

POPULATION OF CONCERN

244,527 Syrian refugees

KEY FIGURES

15,661

Children have been provided with psychosocial services since January 2015

4,493

Syrians entered the KR-I through the Peshkhabour border

2,930

Syrians left KR-I

81,177

Syrian refugees received the first round of Oral Cholera Vaccination

FUNDING

USD 426,041,332

Requested by agencies for the operation in 2015
(Source: 2015 3RP – Iraq)



PRIORITIES

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

IRAQ

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE – SYRIAN REFUGEES IN IRAQ

November 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

In the reporting period:

- Arrivals** – Syrians continue to enter the KR-I, with 4,493 individuals entering through the Peshkhabour border in the month of November. With several changes in admission procedures, the number of Syrians admitted as asylum seekers upon arrival into KR-I through the Peshkhabour border has sharply decreased this year: from 50% in January to 3% this month, while 97% entered as visitors or for medical reasons. Of those visitors, many at a later stage eventually approach UNHCR to change their status into asylum-seekers. This brings the total number of new arrivals since January 2015 to 56,601 individuals at the end of November, of which 10,877 individuals entered as asylum-seekers.
- Returns and departures** – November confirmed a general downward trend in Syrians individuals leaving Iraq. The number of spontaneous **returns** to Syria has continued to decrease, with 1,663 registered asylum seekers departing from the KR-I through the Peshkhabour border, back to spring levels. This brings the total number of Syrian returnees to 24,120 individuals this year. Spontaneous **departures** of Syrian individuals from the KR-I to Turkey are decreasing as well: in November, 1,267 Syrians crossed legally into Turkey from the KR-I via the Ibrahim Khalil border, about half the numbers observed in August, bringing the total number of departures to Turkey to 16,735 individuals this year.
- Winterization activities** are well underway with in-kind assistance already distributed to more refugee families than was originally thought possible in Duhok and Erbil governorate and on-going distributions of kerosene in kind and in cash in all three governorates.
- Clowns without Borders** toured KR-I for three weeks, performing 30 shows in 20 days to the great pleasure of over 10,000 children and adults alike in camps (refugee and IDP) and urban areas.



Heating fuel distribution in Darashakran Refugee Camp, Erbil governorate (UNHCR/C. Covés)

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

During the reporting period, the security situation remained critical in many parts of Central and South Iraq with frequent clashes in Anbar province between armed militants and Iraqi Security forces, and on-going air strikes conducted by the international coalition on armed opposition groups.

In the North of the country, forces led by the Peshmerga regained control of Sinjar town with the support of US airstrikes. The retake of Sinjar is seen as a significant development as it cut Highway 47, a strategic re-supply route between Raqqa in Syria and Mosul in Iraq. Sinjar town is also a very significant religious place for the Yazidi minority population in Iraq. Humanitarian agencies, in close coordination with local authorities, recently conducted a first visit to Sinjar in order to assess the urgent humanitarian needs there.

The Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government both continue to face significant economic challenges fueled in part by weak oil prices, protracted internal violence, and the additional financial obligations coming as a result of hosting hundreds of thousand refugees and millions of internally displaced persons. In the KR-I, which hosts 98% of the refugee population in Iraq, civil servants have not received their salaries since September, and electricity shortages are becoming more and more frequent.

Budgetary and oil export issues remained unresolved between the Central Government of Baghdad and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) despite continued negotiations on the subject and in KR-I, the issue around the presidency of the autonomous region is still open, as the current president's mandate expired in August this year. To note, three ministers from the Movement for Change (Gorran) who were dismissed by the governing Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in October are now being replaced in their posts by members of the KDP party.

The winter season is fast approaching with drop of temperatures and heavy rains which affected refugee camps throughout the country. Even though the humanitarian winter assistance programme activities are well underway, the general situation remains precarious for vulnerable refugee families living in and out of camp in Iraq as host governments are less and less able to sustain the level of help they were previously able to provide to refugee populations.

Protection

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

- A total of 4,493 Syrian individuals entered the KR-I through Peshkhabour border in November, a slight decrease compared to 4,644 the previous month. Only 3% were admitted as asylum seekers upon arrival into KR-I. The main reasons quoted for leaving Syria were: insecurity and a rapid deterioration of the economic situation driven by price inflation, high living costs and a lack of job opportunities.
- The criteria for granting **asylum seeker status** is yet to be clarified. Criteria for admission by Duhok authorities are currently understood to be based on four grounds : family reunification for children and women of family members already registered with UNHCR in the KR-I; reunification of spouses; and those fleeing either forced recruitment or political persecution.
- Meetings were held with the Head of Residency Department as well as the Head of General Directorate of the Assayesh for Duhok Governorates, aiming at clarifying the procedure for Syrian arrivals to be admitted to the territory as asylum-seekers, or for converting their 15 day-visa into asylum-seeker cards.

- The Senior Protection Advisor then met with the Deputy Head of the Assayesh in Duhok to address access to the territory and asylum procedure. It was agreed that UNHCR would draft a proposed registration procedure to be presented to the Assayesh for further discussion.

