

IRAQ

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE – SYRIAN REFUGEES IN IRAQ

September 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

In the reporting period:

- A total of 4,609 Syrian individuals entered the KR-I through Peshkhabour border in September, compared to 5,379 in August. The majority of new arrivals have family links in urban areas in the KR-I and are families of Kurdish ethnicity arriving from Al Hassakeh Province, Kobani, Al Raqqa and Aleppo sub-Provinces. A total of 2,470 Syrians returned to Syria through the Peshkhabour border down from the figure of 3,833 in August, a significant decrease of 35%.
- For the “MY TOY YOUR SMILE” campaign, 6,109 toys collected by ZARO TV were delivered with the support of UNHCR to partners (Qandil, INTERSOS, TdH, SCI, DRC, Triangle, and ACTED) in order to distribute them to refugee children in Basirma, Darashakran and Qushtapa camps, Erbil Governorate, in addition to a number of non-camp locations around Erbil.
- In Dohuk Governorate, the vast majority of the protection counselling sessions have covered families intending to leave KR-I and proceed towards Europe upon obtaining Syrian passports, facilitated by a non-profit organization in Dohuk. Reportedly, more than 800 passports have been granted to Syrian nationals in Dohuk since mid-August. Passports are said to be recognized by KR-I and Turkish authorities, allowing for legal crossings into European countries.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

247,352 Syrian refugees

KEY FIGURES

1,315

newly registered children provided with psychosocial services in the KR-I

866

Syrians receiving assistance in Al Obaidy camp in Anbar Governorate

4,609

Syrians entered the KR-I through the Peshkhabour border

2,470

Syrians left KR-I

24,711

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 wait for the start of a toy distribution at Qushtapa camp, Erbil Governorate. UNHCR/M.Prendergast

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

During the month of September, the Iraqi Government announced further action in light of the Prime Minister Hayder Al-Abadi's pledged administrative and political reforms. Demonstrations continued in Baghdad after Friday prayers each week demanding the implementation of the administrative reforms and improvements in basic services.

The Central and the Kurdistan Governments remain in disagreement over budgetary and oil export issues despite several meetings and ongoing negotiations aiming at reaching a resolution. As a consequence of the ongoing budgetary dispute between Baghdad and Erbil, the salaries of public sector employees in the KR-I remain un-paid for the past three months.

Conflict and violence continue to affect most of Central and North-Central Iraq, including Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Kirkuk governorates with renewed clashes near Tikrit city. Airstrikes continued in central Iraq. Additionally, the Turkish and Iraq border area saw clashes resulting in displacement in Dohuk Governorate, and the temporary closing of the Ibrahim Al Khalil border crossing between Iraq and Turkey.

In the KR-I the issue of presidential election remains unresolved despite several meetings between the main political parties. The political instability in the KR-I has also impacted on the economy with rising unemployment and a drop in property prices.

The mass migration from both the host and displaced populations in Iraq towards Europe has reportedly increased during the month of September. This continued trend has attracted special media and public attention related to the European migrant crisis, both Syrian refugees and Iraqis have been traveling north.

Achievements



Protection

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 4,609 Syrian individuals entered the KR-I through Peshkhabour border in September, compared to 5,379 in August. The majority of new arrivals have family links in urban areas in the KR-I and are of Kurdish ethnicity, arriving from Al Hassakeh Province, Kobani, Al Raqqa and Aleppo sub-Provinces.
- In Dohuk Governorate, the Women's Listening Centres (WLC) at Domiz 1 and Gawilan camps held awareness raising sessions on parenting, the impact and risk of early marriage for mothers, and domestic violence reaching a combined total of 96 women and girls. Seven new SGBV survivors were identified and are receiving case management services.
- In Erbil Governorate, 493 UNHCR Asylum certificates were processed. A further 289 residency cards were processed. 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 in Erbil Governorate facilitated the issuance of 394 legal documents, including birth and marriage certificates.
- In Erbil Governorate, 200 persons were identified with specific needs including: serious medical conditions, psychological conditions, disabilities, women at risk, and persons without legal documentation.
- For "MY TOY YOUR SMILE" campaign, 6,109 toys collected by ZARO TV were delivered to partners (Qandil, INTERSOS, TdH, SCI, DRC, Triangle, and ACTED) in order to distribute them to refugee children in Basirma, Darashakran and Qushtapa in addition to a number of non-camp locations around Erbil.

