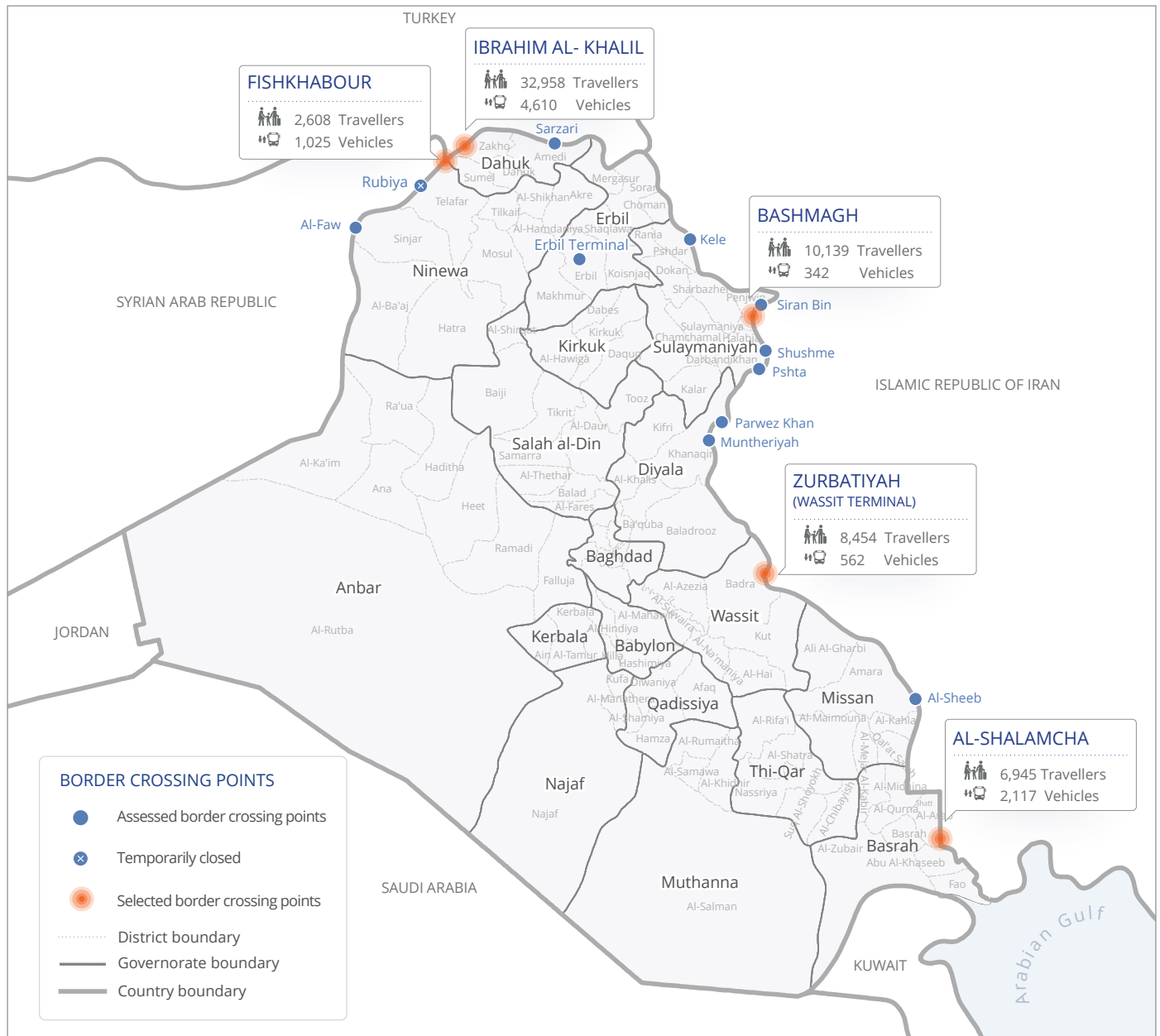


DTM Iraq conducts data collection at the border crossing points with neighboring countries – the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and the Syrian Arab Republic – to better understand migration movement in the Middle East. This data collection activity is part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project, targeting Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan. The data for this report was gathered through counting exercises that took place at five border crossing points during the months of November and December 2019. Please see more details on methodology on page 7.