Camp

- **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign** was launched in the KR-I on November 25. The 10-day worldwide campaign, now in its 24th year, was coordinated by members of the SGBV SWG in KR-I. Various activities were planned in refugee camps and non-camp locations with the theme “From peace in the home to peace in the world: Make education safe for all”. In KR-I, the campaign against child marriage organized in cooperation with the General Directorate for Combatting Violence Against Women (DVAW) was integrated to the planning and both campaigns were rolled out together.
- UNICEF in collaboration with its implementing partners provided psychosocial services to 1,267 children this month while 326 newly registered children received specialized services from frontline workers for cases such as emotional distress, non-attendance of school, child labor, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), early marriage, gender based violence and disability. 50 UASC were identified this month, bringing the total number of identified UASC since January 2015 to 138.
- **In Erbil governorate**, camp committees are now operational in all camps : through the mediation of these committees, refugees who were staying as temporary visitors, have been regularized with transfer of their registration records to the respective camps. This new system allows for a better control of plots and tents allocation through a fair application of the established criteria. As a result, the Reception, Registration and Documentation committees in Darashakran, Qushtapa and Kawergosk camps helped register 368 families in the camps. Previously, the families were living in the camps as guests with other registered families. A number of them have already been allocated tents, the others are on a waiting list.
- A number of action points, including following up on the cases of military recruitment, especially that of children, in refugee camps, have been agreed between UNHCR and the Head of Erbil Assayesh. While UNHCR continues to monitor the situation and collects details of recorded cases, Assayesh has committed to assist with identification of individuals involved in recruitment in order to address the issue in a coordinated manner.
- **In Sulaymaniyah governorate**, 16 newly registered families and 27 families living in urban areas relocated to Arbat refugee camp: 141 individuals in total this month.

Non-Camp

- **In Duhok governorate**, where newly arrived refugees enter KR-I, none of the families requested relocation to the camps. Currently, 20,800 Syrian asylum seeker or refugee families are registered in urban areas.
- **In Erbil governorate**, 35,094 Syrian asylum seeker or refugee families are registered in urban areas. Mobile monitoring teams visited 27 locations within the governorate, interviewing over 2,000 individuals : 444 cases (1,071 individuals) were newly registered with UNHCR and were provided UNHCR Asylum Seeker Certificates.
- **In Sulaymaniyah governorate**, 10,044 families (23,267 individuals) Syrian asylum-seekers or refugees are registered in urban areas. 467 certificates were issued or renewed this month while 1,196 individuals received consultation on registration, residency and issues with the Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM).

IDENTIFIED NEEDS AND REMAINING GAPS

Increasing financial difficulties for a number of refugee families make them more and more vulnerable economically and socially, fostering relocation of some families from urban accommodations to camps and returns to Syria or departures from Iraq.

- A total of 1,748 Syrians **returned** from the KR-I to Syria through the Peshkhabour border, compared to 2,923 Syrians in the previous month. Of these departures, 1,663 (95%) were registered asylum seekers. More and more frequent airstrikes over Aleppo city and surrounding villages is reported to have led to this significant decrease in the number of the Syrian returnees either to these targeted areas or to nearby vicinities. A sharp decrease in **departures** of Syrian individuals to Turkey continued to be observed with 1,267 Syrians leaving Iraq and crossing legally into Turkey through the Ibrahim Khalil border, bringing the total number of Syrians legally leaving Iraq this month to 3,015 individuals.

- **In Erbil governorate**, delays in accessing to residency remains a key issue for Syrian refugees. Families without valid residency documentation report face difficulties crossing the checkpoints and have greater difficulty in accessing employment and education in the KR-I. Incidentally, refugees who do not have a valid residency permit have problems withdrawing cheques, including cheques issued by UNHCR, from banks.


Camp

- **In Duhok governorate**, the Deputy Head of the Assayesh informed UNHCR that maintaining the civilian character of camps had become increasingly difficult and was out of their control. UNHCR has noted an increase in Peshmerga presence and recruitment in the refugee camps there.
- **In Erbil governorate**, Lack of activities targeting persons living with disabilities remains a gap in all the four camps.
- **In Anbar governorate**, over 45 families moved to Al Obaidi camp, from Al Bukamal across the border as the airstrikes continue over the city. ISHO, UNHCR partner there, faced a challenging situation as shelter and core relief items are not easily available in the camp to support those new families and some families are already accommodated in former communal kitchens.

Non-Camp

The length of the conflict in Syria, now in its 5th year, and the current lack of job opportunities in KR-I where 98% of refugees are hosted, have both contributed to deplete refugees savings, and refugee families are now increasingly resorting to coping strategies such as sharing houses to share rent, moving to unfinished buildings or relocation to refugee camps.

