

Country Fact Sheet

Iraq

2018



Credit: Raber Y. Aziz/IOM Iraq/2018

Disclaimer

IOM has carried out the gathering of information with great care. IOM provides information at its best knowledge and in all conscience. Nevertheless, IOM cannot assume to be held accountable for the correctness of the information provided. Furthermore, IOM shall not be liable for any conclusions made or any results, which are drawn from the information provided by IOM.



I. CHECKLIST FOR VOLUNTARY RETURN

1. Before the return
2. After the return

II. HEALTH CARE

1. General information
2. Medical treatment and medication

III. LABOUR MARKET AND EMPLOYMENT

1. General information
2. Ways/assistance to find employment
3. Unemployment assistance
4. Further education and trainings

IV. HOUSING

1. General Information
2. Ways/assistance to find accommodation
3. Social grants for housing

V. SOCIAL WELFARE

1. General Information
2. Pension system
3. Vulnerable groups

VI. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

1. General Information
2. Cost, loans and stipends
3. Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

VII. CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR RETURNEES

1. Reintegration assistance programs
2. Financial and administrative support
3. Support to start income generating activities

VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION AND USEFUL LINKS

1. International, Non-Governmental, Humanitarian Organizations
2. Relevant local authorities
3. Services assisting with the search for jobs, housing, etc.
4. Medical Facilities
5. Other Contacts

**For further information please visit the information portal on
voluntary return and reintegration *ReturningfromGermany*:**

<https://www.returningfromgermany.de/en/countries/iraq>

I. Checklist for Voluntary Return



Credit: Raber Y. Aziz/IOM Iraq/2018

Before the Return

The returnee should

- ✓ Request documents from the German authorities that might be needed later (this can be either any document that proves he/she was a migrant in Germany or entitled to any type of assistance upon return).
- ✓ Get information concerning the arrival at the airport and the onward journey. The complicated nature of the security situation in Iraq does not allow for a specific rule and map of the transportation system as most of the time they are changeable. In addition, the procedure of each airport in Iraq somehow differs from each other. The roads within the KR-I are accessible compared to southern regions, however the road for southern Iraq changes with the security situation.
- ✓ Bring the decision document that he/she has returned to Iraq as well as Passport and ID, in general a valid travel document to re-enter the country.
- ✓ Find a temporary accommodation, e.g. in hotels in the city or stay with family or relatives until a permanent residence is found.

After the Return

The returnee should

- ✓ Register with relevant authorities. Returnees should renew their IDs and documents if lost as stated in the below section. There are some returnees who prefer to register their names at the Directorate of Displacement and Migration in case there is future assistance from the government.
- ✓ Obtain the following documents after return:
 - National ID Card
 - family residency card
 - food ration card
 - driving license
- ✓ If the documents and IDs are renewed, the returnee is automatically registered for vaccination and social services. This also applies for children and child care services.
- ✓ Visit the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs if application for a specific social service is wanted. This includes returnees who are living with a disability or are unemployed.
- ✓ Register children at a private or public school

II. Health Care

I. General Information

The Iraqi health system consists of a private and a public sector. In general, the services provided by the private sector are better in quality, but more expensive in price.

All Iraqi citizens can access the health care system. A public health insurance system is not available in the country. Only the employees of special companies and organizations have access to health insurance schemes. The public hospitals and clinics charge very low amounts for medical check-ups and provide medication at a lower price compared to the private sector; however, not all health services are available in the public sector. The returnee is only required to have a national ID to access the health care system.

Benefits:

Medical costs and health services are not covered by health insurance. The public sector provides medical services that are lower in price compared to the private sector.

Costs:

The costs of medication differs depending on the patient's diagnoses. No expenses are covered by the health insurance. The public sector does provide medical services that are lower in price compared to the private sector.

2. Medical treatment and medication

Medical facilities and doctors:

- Azadi Teaching Hospital (Duhok, Nakhoshkhana Road)
- The Central Medical Service, City of Medicine (Suliamani city center and Malik Mahmud Street)
- The Central Medical Service, ALTA'ALEM HOSPITAL (Basra, Brad'ia)
- Rizgary Teaching Hospital (Erbil, Koya Rd)
- The Central Medical Service, City of Medicine (Baghdad, Resafa, Babalmu'adam)
- ALHABBOUBI Hospital (Nassrieh)

Procedure of admission:

First, the patient should visit a clinic for the diagnosis. Based on the diagnosis, he/she will then be referred to other clinics or special hospitals, if required.

Availability and costs of medication:

Two kinds of medical supplies can be obtained in most cities in Iraq: in government-run hospitals or clinics the medication will be subject to shortages but available at a low price. At private hospitals and clinics the costs of treatments are very high. Costs of medical services are determined by numerous factors such as age, gender and residence.