Map 1: Assessed and selected border crossing points



This map and all other maps in this report are for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

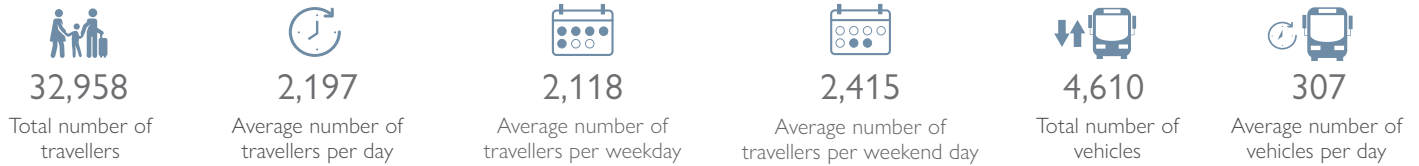
The border crossing points were selected based on observations conducted in May 2019 by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs). Out of 16 locations assessed, 5 border crossing points were selected for data collection: Ibrahim Al-Khalil on the border with Turkey, Fishkhabour on the border with the Syrian Arab Republic and Bashmagh, Zurbatiyah (Wassit Terminal) and Al-Shalamcha on the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran.



BORDER POINT PROFILE

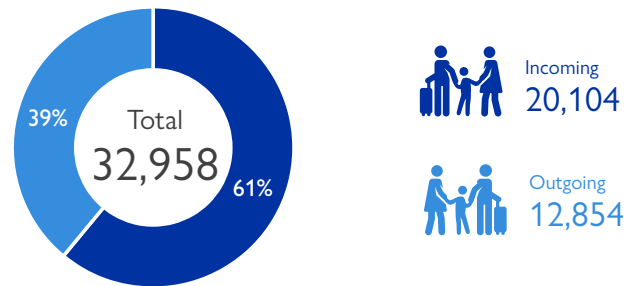
IBRAHIM AL-KHALIL

BORDERING COUNTRY: TURKEY



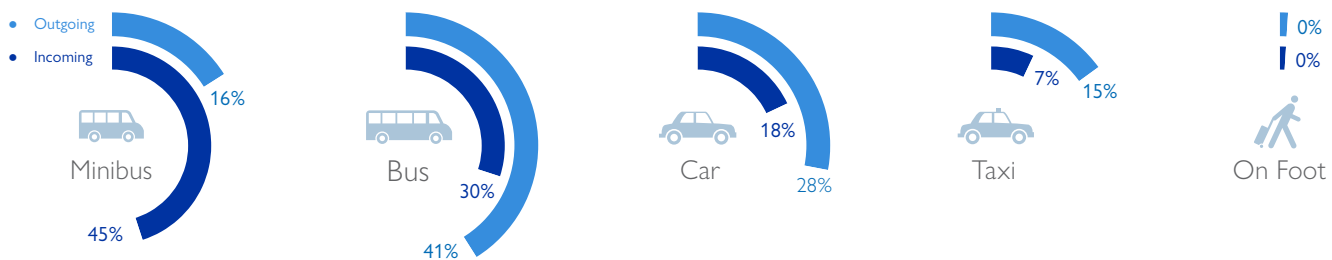
DTM Iraq conducts data collection at the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border crossing point, which borders Turkey, to better understand migration movement in the Middle East as a part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project. At the Ibrahim Al-Khalil point, data collection took place from 4 November to 23 November 2019, five days per week from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Figure 1. Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



During this period, the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border crossing point witnessed a large flow of travellers. DTM identified 32,958 individuals crossing the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border point from 4–23 November, with 20,104 of them entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 12,854 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border crossing point was used by 2,197 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) and 307 vehicles (including private cars, taxis, buses and minibuses). The average number of travellers per day during weekends was higher than during weekdays. The main means of transport for both types of flow were buses, minibuses and private cars.

Figure 2. Percentage of travellers by means of transportation



The number of incoming travellers is higher than the number of outgoing travellers for this border crossing point, with peaks from about 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 2:00 – 5:00 pm. The outgoing flow tends to have peaks from about 9:00 – 10:00 am.