- **In Erbil governorate**, families living in urban areas often suffer from poor socio-economic conditions as a result of the worsening economic crisis in the KR-I. Job opportunities are scarce; the majority of heads of household are either unemployed or engaged in daily labour on an ad hoc basis. Refugee families report that the income from daily labour is insufficient to cover basic needs, including rent. As a result, numbers of refugee families have become indebted to families and friends to pay their rent. Families often share housing with extended relatives, but occasionally houses are shared with unrelated families, which could lead to increased protection risks for women and girls. A number of urban refugee families live in unfinished building as in Seydawa, and need winterization items, including kerosene, heating devices and blankets.
- The poor economic condition is also driving immigration to Europe and in some cases, returns to Syria. For example, in Baharka town, one family reported that they were returning to Syria because they could no longer afford the rent here. In Shawes and Seberdan, the local focal point and Mukhtar reported that over 450 families had left the area to migrate to Europe. As a result of the recent migration, the mobile monitoring teams have recorded an increase in the number of female headed households as men often travel to Europe, leaving their families behind.
- An additional challenge for refugee families is the delay in access to residency within Erbil Governorate : families without valid residency documentation report face difficulties crossing the checkpoints and have greater difficulty in accessing employment and education in the KR-I.
- **In Sulaymaniyah governorate**, the main issues reported by urban refugees during protection monitoring assessments were high rent, poorly maintained accommodations and insufficient support from humanitarian organizations, mainly in terms of food distribution and kerosene. In Bardaqaraman for instance, members of the refugee council raised the issue of food vouchers distribution, mentioning that only 90 families received WFP vouchers, while there are many other families that are food insecure, and would require kerosene. Over the past two months, 12 families have reportedly left Bardaqaraman for Turkey en route to Europe.
- UNHCR's implementing partner STEP's refugee mobile team continues to provide psychosocial support and child-friendly activities for asylum seeker and refugee children in over 25 locations of Sulaymaniyah governorate. The team also conducted a series of custom sessions on parenting, dealing with children's fears and anger issues and communicating with children in selected locations such as Said Sadeq, Shekh Muheddin and Zerinek.



Durable Solutions

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

- In November, 26 cases of 101 persons were referred for **resettlement** while 15 cases (53 persons) were accepted by the UK (40 persons) and 4 cases by Sweden (13 persons); 10 persons departed on resettlement this month (UK) compared to 89 the previous month (UK and Sweden).
- The selection mission for processing cases submitted to the USA has been confirmed and will take place in the first two weeks of December. Around 200 cases are expected to be processed out of the 356 cases submitted.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS AND REMAINING GAPS

- Two **resettlement** cases (14 persons) were rejected by the UK and 16 persons submitted to the UK, Australia, the USA, and Sweden were withdrawn largely due to spontaneous departures to Europe.



Education

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

UNHCR held a series of consultation meetings in November with UN Agencies, KR-I Ministry of Education and education actors working with refugees, to finalize the draft UNHCR Refugee Education Strategy: the first strategy for refugee education in KR-I. The strategy is intended to serve as a reference document when approaching donors in the future and will organize the work of all actors concerned with refugee education in KR-I.

Camp

Provision of teachers' incentives have now been agreed with the Ministry of Education (MoE) jointly by UNICEF, UNHCR and UNESCO : 55 teachers in two new refugee schools in Duhok and one refugee school in Arbat camp in Sulaymaniyah are now receiving teachers' incentive and Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) have been activated in all camp schools in Sulimaniyah.

- **In Duhok governorate**, a high absence rates of students, often for financial reasons, is a cause of concern in refugee camps. Starting from 23 November, UNHCR supports refugee students by providing cash grants with the aim of covering education-related expenses, in particular school uniforms. In addition to Domiz 1, Domiz 2, Gawilan, and Akre Camps the school in War City (urban area) was also targeted. The project has been well received by the refugee students and parents.
- Access to higher education for refugees remains a challenge and youth report that they feel oftentimes unsupported. In Gawilan camp, UNHCR in coordination with the camp management and other partners supported the graduates of 12th grade for submitting their online university applications and with liaising with the DoE in Bardarash district. The Community Technology Access centre (CTA) in Gawilan which provides internet access for persons of concern was of great help for these refugees, enabling them to submit their documents on time.
- **In Erbil governorate**, 12 Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) in all four refugee camps were conducted in order to understand the reasons behind the low enrolment and attendance of boys in secondary schools. The outcomes of the FGDs are being finalized and will be reported soon.

Non Camp

- **In Erbil Governorate**, The new schools established by UNICEF in Kasnazan, Daratu, Shawes, Mamzawa, and Baharka sub-districts and the UNHCR's Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) that improved the infrastructure of the schools have contributed in the increase in the number of refugee children enrolled.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS AND REMAINING GAPS

The Directorate of Education is providing limited support: there is a lack of funding for payment for teacher salaries and a shortage of school teachers in camps and non-camp schools.

Camp

The distance of schools from camp and non-camp locations necessitates a need for transport subsidy for parents to ensure that their children attends the school.

- In **Erbil governorate**, Classrooms for Primary School in Kawergosk (on average, 80 students per classroom) and Darashakran (on average, 100 students per classroom) camp are overcrowded. The schools are still waiting for new caravans to be purchased in order to alleviate the crowded classrooms.
- Secondary school has not yet started in Qushtapa. There is a delay in approving the teachers from the MoE.

Non camp

- In **Erbil governorate**, many schools are overcrowded : there are not enough Arabic-medium Schools to accommodate all the students. According to the school visit conducted in urban areas in Erbil, 4,657 Syrian refugee children (2,235 boys and 2,422 girls) are enrolled in 22 Primary and 6 Secondary Arabic-medium schools.
- In **Sulaymaniyah governorate**, there is a need to train newly hired and volunteer teachers.



Health

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Camp

The health and nutrition sector continues to enjoy a close working relationship with the KRG Ministry of Health (MoH) and Department of Health (DoH) at district level in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Duhok and Ninewah governorates, where refugee camps are located.

