

POPULATION FLOW OVERVIEW, TRAVELLERS' PROFILE AND COVID-19 AWARENESS

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: OCTOBER 2020

MARCH 2021

DTM Iraq collects data at border crossing points with neighbouring countries – the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran), the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) 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.

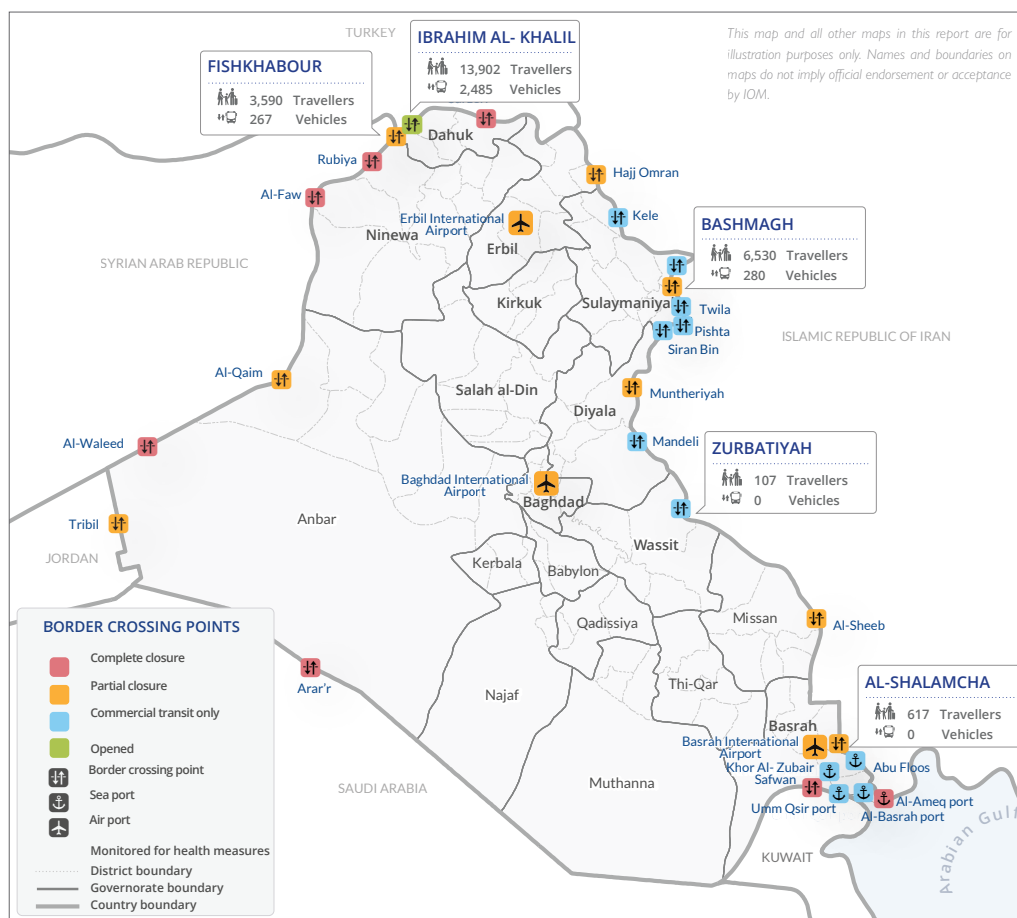
The data for this report was gathered through two separate approaches: a headcount of all travellers entering or leaving Iraq and a sample survey of travellers. Border crossing points were selected based on observations conducted in May 2019 by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), when five border crossing points were selected for data collection: Ibrahim Al-Khalil, bordering Turkey, Fishkhabour, bordering the Syria, and Bashmagh, Zurbatiyah (Wassit Terminal) and Al-Shalamcha, bordering 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 from 1 October to 11 October 2020.²

The report presents an overview of the overall movements of travellers observed at each of the monitored border crossing points during October 2020, their socio-demographic characteristics, and reasons for travel. It is also focused on their awareness of COVID-19 symptoms, prevention measures and risk factors.

In this report, the term 'travelers' refers to all individuals who are crossing the international border with Iraq for any given reason, and thus includes several categories of people. First, travellers who are entering or exiting Iraq temporarily to visit family, do trade or business, or receive medical treatment. Second, travellers who 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. Third, travellers who are planning to change or have already changed their place of usual residence and can hence be considered migrants.³

Map 1: Status of border crossing points as at 19 October 2020



1 Further detail 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_METHODOLOGICAL_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>

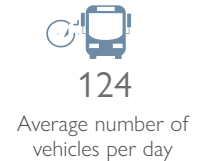
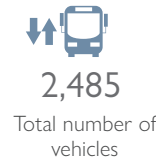
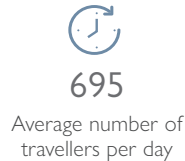
3 According to the IOM definition, "migrant – an umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and 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

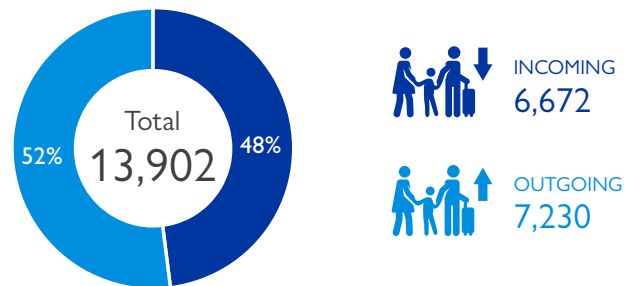
BORDERING COUNTRY: **TURKEY**



At the Ibrahim Al-Khalil point, data collection took place from 1 October to 28 October 2020, weekdays only from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. During this period, this border crossing point was open every day for 24 hours. Travellers needed permission from the Ministry of Interior except for Iraqis and people with a residence permit in Iraq until 14 October. All restrictions were lifted on 15 October.