- In Arbat Camp, Suleimaniyah Governorate, 115 Asylum certificates, including renewals, were issued and 359 individuals received consultation concerning registration, residency and DDM requirements.
- In Qushtapa camp, Erbil Governorate, UNICEF partner ACTED in collaboration with other actors such as UNHCR, IMC, DRC, SCI and INTERSOS reached 418 children with community-based specialized child protection assistance. UNICEF in collaboration with its partners also provided psychosocial services to 1,315 newly registered children in the KR-I.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A total of 2,470 Syrians returned from the KR-I to Syria through the Peshkhabour border. 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 (approx. 45%), Qamishli and Al-Malkeyia. Reasons for return include: family reunification, agricultural purposes (in preparation for winter harvesting), a lack of job opportunities and dissatisfaction with educational services in KR-I.
- In Dohuk Governorate, the vast majority of the protection counselling sessions have covered families informing about their intentions to leave KR-I and proceed towards Europe upon obtaining Syrian passports, facilitated by a non-profit organization in Dohuk. Reportedly, more than 800 passports have been granted to Syrian nationals in Dohuk since mid-August. Passports are said to be recognized by KR-I and Turkish authorities, allowing for legal crossings into European countries.
- The issue of expired residency permits continues to arise in Dohuk Governorate, although this should be helped by the upcoming urban verification and mobile registration missions which were agreed upon during the roundtable discussions on urban refugees in mid-August.
- Forty cases (144 individuals) moved from urban areas into Gawilan camp mainly due to economic hardship and escalating unemployment rates. Most reported cases are reuniting with family members. Conversely, the Bureau of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs (BRHA) also informed UNHCR of 50 cases (119 individuals) who have left the camp which UNHCR have flagged for follow-up in order to confirm whether all case members have left, in which case inactivation and documenting as spontaneous departure will ensue.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Suleimaniyah Governorate 95 new arrivals were registered. 109 cases were transferred from Erbil and 798 cases were referred to the Residency Department for issuance/renewal of residence permits. In addition 1,241 beneficiaries received consultation and guidance related to registration and residency, and 98 individuals were iris scanned.
- UNHCR partner the Democracy and Human Rights Development Center (DHRD) conducted two legal awareness sessions for 66 refugees with equal representation of men and women in Saidaadiq and New Halabja in Suleimaniyah Governorate. The sessions focused on domestic violence and its impact on families, in addition to mental health and psychological support for such cases.
- In Dohuk Governorate, 193 cases were approved for cash assistance (including one-time cash distribution).
- In Baziana UNHCR partner Qandil conducted an assessment identifying 201 Syrian refugee families as vulnerable. After a UNHCR review, recommended families will receive cash assistance within the coming two weeks.
- In Najaf, UNHCR staff registered 145 Syrian refugees living in various locations and provided Asylum certificates to all.
- In Erbil Governorate, 726 individuals were provided with UNHCR Asylum certificates through the PARC centre. Information has also been verified, updated or transferred for 7,670 individuals and 515 urban refugees were assisted with the issuance of birth certificates and marriage certificates.
- In Erbil Governorate, 241 extremely vulnerable families have benefited from a total of 383 EVI (Extremely Vulnerable Individuals) cash assistance payments during September.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In both camps and urban areas, UNHCR found an increase in the number of children who are encouraged by their parents to drop out of school and cross through illegal borders to seek asylum in European countries.
- In Erbil Governorate, nine children in urban locations have reported working to support their families.



Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- Resettlement pre-assessment screening was undertaken for 33 cases of which 25 were prioritized. The main referral profile of the prioritized cases was refugees with special medical needs.
- Interviews were carried out in all three KR-I Governorates. Identification interviews were conducted for 50 Cases, while 69 cases were reviewed of which 20 were prioritized. The team also undertook 20 RSD/RST interviews and five follow up interviews were conducted while resettlement counseling was provided for 73 cases.
- Thirty four cases (158 individuals) were referred to the MENA Regional Hub in Amman for submission to resettlement countries. The MENA Regional Hub submitted 19 cases (77 individuals) for resettlement to the UK and nine cases (43 individuals) to Australia.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Resettlement processing to the USA from Iraq continues to be placed on hold pending confirmation of a selection mission.
- 123 persons are pending departure to Sweden since acceptance between January and June 2015.
- Due to delays in processing for some countries and the recent events in Europe, some refugees already in the resettlement process are opting to travel on their own to Europe leaving their families behind and further negatively impacting overall processing.



