



# Iraq

## Country Fact Sheet 2025

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# 1 Health Care

## General information on health care

The Iraqi health system consists of both private and public sector facilities, offering a mix of services to its citizens. Generally, private sector services tend to provide better quality care with shorter waiting times; however, they can be more expensive. In contrast, public hospitals and clinics charge minimal fees for medical check-ups and offer medications at significantly lower prices than the private sector. Additionally, public hospitals have implemented a semi-private surgery option, allowing patients to register for surgeries at a reduced cost—approximately half of what they would pay for regular public healthcare. This system was designed to support individuals facing low incomes or critical economic challenges, and it is worth noting that ICU services are provided free of charge for these cases.

Despite these advantages, not all health services are readily available in the public sector, and patients may experience lengthy waiting times, especially in larger cities or for specific specializations. Most of the health infrastructure has been rehabilitated, and the availability of services has improved over recent years. However, in recently liberated areas, infrastructure may still be lacking, impacting the quality of care. The level of healthcare delivered often depends on the state of local facilities and whether doctors and nurses have returned to their posts.

All Iraqi citizens can access the healthcare system, but there is no public health insurance available. Some companies and organizations offer private health

insurance schemes for their employees and possibly their families, although this coverage does not encompass all types of medical and health expenses. Returnees only need a national ID to access the healthcare system. While surgical costs may be covered, general medical expenses are typically not, and refugees in Iraq face additional challenges, as they cannot access all health services without legal documentation proving their residency in the country.

## Availability of medical facilities and doctors

Iraq has several medical facilities, including the Central Medical Service and City of Medicine in Baghdad (Resafa, Babalmu'adam). Notable hospitals in Baghdad are Al-Yarmouk Teaching, Al-Kadhimiya Teaching, Al-Karkh General, Baghdad Teaching, and Al-Shaheed Ghazi Al-Hariri. In Erbil, key hospitals include Erbil Emergency, West Erbil Emergency, Rizgari Teaching, Raparin Pediatric, Hawler Teaching, and the Maternity Hospital. In Duhok, public hospitals are Azadi Teaching, Duhok Emergency, Heevi Pediatric, and Duhok Maternity and Gynecology Hospital. In Sulaymaniyah, primary hospitals are Shar Teaching, Sulaymaniyah Teaching, Hiwa Cancer, Shahid Dr. Hemin, and Raparin Pediatric Hospital. In Basra, key hospitals include Basra General, Al-Fayhaa General, Al-Sadr Teaching, Al-Mawani, Basra Maternity and Children Hospital, and Al-Basra Teaching Hospital. Other facilities are Al-Ta'alemy and Al-Habboubi hospitals in Nasiriyah.

## Admission to medical facilities

Patients need to visit a clinic or hospital

# 1 Health Care

first. Based on the initial diagnosis, they may be required to undergo medical tests or analyses before seeing a specialized doctor, mainly available in private clinics, as public clinics have limited specialists and often involve long waiting times. If necessary, patients can be referred for more advanced medical interventions, which can be provided by either private or public hospitals.

## Availability of costs and medication

The costs of medical services in Iraq vary based on several factors, including age, gender, and residence. Medication prices depend on the patient's diagnosis. In government-run hospitals and clinics, there is a risk of medication shortages, although medications are typically available at low costs. Patients must first visit a clinic or hospital; based on the initial diagnosis, they may need to undergo medical examinations before seeing a specialist. Specialists are primarily available in private clinics, as very few are in public clinics, which can lead to long wait times for appointments.

If advanced medical interventions are necessary, patients can be referred to either private or public hospitals, but wait times in public hospitals can extend to several months in some cases, further complicating access to timely healthcare.

**Registration procedure:** To register at a hospital, returnees need only their National ID to confirm their identity. For public hospitals, a small deposit is required as a precaution against potential damage to medical equipment caused by the patient. If no damage occurs, the patient will receive their deposit back after completing the treatments.

**Required documents:** To register, individuals need to present their national ID. For infants receiving vaccinations, parents must provide a specific leaflet and checklist during each hospital visit. This leaflet is issued based on information from the infant's birth certificate and the IDs of both parents. To obtain a birth certificate for a newborn, the National IDs of both parents are required.

## Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** All Iraqi citizens can access the healthcare system, as there is no public health insurance available. Public hospitals and clinics charge lower fees for medical check-ups and medications compared to the private sector. However, not all health services, including screening and medication, are available in the public sector. Additionally, the ongoing conflict in Iraq has impacted health infrastructure, potentially limiting access to care for returnees and other citizens.