All arrivals at the border point 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.

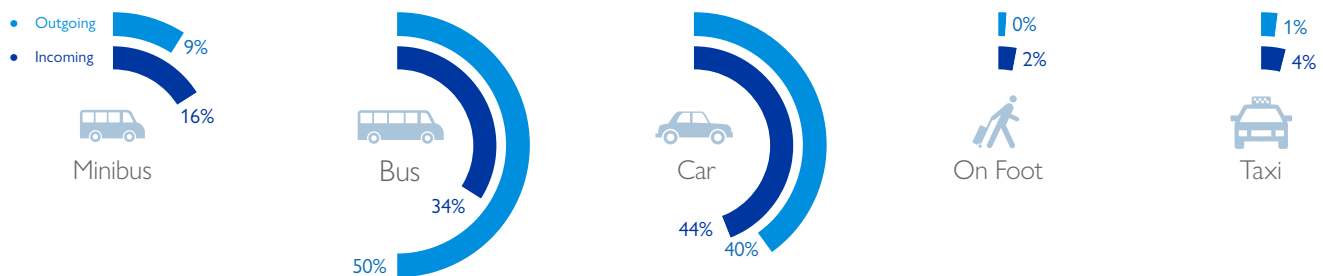
Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



During this period, the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border crossing point witnessed a larger flow of travellers as compared to the previous month. DTM identified 13,902 individuals crossing the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border point, with 6,672 entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 7,230 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border was crossed by 695 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) and 124 vehicles (including private cars, buses and minibuses). This is a substantially higher number compared to the previous round between 1 and 30 September, when 7,492 individuals crossing the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border point.

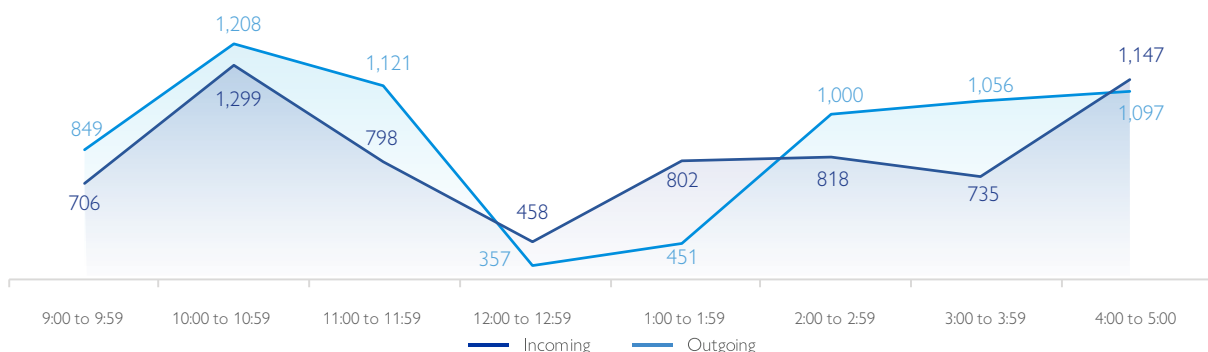
Around half of incoming travellers crossed this border point by bus or minibus, around two fifths crossed by car and only few crossed on foot or by taxi. Half of the outgoing travellers crossed this border point by bus, around two fifths crossed by car, one tenth crossed by minibus and few crossed on foot or taxi.

Percentage of travellers by means of transportation



The number of outgoing travellers slightly exceeded the number of incoming travellers for this border crossing point with peak crossings between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.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 28 per cent of incoming and 21 per cent of outgoing flows. A small percentage of travellers were older adults (over 60 years old), that is 1 per cent of incoming and 4 per cent of outgoing travellers, around half of the incoming travellers and around three fifths of outgoing travellers were middle-aged (35–60 years old) and the remaining were young adults (18–34 years old).

Around two thirds of incoming flows were Iraqis, around one third were Turkish, with a few from other countries, namely Syria, Georgia, Iran, and Ukraine. Incoming Iraqis either reside in Iraq (62%) or abroad (38%), while most incoming foreign travellers usually reside abroad (92% of Turkish nationals and 82% of other nationals). Most incoming travellers entered Iraq temporarily for a duration of up to three months (94% of incoming travellers residing in Iraq and 82% of incoming travellers residing abroad). The main reasons for entering Iraq were returning to the country of habitual residence (35%), followed by business or trade (28%) and family visits (21%).

Most outgoing flows were Iraqis either residing in Iraq (68%) or abroad (32%) and around one fifth were Turkish nationals mainly residing in their home country. Most outgoing travellers exited Iraq temporarily for a duration of up to three months (82% of outgoing travellers residing in Iraq and 93% of outgoing travellers residing abroad). The main reasons for exiting Iraq were returning to country of habitual residence (34%), followed by business or trade (21%), holiday or tourism (18%) and medical treatment (16%). Six per cent were leaving Iraq due to humanitarian reasons, all of them Iraqis.