Figure 3. Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (8:30-5:00)

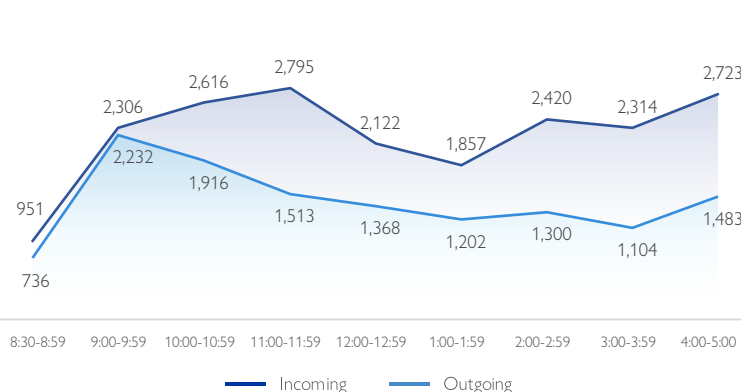
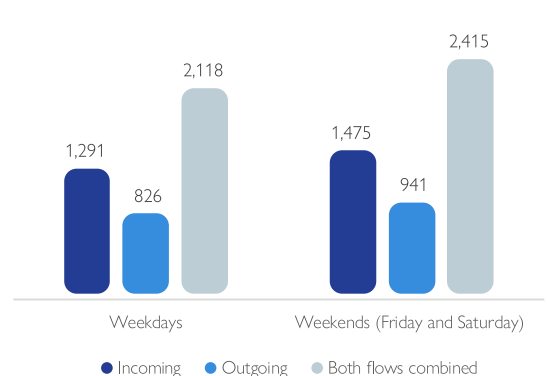


Figure 4. Average number of travellers by type of flow and day of the week

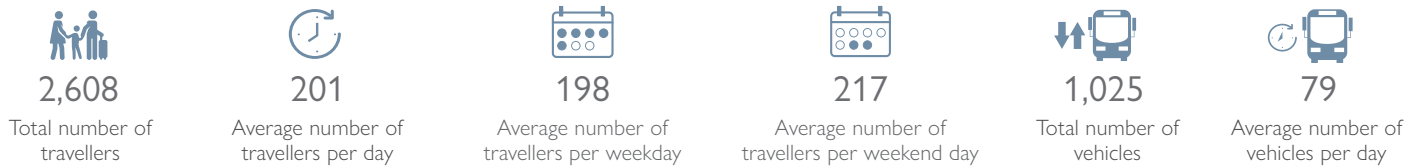




BORDER POINT PROFILE

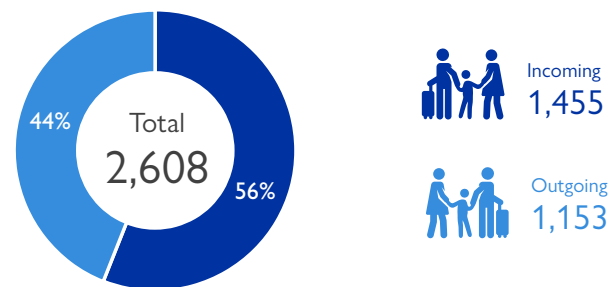
FISHKHABOUR

BORDERING COUNTRY: THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



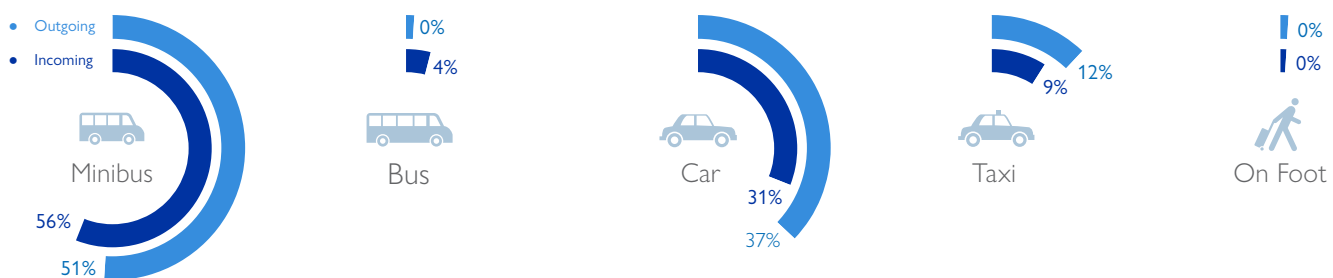
DTM Iraq conducts data collection at the Fishkhabour unofficial border crossing point, which borders the Syrian Arab Republic, to better understand migration movement in the Middle East as a part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project. At the Fishkhabour point, data collection took place from 16 December 2019 to 4 January 2020, five days per week during official working hours from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Figure 5. Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