## 2 Labour Market

### General Information on Labour Market

The labor market in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) faces multiple challenges, shaped by both economic conditions and regional dynamics. Across Iraq, public sector jobs have historically been a cornerstone of employment due to the stability and benefits they offer, but budgetary constraints, coupled with the government's push toward privatization, have led to fewer openings in this sector. While oil prices have offered some economic relief, much of the revenue has yet to translate into meaningful job creation, particularly in non-oil sectors. In the KRI, the private sector shows more vitality compared to central Iraq, with industries like tourism, construction, and trade gradually expanding. The KRI enjoys a relatively more stable political and security environment, which has attracted some foreign investment. Security improvements in Iraq have also facilitated increased private investment, particularly in shopping compounds, private education, and construction. Liberated areas, in particular, are witnessing more private investment and job creation in sectors such as tourism, entertainment venues, and shopping. However, both regions face several common issues, including:

*Youth Unemployment:* Iraq and KRI have a young and growing population, but the labor market struggles to absorb the increasing number of graduates, particularly due to a mismatch between educational outcomes and market needs. *Skills Mismatch:* Many graduates lack the practical skills and experience needed for the private sector. Educational reforms have not kept pace with the evolving

demands of industries, especially in sectors like IT, engineering, and business. *Gender Disparity:* Women continue to face substantial barriers to entering the workforce, due to cultural expectations and limited access to opportunities for females, however, there are efforts to improve their participation, but the progress is slow.

*Economic Diversification:* Both Iraq and KRI rely heavily on oil revenue, making the economy vulnerable to fluctuations in global oil prices. Despite ongoing efforts to diversify into sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and services, the process remains slow.

*Informal Employment:* A large portion of the workforce is engaged in the informal economy, which offers lower wages, lacks job security, and contributes to underemployment. This is more pronounced in rural areas and conflict-affected regions. *Refugee Workforce:* The presence of Syrian and Iranian refugees adds complexity to the labor market. Many refugees are willing to work for lower wages, often filling labor-intensive jobs in sectors like agriculture, construction, and services. This can create competition for local workers and contribute to downward pressure on wages, particularly in areas with high unemployment.

*Post-Conflict Recovery:* Regions affected by past conflicts, especially in northern Iraq and areas outside KRI, still struggle with rebuilding infrastructure and creating new jobs. This has further limited employment opportunities, particularly in regions that were once economically productive.

## 2 Labour Market

Overall, while KRI shows more resilience due to a stable political environment and a growing private sector, both regions share the overarching challenge of creating sustainable jobs, especially for their youth, amidst economic instability and reliance on oil. Additionally, according to research found online, the unemployment rate is estimated to be 15.6% for 2023. However, the estimate for 2024 has not yet been published

### Finding employment

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) operates employment centers in most cities, which fall under the General Directorate of Labor and Social Insurance. These centers provide resources and assistance for job seekers. In addition to these governmental resources, several online platforms and recruitment agencies have gained popularity for job hunting in Iraq. Notable websites include:

- Erbil Manpower
- MSELECT
- Foras
- NCC Iraq
- Aweza
- UN Jobs
- Bayt
- Hawa Jobs
- Kodo Jobs
- SES Iraq
- Tanqeeb

These resources offer a range of employment opportunities across various sectors, making it easier for individuals to connect with potential employers

### Unemployment assistance

The Iraqi government has implemented a program to assist workers earning less than one USD (approximately 1,500 IQD) per hour, as well as unemployed individuals. However, there is no national unemployment assistance program funded by the state. Iraqi nationals seeking support can register by visiting the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

### Further education on the trainings

The Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DOLSA) in Erbil provides essential services to vulnerable groups, including IDPs and marginalized communities. Key offerings include:

*Employment Services Centers:* Job counseling, job matching, and vocational training, focusing on enhancing employment for IDPs. Centers are strategically located across Erbil.

*Social Support and Welfare Services:* Financial assistance for low-income families, including support for persons with disabilities. Services accessible through DOLSA offices with outreach to raise awareness.

*Vocational Training Centers:* Skills training tailored to local job sectors, including construction, hospitality, and handicrafts. Centers are distributed across Erbil for easy access.

*Psychosocial Support Services:* Counseling and community support for those affected by conflict and displacement. Services offered through designated centers.



## 2 Labour Market

While for the Central and Southern Iraq, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) provides:

### Employment Services:

- Job matching, career counseling, and vocational training for youth, displaced persons, and vulnerable groups.

### Social Welfare

- Financial aid for low-income families, widows, orphans, and persons with disabilities, aiming to reduce poverty.

### Vocational Training

- Skill-building programs in sectors like construction, agriculture, and handicrafts to improve employment prospects.