INCOMING

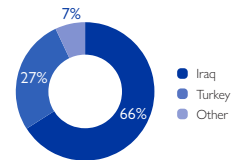


OUTGOING

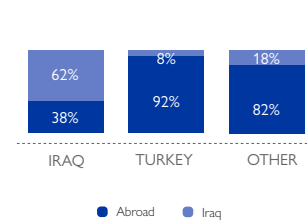
AGE AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF TRAVELLERS



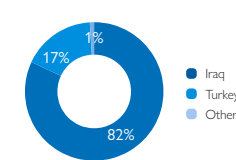
MAIN NATIONALITIES OF TRAVELLERS



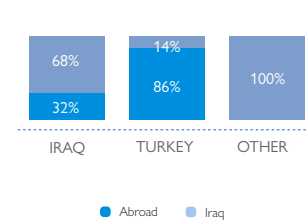
COUNTRY OF USUAL RESIDENCE BY NATIONALITIES



MAIN NATIONALITIES OF TRAVELLERS

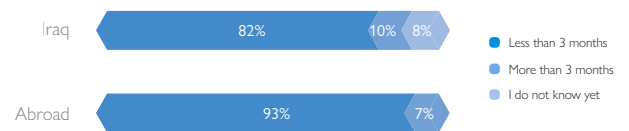
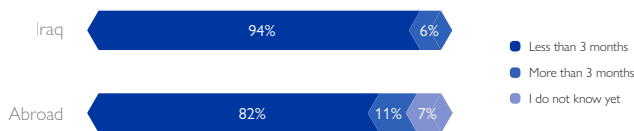


COUNTRY OF USUAL RESIDENCE BY NATIONALITIES



Other countries of nationality were Syria, Georgia, Iran and Ukraine

INTENDED LENGTH OF JOURNEY BY COUNTRY OF USUAL RESIDENCE



REASONS FOR TRAVEL



Note: Respondents could choose more than one option, response options 'other reasons' and reasons with less than 2 per cent are not shown on this chart



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 both incoming and outgoing travellers were aware of main symptoms such as fever and dry cough. The same applies to prevention measures, most incoming and outgoing travellers were aware of washing hands regularly and maintaining distance as prevention measures but fewer travellers were aware of covering mouth and nose with a mask when around others.

Travellers would either stay home and wait for symptoms to improve or worsen in case of symptoms (44% of incoming and 50% of outgoing) or call the hotline and follow instructions (29% of incoming and 27% of outgoing).

Some travellers reported having health conditions that often worsen COVID-19. Specifically, incoming flow had 5 per cent with serious heart conditions and 3 per cent of travellers with diabetes. Outgoing flow had 8 per cent of travellers with diabetes, 4 per cent with serious heart conditions and 4 per cent with chronic kidney disease or moderate to severe asthma.

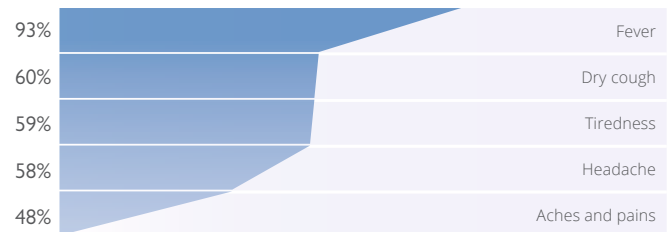
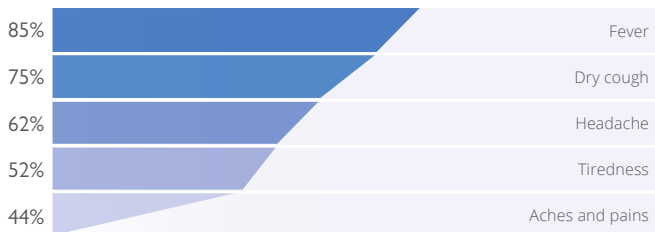


