

IRAQ

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE – SYRIAN REFUGEES IN IRAQ

August 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

In the reporting period:

- 3,151 Syrians entered the KR-I in August through the Peshkabout border and 3,747 individuals returned from the KR-I to Syria. An increase in returns to Syria continues to be observed, attributed to the rising cost of living in the KR-I and a lack of employment opportunities, as well as for reasons of family reunification, property matters and agricultural pursuit.
- Based on the results of a tent-to-tent food security and vulnerability assessment, WFP implemented a tiered approach to better target food assistance to Syrian refugees most in need. Refugee families found to be food secure no longer receive WFP food assistance; those deemed moderately food insecure receive reduced assistance at IQD 11,700; and those deemed food insecure continue to receive the full level of assistance at IQD 22,300.
- The issue of people smuggling to Europe has been reported in refugee camps and urban locations. Camp authorities have observed incidents of the departure of refugee head of households to Turkey, leaving wives and children behind. According to interviews conducted by UNHCR, the smuggling route from the KR-I goes through Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary and Austria and ending in Germany. Transportation modes include boats, trains and cars with some even traveling on foot.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

249,463 Syrian refugees

KEY FIGURES

10

Individuals departed to the UK for resettlement

866

Syrians receiving assistance in Al Obaidy camp in Anbar Governorate

3,151

Syrians entering the KR-I through the Peshkabout border

3,747

Returns to Syria from the KR-I

25,738

Primary health consultations conducted in camps

FUNDING

USD 426,041,332

requested by agencies for the operation (Source: 2015 3RP – Iraq, as at 24/08/2015)



PRIORITIES

- Protection services to newly arrived Syrian refugees and minor
- Continuous improvements in shelter and WASH
- Revamping the education sector



Syrian children Evar, Farhad and Kawa who live in refugee camp in the KR-I emulate the UNHCR logo. UNHCR/R.Rasheed.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) the ongoing budgetary issue between the central government and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) continues to affect public sector salaries, infrastructure works and financial and market stability. Consensus on the KRG Presidential election and the possibility of extension of the current term of incumbent President Barzani remains a matter of debate among political parties. Multilateral meetings continue on this issue but an agreement is yet to be reached.

During the reporting period Peshmerga forces continued to repel ISIS attacks in Makhmour, west of Erbil, and at Mosul Dam. Coalition airstrikes against ISIS continued, particularly around Ninevah Governorate in Mosul, Sinjar and Tal Afar. Iraq Security Forces (ISF) also remain engaged against ISIS militants, with reports of the latter regaining the Baiji refinery, north of Baghdad where fierce fighting has lasted for months. The ISF has reportedly made limited gains in Anbar and the operation to retake the province is ongoing. Separately, air strikes by Turkish forces in noted PKK areas in the Qandil mountains were also reported in August.

New IDPs from central and southern Iraq continue to arrive into Erbil by plane and an estimated 139 households from Turkey were reported to have crossed into northern Iraq due to fighting in the border areas. Onward movements of refugees from the KR-I have also been seen with the issue of people smuggling to Europe being reported in refugee camps and urban locations.

Demonstrations mainly in the centre and south of Iraq continued during the reporting period, with growth in terms of supporters and demands. A number of reforms were announced by Iraqi Prime Minister Abadi to restructure the central government and to respond to demands of protestors to improve the country's political unity, security and prosperity.

Achievements

Protection

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 3,151 Syrians entered the KR-I from the Peshkabour crossing point in August. The vast majority of new-arrivals remain ethnically Kurdish, of large family sizes and are displaced mainly from Al-Raqqa and Aleppo sub-districts. A significant proportion were admitted into KR-I based on requests for family reunification. New-arrivals expressed their preference for settling in urban areas with families or relatives.
- 96 cases in Duhok Governorate benefited from UNHCR letters advocating for local authorities to legalize their status as asylum-seekers, given their entrance into the KR-I on a 15-day visa.
- UNHCR conducted a child protection in emergencies training for Harikar staff in Dohuk Governorate and ACTED mobile child protection teams in Domiz 1 and 2 camps conducted an awareness campaign focusing on inclusion of children with disabilities and teenagers.
- Eight cases of early marriage were identified in Domiz 1 camp and referred to partners for further case management and service referral. Three SGBV cases in Akre camp and 84 vulnerable cases in Domiz 1, Akre and Gawilan camps were also identified and referred to relevant service providers for assistance.
- In Gawilan camp, UNHCR is improving community based protection structures with a list of committee members updated and terms of reference shared with new members.
- In all four Erbil Governorate camps 412 UNHCR certificates were processed and the residency departments continued to issue individual documentation to eligible refugees, with a total of 1,331 residency cards processed in August. Residency cards have a one year validity which facilitates access to employment and key social services such as health and education.