### Psychosocial Support

- Counseling to support emotional recovery and societal reintegration.

### Disability Support

- Financial aid, rehabilitation, and customized training to enhance independence and workforce integration.

### Access for returnees

*Eligibility and requirements:* The Iraqi government has developed a vocational training program to respond to the challenges of high unemployment, an under-skilled workforce, and the needs of an emerging private sector; the program is still active.

*Registration procedure:* The returnee can visit the nearest MOLSA and DOLSA office to register and inquire about available assistance (job or training opportunities).



Photo: Muse Mohammed/IOM, 2018

## 3 Housing

### General information on housing

Rental prices in Iraq vary based on location, size, condition, and features of the house or apartment, with homes outside city centers typically being more affordable than those closer to downtown areas. The condition of the property, such as whether it has been recently renovated or is older, as well as the overall dimensions, also play a significant role in determining the price. The cost of renting a two-bedroom house typically ranges from approximately 200 to 700 USD (around 250,000 to 900,000 IQD). Monthly utility costs are approximately: gas (8,000 IQD), water (10,000 - 25,000 IQD), public electricity (30,000 - 50,000 IQD), and private generators (40,000 - 100,000 IQD). The return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to areas previously controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), has contributed to a slight decrease in rental prices as more housing becomes available. However, single individuals often encounter challenges when renting houses, while the process is generally easier for those seeking apartments or studio units.

### Finding accommodation

There are no public agencies available for returnees to assist with finding accommodation. However, private real estate agencies operate in most neighborhoods and cities, offering services to help locate housing options.

### Social grants for housing

The Iraqi government typically offers housing loans to citizens who own land that is at least 100 m<sup>2</sup>. These loans are subject to eligibility criteria and the applicant's ability to repay. Currently,

this program is on hold in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Both public and private banks offer housing loans, including Al-Rasheed Bank, Al-Rafidain Bank, the Iraqi Real Estate Bank, the National Bank of Iraq, Iraqi Islamic Bank, Trade Bank of Iraq (TBI), International Development Bank (IDB), and Ashur International Bank.

### Access for returnees

*Eligibility and requirements:* The following categories might be eligible for social welfare: people with disabilities, family of martyrs (including widows) and orphans. Each category has a set of different criteria. Depending on these criteria an individual case is accepted or rejected.

*Registration procedure:* The registration takes place at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Offices after submitting all required documents. Cases are subject to review and approval.

*Required documents:* Iraqi identification card, marriage contract, additional documents differ from case to another..

## 4 Social Welfare

### Social welfare system

The government provides some basic services to all individuals such as free education, basic food items and health care in public hospitals. Assistance and welfare systems sometimes differ across different municipalities and Governorates. Iraq has a different social welfare system that might not fit the definition commonly used in European countries. All citizens of Iraq are entitled and automatically considered in the social welfare system, regardless of ethnicity or religion. Returnees are not treated differently and will have the same rights as all citizens. The following categories might be eligible for social welfare: Disabled individuals families of martyrs (including widows) and orphans. Each category has a set of different criteria. Depending on these criteria an individual case is accepted or rejected. Vulnerable individuals with disabilities who are deemed eligible and fit the criteria receive an amount of 150,000 IQD from the government as a supervision pension. For example, a person's disability needs to be up to 70% to qualify for benefits. The percentage in turn varies depending on the type of disability. Assistance and welfare systems differ from one municipality to another.

### Pension system

All employees in the public sector in Iraq enter the pension system as soon as they are employed by the government. The retirement age is set at 65, requiring a minimum of 25 years of service. However, employees can retire earlier at 55 if they have served for at least 15 years or if they are facing medical conditions that impede their ability to work.

The pension salary is calculated based on the number of years served and the employee's base salary, with increments for each additional year worked. The

government regularly reviews pension benefits to ensure they align with inflation and economic conditions.

Additionally, the Iraqi government has been working on reforms to improve the pension system, addressing issues such as delays in payments and insufficient benefits for retirees. Challenges remain, including financial sustainability and ensuring equitable access to pensions for all workers across different sectors.

### Vulnerable groups

Vulnerable individuals include orphans, the elderly, families of martyrs, widows, and people with disabilities. Vulnerable groups are supported by the government by receiving an allowance after submitting documents that prove they belong to one of the aforementioned groups and fit eligibility criteria. Each group is required to submit different documents to prove eligibility under this group. The Government will decide on who is eligible and disburse the payment.

#### Access for returnees

*Eligibility and requirements:* All employees in the public sector enter the governmental pension system. Public sector employees can benefit from the pension system after having served for 25 years or 15 years in case of medical condition, at the age of 55.