During this period, the Fishkhabour border crossing point witnessed a relatively low flow of travellers. DTM identified 2,608 individuals crossing the Fishkhabour border point from 16 December to 4 January, with 1,455 of them entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 1,153 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border crossing point was used by 201 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) and 79 vehicles (private car, taxi, bus and minibus). The average number of travellers per day during weekends was higher than during weekdays, although the border crossing point is open on Saturdays and closed on Fridays. The main means of transport for both types of flow were minibuses, private cars and taxis.

Figure 6. Percentage of travellers by means of transportation



The number of incoming travellers is higher than the number of outgoing travellers for this border crossing point, with peaks from about 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. The outgoing flow tends to have peaks from about 10:00 – 11:00 am.

Figure 7. Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (9:00-04:00)

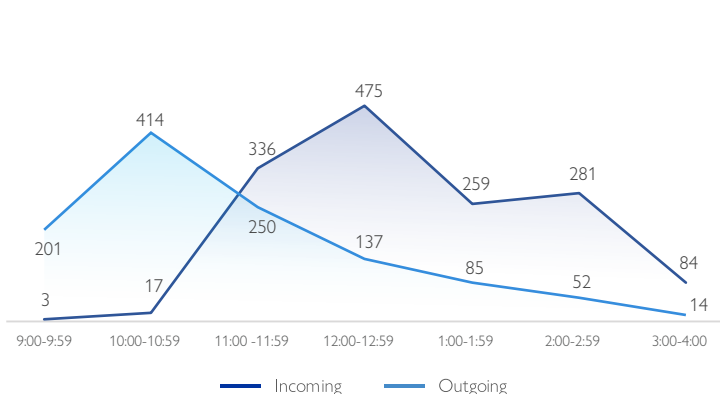
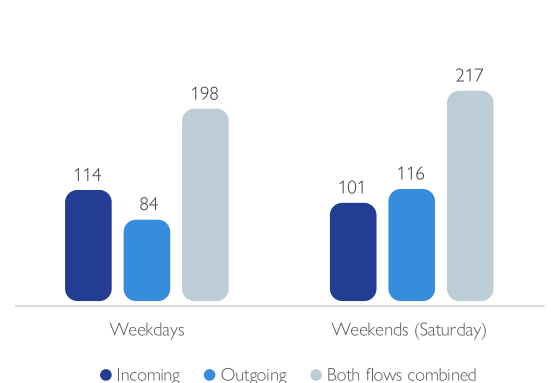


