoming and 39 per cent of outgoing travellers. The same applies to prevention measures, as most incoming and outgoing travellers were aware of washing hands regularly as well as covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, but fewer were aware of maintaining distance and avoiding touching your face.

Incoming travellers would either go to public primary health-care centre or hospital in case of symptoms (46%) or call the hotline and follow instructions (46%). Most outgoing travellers would go to public primary health-care centre or hospital (69%), 17 per cent would call the hotline and 10 per cent would stay home.

Some travellers reported having health conditions for which COVID-19 is often more severe. Specifically, incoming flow had four per cent of travellers with diabetes, two per cent with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma and three per cent with serious heart conditions. Outgoing flow had 12 per cent of travellers with diabetes, 8 per cent with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma and 5 per cent with serious heart conditions.

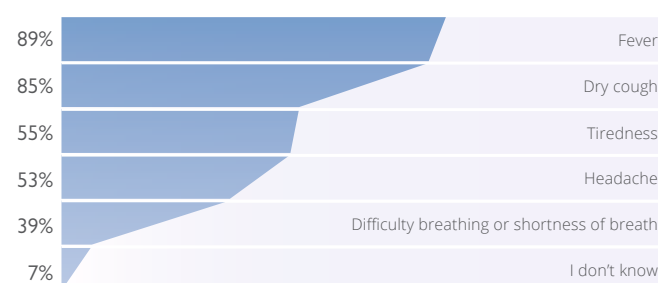
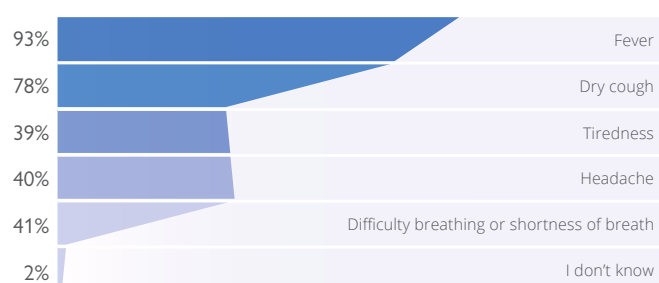


INCOMING



OUTGOING

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AWARENESS



ACTIONS IN CASE OF TRAVELLERS OR SOMEONE FROM THEIR FAMILY HAVE COUGH, FEVER OR DIFFICULTY BREATHING



46% would go to public primary health-care centre or hospital



4% would go to a private clinic or hospital



45% would call the hotline and follow instructions



0% do not know



5% would stay home and wait for symptoms to improve or worsen



69% would go to public primary health-care centre or hospital



2% would go to a private clinic or hospital



17% would call the hotline and follow instructions



2% do not know



10% would stay home and wait for symptoms to improve or worsen

VULNERABLE GROUPS



4% diabetes



2% chronic lung disease or asthma



3% serious heart conditions



12% diabetes



5% chronic lung disease or asthma



5% serious heart conditions

COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES AWARENESS





BORDER POINT PROFILE

FISHKHABOUR

BORDERING COUNTRY: SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



687

Total number of
travellers

98

Average number of
travellers per day

261

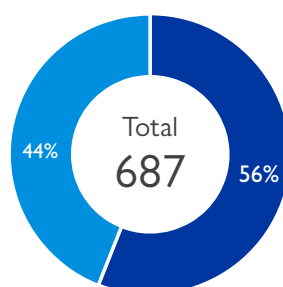
Total number of
vehicles

37

Average number of
vehicles per day

At the Fishkhabour point, data collection took place from 1 July to 30 July 2020, weekdays only from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. From 1 July to 13 July 2020, Fishkhabour was open Sunday and Wednesday for outgoing Syrians and incoming transit travellers. Starting from 14 July 2020, the border point was open only on Tuesday for incoming transit travellers. On 29 and 30 July 2020, the border point was open for incoming transit travellers and incoming Syrians with a residence permit in Iraq.

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow

INCOMING
382OUTGOING
305

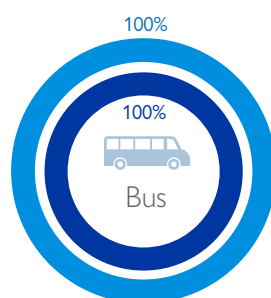
During this period, the Fishkhabour border crossing point witnessed a lower flow of travellers as compared to the previous round collected in June. DTM identified 687 individuals crossing the Fishkhabour border point between 1 and 30 July, with 382 entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 305 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border was crossed by 98 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) and 37 vehicles (including private cars, buses and minibuses). These are significantly lower numbers compared to the previous round collected in between 8 and 30 June when 1,395 individuals crossing the Fishkhabour border point. All travellers crossed this border point by bus.