Education

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- During a meeting between MoE and UN Agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF and UNESCO) an agreement was reached on a standardized incentives scale for all teachers.
- The school year 2015-2016 has started in all Syrian refugee camps but the registration of students is still ongoing. Full figures will be available when registration is completed but current indications are that the number of registered children will be slightly higher than the number of students who were at school in June 2015.
- UNICEF partner Seeking to Empower People (STEP) completed Back to School campaign for dropout children in Arbat Camp reaching 31 refugee parents.
- In Dohuk Governorate, two new schools in Gawilan and Domiz 2 have been completed. Through its partner War Child, UNICEF conducted Back to School campaigns in both Domiz 1 and 2 with approximately 13,000 individuals attending the different events. Also in Dohuk Governorate, 86 teachers completed a 5-day training on School Based Management and Child Friendly teaching methodologies.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR has observed an increase in children returning to Syria through Peshkhabour border crossing, coinciding with the start of the new school year. Children at the Bajed Kandala return centre highlighted the lack of education services in the KR-I, high transportation costs for those living in urban areas, and language difficulties as reasons for the return.
- Schools in refugee camps in Erbil Governorate, particularly basic schools, have challenges in terms of number of teachers and classrooms, some of which are overcrowded.
- There is a lack of teachers and support personnel in camps schools, and lack of resources to pay for the necessary salaries. UNICEF is working with the DoE, UNHCR and UNESCO to provide a sustainable solution.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- As part of the UNHCR “Back to School” Campaign to inform Syrian Families about the recent decision by MoE to allow Syrian students in 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades to register in Kurdish schools, a TV promo was broadcast on local television in the three Governorates of the KR-I in both Arabic and Kurdish.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- As per the agreement between UNHCR and MoE in August 2015 many Syrian parents approached the Kurdish schools to register their children, but remained unable to do so allegedly due to lack of space in schools.
- A shortage of professional teachers and the non-payment of salaries in camp and non-camp schools remain issues.
- Access to high schools for Syrian Refugee children remains a huge gap in camp and non-camp settings. The Education Cluster is working with the relevant DoEs in Dohuk to advocate for more support to children in secondary education.
- A shortage of professional teachers and the non-payment of salaries in camp and non-camp schools.
- Barkhdan High refugee school is closed in the Arbat Refugee camp because of high students drop out. UNICEF has raised the issue with camp management to resolve the problem.



Health

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 24,711 patient consultations were conducted in Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities across Syrian refugee camps. Consultations reduced slightly compared to August with an average patient consultation rate of 3.4 consultations per person per year still within the expected range of 1-4 consultations. Major causes for patient consultations remained upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and skin infections. 1,016 patients were referred to secondary/tertiary hospitals for further investigations or hospitalization. A total of 1,090 patients benefited from mental health services.
- UNICEF continued to support local and governmental health authorities for routine immunization services in all refugee camps. A total of 1,560 children under five years old (U5) were immunized against polio, 387 infants under one year of age were vaccinated against measles and 690 children under the age of five received vitamin A supplements to reduce child mortality.
- In Al Obaidy camp, 314 individuals received health care services at the camp medical clinic. 80 children were also vaccinated by the Department of Health in Al Qaim.



A child receives the Measles vaccination at Al Obaidy camp. (UIMS/A. Kasem)

- In all KR-I camps, 2,750 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 2,500 pregnant and lactating women on infant and child feeding and nutrition. 1,000 infants were also reached by UNICEF with home services to promote home care practices allowing new mothers to become self-sufficient and better caregivers.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A cholera outbreak was declared by the federal MoH in Iraq in Baghdad and Najaf governorates. No case has been identified in the KRI yet but a KRI-wide cholera preparedness plan is available. In response to the outbreak, UNICEF has also accelerated hygiene promotion activities.
- The current national budgetary crisis in Iraq and in particular the KR-I has limited health services, also high turnover of staff has had effect on delivery of health services in the refugee camps.
- Departure of some of the health staff to Europe is posing a major challenge. This contributes to staff shortage for healthcare service provision.