Figure 8. Average number of travellers by type of flow and day of the week

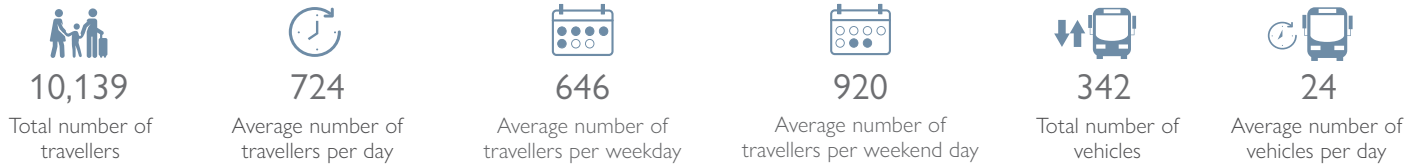




BORDER POINT PROFILE

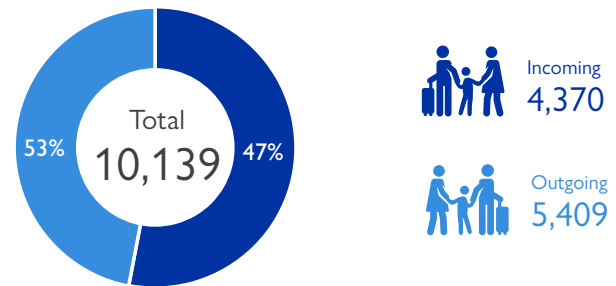
BASHMAGH

BORDERING COUNTRY: THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



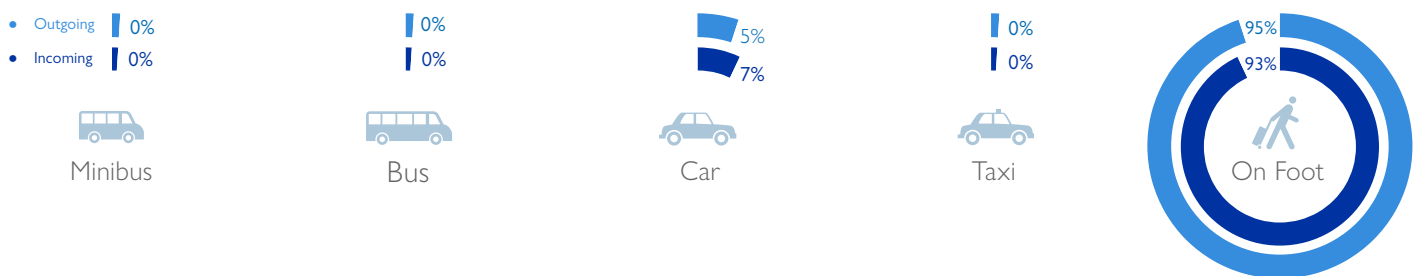
DTM Iraq conducts data collection at the Bashmagh border crossing point, which borders the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to better understand migration movement in the Middle East as a part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project. At the Bashmagh point, data collection took place from 12 November to 7 December 2019, five days per week from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. During this period, the Bashmagh border crossing point witnessed a large flow of travellers.

Figure 9. Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



DTM identified 10,139 individuals crossing the Bashmagh border point from 12 November – 7 December, with 4,730 of them entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 5,409 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border crossing point was used by 724 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) and 24 vehicles (mostly private cars). The average number of travellers per day during weekends was higher than during weekdays. Most travellers cross this border point on foot, with only a few crossings by private car.

Figure 10. Percentage of travellers by means of transportation



The number of outgoing travellers is higher than the number of incoming travellers for this border crossing point, with peaks from about 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 2:00 – 3:00 pm. The outgoing flow tends to have peaks from about 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Figure 11. Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (8:30-5:00)

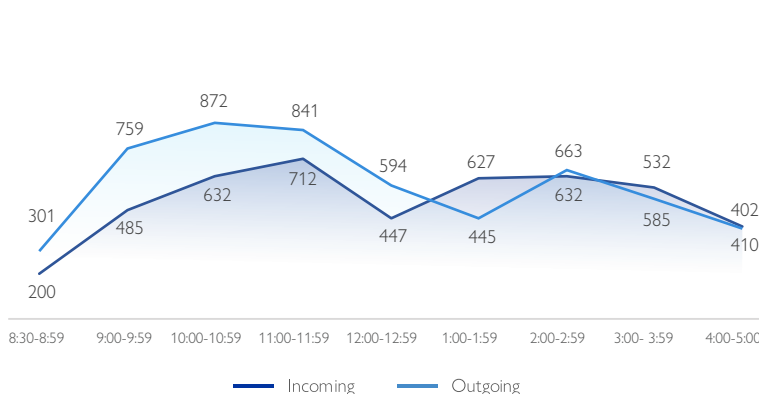
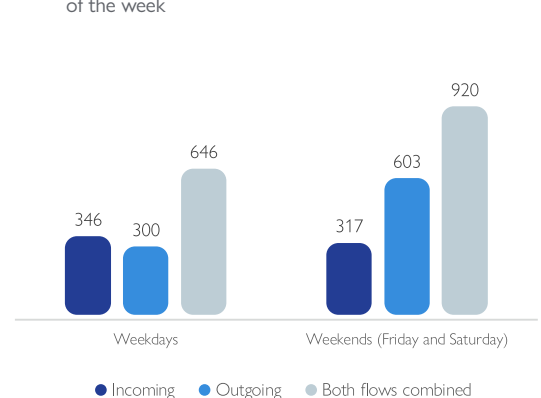