INCOMING



OUTGOING

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AWARENESS



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

11% Go to public primary health-care centre or hospital

13% Go to a private clinic or hospital

29% Call the hotline and follow instructions

3% I do not know

44% Stay home and wait for symptoms to improve or worsen

9% Go to public primary health-care centre or hospital

11% Go to a private clinic or hospital

27% Call the hotline and follow instructions

3% I do not know

50% Stay home and wait for symptoms to improve or worsen

VULNERABLE GROUPS

3% diabetes

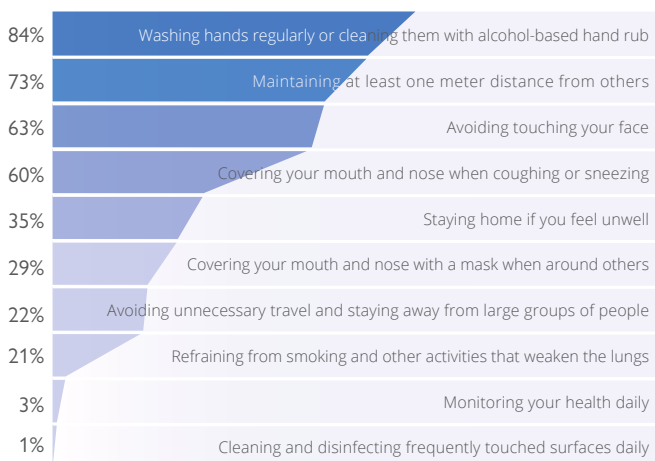
5% serious heart conditions

8% diabetes

4% serious heart conditions

4% chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis

COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES AWARENESS





BORDER POINT PROFILE
FISHKHABOUR
BORDERING COUNTRY: SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



3,590

Total number of travellers



299

Average number of travellers per day



267

Total number of vehicles



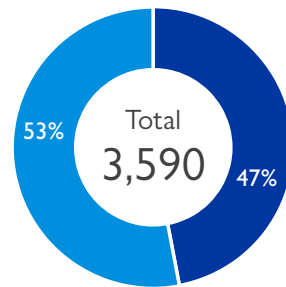
22

Average number of vehicles per day

At the Fishkhabour point, data collection took place from 1 October to 27 October 2020, on days and hours when this point was open. During this period, the border crossing point was open for three days a week (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday), from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. Travellers were permitted to enter and exit only for urgent reasons such as to receive medical treatment, for special occasions such as weddings or funerals, or being en route to another country (i.e. in transit).

All travellers 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.

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



INCOMING
1,695



OUTGOING
1,895

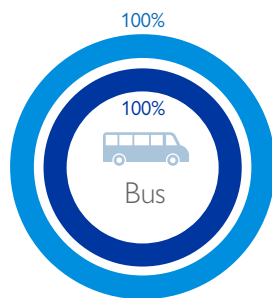
During this period, the Fishkhabour border crossing point witnessed a slightly higher flow of travellers as compared to the previous round collected in September. DTM identified 3,590 individuals crossing the Fishkhabour border point, with 1,695 entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 1,895 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border was crossed by 299 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) and 22 vehicles. This is a higher number compared to the previous round between 1 and 29 September, when 2,407 individuals crossed the Fishkhabour border point. All travellers crossed this border point by bus, which is consistent with the previous round of data collection and border point's regulations.

Percentage of travellers by means of transportation

- Outgoing 0%
- Incoming 0%



Minibus



- 0%
- 0%



Car

- 0%
- 0%

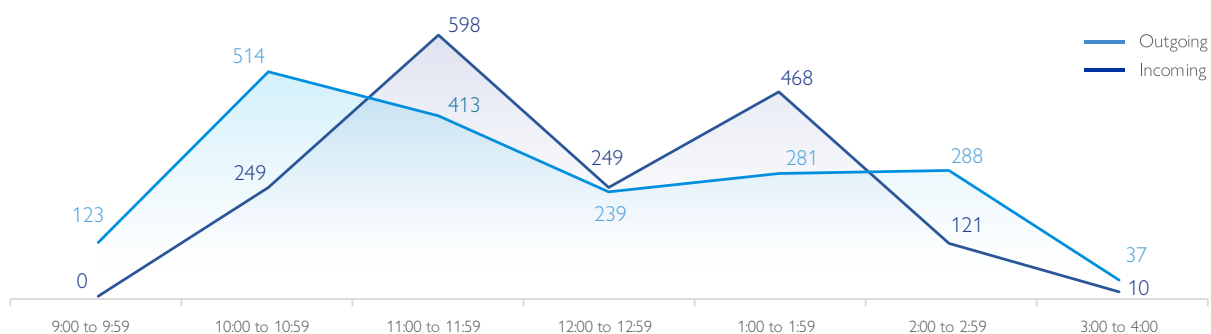


On Foot

The number of outgoing travellers slightly exceeded the number of incoming travellers for this border crossing point, with peak crossings between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Due to an insufficient sample size of outgoing travellers, 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. – 4:00 p.m.)





TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

FISHKHABOUR

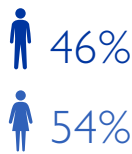
BORDERING COUNTRY: SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Unlike for other border crossings, there were more female travellers than male travellers at the Fishkhabour border crossing, and women represented 54 per cent of the incoming flow. Around half were middle-aged (35–60 years old) and the other half were young adults (18–34 years old). All incoming travellers were Syrians mainly residing abroad (85%) and some in Iraq (15%). All Syrians residing in Iraq and half of Syrians residing abroad intended to stay for a period of up to three months, while half of Syrians residing in their home country or other countries abroad intended to stay for a longer period of three months or more. Special occasions, such as weddings or funerals, were the main reason to cross for the majority of travellers (81%), followed by family visits (48%) and returning to the country of habitual residence (45%).

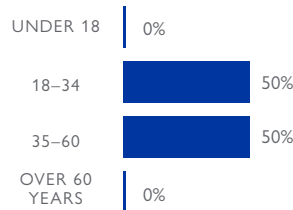


INCOMING

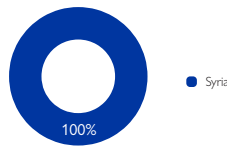
GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF TRAVELLERS



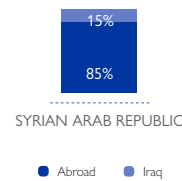
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF TRAVELLERS