- A PARC/Qandil legal team provided legal consultations to 92 camp-based refugees in Erbil Governorate and facilitated the issuance of 157 legal documents, including birth and marriage certificates.
- In Erbil Governorate 197 individuals with specific needs were identified and or referred to relevant services. The majority of persons identified were persons with serious medical conditions or physical disabilities or women at risk.
- UNICEF'S partner, Public Aid Organisation (PAO) carried out registration screening for children attending the CFS in Kawergosk camp. PAO also organized theatre activities involving 156 children (67 girls and 89 boys) to an audience of 700 community members. Themes included peaceful co-existence, sharing in times of difficulties and the promotion of children's rights.
- UNICEF's partner ACTED, in collaboration with Save the Children, formed and trained three new Child Protection Committees in Qushtapa camp, improving the systems available to support children.
- In Arbat camp 351 asylum seeker certificates, including renewals, were issued and 33 individuals with special needs were also referred to the protection team or service providers for assessment and referral. 2 SGBV survivors from Arbat camp received legal counselling and psycho-social support by UNDP's partner DHRD.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A total of 3,747 Syrians returned from the KR-I to Syria through the Peshkhabour crossing, indicating an increase in returns when compared to the previous month. The individuals were counselled at the Bajet Kandala Registration Centre to ensure the voluntary nature of their return. Destinations for returnees were mostly to Kobane, Qamishli, Al-Malkeyia and Hasakah. A significant proportion of returnees reported the high cost of living in the KR-I and the lack of job opportunities as reasons for return, whereas other refugees reported returning for family reunification or the belief that the situation has improved in their area of origin.
- The issue of people smuggling to Europe has been frequently reported in all refugee camps as well as in urban locations. Camp authorities have for instance reported the departure at Basirma camp of 30 head of households to Turkey, leaving wives and children behind. Cluster partners are reporting that for those family members left behind, there is a potentially higher risk for children's engagement in labour. According to interviews conducted by UNHCR, the smuggling route goes through Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary and Austria, eventually ending in Germany. Refugees are taking different transportation modes including boats, trains and cars. Some are even traveling on foot. The issue of smuggling has been selected as one of the themes of the upcoming Participatory Assessment.
- A sharp increase in intended departures to Turkey was also noted by the protection team at the Domiz registration centre. Eighty-seven cases (158 individuals) were interviewed by the protection team with the main reasons for departure to Turkey including travel to other European countries for better living conditions, medical treatment, family reunification or for further studies.
- Reports received from a UNHCR mission to the Sarziri border post between the KR-I and Turkey were that illegal crossings by Syrians continue through the mountains, with numbers reaching an average of 10-15 individuals intercepted per week.
- Reports have also been received that Syrian families are leaving Waar City, an informal settlement in Dohuk, to other camps in the Governorate so as to access food voucher schemes.
- Due to the impending opening of secondary schools in Darashakran, Qushtapa and Kawergosk camps, UNHCR protection partners raised concerns of many girls experiencing fear of sexual harassment on the way to and from school. NRC will focus on this theme in the September Safety audit exercise with findings and an action plan to be discussed.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Duhok Governorate 209 cases were approved by UNHCR for cash assistance and 12 cases were approved for a one-time cash distribution.
- 25 vulnerable cases, in addition to four children with severe physical disabilities and 11 at risk children were identified in Dohuk Governorate and referred to appropriate service providers. UNHCR continues to monitor vulnerable cases already identified on a regular basis.

- UNHCR is currently following up on requests from local authorities and the community to strengthen community structures in urban areas, such as schools and youth centers. Assessment missions were organized to locations in Amedi, Zakho and Dohuk district.
- In Erbil Governorate 1,224 individuals were provided by UNHCR with asylum seeker certificates through the PARC centre. The Residency Department issued 736 residency cards and 574 residency cards were renewed. 85 refugees were also provided with legal consultations and 77 were assisted with the issuance of birth certificates. Information was also verified, updated or transferred for 3,200 cases.
- In Suleimaniyah Governorate 117 cases of 261 individuals were registered. 511 asylum seeker certificates, including renewals, were issued, 107 cases were transferred from Erbil and Duhok and 2,108 cases were referred to the Residency Department for the issuance or renewal of residency permits. In addition, 3,076 individuals received consultation and guidance related to registration and residency and 409 individuals were iris scanned.
- UNHCR through the Democracy and Human Rights Development (DHRD) Center conducted three legal awareness raising sessions for 82 refugees in New Halabja and Saidsadiq in Suleimaniyah Governorate. Topics covered KR-I domestic violence law, unregistered marriage, the law of misuse of telecommunication devices, citizenship and personal status law and articles related to marriage outside court, polygamy and the legal age for marriage.
- DHRD provided seven consultations, three legal representations, 15 psychosocial support services, five hygiene kits and two health service provider referrals for SGBV survivors in Suleimaniyah Governorate.
- UNHCR through its partner Qandil provided cash assistance to 96 Syrian families in Said Sadeq, Sitak and Halabja in Suleimaniyah Governorate. 11 refugees were referred to health services and 25 were advised to on how to register children in a Kurdish school.
- In Suleimaniyah Governorate, UNHCR and its partner STEP is focusing on providing psycho-social and financial support to children and their families who are begging on the streets in an effort to combat these issues.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR and partners conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with more than 300 Syrian adults and children in Erbil urban areas, including those who moved recently from urban areas to Qushtapa and Darashakran camps. A decrease in job opportunities, delays in obtaining residency cards, expensive rents and financial and logistic difficulties to enrol children in schools were the main challenges reported.
- Issues highlighted by UNHCR's partners and interlocutors in Suleimaniyah Governorate include the movements of refugees from Bardaqaraman either to Arbat Refugee Camp or onward to Europe. Unemployment and high rents remain major issues in Bardaqaraman. Additional problems reported include that of the sewage system in the area and the lengthy process in issuing residency cards as employed refugees cannot get days off from work so frequently to visit the residency department in Suleimaniyah.
- UNICEF finalised a Child Labour Assessment in Semel, Zakho and Dahuk districts. A total of 1,890 children between the ages 3-18, found to be working, 17 per cent of which were refugee children.



Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- Resettlement pre-assessment screening was undertaken for 28 cases, 23 of which were prioritized. The main referral profile was linked or dependent cases, followed by refugees with medical needs.
- Interviews were carried out in all three KR-I Governorates. Identification interviews were conducted for 44 cases, whilst 50 cases were reviewed, of which 25 were prioritized and 25 deprioritized. The teams also undertook 32 RSD/RST interviews and five follow up interviews in both camp and urban locations across all three KR-I Governorates.
- Twenty-two cases (100 individuals) were referred to the MENA Regional Hub in Amman for submission to resettlement countries. The MENA Regional Hub submitted six cases (27 individuals) for resettlement to Sweden and five cases (23 individuals) to Australia. One individual was accepted by Sweden for resettlement. Four cases (10 individuals) departed to the UK.

- Australia has agreed to accept 200 Syrian refugees in Iraq for resettlement. UNHCR has commenced submissions.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Resettlement processing to the USA from Iraq continues to be delayed pending confirmation of a selection mission. This has resulted in a slow process to finalize the cases already identified and/or submitted to the USA.

Education

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- With the start of the new school year approaching, UNHCR, UNICEF and education actors supported the 'Back to School' campaign in the KR-I to raise awareness of the importance of education and to encourage parents to enroll children in school.
- Construction of six prefabricated schools across the KR-I (Gawilan and Domiz 2, Mamzawa, Arbat, Qirga and Chwarchira) has finished.
- Six Parent Teacher Association meetings were held in Domiz 1 camp refugee schools, facilitated by UNICEF and Warchild, to strengthen the parent-school relationship and engage critical actors in meeting children's needs.
- UNICEF, Harikar and Save the Children International undertook summer activities in Domiz 1 and 2 camps, benefitting 430 students (170 boys and 280 girls).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The issue of the payment for Syrian teacher salaries remains critical. Discussion between the Ministry of Education, UNHCR, UNICEF, and education cluster partners is ongoing to resolve this issue.
- A lack of teachers is a particular concern in Darashakran and Qushtapa camps with the former requiring 31 teachers for four shifts in two schools, while Qushtapa camp needs 10 teachers.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR undertook FDGs to inform and encourage families on the new decision from the KR-I Ministry of Education allowing Syrian children to register in Kurdish schools for grades 1-3. FDGs were held in KR-I locations with a high concentration of refugee children aged between 6-9 years. Participants, community focal points and Mukhtars were asked to spread the 'Back to School' message. School materials are now being distributed in key locations including PARC, where refugees come for the issuance and renewal of their UNHCR Asylum Seeker Certificates
- A number of Kurdish schools in the KR-I were selected in coordination with respective Departments of Education in each governorate to implement Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) where a high number of students are expected to register based on location and Syrian concentration.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During focus group discussions held in Shariya reasons for children dropping out of school were reported as the need to work in order to support families or the lack of education in Arabic.
- Due to a lack of teachers, Erbil schools need qualified staff to replace those who have left the KR-I. Without sufficient qualified personnel and either salaries or temporary incentives in place of full salaries, there is a risk of school closure.
- Afrin School for refugees has reported they will not start the school year due to a lack of support in the payment of teacher salaries and health issues (such as the incidence of head lice among students). The school has also reported that a dozen children are dropping out of school due to the difficult financial situation experienced by families.
- A need for skills building and training for refugee teachers in Suleimaniyah has been identified prior to the opening of schools in September.



CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 25,738 consultations were conducted in Primary Health Care (PHC) centres across Syrian refugee camps during August. Consultations slightly increased when compared to the previous month, with the consultation rate reaching an average of 3.7 consultations per person per year, still within the expected range of 1-4 consultations. The main reasons for consultations remained upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and skin infections. 965 patients were referred to secondary and tertiary hospitals for further investigations or hospitalization. A total of 1,075 patients benefitted from mental health services during the month.
- UNICEF continued to support local and governmental health authorities for routine immunization services in all refugee camps. A total of 1,549 children under five years old (U5) were immunized against polio, 387 infants under one year of age were vaccinated against measles and 705 children under the age of five received vitamin A supplements to reduce child mortality.
- 180 newly registered refugee children across KR-I refugee camps received specialised services from UNICEF supported frontline workers. Cases included children with emotional distress, non-attendance at school, child labor, unaccompanied and separated children, early marriage, gender based violence and disability.
- UNICEF and its implementing partners provided 1,723 newly registered refugee children with psychosocial support services.
- In all KR-I camps, 2,845 children under five years of age accessed UNICEF-supported growth monitoring and baby hut services. Information-sharing and counselling on maternal and child health continued, reaching an estimated 2,576 pregnant and lactating women on infant and child feeding and nutrition. 1,038 infants were also reached by UNICEF with home services to promote home care practices allowing new mothers to become self-sufficient and better caregivers.
- Two sectors (A and B) in Darashakran camp have been identified by IMC as most affected by scabies cases. Monitoring and prevention in the sectors is underway.
- In Al Obaidy camp, 273 individuals received health care services at the camp medical clinic. 29 children were also vaccinated by the Department of Health in Al Qaim.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The quality and extent of health services remain affected by the current budgetary crisis across the KR-I. The frequent turnover of working staff affects the delivery of health services in refugee camps putting increasing pressure on health actors to continue to meet needs in these locations.
- Refresher skills-building and training courses are needed for health staff in the UNICEF Baby Hut units and those working on the growth monitoring and neonatal home visit program.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR supported two health clinics in Suleimaniyah Governorate with Quick Impact Projects, the Shahid Sardar Health Centre in Suleimaniyah Town and the Shahid Raouf Bag General Hospital in New Halabja. The clinics provide treatment to Syrian refugees (30% of their patients) and IDPs (more than 35%) and are overwhelmed. UNHCR is providing medical equipment to capacitate the centres particularly with regards to the quality of dental and obstetric care and emergency treatment.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A joint assessment mission was conducted at Shar Hospital in Suleimaniyah governorate by UNHCR, Youth Activity Organization (YAO), the Department of Health and the hospital administration. The hospital is easily accessible to refugees and IDPs but only 9 of the 15 units are currently functioning and the maternity and emergency units are currently not functioning. A recommendation has been made to support missing equipment through a QIP.

- Mental health and psychosocial care services in urban areas are limited in all governorates and do not cover all refugees in need of support; and drug shortages remain a key concern in public health facilities
- Information gaps on service availability and referral pathways pose an obstacle to access care for non-camp refugees.

Food Security and Nutrition

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Based on the results from a tent-to-tent food security and vulnerability assessment, WFP implemented a tiered approach to better target food assistance to Syrian refugees most in need. Refugee families found to be food secure no longer receive WFP food assistance; those deemed moderately food insecure receive reduced assistance at IQD 11,700; and those deemed food insecure continue to receive the full level of assistance at IQD 22,300. WFP also established a hotline and helpdesks across nine refugee camps during the food and voucher distributions in August to receive and respond to queries and appeals on targeting.



Syrian children Nasrin and Nergiz outside Nergiz's father's grocery shop in Akre camp which they help keep an eye on. UNHCR/R.Rasheed

- More than 44,635 Syrian refugees received WFP food assistance in August, 84 per cent of which were reached with vouchers. The vouchers value remained at a reduced rate of either IQD 22,300 or IQD 11,700 per person/per month due to the new targeting strategy. Through the voucher programme WFP injected USD 411,210 into the local economy in August.
- The construction of shops in Arbat and Gawilan camps, where in-kind food assistance is provided, commenced in August. The transition to paper vouchers in these two camps is expected to take place in time for September's distribution.
- In Al Obaidy camp, UNHCR through the Iraqi Salvation Humanitarian Organisation (ISHO) continued to distribute two pieces of bread per refugee per day for the entire camp population in addition to complementary food assistance of IQD 17,500 to 725 refugees in the camp. To address the gap in delivery of food parcels, UNHCR through ISHO distributed an additional amount of IQD 25,000 for 866 refugees. To assist refugees with the summer heat, ice blocks are continuing to be distributed to the camp population until the end of summer.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WFP was unable to deliver food commodities to Al Obaidy camp in Al Qaim in Anbar Governorate, where ongoing military operations are hindering access to the camp.