Figure 12. Average number of travellers by type of flow and day of the week

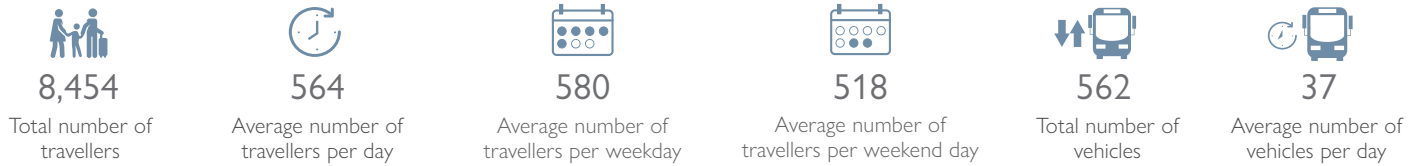




BORDER POINT PROFILE

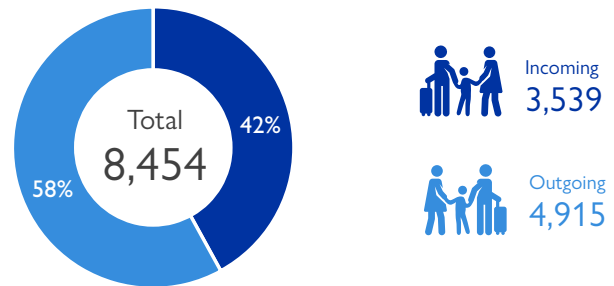
ZURBATIYAH - WASSIT TERMINAL

BORDERING COUNTRY: THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



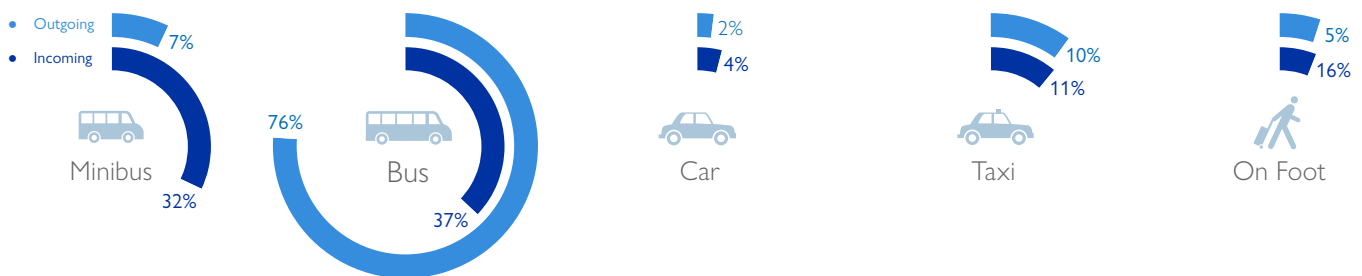
DTM Iraq conducts data collection at the Wassit Terminal border crossing point, which borders the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to better understand migration movement in the Middle East as a part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project. At the Wassit Terminal point, data collection took place from 4 November to 23 November 2019, five days per week from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. During this period, the Wassit Terminal border crossing point witnessed a relatively large flow of travellers.

Figure 13. Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



DTM identified 8,454 individuals crossing the Wassit Terminal border point from 4–23 November, with 3,539 of them entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 4,915 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border crossing point was used by 564 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) and 37 vehicles (private cars, taxis, buses and minibuses). The average number of travellers per day during weekdays was higher than during weekends. The main means of transport for incoming flow were minibuses, buses, taxis and small portion of travellers crossed on foot. Most outgoing travellers crossed by busses.

