

IRAQ

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE – SYRIAN REFUGEES IN IRAQ

July 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

In the reporting period:

- 225 Syrian asylum seekers entered the KR-I in July through the Peshkabour border which is open six days a week. UNHCR continues to ensure close monitoring and advocacy for persons of concern through regular presence at KR-I entry points.
- 2,308 individuals returned from the KR-I to Syria. A notable increase in returns to Kobane has been reported, attributed to the rising cost of living in the KR-I, the hopes of securing better economic opportunities in Kobane, as well as for reasons of family reunification, property matters and agricultural pursuit.
- Refugees in Al Obaidy camp in Anbar Governorate continue to lack access to legal assistance and documentation, given the inaccessibility to government services.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

251,690 Syrian refugees

KEY FIGURES

225

Syrian asylum seekers entering the KR-I through the Peshkabour border

1,027

Individuals counseled on voluntariness of return to Syria

2,308

Returns to Syria from the KR-I

24,885

Primary health consultations conducted in camps

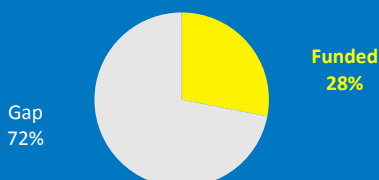
102,596

Refugees receiving food assistance in July

FUNDING

USD 426,041,332

requested by agencies for the operation (Source: 2015 3RP – Iraq, as at 23/07/2015)



PRIORITIES

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



To aid fellow residents keep cool during a sweltering summer, Syrian refugee Mahmood from Hassakeh sells a variety of refreshing sorbets in Gawilan camp, where he lives with his family. UNHCR/R.Rasheed.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The month of July saw a sweltering Iraqi summer as a heat wave engulfed the region, sending temperatures soaring to over 50 degrees Celsius in parts of the country and impacting heavily on the conditions of refugees and displaced persons living in camps and non-camp settlements, and local communities. The soaring heat, combined with precarious infrastructure and chronic power and water shortages also led to widespread protests in Baghdad and elsewhere across the country. Protests by Iraqis against electricity cuts, perceived corruption, and rising unemployment have led to a range of reforms being put forward by Iraqi Prime Minister Abadi to address issues of corruption and government spending.

In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), with the current Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Presidency approaching the end of its tenure, political parties have been intensively negotiating the method of election of the new President and the system of Governance to be adopted. The incumbent party have asserted that the President should be chosen directly by the public whilst opposition parties are insisting the President be chosen by members of parliament. Negotiations continue with an agreement intended to be reached by the end of the current presidential term on 20 August this year.

Ongoing budgetary issues between Baghdad and Erbil meanwhile remain with the central Government unable to pay the KRG monthly budgetary dues. The KRG has thus resorted to selling oil independently to help address the fiscal crisis and to pay public sector employees, maintain essential services and resume unfinished infrastructure projects.

Clashes continued between Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and ISIS militants in the center and north of the country with limited gains being made by the ISF in Anbar Province. At the Makhmour frontier, Peshmerga forces remained engaged against ISIS as shelling continued. Air strikes by US and coalition forces were also conducted across northern and central Iraq, with two main bridges linking Al Qaim in Anbar Governorate to Abu Kamal in Syria, destroyed so as to impede cross-border movements. Air strikes by Turkish forces against PKK targets in the KR-I's Qandil mountains were also conducted. Separately, displacement movements within the country continued with IDPs from Anbar and Ninewa provinces continuing to arrive in the KR-I by air to Erbil and Suleimaniyah.

Achievements

Protection

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- 225 Syrians who entered the KR-I from the Peshkabour crossing point applied for asylum upon arrival. The increase in the number of arrivals this month when compared to the previous month is attributed to the direct advocacy of UNHCR protection staff on behalf of 57 Syrians entering the KR-I, as well as an increase in the awareness of asylum seekers on new procedures for asylum applications. The Peshkabour entry point remains open 6 days a week and applications for asylum are mainly accepted on the grounds of family reunification or origin from areas considered by authorities to be currently under conflict. UNHCR continues to ensure close monitoring and advocacy for persons of concern through regular presence at KR-I entry points.
- IRIS verification exercises in Domiz 1 and 2 have neared completion with 1,021 individuals IRIS enrolled. The first round of IRIS enrolment has also completed in Gawilan camp with 5,772 individuals verified and 122 individuals IRIS scanned. A second round of verification is planned for the coming weeks. In Akre settlement, all cases (1,306 individuals) were verified.
- UNHCR continued to provide counselling for camp-based and urban refugees in all four Duhok Governorate refugee camps. The majority of the sessions referred to documentation renewal or issuance requests, add-on family members, family reunification, referrals to legal services, the need for advocacy with Asayish for residency permits and BRHA for accommodation; and the inactivation and reactivation of cases.