Percentage of travellers by means of transportation

- Outgoing 0%
- Incoming 0%



Minibus



- 0%
- 0%



Car

- 0%
- 0%

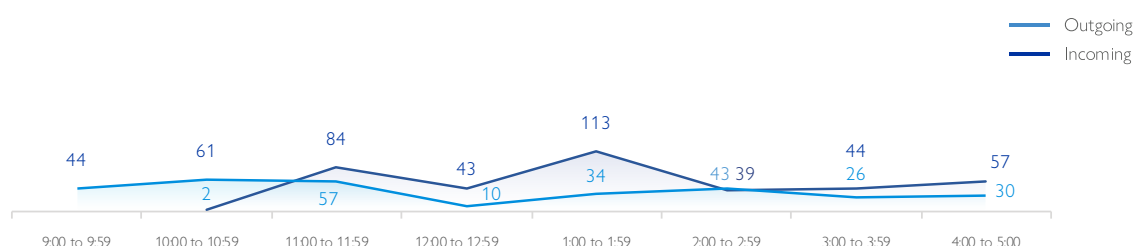


On Foot

The number of incoming travellers slightly exceeds the number of outgoing travellers for this border crossing point.

Due to a small number of travellers during this reporting period and resulting insufficient sample size, the analysis on socio-demographic characteristics, reasons for travel and COVID-19 awareness was not conducted.

Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)



Outgoing
Incoming



BORDER POINT PROFILE

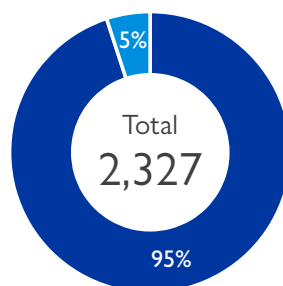
BASHMAGH

BORDERING COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**2,327**Total number of
travellers**155**Average number of
travellers per day**13**Total number of
vehicles**1**Average number of
vehicles per day

At the Bashmagh point, data collection took place from 1 July to 23 July 2020, weekdays only from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. From 26 July to 30 July 2020, data collection was interrupted due to access issues. During the data collection period, incoming flow at the Bashmagh was allowed only on Monday and Thursday for returning Iraqis and outgoing flow was allowed every day for returning Iranians.

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow

**INCOMING**
2,205**OUTGOING**
122

During this period, the Bashmagh border crossing point witnessed a larger flow of travellers as compared the previous round collected in June. DTM identified 2,327 individuals crossing the Bashmagh border point between 1 and 23 July, with 2,205 entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 122 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border was crossed by 155 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) and one vehicle (private cars). These are significantly larger numbers compared to the previous round collected in between 8 and 30 June, when 161 individuals crossed the Bashmagh border point. Most travellers crossed this border point on foot, with only a few exiting by private cars, which is consistent with the previous round of data collection.

Percentage of travellers by means of transportation

- Outgoing 0%
- Incoming 0%



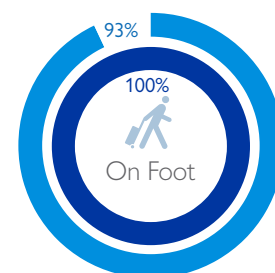
Minibus



Bus



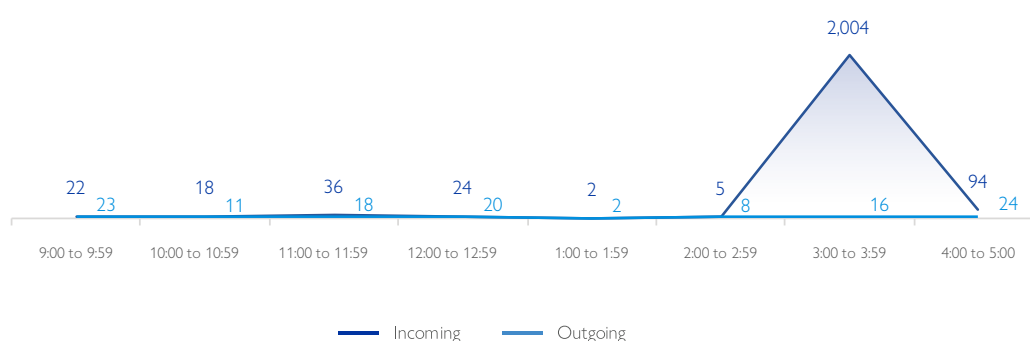
Car



The number of incoming travellers significantly exceeds the number of outgoing travellers for this border crossing point. This is only due to the fact that on 9 July, a large group of Iranians entered Iraq to attend the burial ceremony of a religious leader, Sheikh Muhammad al-Muhammad Abd al-Karim al-Kisnazi al-Husayni.

Due to a small number of travellers during this reporting period and as a result insufficient sample size, the analysis on socio-demographic characteristics, reasons for travel and COVID-19 awareness was not conducted.

Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)



METHODOLOGY

The data for this report took place at border crossing points 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).

The border crossing points were selected based on observations conducted in May 2019 by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs).⁴ Specific criteria were used to select the border crossing points: 1) high volume of daily crossings leading to border 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 the IPAZIA Ricerche. It includes employing 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 enumerate 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 by 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 socio-demographic characteristics 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 will be 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 weight was applied to generalize the characteristics of travellers.

Data presented in this report is representative of the travellers crossing at each of the selected border points between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. 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.

DISCLAIMER

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⁴ Please refer to the methodological note for more details. Available online at: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>



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