Figure 14. Percentage of travellers by means of transportation



The number of outgoing travellers is higher than the number of incoming travellers for this border crossing point, with peaks from about 10:00 – 11:00 am, 12:00 – 1:00 pm and 2:00 – 4:00 pm. The incoming flow tends to have peaks from about 10:00 am – 12:00 pm and 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

Figure 15. Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (9:00-5:00)

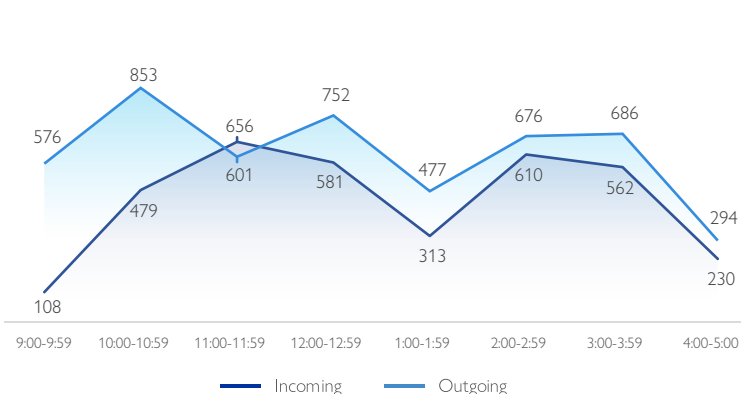
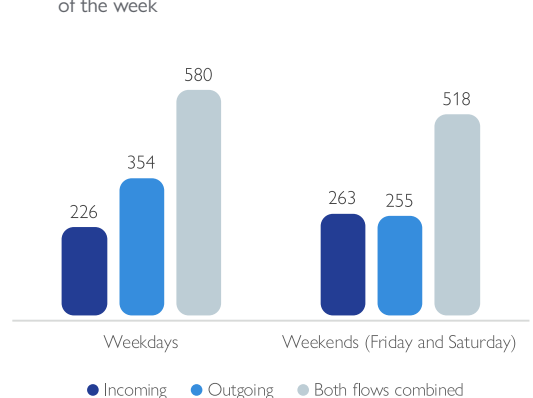


Figure 16. Average number of travellers by type of flow and day of the week

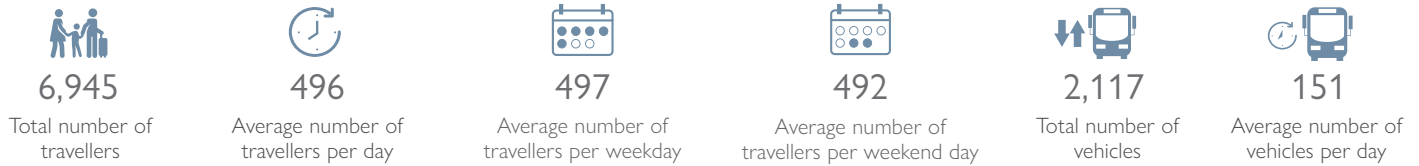




BORDER POINT PROFILE

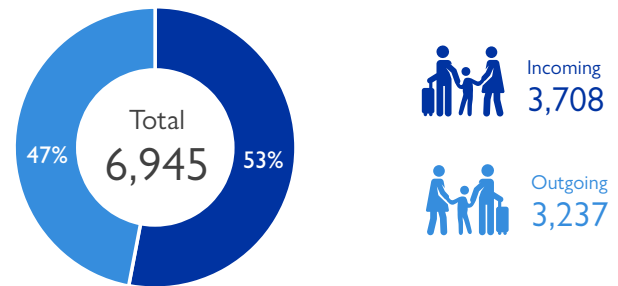
AL-SHALAMCHA

BORDERING COUNTRY: THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



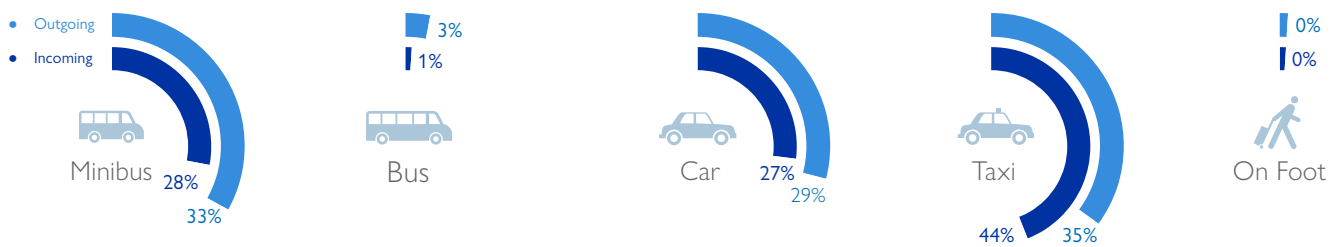
DTM Iraq conducts data collection at the Al-Shalamcha border crossing point, which borders the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to better understand migration movement in the Middle East as a part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project. At the Al-Shalamcha point, data collection took place from 5 November to 30 November 2019, five days per week from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. During this period, the Al-Shalamcha border crossing point witnessed a relatively large flow of travellers.