- In November, 27,877 **patient consultations** were conducted in Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities in refugee camps, for an average patient consultation rate of 3.8 consultations per person per year in November. This lies within the expected range of 1-4 consultations and major causes for patient consultations remained upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and skin infections. 860 patients (compared to 1,047 in October) were referred to secondary and tertiary hospitals for further investigations or hospitalization. During the same period, a total of 1,336 patients (compared to 1,200 in October) attended mental healthcare services.
- **The cholera outbreak** in Iraq is slowly waning down, and very few confirmed cases were reported from the affected districts or governorates through their provincial reference laboratories since the last update. As of 22 November 2015, a total of 4,864 **cholera cases** tested at provincial laboratories were reported from the country, with two related deaths. A total of 22 cases have been registered in KR-I (12 in Duhok and 10 in Erbil) and no new case has been reported in KR-I over the past three weeks. **The first round for Oral Cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign** has been planned and rolled out by MoH, in collaboration WHO, UNHCR and UNICEF, in selected (most-at-risk) refugee and IDP camps. Over 81,000 Syrian refugees have been vaccinated in camp on 2-4 November with a total administrative coverage estimated at 91% (over the 90% set target). The second round of the OCV campaign is scheduled to take place on 7-9 December 2015. Preparations for this exercise have already started.
- In **Duhok governorate**, UNICEF and DoH implemented a Polio vaccination campaign in Gawilan camp, targeting 1,177 children under 5 years of age. UNICEF and NRC provided hygiene vouchers to 1,826 HHs/10,900 individuals in Domiz 1 & 2, while the administration in the latter distributed trash bags to 1,426 HHs/6,375 individuals.
- In **Erbil governorate**, Negotiations for the handover process of Kawergosk point of care from IMC to DoH are ongoing.
- In **Al Obaidy camp**, 385 individuals received health care services at the camp medical clinic, a stable number month over month. Health programme operators and ten trained Syrian volunteers carried out routine visits tent to tent, seeing close to 500 individuals.

Non Camp

- UNICEF continued vaccination of children at the strategic Syria-Iraq border of Peshkhabour where the influx of refugees continues into the Duhok governorate. In November alone, 1,060 children received the polio vaccine and 938 children the measles vaccine through this border-vaccination program.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS AND REMAINING GAPS

UNHCR and its partners face increasing constraints to raise the needed funds in order to maintain health services for refugees in camp and urban areas. Continued support for health care services provided by the Ministry of Health and humanitarian actors is a key priority to prevent excess morbidity and mortality among the displaced Syrian population.

- **In Erbil governorate**, the high number of cases with serious medical condition requiring secondary health care support is currently overwhelming the capacity of partners to respond while public hospitals are overburdened.

Camp

- **In Al Obaidi camp**, the situation is critical as stocks are low and there are no deliveries coming in the camp remains inaccessible for security reasons. UNHCR has already stopped distributing baby diapers.



Food Security and Nutrition

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Camp

In total, 9,870 families received WFP food assistance in November, all of which was issued 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 Obaidi camp**, UNHCR through ISHO continued to bake and distribute two pieces of bread per refugee per day for all camp population, 1,228 refugees including the unregistered refugees. In addition, 696 refugees received the complementary food assistance value 17,500 IQD for November 2015. To supplement the absence of food parcels normally delivered by WFP and partners, UNHCR took the initiative to distribute vouchers valued at 25,000 IQD to 987 refugees.

Non camp

- Assessment of non-camp refugees for WFP food support is currently being conducted by World Vision.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS AND REMAINING GAPS

Camp

A considerable number of WFP food vouchers beneficiaries reports that prices for certain food items are higher than the market standard at associated vendors. This concern is being referred to the Food Security Cluster for follow-up.

- **In Duhok governorate**, some 320 HHs in Domiz 1 & 2 are currently being re-assessed to establish eligibility for December's distribution. Also BRHA provided food baskets to 375 families who were excluded from other food assistance programs in Gawilan camp.
- **In Erbil governorate**, a number of families have been reconsidered for food assistance in Qushtapa and Darashakran camps in Erbil governorate; they will start receiving food vouchers from WFP in December.
- **In Al Obaidi camp in Anbar governorate**, UNHCR will continue to distribute vouchers until the end of the year to compensate for the lack of food deliveries normally managed by WFP but suspended for security reasons.

Water and Sanitation

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Camp

- **In Erbil governorate**, 220 latrines and showers have been completed for new shelter plots in Darashakran in collaboration with ACF, DESW (Directorate of Surrounding Water) and UNHCR and 778 others are expected to be completed by the end of the year in several camps.
- In the Kobani areas of Darashakran camp, where 220 families live, the concrete open channels are completed on both sides of the roads (ACF and KURDS). UNHCR managed to finalize the design and BoQ of the main drainage with The Directorate of Surrounding Water (DoSW) and KURDS, and the work has started.
- In Kawergosk camp, DRC-WASH (funded by UNICEF) completed the construction of concrete slab for the 8 communal water tanks along with the steel fence for protection. DRC-WASH also completed upgrading the water network in sector A, B and C and increased the number of tap stands in sector A and D. Previously there were 30 tents using one tap stand. Now 10 tents are using one tap stand. The water network was rehabilitated in sector K, R and Q: it had previously been damaged by vehicles regularly operating on the roads, where the pipes are laid.