MAIN NATIONALITIES OF TRAVELLERS



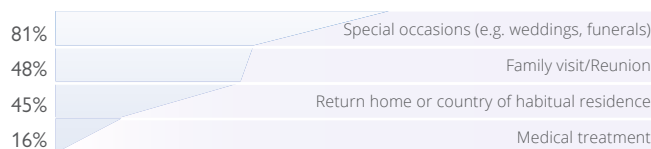
COUNTRY OF USUAL RESIDENCE BY NATIONALITIES



INTENDED LENGTH OF JOURNEY BY COUNTRY OF USUAL RESIDENCE



REASONS FOR TRAVEL





COVID-19 AWARENESS OF TRAVELLERS

FISHKHABOUR

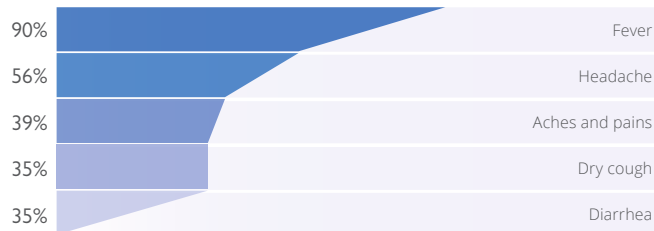
BORDERING COUNTRY: SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Travellers were asked about their awareness of COVID-19 symptoms, prevention measures and risk factors. The majority of incoming travellers (90%) were aware of fever as main symptom but fewer reported knowing other symptoms such as dry cough (56%) or aches and pains (39%). The same applies to prevention measures; most incoming travellers were aware of washing hands regularly but fewer were aware of maintaining distance and wearing mask when around others. Travellers would either go to a public primary health-care centre or hospital in case of symptoms (48%), call the hotline and follow instructions (23%) or stay home and wait for symptoms to improve or worsen (25%).

Some travellers reported having health conditions for which COVID-19 is often more severe. Specifically, incoming flow had 16 per cent of travellers with diabetes, 11 per cent with serious heart condition, 4 per cent with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, and 4 per cent with severe obesity.

INCOMING

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AWARENESS



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



VULNERABLE GROUPS



COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES AWARENESS





BORDER POINT PROFILE

BASHMAGH

BORDERING COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



6,530

Total number of travellers



344

Average number of travellers per day



280

Total number of vehicles



15

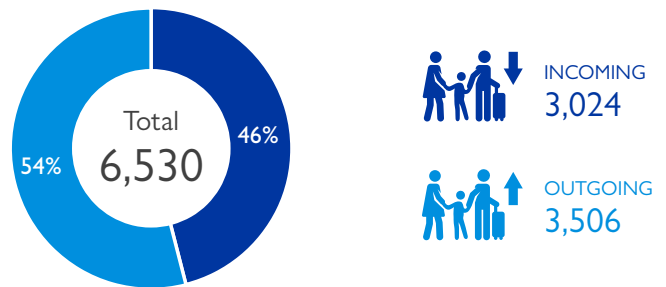
Average number of vehicles per day

At the Bashmagh point, data collection took place from 4 October to 28 October 2020, weekdays only, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. From 4 October to 22 October 2020, this border crossing point was open every day for 24 hours for incoming and outgoing travellers. Outgoing Iraqis and incoming Iranians needed permission from the Ministry of Interior. These restrictions were lifted starting from 25 October 2020 and for incoming travellers, point was open between 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. from 25 October to 28 October 2020.

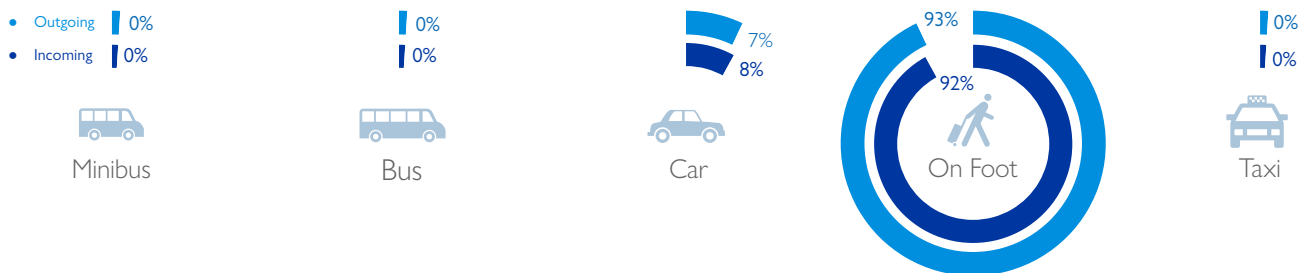
All residents of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) had to be tested for Covid-19 when they entered the border points. They were afterwards required to quarantine at home for 48 hours for the test results to be processed.

During this period, the Bashmagh border crossing point witnessed a lower flow of travellers as compared the previous round in September. DTM identified 6,530 individuals crossing the Bashmagh border point, with 3,024 entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 3,506 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border was crossed by 344 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) and 15 vehicles (private cars). This is a significantly lower number compared to the previous round between 1 and 30 September, when 8,697 individuals crossed the Bashmagh border point. Most travellers crossed this border point on foot, with only some crossings by private cars, which is consistent with the previous round of data collection.