- 552 families with special needs in Duhok Governorate camps were identified through community services and field visits and were referred to relevant services. The majority of individuals identified were persons with serious medical conditions or physical disabilities and extremely vulnerable individuals.
- In Duhok Governorate camps eight child labour cases and seven SGBV cases have been identified and referred to service providers, the women's social and legal centre or the Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women (DCVAW) safe shelter. The SGBV cases involved physical assault, early marriage or forced return to Syria.
- 85 cases in Duhok Governorate benefited from UNHCR letters advocating for local authorities to legalize their status as asylum-seekers, given their entrance into KR-I on a 15-day visa. 77 cases were granted approval by the end of this reporting period (for which only eight were filed in July) with the majority of approvals granted to women whose husbands were already registered in KR-I.
- In collaboration with UNICEF, Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA) social workers in Domiz Camp conducted 27 awareness sessions for children and parents focusing on child labour, child marriage, mine risk education (MRE), addressing violence among children, and the protection of children in extreme weather conditions.
- In all four Erbil Governorate camps, the residency departments continued to issue individual documentation to eligible refugees, with a total of 933 residency cards processed in July. 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 228 camp-based refugees in Erbil Governorate and facilitated the issuance of 66 legal documents, including birth and marriage certificates.
- In Erbil Governorate 128 individuals with special 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.
- In Arbat camp 220 asylum seeker certificates, including renewals, were issued and 699 Syrians received consultation and guidance related to registration and residency. 10 individuals with special needs were also referred to the protection team or service providers for assessment and referral.
- 19 SGBV survivors from Arbat camp received legal counselling and legal representation. Six of these cases received individual counselling, three were referred for psychological support and seven cases received hygiene kits.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Refugees in Al Obaidy camp in Anbar Governorate continue to lack access to legal assistance and documentation, given the inaccessibility to government services. A number of legal concerns affecting refugees at the camp fall under the personal status and penal law requiring representation at courts or through dispute resolution mechanisms which are unavailable and inaccessible to camp refugees. ISIS is also prohibiting the use of government issued documentation, supplanting it with its own. Refugees are also reporting the need for food, livelihood opportunities, medical services and core relief items; and female refugees are reportedly being confined to their houses with limited access to independent livelihoods or social activities
- A total of 2,308 Syrians returned from the KR-I to Syria through the Peshkhabour crossing. A number of families interviewed were returning from urban areas in Erbil Governorate. A notable increase in returns to Kobane has also been reported, attributed to the rising cost of living in the KR-I, reports of greater assistance being provided by NGOs in Kobane and the hopes of securing better economic opportunities in Kobane, as well as for reasons of family reunification, property matters and interest in pursuing agricultural work.
- In the same period, 1,027 Syrians were counselled at the Bajet Kandala Registration Centre to ensure the voluntary nature of their return.
- There is a need for further training of members of the security forces at Qushtapa camp on human rights principles and the protection of civilians. UNHCR, UNICEF and DRC will coordinate on the training program planned next month.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Duhok Governorate UNHCR assisted 253 Syrian refugee families with cash assistance and 81 vulnerable families with multipurpose cash assistance.
- In Erbil Governorate, 801 individuals were provided by UNHCR with asylum seeker certificates through the PARC centre. A PARC legal team also facilitated the issuance of 72 birth certificates; and the Residency Department in Erbil issued 1,330 residency cards and 243 residency cards were renewed. 72 refugees were also provided with legal consultations. PARC lawyers also facilitated access to birth documentation for 37 children, for which documentation for two cases had to be obtained through court.
- 72 beneficiaries received cash assistance in Erbil Governorate in Koya, Taq Taq and Erbil City Centre. UNHCR's partners Qandil and PARC have commenced the identification of beneficiaries for Extremely Vulnerable Individual cash grants.
- Community based protection training was organised by UNHCR for the Kasnazan committee. 13 committee members attended the training.
- In Suleimaniyah Governorate 77 cases of 188 individuals were registered. 420 asylum seeker certificates, including renewals, were issued, 135 cases were transferred from Erbil and Duhok and 823 cases were referred to the Residency Department for the issuance or renewal of residency permits. In addition, 1,797 individuals received consultation and guidance related to registration and residency and 395 individuals were iris scanned.
- In Suleimaniyah Governorate, UNHCR through the Democracy and Human Rights development Center conducted two awareness raising sessions for 50 refugee women in Saidaadiq and New Halabja with topics covering domestic violence law in the KR-I, the law of misuse of telecommunication devices, citizenship and personal status law and articles related to marriage outside court as well as polygamy and the legal age for marriage.
- 75 refugee families received cash assistance in Suleimaniyah Governorate and UNHCR conducted on the job training for implementing partner staff to enhance assessments and identification of persons with specific needs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Issues reported from protection monitoring visits in Bardaqaraman, Bazyan, Suleimaniyah City and Penjawan in Suleimaniyah Governorate include the gradual increases in rents, the insufficient amount of medication or space available in public hospitals, the lack of Arabic medium high schools as barriers to education, the inability to renew residency permits due to the high cost of transport to Suleimaniyah city to obtain one, and the lack of income.
- UNICEF in collaboration with DoLSA facilitated a Child Labour Assessment in Semel, Zakho and Dahuk districts. 310 Syrian refugee children (approximately 16 per cent of the total number assessed) were recorded as working in Dohuk Governorate, out of 1,890 child labourers recorded.



Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- Resettlement pre-assessment screening was undertaken for 46 cases, 41 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 42 cases, whilst 49 cases were reviewed, of which 13 were prioritized and 33 deprioritized. The teams also undertook 21 RSD/RST interviews in Erbil and Duhok.
- Eight cases (30 individuals) were referred to the MENA Regional Hub in Amman for submission for resettlement to Belgium. The MENA Regional Hub submitted one case (five individuals) for resettlement to the USA and four cases (14 individuals) to Belgium. One case (1 individual) was accepted by the UK for resettlement and 20 cases (77 individuals) were accepted by Sweden. Three cases (8 individuals) departed to Sweden and the UK.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Resettlement processing to the USA from Iraq has been 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

- UNICEF in collaboration with DoLSA provided recreational and non-formal educational services through Child and Youth Friendly Spaces (CFS/YFS) in Akre, Domiz and Gawilan camps.
- In Akre camp, 18 teenagers completed a computer course and 30 children completed a handicraft course.
- Teachers in basic schools in all Erbil Governorate refugee camps have signed their contracts with the Ministry of Education. Delays in the signing of contracts were attributed to the budgetary crisis in the KR-I.
- Summer holiday activities were organised in CFS/YFS spaces in Erbil Governorate camps, with the daily attendance of 900 children at Kawergosk camp and 650 children at Qushtapa camp. Informal education and catch up classes also continued in Kawergosk and Darashakran camps.
- UNICEF education partners; UNHCR, KURDS, Save the Children, NRC, HARIKAR and Samaritan's Purse, received kits to support recreational activities for refugee children.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- An ongoing concern is the lack of funds to pay refugee teachers in the KR-I for the next school year. The Ministry of Finance will not approve the hiring of new teachers due to the financial crisis. A meeting is planned with UN Agencies and the Ministry of Education to discuss the issue of salaries and to work towards finding a solution.
- Extreme weather conditions continue to affect children's attendance in almost all CFS. The lack of shaded space particularly affects outdoor activities, with most activities having to be carried out inside caravans that become crowded. CFS with good air conditioning facilities provide services for more hours per day, in order to give children a safe place protected from the harsh weather, while CFS without these facilities provide shorter sessions for children, and instead focus services on capacity building of partners and strengthening community structures.
- More than 900 children are now accessing the CFS in Kawergosk Camp, stretching the existing capacity of the facility. The CFS requires additional supplies such as furniture, CFS kits, psychosocial support and recreational kits and Early Childhood Development kits, in order to accommodate additional children.



Peyman and her three brothers Renas, Rebdir and Reving peek outside their shelter at Gawilan refugee camp. Due to the scorching heat the children remain indoors at midday when the sun is the brightest and where temperatures can reach up to 49 degrees celsius during summer. UNHCR/R.Rasheed

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR finalized preparations for the Back to School Campaign across all three KR-I governorates, which will start in August, following the Ministry of Education's approval of UNHCR's proposal to permit Syrian students in lower elementary classes to register in Kurdish medium schools.
- Two pre-fabricated schools in the Qirga and Chwarchira areas have been completed through UNICEF with the formal handover to the Directorate of Education Suleimaniyah to take place before the next academic year.
- In Suleimaniyah Governorate UNHCR through STEP has commenced English classes and computer and music lessons for refugee children in Raparin. Stationery kits for 70 children were also distributed as part of a Back to School Campaign and works are underway to fix the infrastructure in the schools of Bazian, Badrikaman, and Bajinza.