Health Care System: Access for Returnees

Eligibility and requirements:

All Iraqi citizens have access to the health care systems as a health insurance system is not available. The public hospitals and clinics charge very low amounts for medical check-ups and provide medication at a lower price compared to the private sector; however, not all the health services are available in the public sector in terms of screening and medication.

Registration procedure:

The returnee simply needs his/her Iraqi ID to confirm their identity and register at any medical clinic or hospital.

Required documents:

Only the Iraqi ID is required for registration. For infants who are receiving vaccination a specific leaflet will be given to the parents: The parents have to provide it each time they visit the hospital; the leaflet is issued based on the information provided in the birth certificate of the infant and the IDs of the parents.

III. Labour Market and Employment

I. General information

In general, the public sector has been the driving force of employment over the past years. However, following the IS crises and budget shortages, a remarkable effect on the market situation of both private and public sector could be observed. Due to budget cuts, the public sector is rarely hiring at the moment. Employment opportunities have somehow decreased. There exist job opportunities in the private sector; however it is still not as strong as prior to the IS crises. Wages range between 200 – 2500 USD per month, depending on skills and education. The unemployment rate is nearly 14.8% according to Trading Economics.

2. Ways/assistance to find employment

The Ministry Of Labor and Social Affairs provides employment centers in most cities. These centers are available within the General Directorate of Labor and Social Insurance. There are several online websites and recruitment agencies that are popular. These include the following:

- <http://erbilmanpower.com/>
- <http://www.mselect.iq/>
- <http://www.aweza.co/jobs/>
- http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/iraq
- <http://jobs.foras-iq.ta3mal.com/ar/>
- <http://www.ncciraq.org/en/>
- <https://www.bayt.com/ar/iraq/jobs>

3. Unemployment assistance

General information on public and/or private unemployment assistance:

The government approved a program in Iraq to assist workers with wages of less than one USD per day and unemployed people. However, due to the current situation of the country, the program can no longer provide any monthly support to the unemployed.

Benefits and Costs:

The state does not pay unemployment assistance at the national level.

4. Further education and trainings

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. This program aims to improve the skills of Iraq's workforce through Vocational and Technical Training Centers and Employment Service Centers. Importantly, due to the current situation of the country, these trainings are accessible upon fund availability only. Currently, the programs are not active. There also exist other private centers that provide courses.

Unemployment Assistance: 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; however, due to the economic situation of the country, the program is no longer active.

Registration procedure:

The returnee can visit the nearest MoLSA office to register and acquire about available assistance (job or training opportunities). For Baghdad they can register either via the website of MoLSA (<http://176.241.89.196:7777/>) or by visiting one of its offices.

Required documents:

The returnee should register at the MoLSA office and provide ID, Food Ration Card and additional documents based on the assistance he/she wants to receive (job or training).

IV. Housing

I. General Information

The price for rent depends on the location, size and the features of house or apartment. The price of houses outside the city center is usually lower compared to those closer downtown. Rental costs in Iraq start from 200 – 600 USD for two bed room houses (Year 2018). The price for houses or land is highly dependent on location, size and features thereof. Whereas the demand for rent has increased, that for land has waned. The approximate cost of utilities in Iraq per month is as follows:

- Gas (7,000 IQD)
- Water (10-25,000 IQD)
- Public electricity (30-40,000 IQD)
- Private or generators (40-60,000 IQD)

After the war on IS and liberation of the areas under its control, IDPs increasingly start to return to their places of origin. This in turn causes a slight decrease in the price of rental fee. Notably, in Iraq it is generally difficult for single men to rent houses. The procedures are easier with regard to apartments or studio apartments.

2. Ways/assistance to find accommodation

There are no public agencies that returnees can contact for finding accommodation. Yet, private real estate agencies are available in neighborhoods.

3. Social grants for housing

The Iraqi government usually provides housing loans to citizens provided they own land that is no smaller than 100 m². Currently, this program is on hold. There are some private banks that provide loans to build a house.



Credit: Raber Y. Aziz/IOM Iraq/2018

V. Social Welfare (1/2)

I. General Information

All citizens of Iraq are entitled and automatically considered in the social welfare system. They are all entitled to social welfare. 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)
- Orphans

Vulnerable individuals with disabilities receive an amount of 150,000 IQD from the government as supervision pension. Each category has a set of different criteria. Depending on these criteria an individual case is accepted or rejected.

For instance, 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.

Benefits:

Iraq has a different social welfare system that might not fit the definition commonly used in European countries. The government provides some basic services to all individuals such as free education, basic food items and health care in public hospitals. Notably, the services available in the public sector are low in quality due to the unstable security situation of the country.