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow

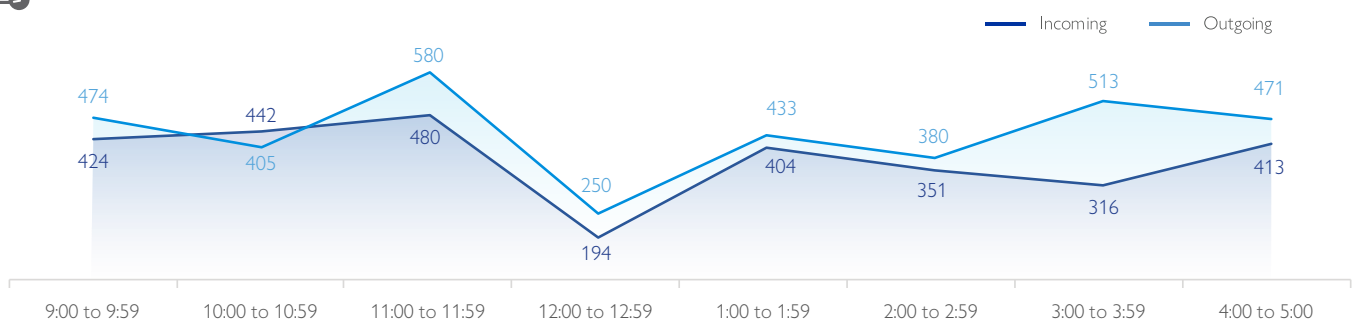


Percentage of travellers by means of transportation



The number of outgoing travellers slightly exceeded the number of incoming travellers for this border crossing point, with flow evenly distributed during the monitored hours.

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





TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

BASHMAGH

BORDERING COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Most incoming and outgoing travellers were men. Women represented 25 per cent of incoming and 34 per cent of outgoing flows. A small percentage of travellers were older adults (over 60 years old), that is 3 per cent of incoming and 1 per cent of outgoing travellers. Generally, incoming travellers were either middle-aged (35–60 years old) or young adults (18–34 years old), while most outgoing travellers were middle-aged and around one fifth were young adults. Around two fifths of incoming flow were Iraqis and around three fifths were Iranians, both residing in their home countries. The inverse proportion is observed for outgoing flow: around three fifths were Iraqis and around two fifths were Iranians, both residing in their home countries. Most incoming and outgoing travellers entered Iraq temporarily for a duration of up to three months, except for those outgoing travellers who are residing abroad. Around three fifths of them exited Iraq for a longer term of three months or more. The main reasons for entering Iraq were business or trade (54%), followed by medical treatment (34%), employment (17%) and family visits (16%). For outgoing flow, the main reasons for travel were medical treatment (45%) and returning to country of habitual residence (37%). One tenth were leaving Iraq for education, all of them young adults (18–34 years old).

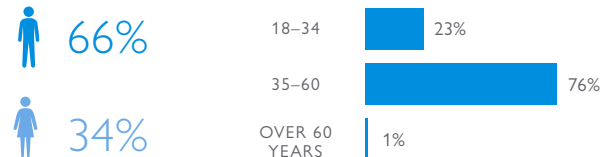


INCOMING

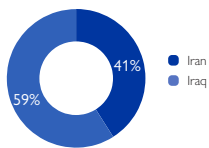


OUTGOING

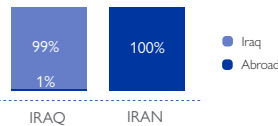
AGE AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF TRAVELLERS



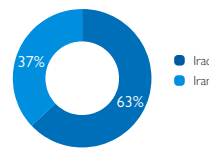
MAIN NATIONALITIES OF TRAVELLERS



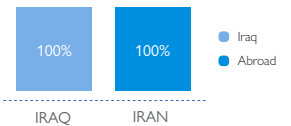
COUNTRY OF USUAL RESIDENCE BY NATIONALITIES



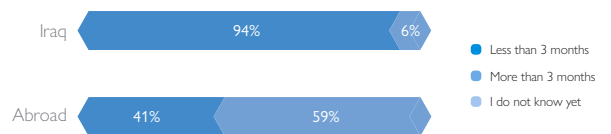
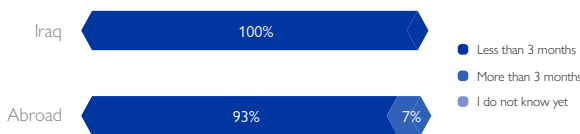
MAIN NATIONALITIES OF TRAVELLERS



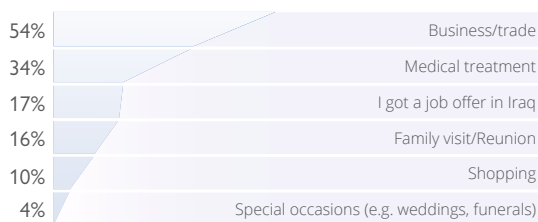
COUNTRY OF USUAL RESIDENCE BY NATIONALITIES



INTENDED LENGTH OF JOURNEY BY COUNTRY OF USUAL RESIDENCE



REASONS FOR TRAVEL



Note: Respondents could choose more than one option, response options 'other reasons' and reasons with less than 2 per cent are not shown on this chart.



COVID-19 AWARENESS OF TRAVELLERS

BASHMAGH

BORDERING COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Travellers were asked about their awareness of COVID-19 symptoms, prevention measures and risk factors. The majority of incoming travellers were aware of main symptoms such as fever (100%), difficulty breathing (95%), dry cough (80%) and loss of taste or smell (70%). Awareness was noticeably lower among outgoing travellers: 69 per cent were aware of chest pain, 68 per cent were aware of difficulty breathing but fewer reported knowing about other symptoms. The same applies to prevention measures; most incoming travellers were aware of maintaining distance (94%), wearing mask when around others (89%) and washing hands regularly (81%). Awareness was noticeably lower among outgoing travellers; most were aware of washing hands regularly (81%) and maintaining distance (77%) but fewer were aware of wearing mask when around others (1%) or covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing (52%).

Some travellers reported having health conditions that worsen COVID-19. Specifically, incoming flow had 3 per cent of travellers with serious heart conditions, while outgoing flow had 20 per cent with serious heart conditions, 11 per cent with cancer or weakened immune system, 11 per cent with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, and 10 per cent with diabetes.