Water and Sanitation

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Akre camp, THW completed the construction of the steel frame for 45 showers and 38 latrines which provide increased privacy and convenience for individuals.
- NRC conducted 4 hygiene promotion outreach campaigns in Domiz 1 camp with some 80 female-headed households in attendance.
- The project of care and maintenance for open channels in Gawilan camp is ongoing by UNHCR, through PU-AMI and camp management. UNHCR, through PU-AMI has also commenced connection of the water supply to the registration center; and is also conducting bacteriological water testing training for PU-AMI staff in the camp.
- UNICEF, through camp management, distributed hygiene kits in Gawilan and Akre camps for 1294 families in Gawilan and 276 families in Akre.
- In Basirma camp 20 shelter plots were connected to a grey water channel. Construction of the water and sewage networks and sanitation superstructures for the camp have been approved by the authorities with implementation expected to start by the end of September.
- Construction of sanitation facilities and the water network in phase three of Darashakran camp has started by UNHCR's partners, ACF and ERC respectively.
- UNICEF and partners are providing water and hygiene promotion across KR-I refugee camps and UNICEF is also providing water quality monitoring. To ensure availability of power at water production facilities, UNICEF has provided power generators to Domiz, Akre and Gawilan camps. UNICEF is also providing submersible pumps and water treatment chemicals to refugee camps to help ensure regular access to adequate quantities of safe water.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Water demand remains high due to the extreme summer heat. A monthly water distribution report has also revealed that some households are receiving less than 50 liters of water per person per day in the singles sector and irregular sector of Domiz 1 camp.
- WASH actors concluded that only half of the 23,000 meters of drainage improvement can be implemented in Domiz 1 during the remainder of 2015 due to funding constraints.
- In Basirma and Qushtapa camps the safe water chain is reportedly being affected due to the production of ice from unsafe water which is being used to cool tanked water. Instances of inequity in water distribution have also been reported due to unauthorized water connections from networks to serve households.
- Community participation to improve water conservation remains a gap. A lack of engagement on this and similar issues at the community level is resulting in an increased need for desludging of sewage holding tanks, which in turn raises operations and maintenance costs.
- The drainage channel at Akre camp requires frequent cleaning.

NON-CAMP

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The provision of waste disposal containers in front of primary health centers, schools and other public locations has been identified as a need in non-camp areas
- A low cost wastewater treatment plant at Domiz camp is yet to be approved by local authorities which could significantly reduce costs associated with desludging of the sewage holding tank.

Shelter and NFIs

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR through Qandil distributed core relief items to 83 households (217 individuals) in Gawilan camp, comprising newly registered families, singles and newly arrived cases. An additional 108 individuals were provided with mattresses and quilts and 26 newly arrived Syrian families received 29 tents.
- BRHA provided all newly arrived families with canisters and kerosene in Gawilan camp.
- UNHCR has distributed a further 206 summerization kits in Domiz 1 camp. UNHCR in coordination with Qandil also provided 53 families of 153 individuals in Domiz 1 and 2 with core relief items with targeted beneficiaries including newly registered families, groups from the singles sector of the camp and newly arrived cases. Some 61 newly added individuals were provided with mattresses and quilts.
- The construction of 70 improved shelters in Domiz 1 camp through NRC is almost complete. Beneficiaries are being selected on a needs-basis such as female-headed households and those with disabilities or chronic illness. NRC has also selected 103 additional shelters for improvement to be completed by mid-August.
- The UAE consulate completed the construction of the children's playground in Akre camp.
- In Basirma camp UNHCR procured a 50 kilowatt generator which DRC is installing, for the benefit of camp residents.
- Core relief items have been replaced for 11 families in Qushatapa and Kawergosk camp, affected by scabies or skin diseases.
- In Qushtapa camp internal roads with side drains have been constructed by UNHCR's partner ERC and the construction of storm water channels are in progress by THW.
- In Basirma camp, a storm water culvert and the construction of retaining walls for the UN compound and shelters in sector E have also been completed by UNHCR's partner DRC.
- In Al Obaidy camp, UNHCR through ISHO distributed 11,300 liters of kerosene benefiting 169 families, in addition to 6,594 baby diapers, 4,920 sanitary napkins and 11 core relief item kits for new families who moved to the camp.
- In Arbat camp, UNHCR through the Youth Activity Organisation distributed core relief items to 73 households (313 individuals), consisting of mattresses, plastic sheets, water and kerosene jerry cans, kerosene heaters and stoves.