Dental treatment being provided at Al Obaidy camp. (UIMS/A. Kasem)

NON-CAMP

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Access to mental health care and psychosocial support services remains limited for non-camp refugees and needs to be further expanded. Information gaps on service availability and referral pathways also limit access to care.



Food Security and Nutrition

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In total, 48,443 Syrian refugees received WFP food assistance in September, 94 percent of which was through vouchers. The monthly voucher value remained at a reduced rate of either IQD 22,300 for the extremely vulnerable to food insecurity or IQD 11,700 for those vulnerable to food insecurity.
- 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 716 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 932 refugees. To assist refugees with the summer heat, ice blocks are continuing to be distributed to the camp population until the end of October.
- WFP field teams conducted a food security and vulnerability survey to 722 cases which had not been previously assessed. The results from the data analysis will inform the level of assistance these refugees will receive for the month of October.
- The transition from in-kind food to paper vouchers in Gawilian camp was completed. Arbat, the last remaining camp distributing food parcels, will also transition to paper vouchers in October.



Daily bread distribution at Al Obaidy Camp. (ISHO/K. Adill)

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.



Complementary food assistance distribution at Al Obaidy Camp. (ISHO/K. Adill)

- Camp management and UNHCR continue to receive complaints from families excluded from food assistance in Domiz and Gawilan camps. Follow-up is taking place in order to ensure the most vulnerable families are being targeted.

NON CAMP

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A food security and vulnerability assessment in the host communities in the three governorates in KRI is expected to commence in the month of October. The results from the assessment will better inform WFP's programming in the communities.

Water and Sanitation

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- A cleaning campaign was organized by UNHCR/ACF in all four refugee camps in Erbil Governorate focusing on collection and disposal of solid waste.
- Design of the water network for 285 shelter plots in Kawergosk camp and for 185 shelter plots in Qushtapa camp has been completed while in Darashakran camp, construction of the main water network for 220 shelter plots has been completed by DoSW/UNHCR. Once the water storage tank is complete, 220 refugee families will have access to water.
- Repairing of sewer network at 2 locations at Qushtapa camp was completed by KURDS/UNHCR in order to maintain sanitary conditions in the camp.
- UNHCR and BRHA visited all the 14 boreholes in Domiz 1 and 2 camps to record technical specifications. In Gawilan camp, and with the assistance of BRHA and the Akre Ground Water Department, the same technical data was compiled for the 13 boreholes there.
- In Akre camp, THW completed a number of activities: rehabilitation of all the internal grey water drainage channels; resolving the stagnant water problem; and, the construction of 38 additional toilets and 44 showers, lowering the person per toilet ratio from 10:1 to 8:1, and the shower ratio from 10:1 to 7:1.
- In Domiz 1 camp, UNICEF commenced the renovation and construction of WASH facilities in 5 schools.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The sewer network in Qushtapa camp is in urgent need of repair.
- In Domiz 2, Camp Management and PoC highlighted the problem of water delivery to the newly constructed plots as the main gap.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR partner Harikar prepared the Bill of Quantity for newly planned Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) including for the Derabon Primary Health Care (PHC) centre. A dental hospital in Dohuk city was also assessed as a potential future QIP.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Doban Health Center is suffering from a leaking roof, which will be repaired as part a QIP through UNHCR/Harikar.