*Registration procedure:* They need to bring an official retirement document from the institution they served in to the office of pensions, including their ID. Then, they should follow up on the case till it is approved and further instructions are given.

*Required documents:* Personal documents such as ID and a form issued by the directorate.

## 5 Education

### General information on education

Children in Iraq start going to school at the age of six. There are three educational levels, primary school lasts for six years, secondary and high school for three years each (a sum of 6 years for both), and college for four years in average but this mainly depends on their study field. Child care/ nursery school is for the ages 0-3, while kindergarten is for the ages 3-5. Primary education starts at the age of 6 and children finish elementary school at the age of 12. At the secondary level, Middle school is for the ages 13 – 15 and High School for ages 16 – 18. Depending on the field of study, higher education at college or university usually starts at the age of 19.

### Cost, loans, and allowances

Public schools are free but transportation is not so students need transportation at their own expense. For private schools and universities, the tuition fee varies from one institution to another. Some private education institutions might provide discounts for orphans, families of martyrs and students with high grades, however, this depends on the institution and their regulations. Returnees can contact and meet with the institution of their choice and discuss options of payments.

### Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

If the children of returnees from overseas have studied in the host country, they need to undergo the following procedures to enrol in the education system: First, they need to bring a certificate from the school they have attended in

the host country. Second, the certificate must be confirmed and certified by the Iraqi Embassy in the host country, the Ministry of Education/ Ministry of Higher Education, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prospective students must officially equalize their high school certification through the Ministry of Higher Education, Directorate of Exams. Applicants will receive the equivalent of a Baccalaureate score. Additionally, applicants must provide a copy of their passport (including visa and residency information, if necessary). Private schools demand additional tests and procedures.

#### Access for returnees

*Registration procedure:* Visiting Ministry of Education to apply and verify the certificates.

*Required documents:* Certificates of studies, Iraqi identification card, residency card.



## 6 children



Photo: Raber Aziz / IOM; 2017

## 6 children

### General situation of children and infants

The Iraqi Constitution provides that any person, who is born to at least one Iraqi parent, is a citizen and can enjoy the rights offered by the government. In the absence of proof to the contrary, be considered to have been born therein. Acquisition of nationality from an Iraqi father, as well the right of acquisition of nationality from an Iraqi mother if the child is born in Iraq, or if born outside Iraq to a known non-Iraqi father who has another nationality. Birth certificates, Iraqi National IDs, Passports issued by Iraqi government/Embassies in foreign countries, marriage contract, etc.

Children in Iraq also have the right to have primary health care services and be able to access health facilities, free medication, immunization services, nutrition services, health and nutrition emergency. Among other based security support programs with a focus on children security support including rural areas, is the establishment of the Community Police program. Children can also benefit from the national programs of Iraq such as rights of anti-discrimination, protection programs, child trafficking, child labour, female genital mutilations, children of soldiers, displaced children.

Education for children is free and compulsory starting from the age of 6 up until the age of 12. In rural areas and with the limited number of schools there might be a lack of facilities and overcrowded classrooms. Furthermore, many private and international schools are prevalent in the Iraqi cities for (Primary, Secondary) education with

ranged fees from 800 \$ – 1200 \$, and an option of studying international curriculums. Children with disabilities have special classrooms in a limited number of national schools in Iraq, parents usually resort to local private training centers for special education paying fees up to USD 300. There are also several kindergartens for children under school age and many summer activities for children such as language learning centers and learn-to-swim activities, as well as art and music learning groups that parents can request for their children to enjoy their summer vacation.

### (Non-) governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

UNICEF and partners, and UN agencies are some of the key players among many other organizations supporting children and welfare programs across the country along with the Iraqi government. Moreover, foreign NGOs focus on areas of liberated conflicts within the past years of wars, ISIS and fighting discrimination against children, proven justice for children, Gender-based violence, and providing solutions and services.

### Access for returnees

**Entry requirements:** International Birth Certificate, Certificate of Birth issued by Iraqi Embassies in Foreign countries, prove of Nationality for parents, copy of passports, Iraqi National Identification Card.

### Immediately upon return:

Contacting nearest governmental office, Directorate of General Nationality, or contacting Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Children Immunization program, Register at National Health Care Program.

## 6 children



## 7 Contacts

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Civil Defense – 115.  
Ambulance – 122.  
Family Protection – 139.  
Intelligence Security – 144.