Figure 17. Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



DTM identified 6,945 individuals crossing the Al-Shalamcha border point between 5–30 November, with 3,708 of them entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 3,237 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border crossing point was used by 496 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) and 151 vehicles (private cars, taxis, buses and minibuses). The average number of travellers per day during weekdays and weekends are roughly equivalent. The main means of transport for both types of flows were taxis, minibuses and private cars.

Figure 18. Percentage of travellers by means of transportation



The number of incoming travellers is slightly higher than the number of outgoing travellers for this border crossing point, with peaks from 9:00 – 11:00 am. The outgoing flow tends to have peaks from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Figure 19. Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (8:30-5:00)

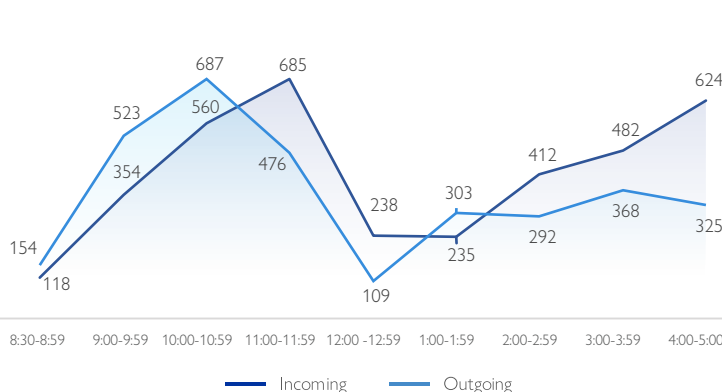
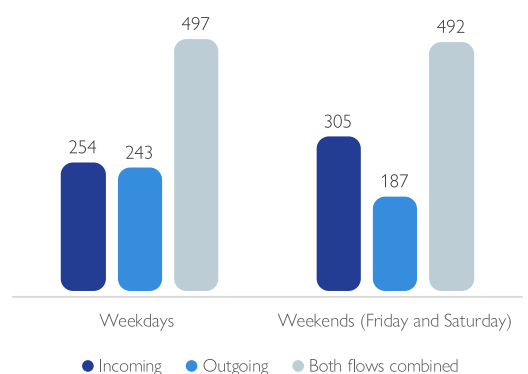


Figure 20. Average number of travellers by type of flow and day of the week



METHODOLOGY

The data for this report was gathered through counting exercises that took place at five border crossing points during the months of November and December 2019. Counting was run continuously as a stand-alone activity for a period of 13–15 days over the course of 3 weeks, on 5 days per week from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm and repeated periodically during the year to check and adjust data collection to seasonal variations.

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 geographical and type (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 on the border with Turkey;
- Fishkhabour in Dahuk Governorate on the border with the Syrian Arab Republic;
- Bashmagh in Sulaymaniyah Governorate on the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- Zurbatiyah (Wassit Terminal) in Wassit Governorate on the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- Al-Shalamcha in Basrah Governorate on the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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 (hour, day, minutes) and the number of travellers by means of transport (whether by private car, taxi, bus or minibus – up to 15 seats). Counting was conducted continuously for a period of 13–15 days over the course of 3 weeks, 5 days per week from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm with a lunch break of 30 minutes between 12:30 pm and 2:00 pm. Counting was conducted separately for incoming and outgoing flows during weekdays and weekends (Friday and Saturday), with a random selection of days for data collection. Data is collected through IOM's enumerators, composed of over 14 staff members deployed across Iraq (35% of enumerators are female).

Data presented in this report is representative of the individuals crossing at each of the selected border points separately between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. Data should not be generalized and does not represent a full picture of inter and intra-regional migration, but rather of migration flows at the specific 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

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.

¹ Please refer to the methodological note for more details. Available online at: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>



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