Non Camp

- **In Duhok governorate**, UNHCR and REACH project to improve water provision in Balqus village is approaching completion. By laying proper piping, this project circumvents the need for people to construct illegal water piping. Once complete, the old caseload refugees, as well as local community, will benefit from better quality of water supply.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS AND REMAINING GAPS

Camp

- Rehabilitation of sewer network in parts of Qushtapa camp is urgent, and garbage collection and disposal continues to be a challenge.

Shelter and NFIs

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

UNHCR delivered winterization items and kerosene to over 14,000 families in KR-I this month, as temperature dropped to near freezing point in mountainous areas. Anticipating a very cold winter season, UNHCR and NFI/Shelter cluster partners undertook extensive winter assistance planning for refugees in camp and in urban areas to ensure that delivery of assistance started in time. The planning and coordination helped ensure as little overlapping as possible. Coverage for winterization assistance through the NFI/Shelter Cluster is approximately 40% of total needs for refugees. The UNHCR winter assistance programme is coordinated with the KR-I based Joint Crisis Coordination Cell (JCC).

In Sulaymaniyah governorate, UNHCR, through the International Media Support (IMS), has rolled out an information campaign on kerosene and fire safety for refugees and IDPs living in and out of camps.

Camp

- **In Duhok governorate**, and in response to community feedback, UNHCR partner PWJ constructed two covered distribution points in Domiz 2 and Gawilan camps, which is particularly welcome during the cold winter months.
- **In Erbil governorate**, Construction of all shelter and infrastructure works for 817 new shelter plots is now complete in Kawergosk, Qushtapa and Darashakran camps, except the main drainage channel. It is expected that refugees from Kobane currently living in transit area of



New Shelter plots at Darashakran refugee camp, Erbil governorate (UNHCR C. Coves)

Darashakran camp will be relocated to newly constructed plots by the end of the year. The road remains to be paved in Kawergosk and Qushtapa.

- Despite the challenging security situation in **Anbar governorate**, UNHCR partner ISHO was also able to deliver 12,350 liters of kerosene to Al Obaidi camp residents in November.

Non Camp

UNHCR, together with Qandil, launched the non-camp refugee winterization program, providing winter assistance to over 7,400 refugees families living out of camp in Duhok, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates. Refugee families received cash for kerosene or kerosene in kind, core relief items such as heating stove and blankets, and replacement items for the winter such as plastic sheeting or tents.

- In **Duhok governorate**, PWJ and UNHCR have completed construction of the Derabon registration centre and the shading area at Peshkhabour border point. These two projects seek to provide improved spaces in which refugees can register themselves and complete paperwork.
- In order to improve access to health services for both non-camp refugees and the host community, UNHCR and Harikar are rehabilitating three PHCs. While the project in Duban has been completed, and the PHC handed over to the local authorities, renovation of the Derabon PHC has recently begun.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS AND REMAINING GAPS

Camp

The targeted assistance approach employed for this winter's seasonal assistance has naturally left many refugees households (feeling) relatively unsupported. There is need to improve the methodologies used for identifying beneficiaries for targeted assistance in order to avoid creating or increasing social tensions within the community.

- In **Duhok governorate**, difficulties have been experienced in making contact with a large section of the targeted refugee families throughout the winterization campaign. Many could not be reached via the phone numbers previously recorded, despite multiple attempts to connect with them. It is anticipated that a considerable number of these families may no longer be residing in the Duhok region and records for the refugee caseload need to be updated urgently.
- In **Al Obaidi camp**, there is an acute shortage of CRIs as reported by UNHCR camp management partner ISHO. Replenishment of stocks cannot be undertaken until the security situation improves in Anbar governorate.

Non Camp

- **Sulamanyiah governorate** is one of the coldest areas in the KR-I. In higher elevation areas, such as Penjwin, Pshdar and Ranya, snow is already present on the mountain tops. During assessments and monitoring visits, refugees told UNHCR that their housing was unbearably cold with leaking roofs, un-insulated walls and bare cement floors. These families have been provided with core relief items and UNHCR, in partnership with Qandil, completed the renovation of 50 houses for refugees living out of camp in Barzian District. Although the renovated houses are now insulated against winter drafts and outfitted with proper latrines and showers, more extensive works would provide greater relief.



Winter distribution for out of camp refugees in Sulamanyiah governorate. The little girl in the picture just received a new school backpack from UNICEF and is so excited that she goes everywhere with it. She is helping her dad who rented a car to take back the items they received. (UNHCR/ T. Raouf)

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Camp

CCCM and Shelter-NFI Clusters have been actively supporting the planning of effective coordination of the winterization campaign.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS AND REMAINING GAPS

- Some gaps in coordination were noticed during the reporting period and UNHCR and partner agencies have been working at significantly improving information sharing to avoid duplication of assistance.