Distributions of assistance at Al Obaidy camp in Anbar Governorate (Kamil/ISHO).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to construct shading areas for the distribution point in Domiz 2 camp. Construction will be implemented by PWJ with the support of UNHCR.
- Due to prevailing security constraints, there is an acute shortage of core relief items in Al Obaidy camp as reported by UNHCR's camp management partner, ISHO.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Basic repairs and upgrading of 50 houses for 65 families is in progress in Suleimaniyah by UNHCR's partner QANDIL.
- UNHCR through Harikar is implementing 12 QIPs to improve water de-contamination, rehabilitate community and youth infrastructures, improve health facilities and promote vocational training in various areas of Duhok governorate.
- UNHCR approved cash assistance for 89 vulnerable families who are facing eviction in Suleimaniyah Governorate. The families will be provided with six-months of cash for rent (at an average cost of IQD 189,000 per month) in order to help them remain in their accommodation instead of seeking emergency shelter inside the refugee camp.

- In Dohuk Governorate, UNHCR, through REACH, completed the construction of 1,828 meters of drainage channels intended to benefit 51 households in Gregawre settlement. All the work has been implemented via cash for work, creating short term job opportunities for the refugees living in the settlement. An additional 107 metres of drainage channels has also been completed in Husainiyah settlement.



Construction of open channels in Husseiniya Settlement (UNHCR/H. Fahmi)



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- 100 refugees completed a DRC livelihoods programme in Domiz 2 camp.
- In Hussainiyah in Dohuk Governorate, 30 refugee and host community students completed computer course. Two English courses benefiting 60 individuals from the refugee and host community were also held.
- IOM assisted 113 families with various livelihood materials upon completion of vocational trainings in Gawilan camp. The materials distributed included items such as computers, grocery items for shops, electrical care and maintenance tools, sewing machines, mobile phone care and maintenance materials, welding equipment and supplies for cafeterias, beauty salons, and barber shops.
- In Basirma camp 718 individuals participated in linguistic and math courses, as well as sports and recreational activities; and in Qushtapa camp 523 individuals participated in activities including linguistic courses, sports activities and tailoring and hairdressing sessions.
- In Qushtapa youth center, 40 women are benefiting from sewing lessons, 20 men are learning skills related to air conditioner repairs, and 25 women and men are enrolled in English classes. Literacy courses are also organized for 15 women at the Qushtapa youth center.
- Arbat Refugee Camp Management, IRC, organized an election of 20 camp representatives. IRC, STEP and YAO contributed in the running of the election process and camp management assisted candidates on campaigning, the developing of electoral guidelines and increasing residents' awareness on the importance of election. This is the second camp representative election held in Arbat Refugee Camp so far.
- UNHCR, in partnership with REACH, established 15 agricultural greenhouses at Arbat Refugee Camp for 30 vulnerable families. The first produce, consisting of cucumbers, was planted during the first week of August and will yield over 1.5 tonnes per day. After harvesting, each family is expected to earn approximately IQD 300,000 per month. Families were also taught how to reinvest monthly income to purchase future seeding. If successful, the project is expected to expand to benefit 100 other vulnerable families.



IRC organized a camp representatives election in Arbat Refugee Camp on 21 August 2015 © IRC

Working in partnership

- UNHCR conducted a roundtable on urban displacement, inviting representatives of the humanitarian community and the Kurdistan Regional Government to review the situation pertaining to urban displaced populations in the KR-I. The workshop culminated in the development of multi-sector roadmaps, aimed at providing an integrated response to urban displacement and which will be further developed and implemented as part of the response to out of camp refugees.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Supplementing Assistance

Summel District, Dohuk (UNHCR) – In the yard of a youth centre in Summel, a district in the Governorate of Duhok in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 45 year old Refa, a Syrian refugee collects essential items distributed by UNHCR, loading them on a rented truck shared with several other Syrian refugee women from her neighbourhood.

Originally from Aleppo, Refa fled Syria with her husband and two sons to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. But since her husband left for Europe in October, she has single handedly been raising her children for almost a year. To make ends meet she sews clothes for a living, barely making enough to pay the bills which include USD 250 per month for the rent of a single room which she shares with her sons.



Syrian refugee, Refa being assisted after receiving essential items from a UNHCR distribution UNHCR/ H.Soliman

“Being the sole provider for the household is very difficult,” laments Refa. “I have back pain and sight problems because of the long hours I spend working on the sewing machine.” Refa says her sole wish is to reunite with her husband who is currently trying to legalize his residency in Europe.

Her situation is not unlike that of Aheen’s, a 27 year old Syrian refugee from Qamishly who also remains the head of the household, caring for her two sons and daughter after her husband also left for Europe, “searching for a better life” given the pressure of displacement and economic hardship they endure. Aheen is now alone with her children and she worries about the future. “We plan to go back to Syria despite the bad security situation. I have no other option for now as long as my husband is away,” reveals Aheen.

Like the majority of Syrian refugees in the region, Aheen and Refa do not live in refugee camps, but in urban areas where there are bills to be paid, including rent and basic items. To help assist Aheen and Refa and others facing similar predicaments, UNHCR has been providing assistance to vulnerable refugee and IDP families living out of camps, a significant proportion of which are female-headed households.