Health

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 24,885 consultations were conducted in Primary Health Care (PHC) centres across Syrian refugee camps during July. Consultations slightly increased when compared to the previous month, with the consultation rate reaching an average of 2.7 consultations per person per year, still in the expected range of 1-4 consultations. The main reasons for consultations remained upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and skin infections. 870 patients were referred to secondary and tertiary hospitals for further investigations or hospitalization. A total of 785 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 1,385 children under five years old (U5) were immunized against polio, 272 infants under one year of age were vaccinated against measles, and 545 U5 children received vitamin A supplements.
- Trained Syrian refugee nurses visited 3,000 families in their tents across KR-I refugee camps as part of the UNICEF-supported new born home visit program. A total of 300 new born babies and 409 pregnant women received health support services.
- 117 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 registered 1,171 refugee children in psychosocial support services.
- The preparation of governorate specific cholera preparedness plan continues in the KR-I under the guidance of the Directorates of Health.
- In all KR-I camps, an estimated 3,000 U5 children accessed UNICEF-supported growth monitoring and baby hut services. Information-sharing and counselling on maternal and child health continued with 150 seminars held in refugee camps reaching an estimated 600 pregnant and lactating women on infant and child feeding and nutrition.
- A Health Awareness Committee has been established in Darashakran camp.
- In Al Obaidy camp, 290 individuals received health care services at the camp medical clinic. 11 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.
- The prevention of communicable diseases outbreaks remains a key priority. The health cluster/ sector group will jointly work on updating cholera preparedness plans. 17 new scabies cases were reported in Qushtapa and Kawergosk camps with the Department of Health and IMC providing treatment to affected individuals and UNHCR through DRC replacing bedding for affected families.

- Community Health Worker programmes need to be expanded in Qushtapa and Basirma camps in Erbil Governorate to increase health awareness.
- UNHCR is coordinating with local authorities and the Directorate of Health Centre to raise the issue of lack of medication in the primary health centre at Akre camp.
- There is a need for refresher training for 50 health staff, recruited from among Syrian refugees working in UNICEF's baby huts, as well as the need to replace or procure of essential instruments.

NON-CAMP

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Targeted health interventions are constrained outside refugee camps due to the difficulty of identifying Syrian refugees living amongst the host-community.
- Mental health and psychosocial care services in urban areas are limited in all governorates and do not cover all refugees in need of support.
- Information gaps on service availability and referral pathways pose an obstacle to access care for non-camp refugees.
- Drug shortages remain a key concern in public health facilities



Food Security and Nutrition

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- WFP and cooperating partners continued in-kind food and voucher distributions across all Syrian refugee camps in the KR-I. More than 102,596 Syrian refugees received WFP food assistance in July, 89 per cent of which were reached with vouchers valued at USD 19 per person. Through the voucher programme, WFP injected USD 1.8 million into the local economy in July.
- Data analysis for the Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment of all refugees residing in camps was completed by WFP and the REACH Initiative. Results from the assessment indicated that almost 30 per cent of refugees residing in camps are food secure. From August, WFP will implement a tiered approach to better target food assistance to refugees who are most in need. Refugees found to be food insecure will continue to receive the full level of assistance (22,300 Iraqi dinars), those moderately food insecure will continue to receive assistance but at a reduced level (11,700 Iraqi dinars), while those refugees deemed food secure will no longer receive WFP food assistance.
- 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 711 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 819 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. With recent air strikes on the two main bridges linking Al Qaim to Abu Kamal in Syria, cross border movements of people and goods have recorded a significant decrease, with food supplies from Syria also being affected and refugee and host communities facing difficulties securing food supplies and fuel.

