



## **Press release**

The United Nations celebrates 7/11 annually as Population Day to focus on population issues worldwide.

Since 2014, Iraq has experienced a number of crises that have led to changes in the demographic composition of the country where there have been many major changes, including growth and population division, age, disability, mortality, population mobility, women's empowerment, workforce and many more. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a number of interesting developments around population issues and protracted conflicts in Iraq have negatively impacted the country's economic landscape including the Kurdistan Region.

The absence of a population census in Iraq for 36 years has created a large gap in the source of the plans data due to the lack of detailed demographic indicators, and therefore the Statistics Office (KRSO) had to take other ways to provide this data using an indirect projection to estimate the population so that we can provide the necessary data to the ministries of the Kurdistan Region Government and be able to use it to develop their annual plans and policies.

**This year, KRSO focuses on 2 aspects in addition to the estimated number of population in the region.**

**According to the estimates of the Kurdistan Region Statistics office, the population of the region is expected to reach 6,556,752 six million five hundred and fifty-six thousand seven hundred and fifty-two persons in 2023, divided between the sexes, males 3,296,240 and females 3,260,514.**

**78.4% of the population inhabits urban areas and 21.6% rural and the population growth rate for 2023 is estimated at 2%.**

One of the characteristics of the population is the percentage of fertility and its effects on the population. The following table shows the number of indicators for each governorate in the region according to the results of the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey for 2018:

Kurdistan Region	Halabja	Duhok	Sulaymaniyah	Erbil	
3.1	2.8	3.7	2.8	3.1	Total fertility rate
66.6	73.3	56.9	73.3	66.0	Contraceptive prevalence rate
25.6	25.3	27.6	25.3	24.9	- Modern style
41.0	48.0	29.3	48.0	41.1	- Traditional style
8.0	8.0	10.1	8.0	7.1	Percentage of unmet needs
21.9	22.3	18.5	22.3	22.9	Percentage of contraceptive use for periods between conceptions
44.7	51.1	38.5	51.1	43.1	Percentage of contraception to reduce births

Another demographic issue that has had an impact on the demographic structure of the region is the presence of displaced people and refugees, especially after 2014. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the number of internally displaced people in Iraq in mid-2022 reached 1.18 million. The number of internally displaced people in the Kurdistan Region has reached 694,000 people, or 52.6% of the internally displaced in Iraq where:

- 1) Data indicate that the highest number of IDPs in the Kurdistan Region (320,000 IDPs) is in Dohuk Governorate, accounting for 46% of IDPs in the Region. Erbil comes in second place with 233,000 IDPs and 34% of the total number of IDPs in the Region and then Sulaymaniyah Governorate with 142,000 IDPs which represents 20% of IDPs in the Kurdistan Region.

- 2) The numerical burden that IDPs represent on host populations. By calculating the burden of IDPs according to the percentage of IDPs in each governorate, according to 2020 data, the percentage is higher in Dohuk (24.4%), Erbil (10.5%) and Sulaymaniyah (6.2%).

Number of IDPs in the Kurdistan Region, 2018-2022

Kurdistan region	Duhok	Sulaymaniyah	Erbil	
868,032	451,884	181,302	234,846	Feb. 2018
784,548	421,650	150,336	212,562	Feb. 2019
780,492	402,780	140,304	237,408	Feb. 2020
698,975	330,785	136,496	231,694	February 2021
694,491	320,109	141,522	232,860	March 2022
20.0%	29.2%	21.9%	0.8%	Decline rate 2018-2022
5.3%	8.1%	5.9%	0.2%	Annual rate of decline

**Kurdistan Region Statistics office**  
**Erbil-11/7/2023**