Shelter and NFIs

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Gawilan camp, UNHCR through Qandil provided 58 newly arrived families with NFI kits and 56 of this number with family tents, a further 128 tents were replaced due to storm damage. Mattresses and quilts were distributed to 21 individuals reunited with their families.
- Section F of Arbat Refugee Camp (run by IRC), has been fully occupied by refugees who have newly arrived in Suleimaniyah from other Governorates or those who can no longer afford to pay rent in urban areas and have moved back to the camp.
- On behalf of UNHCR, YAO distributed 32 tents to families in Arbat Refugee Camp whose tents were storm damaged in early September. YAO also conducted a needs-based assessment for 1,409 families living in Arbat who are in need of in-kind seasonal NFI and kerosene during the winter months.
- In Al-Obaidy Camp, UNHCR through ISHO distributed 5200 sanitary napkins, provided 14 CRI Kits to newly arrived families and provided 182 families with a total of 11,850 liters of kerosene.
- Construction of 595 new shelter plots in Qushtapa and Kawergosk is completed by DRC/UNHCR. The work includes the site preparation and construction of kitchen and tent slab. Once WASH facilities will be complete, refugee families will have access to improved shelter.
- In Domiz 1 and 2 camps, UNHCR through Qandil provided full NFI kits to 81 families of 262 individuals, and additional mattresses and quilts to 190 newly arrived individuals. Fifty five vulnerable families have been relocated from the informal sector of Domiz 1 to new UNHCR/PWJ shelters in Domiz 2 camp. UNICEF and NRC provided cleaning tools to 2,000 vulnerable families and hygiene kits to 1,900 families in Domiz 1 and 2 camps.
- UNHCR through PWJ completed new extension of 56 plots in Domiz 1 camp and the handover took place on 30 September. The relocated families are connected to water and electricity networks and have a concrete slab, kitchen, latrine and shower.
- UNHCR through PWJ started construction of two distribution points with seating and shading area in Domiz 2 and Gawilan camps. The site handover took place on 21 September in the presence of UNHCR, BRHA and PWJ.
- UNICEF **completed** construction of a school in Domiz 2 camp with 12 prefabricated-units increasing the available school space for primary school students from 600 to 1200 students.



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



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

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to the security situation at Al-Obaidy Camp, UNHCR could not deliver any CRIs resulting in an acute shortage as reported by camp management partner ISHO. There is also acute shortage in adult and baby diapers.
- Land for 719 shelter plots is required at Kawergosk camp otherwise some 650 families will continue to live in transit area even after 2016. While at Domiz 2 camp there is a need to establish a Civil Defense Office.



Tent replacement in Gawilan camp. UNHCR/ S. Gammah

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Suleimaniyah Governorate, after assessments by Qandil, UNHCR approved 77 vulnerable cases that will receive IQD 740,000 (USD 600) cash for their rental cost (up to 3 months). The families are residing in Said Sadiq, Chamchamal, Tasujah, Raparin, Suleimaniyah city, Rania and Halabja.
- UNHCR through PWJ started the construction of the Derabon Registration Centre and the shading area for Peshkhabour border point. The site handover took place on 22 September in the presence of BRHA, UNHCR and PWJ.
- In Husseiniya, also through REACH's Cash for Work project 716m of the planned 1,000m of drainage channels has been completed.
- 380 CRI kits were distributed by Qandil for the most vulnerable non-camp Syrian refugees in Taq-taq, Perzin, Mamzawa, Sebardan, Baharka, Daratoo, Shawes and Erbil.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Over 60% of all Syrian refugee population lives outside of camp and the majority are found to be in need of some financial support for rent. In multiple surveys assessments conducted by Qandil and YAO (the latter for NFI assistance), most families described having to choose between paying for medicine and other living expenses or paying for rent.



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

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to improve the internal roads at many parts in Domiz 2 camps as the PHC reports a high number of cases suffering throat discomfort due to the dust.
- UNHCR met with Mukhtars (community leaders), Persons of Concern (POCs) and BRHA to decide on the list of the beneficiaries for the winterization plan.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- In Erbil Governorate, as part of the ongoing participatory assessment exercise, seven of the planned 12 Focus groups Discussions have been completed, in all four refugee camps and three non-camp location (Shawes, Kasnazan and Hasarok). Topics for the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) included community mobilization, livelihoods, education, health and illegal migration.

- UNHCR partner DRC completed life skills training for 90 beneficiaries in camp and non-camp areas. DRC also completed two life skills training which were held in Gawilan camp for 33 Syrian refugees. Proposals submitted by the participants were evaluated and 16 beneficiaries will receive \$250 grant to start their business. In Domiz 1 and 2 camps and Faida sub-district, 17 surveys were conducted for the skill up grant.
- UNHCR held a meeting with the Batofa community committee group in Zakho to discuss their role within the refugee community and to strengthen communication channels with UNHCR. The committee has begun visiting refugee families in order to disseminate information on available services provided in that area.
- In Dohuk Governorate, DRC's livelihood team conducted 25 scale-up surveys in urban areas and in four refugee camps. DRC has also started its QIP project supporting the Youth Center in Akre town with the aim to provide better services to youth and promote peaceful coexistence in the community of Akre.
- In Basirma refugee camp, a meeting was organized with a peer group made up of persons living with disabilities. The peer group was established by Handicap International, which has left the camp. However, the group is still working and the meeting was aimed at raising awareness of issues and challenges faced by persons living with disabilities.
- In Qushtapa camp, 1006 individuals participated in courses in: languages, tailoring, hairdressing, and tricot-knitting. In Basirma camp, 819 individuals participated in sports and other recreational activities such as chess and drama.