Water and Sanitation

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Water supply, water quality monitoring and hygiene promotion were provided by UNICEF and partners in refugee camps across the KR-I. Through water trucking, UNICEF and the Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs provided water access for an estimated 1,600 families in Domiz 1 who have not been able to access water from the pipeline network. UNICEF also continued to support the Directorate of Surrounding Water to provide water chlorination and maintenance of water supply sources and distribution networks in Akre, Domiz 1, Domiz 2 and Gawilan camps, reaching approximately 40,000 refugees.
- In Akre camp, THW commenced construction and improvements of additional and existing drainage channels to treat stagnant water, as well as electrical and plastering work and fumigation inside the camp sectors. THW also installed three small passage ramps for handicapped persons and are constructing an additional 40 latrines and 40 showers in the camp to improve sanitation and privacy conditions for refugees. UNICEF is also commencing 3 months of water trucking in the camp which is experiencing acute shortages during July given the increased water demand in summer.
- With water delivery remaining a concern in Domiz 2, BRHA allocated a truck with 12,000 liter capacity to fill the main water storage tank. Two trucks have also been allocated for on-call water delivery by camp management. UNHCR is also advocating awareness sessions and the dissemination of materials on water consumption and hygiene promotion.
- UNICEF and the French Red Cross have completed a database for de-sludging Points in Domiz 1 and Domiz 2 for which 1,795 points (cesspools, holding tanks and septic tanks) have been identified in need of de-sludging.
- To prevent additional water wastage in camps, UNHCR through PU-AMI has installed 985 floating valves for water tanks in Gawilan camp. An additional 2,000 floating valves will also be installed to cover all camp tanks. The Barzani Charity Foundation also distributed hygiene kits to 153 families with newborns in Gawilan camp.
- UNHCR through the Erbil Refugee Council continues to provide regular waste collection across all four Erbil Governorate refugee camps.
- UNHCR through ACF has completed the de-sludging of 1,547 cesspools and septic tanks across the four Erbil refugee camps.
- Training for refugees on minor fixing of WASH facilities has commenced in Darashakran camp. ACF has also commenced construction of the grey and black water collection systems in the camp with water testing ongoing by Relief International and the water quality reported as within the acceptable WHO standard.
- In the transit area of Qushtapa camp, DRC is working to improve water pressure and to install additional taps to help reduce the need for temporary water trucking. DRC has carried out repairs to avoid any contamination of drinking water. Sewage overflow in the Block C section of Qushtapa camp has been fixed by the Qatar Red Crescent.
- Communal latrines and showers in Basirma and Qushtapa camps (130 each in Basirma and 140 each in Qushtapa) continue to be regularly maintained and cleaned by ACF with the support of UNHCR. In Basirma camp, UNHCR through ACF has connected 136 latrines to septic tanks.



Water delivery in Domiz 2 camp. (UNHCR/B.Amin).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Water demand remains high due to the extreme summer heat, with the use of air coolers and interrupted power supplies placing additional stress on water supply services.
- In Domiz 1 camp the regular cleaning and maintenance of grey water channels in the new shelter area needs to be addressed. Coordination between WASH partners is also needed for the construction of secondary draining in the camp; and WASH facilities for the four refugee schools at the camp have been identified as in need of construction or rehabilitation before the next academic year.
- Access to water has been raised as an issue in Akre settlement as the number of pumping hours has drastically reduced and is reportedly insufficient to meet the basic needs of residents.
- Acute shortages in the water supply have been reported for both Al Obaidy camp and the surrounding areas of Al Obaidy district. UNHCR through ISHO is trying to provide fuel to operate the water plant to provide water for the refugee and host community.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR through REACH has completed the construction of a 1,500 meter length drainage channel in Gregawre in Duhok Governorate.



Shelter and NFIs

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Summerisation distributions across Dohuk Governorate refugee camps were completed with 4,794 kits distributed to extremely vulnerable refugees or those with disabilities and female headed households. UNHCR's post distribution monitoring found that the majority of households attending the monitoring sessions requested cash assistance instead of items.
- PWJ and the Barzani Charity Foundation distributed 487 air coolers in Gawilan camp to new arrivals and households that were not covered during previous distributions.
- Construction of 56 new family plots has commenced in Domiz 1 camp by UNHCR through Peace Winds Japan (PWJ). PWJ will also construct the water distribution network for the plots. UNHCR and PWJ have also commenced construction of shaded areas at Domiz 2 and Gawilan camp distribution points. Two shaded areas will also be constructed at Peshkhabour Border Point.
- 118 families were relocated from the irregular sectors of Domiz 1 to Domiz 2 camp. Within Domiz 1 camp, 546 families were also relocated from the irregular sectors to new plots in the camp.
- UNHCR and Qandil provided 108 families with core relief item kits in Domiz 1 and 2, Akre and Gawilan camps. Beneficiaries were newly registered families, groups of singles and newly married couples as well as those who were in need of CRI replacement.
- In Erbil Governorate, UNHCR through DRC has commenced construction of 285 shelter plots in Kawergosk camp and 312 shelter plots in Qushtapa camp with both projects expected for completion by the end of October. Construction of a 513 meter chain-link fence has also been completed in Basirma camp by UNHCR and DRC, securing the camp extension area.
- 104 families have been relocated to the permanent site of Basirma camp.
- In Arbat camp, UNHCR through the Youth Activity Organisation distributed core relief items to 254 households (916 individuals), consisting of mattresses, plastic sheets, water and kerosene jerry cans, kerosene heaters and stoves.
- A new section in Arbat camp, Block F, has been completed and ready to accommodate 256 families. UNHCR, IRC and partners are assessing vulnerable individuals to be relocated. 135 households have now moved into the new section. The last section of the camp to be completed is Block H and will host an additional 256 families.