At the youth centre in Summel, Refa and Aheen collect items from UNHCR that supplement previous assistance provided, including hygiene kits, rechargeable fans, mattresses and blankets. “This distribution is supplementary in nature and will help families deal with the harsh climates of summer and winter in Duhok,” says Abdifatah Gure, UNHCR Associate Field Officer.

Families such as Aheen’s and Refa’s were identified in coordination with Duhok Governorate authorities, including the Mayor’s Office and the Board of Relief and Humanitarian Assistance; and with the help of UNHCR’s partner, Qandil.

Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR has distributed seasonal and supplementary assistance to 15,478 refugee households in Duhok governorate, both in camps and non-camp areas; where there are 98,274 Syrian refugees.

By Husam Eldin Mustafa

DONOR INFORMATION

Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operation.

Donors who have contributed to the operation:

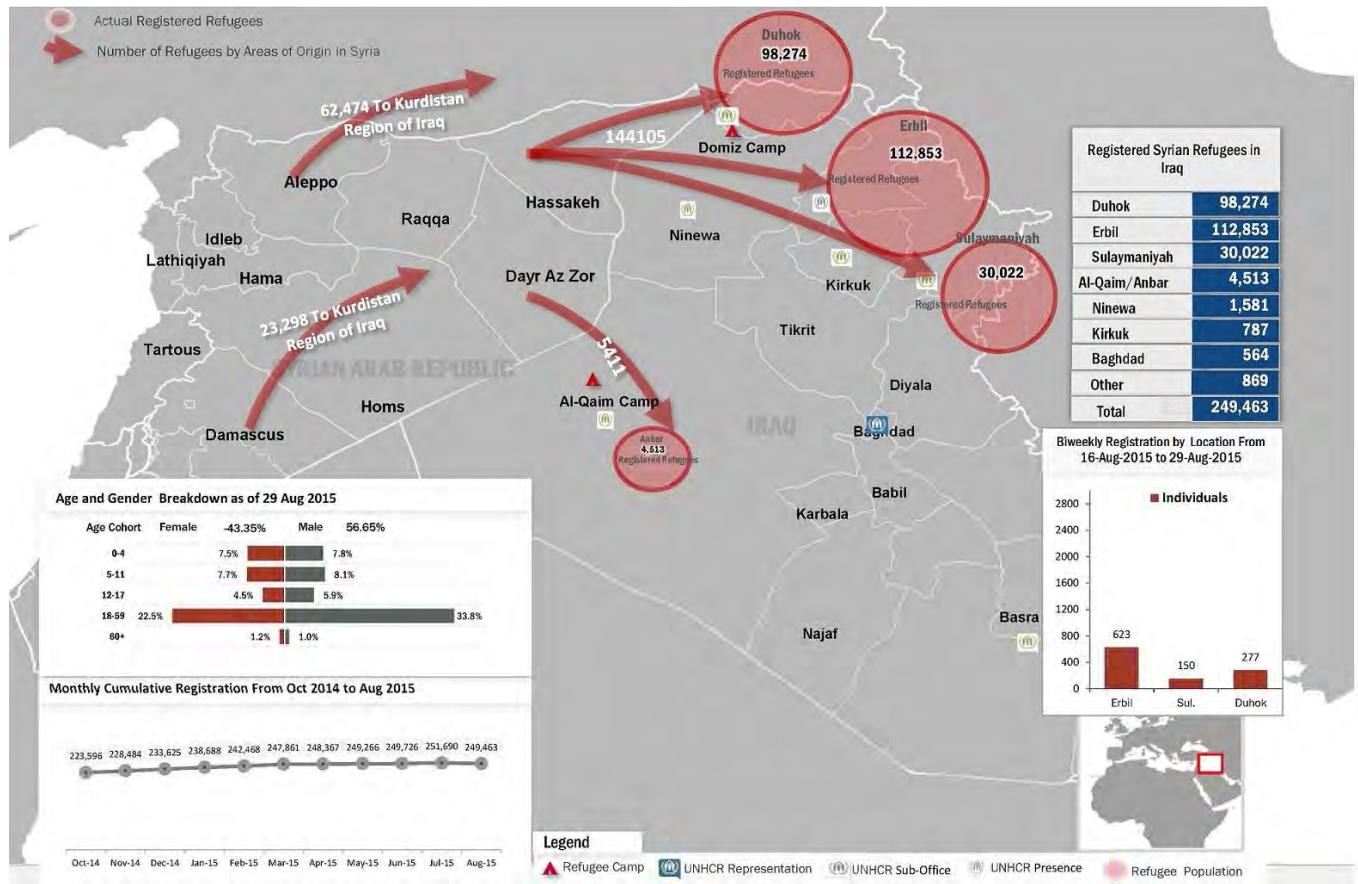
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AOG	Armed opposition group
ANC	Antenatal care
BIA/BID	Best Interests Assessment/Best Interests Determination
CRI	Core Relief Items (formerly known as non-food items/NFIs)
DoE	Department of Education
DoH	Department of Health
KR-I	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
IDP	Internally displaced people
KR-I	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
MoDM	Ministry of Migration and Displacement
PARC	Protection Assistance Reintegration Centre
PHC	Primary Health Care
RSD	Refugee status determination
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
UASC	Unaccompanied and separated children
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene

ANNEXES

Refugees by Areas of Origin in Syria



Contacts:

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Links:

For information on the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) please click on <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>.