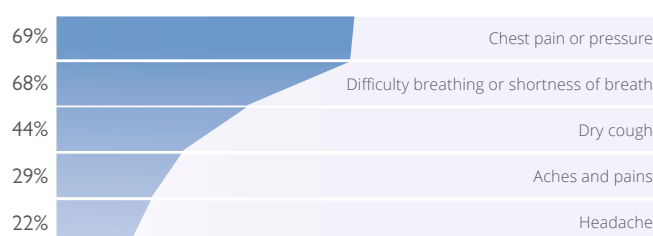
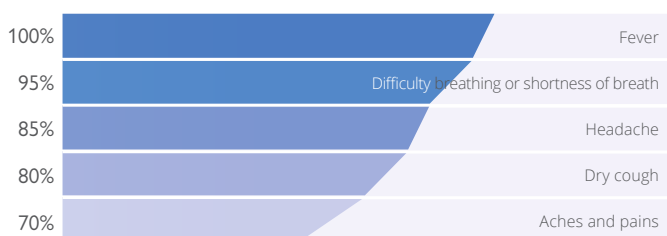


INCOMING



OUTGOING

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AWARENESS



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



0% Go to public primary health-care centre or hospital



93% Go to a private clinic or hospital



83% Go to public primary health-care centre or hospital



12% Go to a private clinic or hospital



7% Call the hotline and follow instructions



0% I do not know



5% Call the hotline and follow instructions



0% I do not know



0% Stay home and wait for symptoms to improve or worsen



1% Stay home and wait for symptoms to improve or worsen

VULNERABLE GROUPS



3% serious heart conditions



20% serious heart conditions



11% chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma

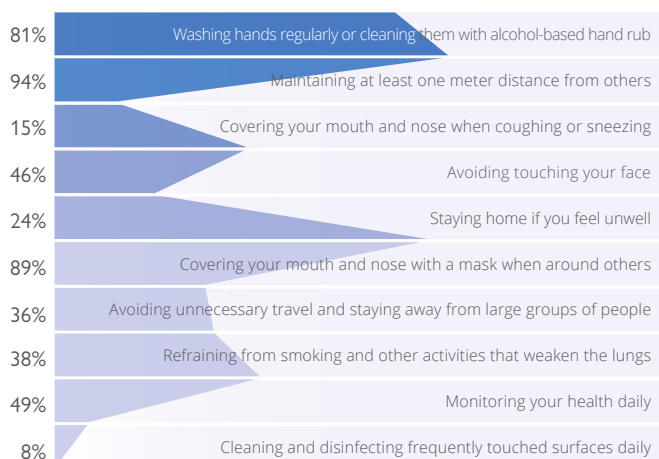


10% diabetes



11% cancer or weakened immune system conditions

COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES AWARENESS





BORDER POINT PROFILE

AL-SHALAMCHA

BORDERING COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



617

Total number of travellers



47

Average number of travellers per day



0

Total number of vehicles



0

Average number of vehicles per day

At the Al-Shalamcha point, data collection took place from 12 October to 28 October 2020, weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.¹ During this period, this border crossing point was open every day around the clock.

Only Iraqi nationals were permitted to enter, and they had to obtain permission from the Iranian Government prior to entering Iran.

COVID-19 testing facilities are not in place at this border crossing point. All arrivals at the border point had to carry with them a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) swab test result taken within 72 hours prior to crossing.

During this period, DTM identified 617 individuals crossing the Al-Shalamcha border point, with 216 entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 401 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border was crossed by 47 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows). All travellers crossed this border point on foot, which is consistent with the border point's regulations.

Percentage of travellers by means of transportation

• Outgoing 0%
• Incoming 0%

Minibus

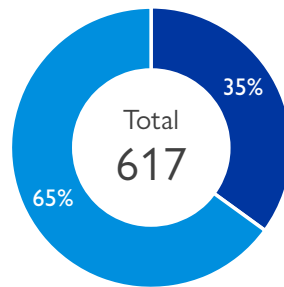
Bus

Car



Taxi

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



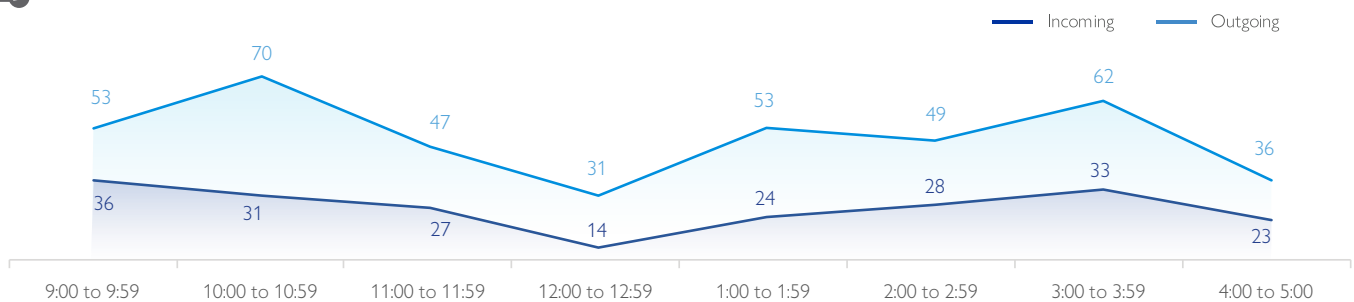
INCOMING
216

OUTGOING
401

The number of outgoing travellers exceeded the number of incoming travellers for this border crossing point, with flow evenly distributed during the monitored hours.