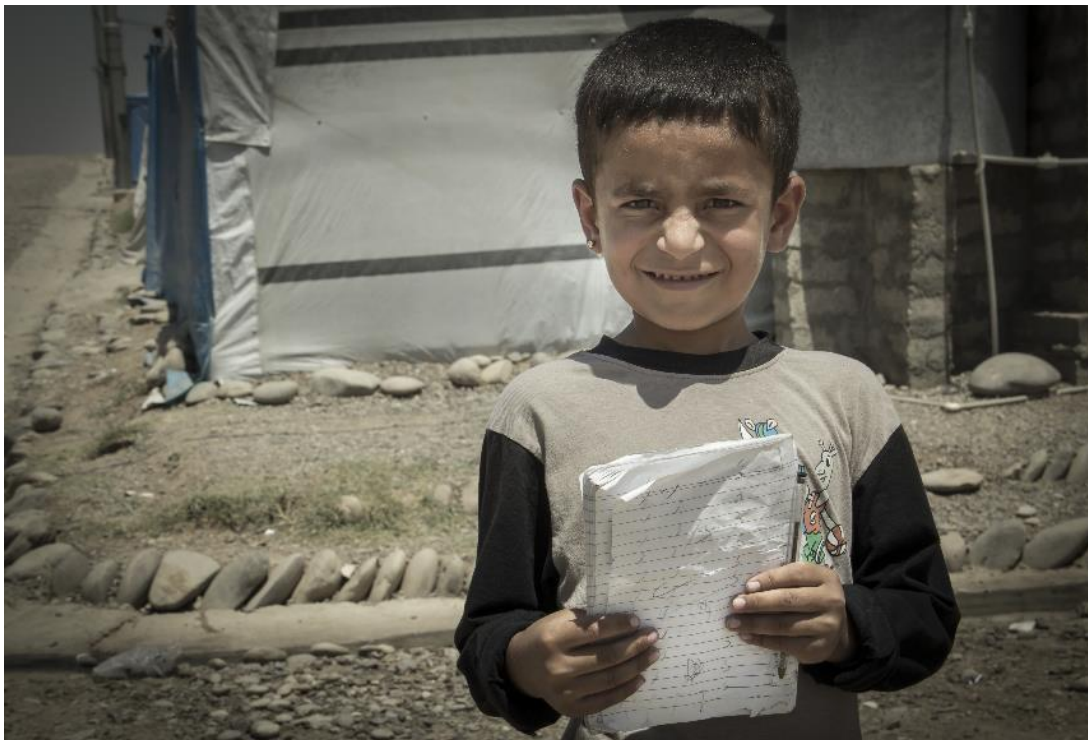
Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

- In **Duhok governorate**, UNHCR's partner DRC delivered five skill trainings and seven grant distributions in urban and camp locations.

Camp

- UNHCR and UNDP held a selection panel on 7 December 2015 further to the Call For Proposals for the Establishment of Greenhouses and Value Chains in Arbat, Gawilan and Darashakaran Camps (Duhok and Erbil governorates). The intervention will help increase household income levels through sustainable value chains for agricultural businesses. Around 23,400 persons will benefit from the support. The project implementation will commence by February 2016 and will be conducted under the Partnership Agreement signed between UNDP and UNHCR in October 2015 as part of UNDP's and UNHCR's Operational Framework for Resilience Building.
- In **Duhok governorate**, CTAs for Domiz and Gawilan camps received 300 and 145 visitors, respectively. A total of 106 refugees benefited from scale-up and skill-up and life skills trainings in Akre and Gawilan camps.
- In **Erbil governorate**, various activities were organized at Basirma and Qushtapa community centers, enrolling over 1,200 residents. The activities included English, Arabic and Maths courses as well as tailoring, tricot, hairdressing and sports activities.



Young boy going to school at Gawilan Refugee Camp, Duhok Governorate (UNHCR/R. Rasheed)

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

A bit of clowning around brings much needed laughter to the lives of refugee children

In collaboration with UNHCR, three clowns from Payasos Sin Fronteras, the Spanish branch of NGO Clowns Without Borders have just completed a three week tour of the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KR-I), bringing their unique mix of tricks, divilment and tomfoolery to refugee and IDP children in camps and urban settings across the Duhok, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah Governorates.

Over the course of their tour, which started in Duhok on 17 November before moving on to Sulaymaniyah and ending in Erbil, the clowns have performed to refugees and internally displaced persons across a variety of camp and non-camp settings, completing 30 shows in 20 days and entertaining over 10,000 children in the process. Antonio Gonzalez, who is taking part in his fifth CWB tour, remarked “Every expedition has similarities because our job is the same in every place – laughter and happiness are universal. Even though I have had many experiences in different countries I get emotional every time.”



Clown dancing with a young refugee at Kawergosk camp, Erbil Governorate. (UNHCR/M. Prendergast)



UNHCR staff join the fun at Waar city complex, Duhok governorate. (UNHCR/M. Al Mesri)

Mr. Jozef Merckx UNHCR Coordinator for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq “It is not the first time I have seen CWB in action and I think the work that they do is fantastic. The importance of inspiring creativity amongst children in these difficult circumstances and elevating them from their situations for even a short time cannot be overstated.”

Many of the children who attended the CWB shows over the last three weeks weren’t even born when the conflict in Syria started in 2011 and with no end in sight, the positivity which has been brought to the KR-I by the clowns over the last few weeks is needed more than ever.

Clowns Without Borders was founded in Barcelona in July 1993.

The first show involved Tortell Poltrona, a professional clown from Spain, performing in a refugee camp in Croatia. CWB now has organizations in twelve countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States).