Costs:

No costs incur on part of the beneficiary except for some small service fees.

Social Welfare System: Access for Returnees

Eligibility and requirements:

There 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. For instance, 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.

Registration procedure:

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

Registration documents:

The generally required documents include an Iraqi ID and Food Ration Card. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs will request documents based on the applicant's vulnerability category.

2. Pension System

All employees in the public sector enter the pension system as soon as they are employed by the government. Employees can retire at the age of 63 after having served 15 years. In Baghdad, government employees can benefit from the pension system after having served their institutions for 13 years or at the age of 55. The pension salary is determined according to the service year and the base salary.

Benefits:

Only salary will be received; no further benefits are received.

Costs:

No costs incur on part of the beneficiary except for some small service fees.

V. Social Welfare (2/2)

Pension System: 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 15 years at the age of 63.

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.

Registration documents:

Personal documents such as ID and a form issued by the directorate he/she was working at.

3. Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable individuals include orphans, elderly, family of martyrs, widows and people with disabilities. Vulnerable groups are supported by the government by receiving allowance after submitting documents that prove they belong to one of the aforementioned groups. Each group is required to submit different documents.

Assistance for vulnerable persons:

Vulnerable groups can receive assistance in the form of an allowance. Additionally, a list of NGOs and organizations that can help vulnerable groups is available.



Credit: Raber Y. Aziz/IOM Iraq/2017

VI. Educational System

I. General Information

School starts at the age of six. In the Kurdish region, primary school lasts for nine, high school for three, and college for four years. In central and southern Iraq, primary school lasts for 6, secondary and high school for three, and college for four years.

Educational Level	Age
e.g. Child care / nursery school	0 – 3
e.g. Kindergarten	3 – 5
Primary Level	
e.g. Elementary School	6 – 12
Secondary Level	
e.g. Middle School	13 – 15
e.g. High School	16 – 18
Higher Education	
e.g. College, University, etc.	From 19

2. Cost, loans and stipends

Public education is free of charge. Hence, in the public sector, no loans or stipends are necessary. As 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.

3. Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

If the children of returnees have studied in the host country, they need to undergo the following procedures to enroll in the education system: First, they need to bring a certificate from the school they have attended in the host country. The certificate must be confirmed by the Iraqi Embassy in the host country 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.

Educational System: Access and Registration Procedure for Returnees

The individual are required to provide the following documents to the institution they want to register for:

- ID of the child and parents
- Food ration card
- Photos

If the child/student has studied abroad and has obtained certificates, these need to be confirmed by the Iraqi Embassy in the host country and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officially equalized.

VII. Concrete Support for Returnees

1. Reintegration assistance programs

- International Organization for Migration - AVRR Program
- ETTC - European Technology and Training Centre (provides training for returnees and local job seekers)

2. Financial and administrative support

There are some NGOs and charity groups that provide help to the people in need.

- CHF International - Vitas
- GROFIN Iraq

3. Support to start income generating activities

Institutions that provide loans:

Bright Future Institution

It offers loans ranging from 500 USD to 10,000 USD with a 9% interest rate. The reimbursement period is 12 months.

Address: Zaniari (next to Dedawan Bank), Erbil;
Phone: +964 (0) 750 984 6497

Althiqa Bank

This institution offers loans ranging from 500 USD to 5,000 USD for a period of 12 months and an interest rate of 12%.

Address: 60 meter road (next to Faruq restaurant); Phone: +964 (0) 66 253 1290

CHF International - Vitas Iraq

It offers loans to start businesses, for home improvements and special needs.

Phone : +964 7717 909192

E-mail: info@vitasiraq.com



Credit: Raber Y. Aziz/IOM Iraq/2016

VIII. Contact Information and Useful Links (1/4)

International, Non-Governmental, Humanitarian Organizations

IOM

Baghdad-Al-Karkh, Karadat Maryam
Erbil-Gulan Street off Baharka street
Tel.: 0750 386 3506 - 0771 853 8875
Email: iomiraq@iom.int
Internet: <http://iomiraq.net/>

UNHCR

Internet: <http://www.unhcr.org/iraq.html>

UNICEF

International Zone UNAMI compound
Email: baghdad@unicef.org
Internet: <https://www.unicef.org/iraq/>

WFP

International Zone UNAMI compound
Tel.: 9647809150950, +9647809156198
Email: cristina.graziani@wfp.org
Internet: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/iraq>

Relief International

Email: info@ri.org
Internet: <https://www.ri.org/reach/middle-east/iraq>

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Tel.: +964 770 462 0875
Internet: <https://www.nrc.no/countries/middle-east/iraq/>

Save the Children – Iraq

Email: supportercare@savechildren.org
internet: <https://iraq.savethechildren.net/>