- In Al Obaidy camp, UNHCR through ISHO distributed 10,650 liters of kerosene benefiting 158 families, in addition to 7,140 baby diapers, 4,200 sanitary napkins, 1,430 adult diapers and seven core relief item kits for new families who moved to the camp.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR and Qandil conducted a shelter assessment in Gawilan camp. 72 per cent of the total shelters assessed need replacement. Ahead of the winter season UNHCR is assessing the best method for shelter improvements.
- Only 118 of the 216 newly constructed family plots in Domiz 2 camp have been occupied. As vandalism on the plots has been reported, UNHCR has requested BRHA to expedite the relocation of refugees to the empty plots.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR distributed 894 summerisation kits to Syrian refugee families in Waar city in Duhok Governorate.
- Four quick implementation projects have commenced, including; the rehabilitation of the soccer field and public halls at the Domiz Village Youth Centre, the Dalal Health Centre in Zakho and the Doban primary health centre in Semel, which will benefit local residents, refugees and IDPs.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- DRC undertook 13 life skills training sessions for 356 beneficiaries in Domiz 1 camp and Summel in Duhok Governorate. 94 beneficiaries received grants for starting or expanding their businesses.
- In Gawilan camp, UNHCR monitored livelihood projects implemented in 2014. Barber shop and grocery projects are profitable and business is ongoing. The Greenhouse project at Gawilan camp, implemented by Kurds and now managed by BRHA, has sold more than seven tons of vegetables making a profit of IQD 3,000,000. The project supplies the vegetable market in Gawilan and twelve families are benefiting from the profits.
- IOM distributed seven sewing machines for women in Gawilan camp after conducting sewing training as part of a livelihood project; in addition to distributing nine tuk-tuks for 17 persons.
- The Computer Center in Gawilan received 154 refugees who are using internet services to reach out to the world, apply for jobs, prepare CVs and enhance their computer skills.
- In Erbil Governorate, UNHCR prepared harmonized Terms of Reference for refugee committees in all Syrian refugee camps in the Governorate. UNHCR also conducted familiarisation sessions on the Code of Ethics among camp councils, women and youth committees. The Code of Ethics was developed by UNHCR and endorsed by the Erbil Refugee Council.
- In Basirma camp 380 individuals participated in sports and recreational activities; and in Qushtapa camp 578 individuals participated in community based activities including English and Arabic courses, sports activities and tailoring and hairdressing sessions. DRC also conducted vocational training at Kawergosk camp.
- In Hussanyia settlement in Duhok Governorate, REACH continues to provide computer and language courses for the refugee and host community.

Working in partnership

- WFP and UNHCR have been working closely on communications with refugee communities, partners, field staff camp management, and authorities on the implementation of targeted food assistance which will be rolled out by WFP in August.
- Planning for the 3RP (Regional Refugee Resilience Plan) for Syrian refugees in 2016 will start in August. This will be a joint effort by a wide variety of partners and the Inter-Sector Working Group.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

A new home and new prospects

Domiz I camp (UNHCR) – For Abdal Rahman Hannan and his family, Syrian refugees from Aleppo, moving into a brand new shelter in the Domiz I refugee camp has brought with it not only improved living conditions but new opportunities.

Escaping the conflict in Syria, Hanan and his family arrived in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq three years ago and were initially accommodated in the Domiz I camp in Duhok Governorate.

“There was a shortage of space in the camp when we arrived, so they put us on the waiting list and hosted us in caravans for three days before we found a space where we pitched the tent,” recalls Hannan.

For Hannan, his wife, three daughters and two sons, life in the camp was an initial adjustment but they soon adapted to it with ease. The children enrolled in school, his wife took care of household duties, and Hannan would travel to Duhok city daily seeking labour work. Some days were more fruitful than others.

Residing in their tented shelter at Domiz I for the past three years, Hannan and his family have seen tremendous growth of the camp, which is now one of the largest in Iraq. “We saw roads, shops and services develop all around, and the shelters expanded and enlarged,” reflects Hannan. But Hannan does miss the quietness from time to time. “For me, it feels like we have moved from a small village to a big city,” he reflects.

As part of UNHCR’s upgrade of the Domiz I camp, 438 new shelters in the camp have now been constructed, enabling 500 refugee families, including Hannan’s to benefit from improved living standards. Families who have been selected to move to the new shelters are those deemed as being most vulnerable, including those living in conditions of difficulty, female headed households or those with disabilities.