Announcements of all sector meetings along with respective agendas and minutes, and other information on sector-wide progress such as 3Ws, dashboards and camp profiles, are available on the inter-agency information sharing portal at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>.

For more information on the work of UNHCR and our partners in Iraq, please follow us on Twitter at @unhcriraq and on Facebook at "UNHCRinIraq"

UNHCR Registration Trends for Syrian Persons of Concern

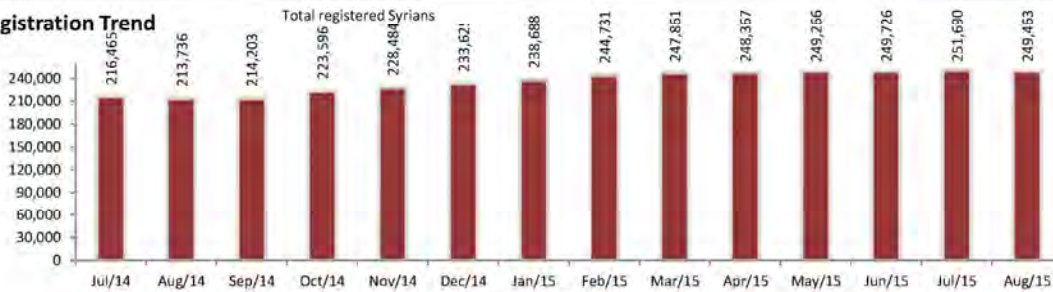
UNHCR Registration Trends for Syrian Persons of Concern 29 Aug 2015

Registration Unit **Total Persons of Concern** **Individuals** **Households**

249,463 **88,188**

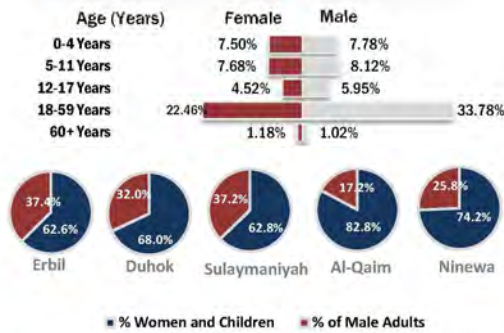
UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
Iraq

Registration Trend

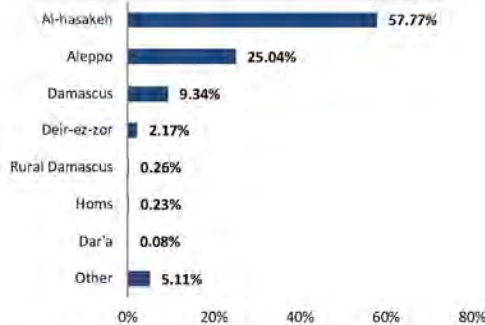


This profile is based on **249,463** proGres registered Individuals

Age and Gender Breakdown



Place of Origin



Governorate	Individuals	Households	% Total
Duhok	98,274	30,475	39.39%
Erbil	112,853	43,101	45.24%
Sulaymaniyah	30,022	11,902	12.03%
Anbar	4,513	1,152	1.81%
Ninewa	1,581	518	0.63%
Kirkuk	787	282	0.32%
Baghdad	564	294	0.23%
Other	869	464	0.35%
Total Iraq	249,463	88,188	100%

Camp and non-camp population comparison



Camps Registered Population			
Camp	Individuals	Households	% Total
Al-Obaidi Camp	1,527	321	1.61%
Akre Settlement	1,447	345	1.53%
Domiz Camp 1	40,790	13,382	43.05%
Domiz Camp 2	6,320	1,415	6.67%
Gawilan Camp	7,255	1,783	7.66%
Basirna Camp	3,580	864	3.78%
Darashakran Camp	10,380	2,305	10.96%
Kawergosk Camp	10,142	2,676	10.71%
Qushtapa Camp	6,653	1,765	7.02%
Arbat Camp	6,646	1,785	7.01%
Total	94,740	26,641	100%

From 16 June 2014, as Al-Obaidi Camp became inaccessible to UN agencies and other humanitarian staff, the camp registered population figure is not updated.