Working in partnership

- DFID delegation visited Kawergosk camp on 30th of September. The delegation had meetings with local authorities, camp administrators, protection actors and persons of concern and received updates on the living conditions of refugees, their main needs and gaps in assistance provision.
- Over 50 staff from UNHCR, Qandil, WRO, Intersos and Save the Children participated in a child protection training. The training was led by UNHCR with sessions delivered by UNICEF, ACTED and Terre des Hommes (TdH).
- The Protection Working Group convened on 14 September, with the main following agenda issues: relocation of populations from Wanna sub-district to Garmawa camp; UNHCR updated on the roll-out of the Rapid Protection Assessment; UPP presented activities conducted in view of the launch of the early marriage campaign on 11 October.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Humility makes the difference

Gawilan camp, August 26, 2015 (UNHCR)—In addition to his official duties as manager of Gawilan refugee camp in Dohuk Governorate, Karzan Ramadan considers it an essential part of his work to go from tent to tent, to sit and chat with refugees.

Thirty-seven-year-old Karzan, originally from Bardarash, remembers the 31st of August, 2013 very well. “Loads of Syrian refugees started arriving to our town directly from the border and we had to accommodate them,” says Karzan. The Government allocated a youth center as well as a soccer stadium and quickly installed some tents to absorb the new arrivals from Syria. There were about five hundred to one thousand families coming in every day. That’s when Karzan decided to volunteer, “Because they were our guests, in an emergency situation” he says.



Karzan tries to comfort Kurdistan with a little toy during a visit to her family’s tent in Gawilan camp (UNHCR/ H. Suliman)

But there is something important in Karzan’s life that motivated him to volunteer. He was a refugee himself! Karzan was thirteen years old when he and his family fled on foot to Iran. “I remember that we stayed for twenty days in the street, with nothing to eat. I also remember that we were very hungry and a local woman gave me a loaf of bread that I shared with so many children, ending up with only one bite,” he recalled.

At the peak of the influx, Karzan neglected his own family for the sake of the refugees. He has a wife, two girls and a boy. Karzan created and led a group of volunteers to support the Mayor’s Office of Bardarash in dealing with the crisis, an initiative that has taken him on a journey of humanitarian work. It started with managing the youth center in Bardarash and following up on the construction and development of Gawilan camp, but also witnessing the birth of a baby named Kurdistan.

The area where Gawilan camp was built was originally an abandoned village. “It was a piece of land in the desert,” recalls Karzan. UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) brought tents and in one month it became a transit site ready to host people. The refugees were relocated from Bardarash and three hot meals per day were served. “The Government paid for the food,” remembers Karzan. The camp evolved quickly and is now hosting 1,400 families, including little Kurdistan.

Karzan recalls two very important incidents that changed his life — the birth of Kurdistan and the death of Samir. Kurdistan was born in a tent inside the youth center in Bardarash where her family stayed briefly before moving to Gawilan camp. For Karzan, it was the first time in his life to witness the birth of a child in a tent. “It was strange; we collected money and started purchasing food for her mother,” he recalls. Karzan also remembers the day twenty-year-old Samir died, after his tent burned down in fire in Gawilan camp, which it completely devastated. “We arranged and sent the body to Syria,” Karzan remembers.

Karzan does not brag about his achievements, instead he believes that humility is the key to success. His approach in dealing with the refugees is to reach out to them, not as a camp manager, but as a human being. He sometimes refuses to turn the air conditioner on in his house, to have a taste of the hardship refugees endure during the hot summer months. As someone with personal experience of being forced to flee his home, Karzan’s only wish is that the Syrian refugees may too be able to return to their homes.

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.