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Islamabad Capital Territory  
Phone: (051) 9261170

Polyclinic Islamabad  
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44 Luqman Hakeem Rd,  
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Islamabad Capital Territory  
Phone: (051) 9218300/

CDA Hospital Islamabad  
Hospital, medical services  
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Islamabad, Islamabad Capital  
Territory  
Phone: (051) 9221334

Shifa International Islamabad  
Hospital, medical services  
4 Pitras Bukhari Rd, H-8/4 H  
8/4 H-8, Islamabad, Islamabad  
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[drei@ettc-iraq.net](mailto:drei@ettc-iraq.net)  
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Ali Medical Centre Islamabad  
Hospital, medical services  
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8 Markaz F-8, Islamabad,  
Islamabad Capital Territory  
Phone: (051) 8090200

CMH Hospital Baluchistan  
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Akram Hospital Quetta  
Hospital, medical services  
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National Hospital Quetta  
Hospital, medical services  
National Hospital, Junction of  
Pir Abdul Khair road and Prince  
Road, Near Quetta Laboratory  
Prince Road, Quetta

Government Lady Hospital  
Peshawar  
Hospital, medical services  
Government Lady Reading  
Hospital, Peshawar  
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Govt Naseer Ullah Babar  
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Jinnah Hospital Lahore  
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Fatima Memorial Hospital  
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Hospital, medical services  
Shadman Rd, Ichhra Lahore,  
Punjab 54000  
Phone: (042) 111 555 600

Government Social Security  
Hospital Gujranwala  
Hospital, medical services  
Industrial Estate Model Town,  
Gujranwala, Punjab  
Phone: 0300 9645958

DHG Teaching Hospital  
Gujranwala  
Hospital, medical services  
DHQ Hospital, Hospital Rd,  
Civil Lines, Gujranwala, Punjab  
52250  
Phone: (055) 9200110

Allied Hospital Faisalabad  
Hospital, medical services  
Dr. Tusi Rd, Faisalabad, Punjab  
Phone: (041) 9210082

Shifa International Hospital  
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District Headquarter Hospital  
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Holy Family Hospital  
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Sindh Government Hospital  
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Indus Hospital Karachi  
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Dr. Ziauddin Hospital: Private  
Hospitals & Health Care  
Services  
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AIMS Hospital Azad Jammu  
and Kashmir  
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SKBZ CMH Muzaffarabad  
Hospital, medical services  
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## 7 Contacts

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DHQ Hospital Mirpur  
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Ladies and Children's Hospital  
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DHQ Hospital Gilgit  
Hospital, medical services  
Hospital Rd, Gilgit,  
Gilgit-Baltistan  
Phone: (058119) 20253

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## 8 At a glance

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### Measures to be taken before return

- **Documents:** Copy of the previous passport or issued laissez-passer or temporary passport, Iraqi National Identification card if available.
- **Health:** PCR tests, previous health records, tests, reports. Health records can be beneficial to enroll into the health system immediately.
- **Accommodation:** Secure and allocate your accommodation before arrival to avoid any long time waiting, especially in rural areas. Hotels are available within almost all of Iraq. Always inform a relative, family member, or a friend before your departure with further identified information if necessarily needed in case of emergencies. In certain areas, prior information is needed, which might differ based on security situations, weather conditions, health care measures, as all might affect the information gathered and differs from one area to another. Including availability of National transportation to the area of returns.

### Measures to be taken upon arrival

- **Documents:** Renew Iraqi National ID, birth certificate, residency card, passport. Visit the nearest governmental office to inquire about the necessarily required steps. The service is also available in all police departments across Iraq.
- **Health:** Enroll in the national care system and programs that you can benefit from especially in cases where fast medical attention is required, vaccination for children, pregnant women, severe diseases and surgical requirements, etc. Visit the nearest local office to obtain the necessary updated information and enroll in Rational Food Program, including previous family RF card, nearest vendor shops, etc.
- **Reintegration:** Inform of your return and further information required to assure the reintegration plans are met within its timeline of the planned different beneficial projects. Always assure the privacy of your data, despite times of crisis and COVID19 health measurements.

## 9 Virtual Counselling

### Migrant assistance in Iraq

The Virtual Counselling project is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Germany. Migrants living in Germany who are considering a return are offered return and reintegration counselling by IOM staff in Iraq. Local IOM staff can be contacted in Arabic, local languages, and English through online messengers.

This service aims to empower migrants to return in dignity by informing them about various return and reintegration options and assistance programmes.



### Migrant assistance in Iraq

Contact: WhatsApp, Viber: +964 7502006428 (Erbil); WhatsApp: +964 7508020758 (Sulaymaniyah); +947 858788754 (Bagdad); +964 7858788964 (Basrah)

Counselling hours: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 03:00 p.m.