Given the considerable amount of time Hannan and his family have spent living in their previous irregular shelter, and the fact that he is also afflicted by injury, he and his family were selected to move into one of the newly constructed shelters. The new shelters each have their own private kitchens, latrines and shower facilities and are connected to electricity, water and waste disposal services. Hannan and his family are now ensured with more privacy as they no longer have to share communal lavatory facilities, a relief for his children.

With the new shelter upgrade comes new prospects as Hannan is now able to accommodate a small business from his new home selling groceries, a goal he says he has aspired to achieve over the past three years to help provide a stable source of income.

By Husam Eldin Mustafa



Hannan outside his new shelter, where he also runs a small business.

UNHCR/ R. Rasheed

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:

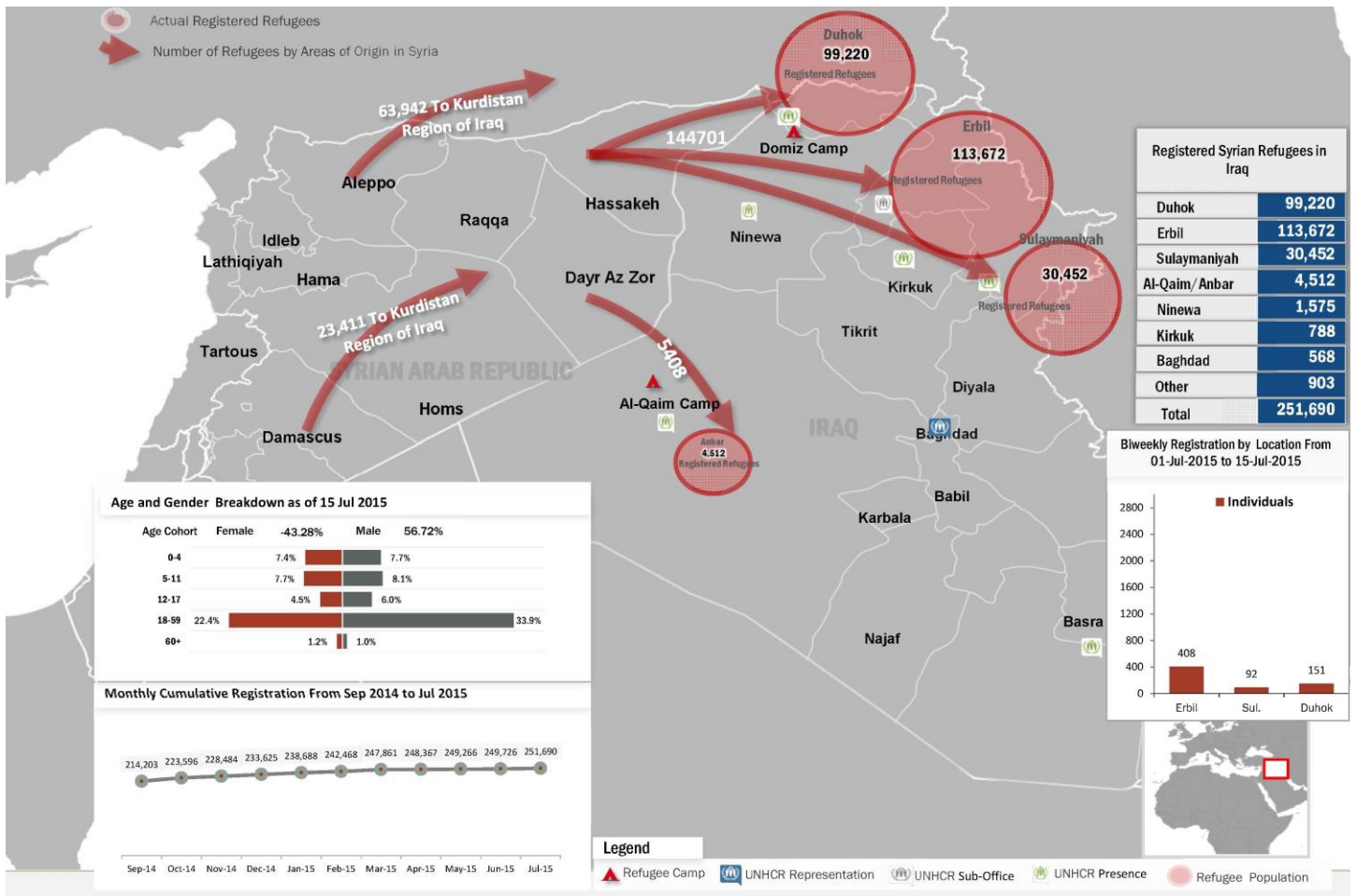
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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:

Shabia Mantoo, External Relations / Reporting Officer, mantoo@unhcr.org, Cell +964 (0) 770 494 6318