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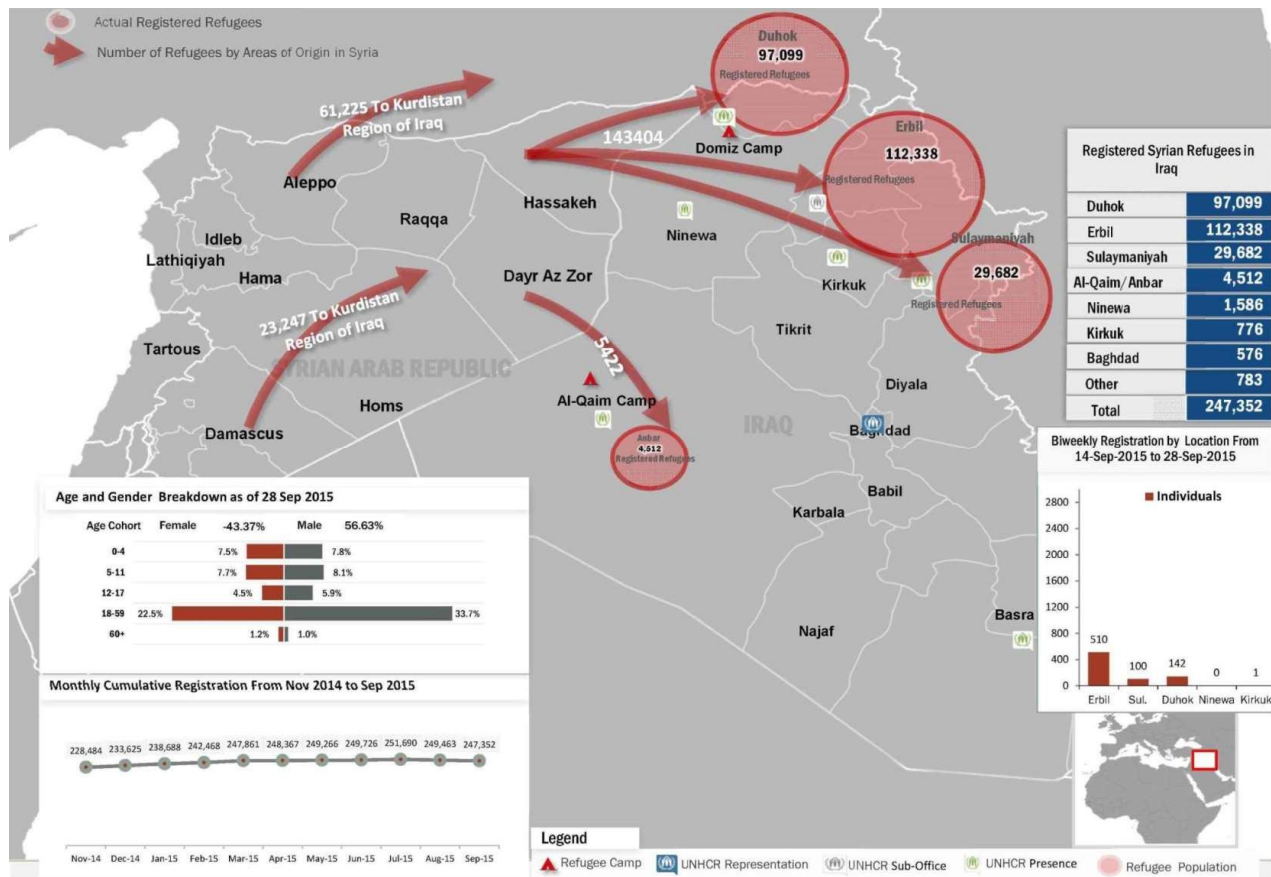
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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
EVI	Extremely Vulnerable Individual
HH	Households
IDP	Internally displaced people
KR-I	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
MoDM	Ministry of Migration and Displacement
MoE	Ministry of Education
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:

Michael Prendergast, Associate External Relations/Reporting Officer, prenderm@unhcr.org, Cell +964 (0) 771 842 2190