Due to an insufficient sample size of travellers, 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.)



⁴ Due to mobility restrictions imposed by Iraqi authorities since March 2020 aimed at curbing the spread of the COVID-19, data collection did not take place at this border point from March to mid-October 2020.



BORDER POINT PROFILE

ZURBATIYAH - WASSIT TERMINAL

BORDERING COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



107

Total number of travellers



8

Average number of travellers per day



0

Total number of vehicles



0

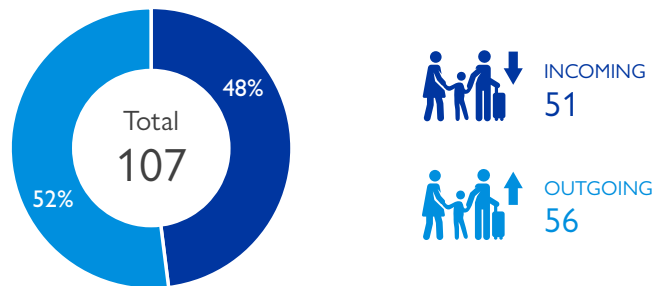
Average number of vehicles per day

At the Zurbatiyah point, data collection took place from 12 October to 28 October 2020, weekdays only from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.¹ During this period, this border crossing point was open every day for 24 hours. Any nationality could cross. Outgoing travellers were required to sign a pledge committing to not return to Iraq via this border crossing point.

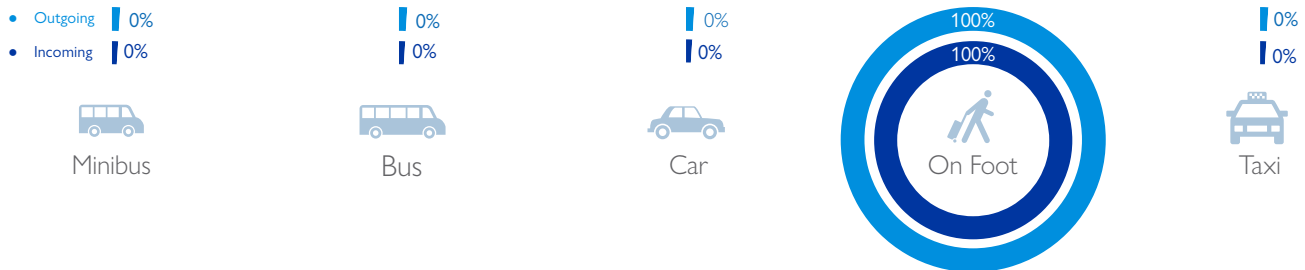
COVID-19 testing facilities are not in place at this border crossing point. All arrivals at the border point had to carry with them a negative PCR test result taken within 72 hours prior to crossing.

During this period, DTM identified 107 individuals crossing the Zurbatiyah border point, with 51 entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 56 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border was crossed by eight travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows). All travellers crossed this border point on foot, which is consistent with the border point's regulations.

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



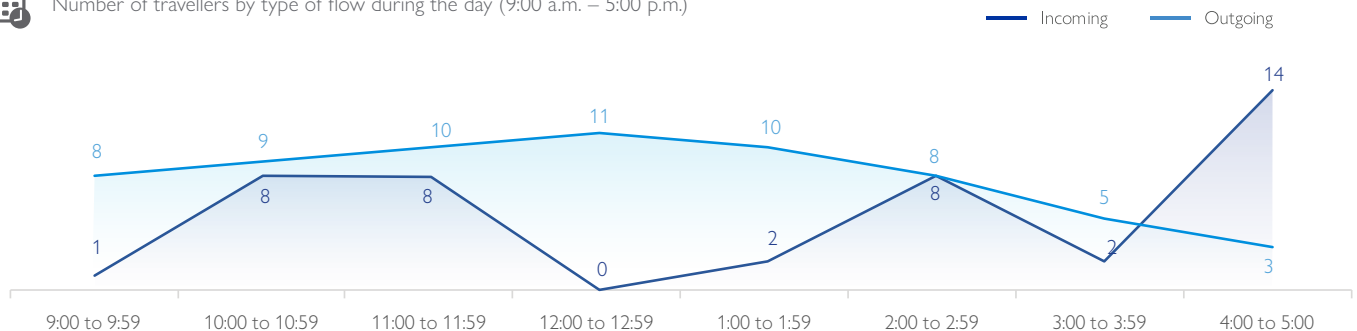
Percentage of travellers by means of transportation



The number of outgoing travellers exceeded the number of incoming travellers for this border crossing point, with flow evenly distributed during the monitored hours.

Due to an insufficient sample size of travellers, 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.)



⁵ Due to mobility restrictions imposed by Iraqi authorities since March 2020 aimed at curbing the spread of COVID-19, data collection did not take place at this border points from March to mid-October 2020.

METHODOLOGY

The data for this report took place at five border crossing points during the month of October 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).¹ 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, 5 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;
- Zurbatiah (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. The methodology uses two 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 five 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 five 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

This document was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries. IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in the meeting of operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

⁶ Please refer to the methodological note for more details. Available online at: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>



Funded by
the European Union

© 2020 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.