By Michael Prendergast

CWB did a tour of the KR-I in 2014 but were not able to reach Sulaymaniyah at the time, meaning that for many of the children there it was the first time they had ever been exposed to clowns. As a result, according to UNHCR community services staff and the clowns themselves, these shows were something of a revelation for the children.

Kawther is a Syrian mother of five and her son and four daughters saw the show in Kawergosk camp: “Without this type of activity, the children just suffocate. Today I saw the children forget that they were in a refugee camp, even some of the adults too. It has been a long time since I have laughed like this.”



A young Syrian refugee enjoys her first clown show at Kawergosk camp. (UNHCR/M. Prendergast)

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.

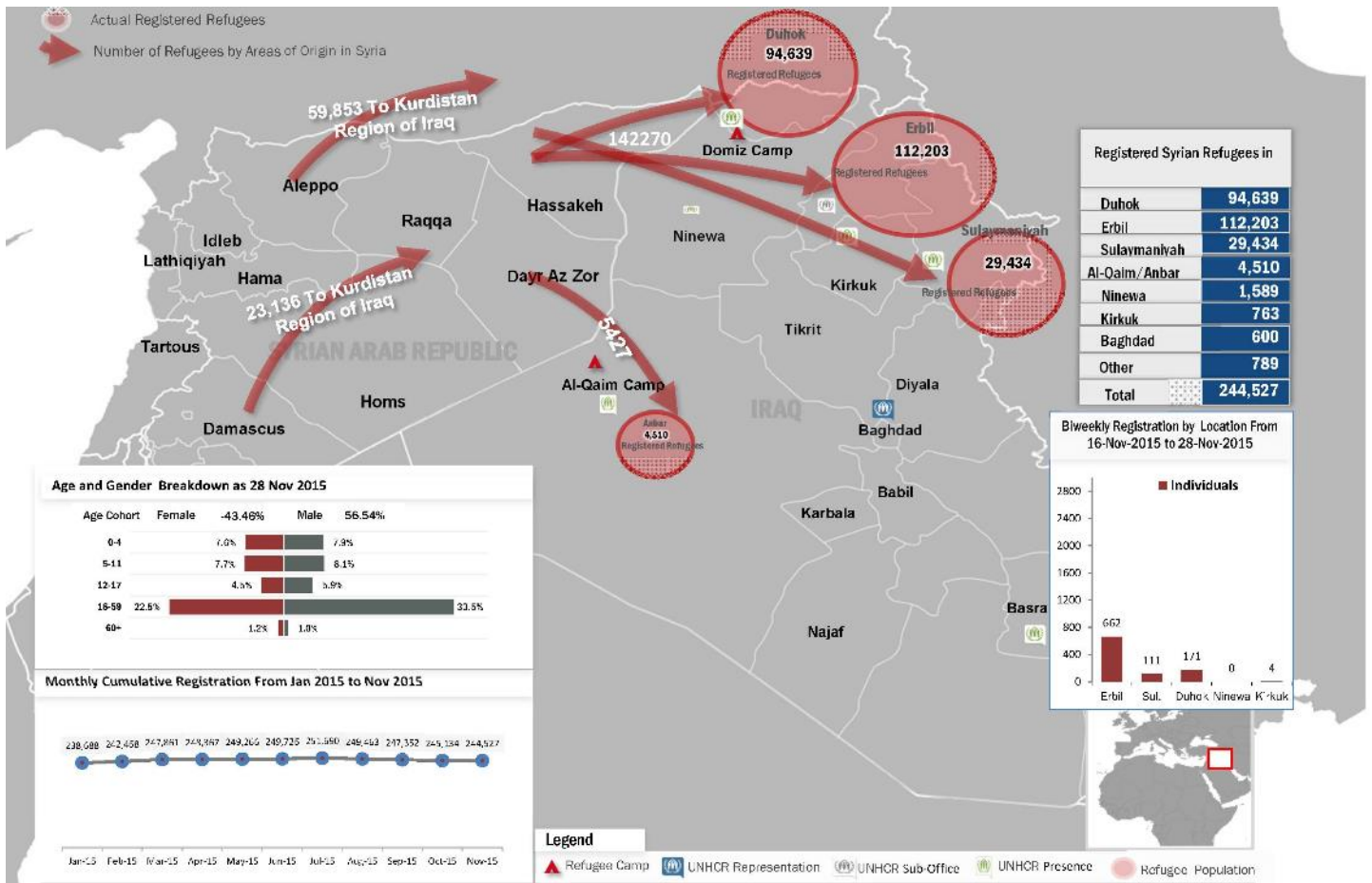
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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)
DDM	Department of Displacement and Migration
DoE	Department of Education
DoH	Department of Health
DVAW	Directorate for Combatting Violence Against Women
EVI	Extremely Vulnerable Individual
HH	Households
IDP	Internally displaced people
ISHO	Iraqi Salvation Humanitarian Organisation
KDP	Kurdistan Democratic Party
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
SWG	Sector Working Group
UASC	Unaccompanied and separated children
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene

ANNEXES

Refugees by Areas of Origin in Syria



Contacts:

Chloé Coves, External relations and Reporting Officer, coves@unhcr.org, Cell +964 (0) 771 994 5599
 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 Nov 2015