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 28 Sep 2015




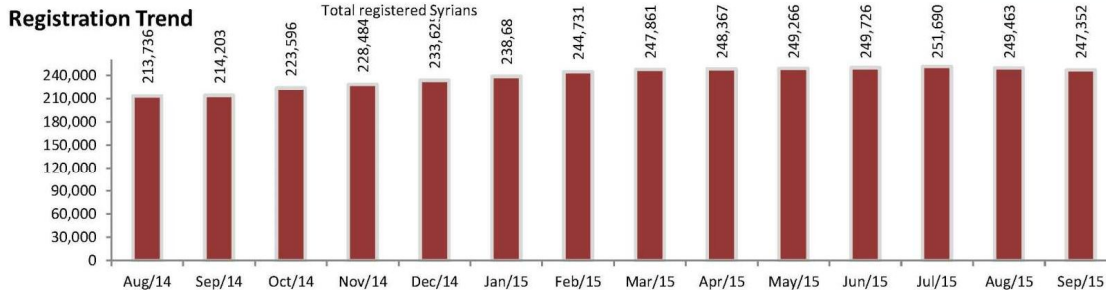
Registration Unit

Total Persons of Concern

Individuals
247,352

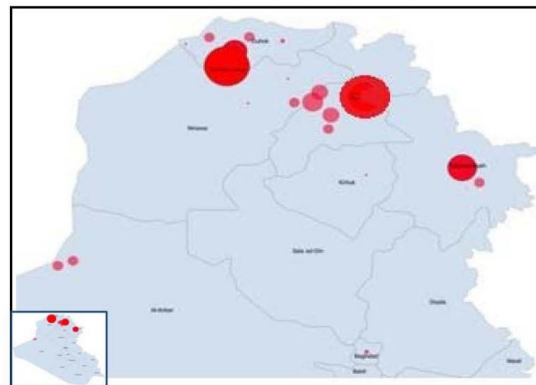
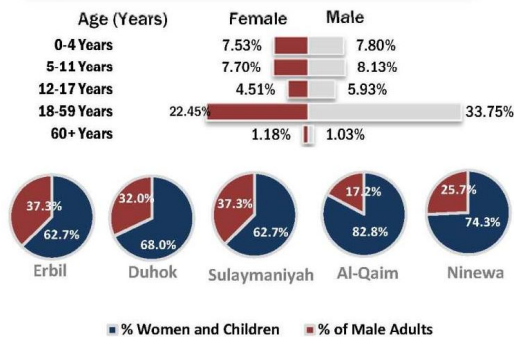
Households
87,610



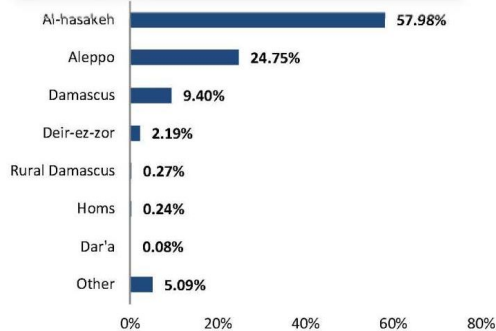


This profile is based on **247,352** proGres registered individuals

Age and Gender Breakdown

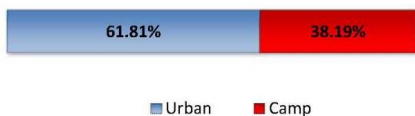


Place of Origin



Governorate	Individuals	Households	% Total
Duhok	97,099	30,190	39.26%
Erbil	112,338	42,965	45.42%
Sulaymaniyah	29,682	11,790	12.00%
Anbar	4,512	1,151	1.82%
Ninewa	1,586	522	0.64%
Kirkuk	776	279	0.31%
Baghdad	576	298	0.23%
Other	783	415	0.32%
Total Iraq	247,352	87,610	100%

Camp and non-camp population comparison



Camps Registered Population			
Camp	Individuals	Households	% Total
Al-Obaidi Camp	1,519	319	1.61%
Akre Settlement	1,415	344	1.50%
Domiz Camp 1	40,590	13,323	42.97%
Domiz Camp 2	6,368	1,438	6.74%
Gawilan Camp	7,203	1,769	7.62%
Basima Camp	3,558	855	3.77%
Darashakran Camp	10,344	2,315	10.95%
Kawergosk Camp	10,101	2,681	10.69%
Qushtapa Camp	6,683	1,769	7.07%
Arbat Camp	6,687	1,805	7.08%
Total	94,468	26,618	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.