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"

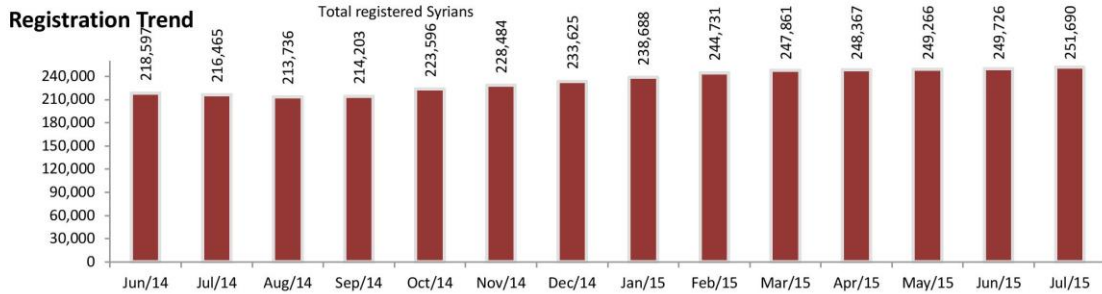
UNHCR Registration Trends for Syrian Persons of Concern

UNHCR Registration Trends for Syrian Persons of Concern 31 Jul 2015

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

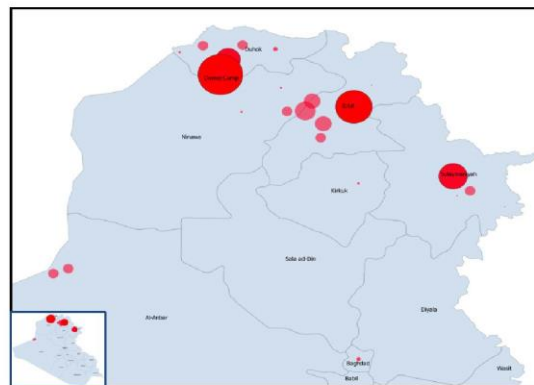
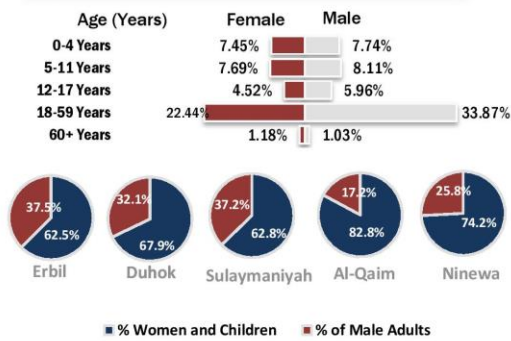
251,690 **89,010**

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
Iraq

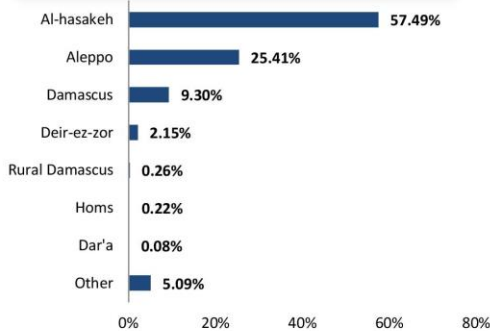


This profile is based on **251,690** proGres registered individuals

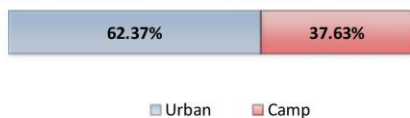
Age and Gender Breakdown



Place of Origin



Camp and non-camp population comparison



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.

Governorate	Individuals	Households	% Total
Duhok	99,220	30,780	39.42%
Erbil	113,672	43,465	45.16%
Sulaymaniyah	30,452	12,050	12.10%
Anbar	4,512	1,151	1.79%
Ninewa	1,575	516	0.63%
Kirkuk	788	286	0.31%
Baghdad	568	294	0.23%
Other	903	468	0.36%
Total Iraq	251,690	89,010	100%

Camps Registered Population			
Camp	Individuals	Households	% Total
Al-Obaidi Camp	1,519	319	1.60%
Akre Settlement	1,500	353	1.58%
Domiz Camp 1	40,911	13,428	43.20%
Domiz Camp 2	6,283	1,407	6.63%
Gawilan Camp	7,228	1,791	7.63%
Basirma Camp	3,578	867	3.78%
Darashakran Camp	10,325	2,286	10.90%
Kawergosk Camp	10,166	2,684	10.73%
Qushtapa Camp	6,635	1,767	7.01%
Arbat Camp	6,557	1,757	6.92%
Total	94,702	26,659	100%