



Section 1

UNHCR returnee assistance in country of asylum by regional UNHCR offices

UNHCR provides assistance on an individual case basis to persons who, being fully informed of the situation in their places of origin, chose voluntarily to return. Accordingly, the following information is made available for persons considering returning to Iraq from regional asylum countries.

Pre departure registration with UNHCR:

UNHCR in the regional asylum countries counsel, and after careful assessment, can assist registered refugees returning voluntarily to Iraq.

UNHCR assistance:

Upon completion of the Voluntary Repatriation Individual case assessment in the regional country of asylum and prior to departure, the following assistance may be provided by UNHCR.

- 100 USD per adult
- 50 USD per child
- Up to a maximum of 500 USD per family
- An additional transportation grant may also be obtained depending on the country of asylum.



Criteria for UNHCR Voluntary Repatriation Individual case management assistance: -

Applicants should fulfill the following criteria:

- Be Iraqi nationals
- Have resided in the asylum country for at least 8 months
- In general the whole family/ household in the asylum country must decide to return
- Conditions in specific area of intended return in Iraq must be assessed by UNHCR as being sustainable.

Please note that the amount of assistance provided in each regional country may vary slightly compared to the amounts stated above. For more information on Iraqi Voluntary Repatriation from UNHCR regional country asylum offices please contact the following telephone numbers during office hours.

UNHCR Syria: + 963 (0)992.550.708

UNHCR Jordan: + 962 (06) 5502140/1.

UNHCR Egypt: + 20 (0) 383 55801/803 and +20 (0) 383 575 09

UNHCR Lebanon: +961 (1) 849201

UNHCR Iran: + 021 88 05 91 76

UNHCR Turkey: + 90 (0) 312 409 70 05 (call on Thursdays between 15.00 – 16.00)

* Please note that persons who have completed the Voluntary Repatriation process will have their files inactivated in the asylum country by UNHCR and can no longer benefit from assistance through UNHCR or its partners in the asylum country. Persons, who return to Iraq but, after unsuccessfully attempting to re-integrate themselves, return to an asylum country, may approach UNHCR in the asylum country to request reactivation of their files.



Resources and assistance for returnees in Iraq

If you are intending to return to Iraq permanently or have already returned the following resources and assistance are available in Iraq: -

UNHCR assistance in Iraq

Returning Refugees and Returning IDPs and members of the local community may approach the following UNHCR centers for advice and assistance. Women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities and returnees who may have other special needs may receive, after assessment of their particular situation, additional support from UNHCR.

1. UNHCR Return Integration & Community Centers (RICC) provide support and referral services to government and other relevant bodies to assist in return and reintegration.
2. UNHCR Protection Assistance Centres (“PAC”) Protection Assistance Centers and mobile teams provide free legal counseling and assistance in obtaining civil status documents as well as social counseling and other referrals. Please see the list of Centers in Iraq detailed at the back of the pamphlet.

Please see the list of UNHCR PAC and RICC centers in Iraq detailed at the back of the pamphlet. If you have any questions related to return please call the UNHCR IRAQ HOTLINE: 079-019952501



Government of Iraq assistance in Iraq

Government of Iraq Returnee Centers “RAC” and MoDM/ DDM offices in Iraq– Please see the list of centers and their addresses detailed at the end of this pamphlet

The Iraqi Government’s Ministry of Displacement and Migration has informed us that the following services are available to returnees. It is noted, that to date, not all eligible returnees have been able to access all types of Government of Iraq returnee assistance applied for.

UNHCR has been informed that Government of Iraq assistance to eligible returnees may include:

- 1 million Iraqi Dinars (Returnee Grant) which MoDM has proposed to increase to 1.5 million Iraqi Dinars as of May 2010)
- Six month rental subsidies for IDPs, pursuant to Council of Ministers Order 262 of July 2008, (related to rental subsidies and grants).
- As of May 2010 facilitation letter for possible exemption of electricity, water and telephone bills owed by the returnee in the property left behind during the period of displacement
- Facilitation letters for employment, education, property restitution, missing documentation, passports and letters from the Municipal Council

A specialized reception committee in the RAC provides referral services to Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM); the Iraqi Security Forces, (ISF) a Directorate and to the Government Real Estate Offices in Baghdad for property related issues including property restitution. For persons returning or considering return to areas outside of Baghdad please see the attached list of MoDM and DDM offices in your area of return or possible return.



Eligible Returnees are those who fled between 01/02/2006 to 01/01/2008, being displaced for not less than 8 months and returning from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Turkey. Eligible formerly internally displaced returnees are those who fled their place of origin within Iraq after 01/02/06 and registered with MoDM in the location of displacement.

Documents needed to register with the Government of Iraq as a refugee or IDP returnee:

- PDS card
- ID Card
- Housing Card or residence letter, Iraq National Certificate
- (BAFIA Card, for returnees from Iran)
- UNHCR Refugee Certificates may also be presented (but this is not obligatory)
- Documents need to be verified by the Local Council and Baghdad Provincial Council.

Documentation for possible property restitution/ damage compensation through RAC assistance

1. Title deed.
2. Official property letter issued by Iraqi real estate offices in each governorate
3. Public Distribution Card (PDS)
4. Housing card
5. Iraqi nationality certificate
6. Civil status ID

Process: documents are to be presented to the Local Council. If the property is illegally occupied, documents to be presented to Iraqi Security forces Representative located in MoDM Centre. MoDM can also assist if there are any procedural issues related to the restitution/ compensation application at the Local Council.



IDP return of movable property

Documents needed:

1. Clearance letter from the Forces Command and Local Council. The letter (including the name of the vehicle driver and full description of the car)

Access to former public sector employment

Former Government employees may apply to be reinstated in their former positions after the following procedures upon return:

- Submission of application to concerned office and department
- ID card
- National passport
- Updated employment file including last salary record/certificate of subsequent employment (including outside Iraq)-according to the PM order 101.
- A confirmation letter from MoDM.