Registration Unit

Total Persons of Concern

244,527

Individuals

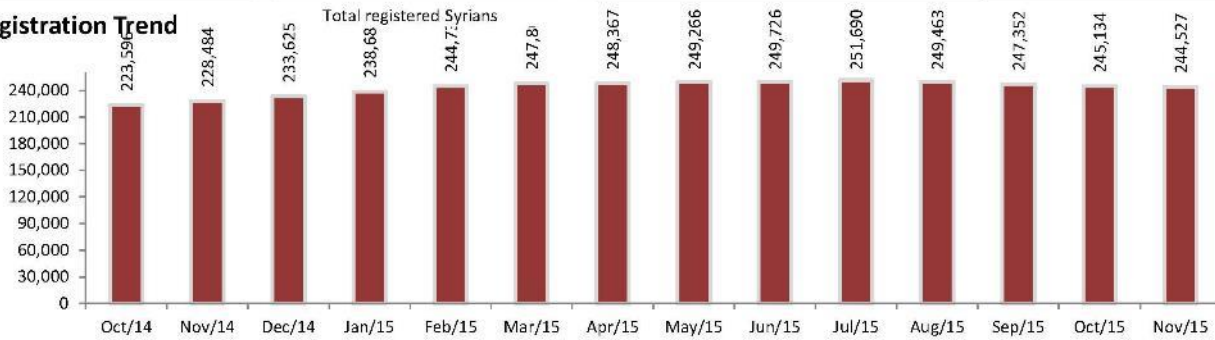
244,527

Households

86,867

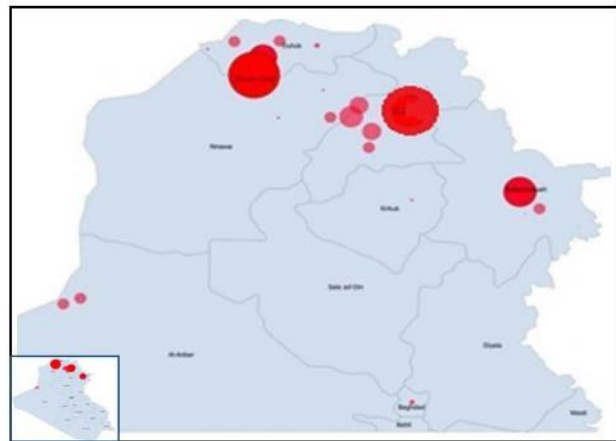
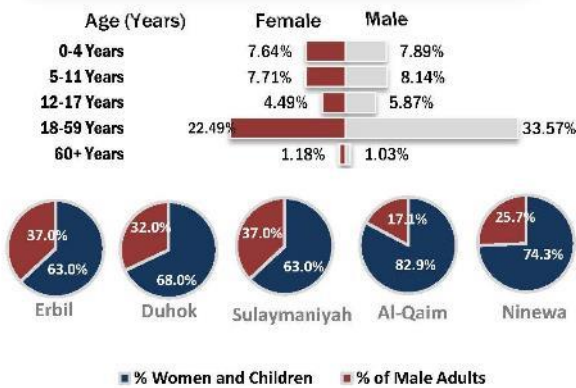
UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
Iraq

Registration Trend

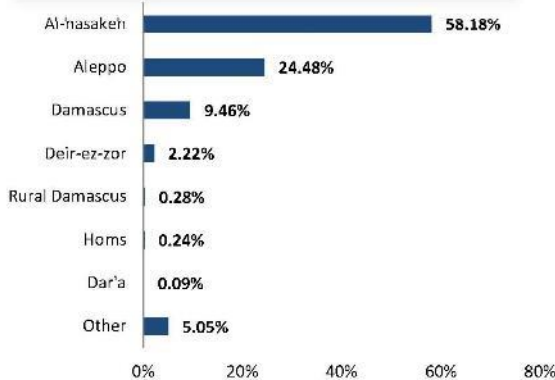


This profile is based on **244,527** proGRES registered individuals

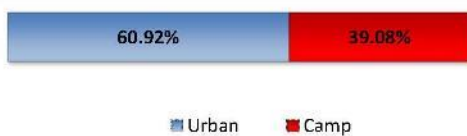
Age and Gender Breakdown



Place of Origin



Camp and non-camp population comparison



Governorate	Individuals	Households	% Total
Duhok	94,639	29,628	38.70%
Erbil	112,203	42,922	45.89%
Sulaymaniyah	29,434	11,635	12.04%
Anbar	4,510	1,150	1.84%
Ninewa	1,589	525	0.65%
Kirkuk	763	277	0.31%
Baghdad	600	303	0.25%
Other	789	427	0.32%
Total Iraq	244,527	86,867	100%

Camps Registered Population			
Camp	Individuals	Households	% Total
Al-Obaidi Camp	1,519	319	1.59%
Akre Settlement	1,254	306	1.31%
Domiz Camp 1	40,776	13,339	42.67%
Domiz Camp 2	6,520	1,484	6.82%
Gawilan Camp	7,280	1,779	7.62%
Basirna Camp	3,498	854	3.66%
Darashakran Camp	10,828	2,457	11.33%
Kawergosk Camp	10,227	2,739	10.70%
Qushtapa Camp	6,631	1,778	6.94%
Arbat Camp	7,037	1,890	7.36%
Total	95,570	26,945	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.