International Rescue Committee

Email: advocacy@Rescue.org
Internet: <http://www.rescue.org/iraq>

Islamic Relief

Email: irw@irworldwide.org
internet: <http://www.islamic-relief.org/category/where-we-work/iraq/>

World Health Organization (WHO)

Internet: <http://www.iraqfoundation.org/>

Qandil

E-mail: erbilfc@qandil.org
Internet: <http://www.qandil.org/>

ACTED

Internet: <http://www.acted.org/en/iraq>

ETTC

Erbil- Newroz
Baghdad – Resafa – philistine street
Phone: 0750 727 9095-0750 331 7001

Alamal Association

Baghdad - Resafa – Karada -Dakhel - Watheq street.
Tel.: 0790 191 9285
Internet: <http://www.iraqi-alamal.org/>

Yazda Organization (Global Yazidi Organization)

Dahuk- Malta, Sozdar Road, Behind Aland Motel
Tel.: 062 762 4434 - 0750 419 0169
Internet: www.yazda.org
E-mail: info@yazda.org

Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights offers psychosocial services

Tel.: +964 750 7375111
Internet: <https://www.jiyan-foundation.org>

Sarah Center for Psychosocial services

Address: Basra city center, Hay ALKafa'at

CDO (CIVIL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION)

Sulaimani :Parki Azadi- Near Amna Suraka Musiam -92
Khak SD
Tel.: 07702414041 -0533206703
Email: www.cdo-iraq.org
Internet: madaniatcdo@yahoo.com

VIII. Contact Information and Useful Links (2/4)

Relevant local authorities (employment offices, health/pension insurances etc.)

MoLSA

Erbil- close to city center
Baghdad - Resafa - Al-Wazerya - Near to Al-Nedaa Masjed

Vocational training center - MOLSA

Basra - Hayania - Hay Alhussein
Thi Qar - Nassrieh - Hay Shumokh
Phone: +964 7703199900 - +964 7901917921

Central employment department, Basra Governorate

Basra, Basra city, Basra governorate.
Email: basrajobscv@gmail.com

Services assisting with the search for jobs, housing, etc.

Alkhadamat office for Employment

Address : Baghdad – Karadah Karij
Almasbah street – Near TBI bank
Tel.: 0790 135 6484

Alranin Office for Employment

Address : Baghdad – Resafa – Baghdad aljidia
Near AlNumaan Restuarant
Tel.: 07733370293
Email: alraneen.com@gmail.com

Rabar Real Estate

Address: Vetat city
Tel:0096475007504410106

ErbilMANPower

Tel: 07701449000

Al-Saraf Office

Baghdad, Resafa, Baladyat
Tel: 07715458572

Hikmat Nizarki Estate Bureau

Dahuk-Shele St., in front of Yasmeen hotel
Tel: +964 750 458 4293

Azhy Real-estate

Sulaimani, Bakrajo Taza, Sub district, beside Bakrajo Taza School
Tel: 07701596868

AL-Rubayee real estate

Basra, Shat Ala-Arab, AL-Jazira , main road
Tel.: 07709003100

VIII. Contact Information and Useful Links (3/4)

Medical Facilities	
East Emergency Hospital Ebril Near Rizgary Hospital	Alyarmook hospital Address Baghdad – Karkh – Alyarmook main street Near Medicine college
Par Hospital (private) Erbil-60 m near to Medya Diagnostic Center Tel: 0662107001	Ibn Alnafis Hospital Baghdad – Resafa – Alsadoon street Near alsadoon park
Maternity Hospital (governmental) Erbil-Shorsh Tel: 07503262486	Arvin Medical Complex Address : Duhok, Malta, Opposite to Karzan oil station Tel.: 0750 796 3474 Internet: www.facebook.com/arvinclinics
ALHABBOUBI Hospital Address Thi Qar, Nassrieh	ALHUSSEIN ALT’ALEME Hospital Address Line : ALMuthana, Simawa

VIII. Contact Information and Useful Links (4/4)

Other Contacts (e.g. NGOs for women and children, microcredit-lending)

H.O.W.A

Sulaimani

Tel.: 07701918070

Email: naska_mahamad@yahoo.com

Sabat

Sulaimani

Tel.: 07701459036

Email: sabat_sh@yahoo.com

Asuda

Tel.: 0533183149

Internet: www.asuda.krd

WEO

Erbil- Marshimoni St. Ankawa, Erbil, Iraq

Tel.: +964 7501950183

Internet: <https://weoiraq.org/>

For further information please visit the information portal on
voluntary return and reintegration *ReturningfromGermany*:

<https://www.returningfromgermany.de/en/countries/iraq>