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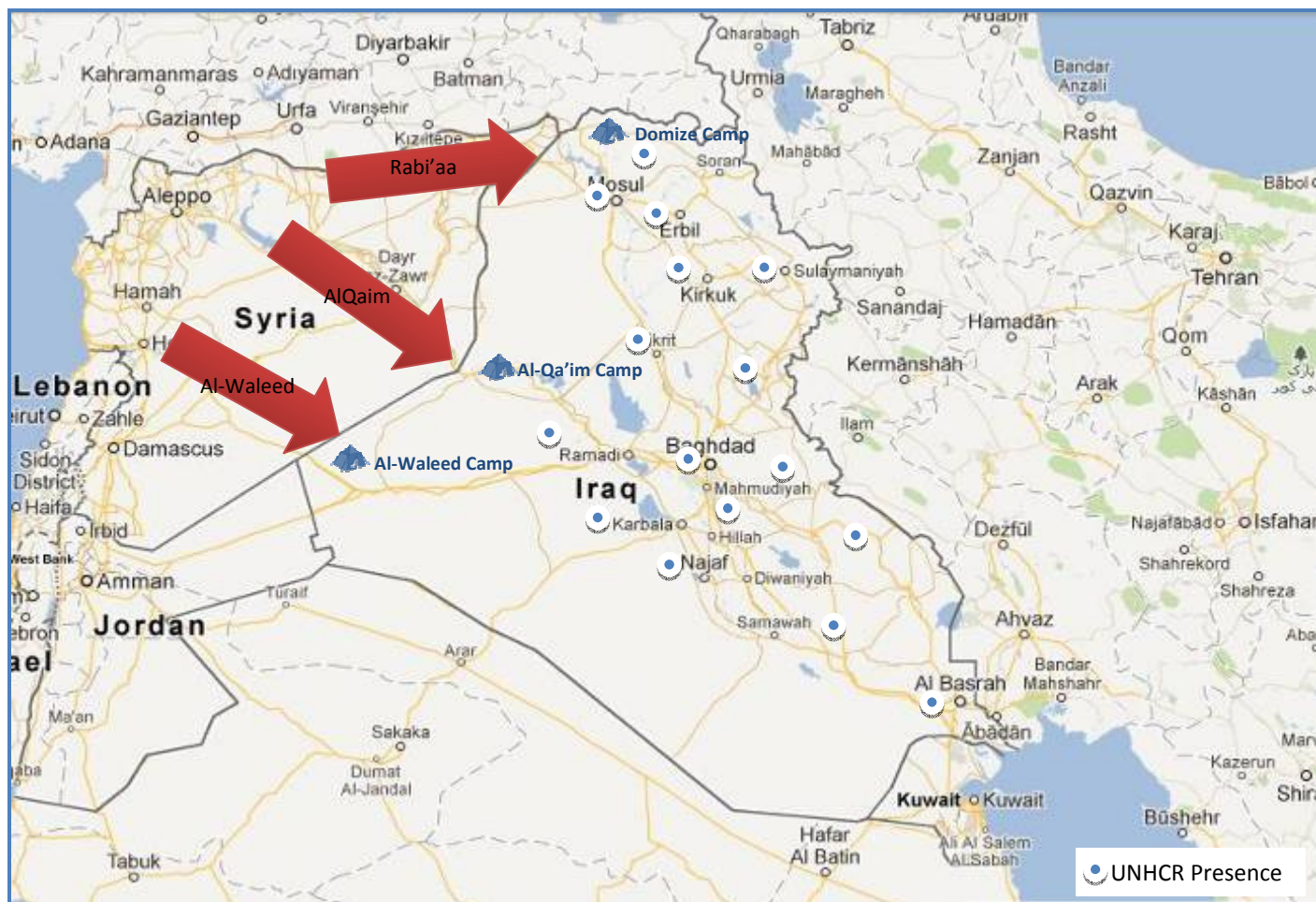
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Syrian Refugee Brief

Location	Total
Duhok	42,973
Erbil	12,101
Sulaimanyah	3,206
Al-Qa'im/Anbar	8,640
Other Governorates	95
Total	67,015



Iraqi – Syrian Border Points

MoDM/DDM/Local Authorities

Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM

NGOs: IRW | Qandil | ISHO | IRC | HARIKAR | CDO | RIRP

1. Overview

Syrian Refugees

According to the recent reports from UNHCR border monitors, a total of 67,015 Syrian refugees entered Iraq by 26 December 2012. Al-Qa'im border crossing point is still kept closed and no arrival of Syrian refugees is observed through this crossing point. It will be opened only for emergency cases. Advocacy is continued to open the border crossing point.

In the Kurdistan Region (KR), the number of new arrivals continues to decrease compared to past weeks. This may be due worsening climatic conditions such as heavy rains and low temperatures, particularly along the border areas. A total of 766 persons were recorded during the reported period, with an average of 140 new arrivals daily. This brings the total number of Syrian refugees in the KR to 58,280 individuals. UNHCR continues the verification, registration and documentation of the Syrians. So far 52,251 individuals were verified and documents were issued for them.

Iraqi Cross Border Movement

According to UNHCR's Border Monitoring reports, during the past week, some 1,892 Iraqis crossed into Iraq from Syria. All three border points (Al-Waleed, Rabi'aa and Al-Qa'im) remained open for Iraqi returnees. Al-Waleed continued to receive the largest number of returnees (1,379).

As of 26 December, the total number of Iraqis crossing the border into Iraq since 18 July 2012 is 63,255 including 5,997 by air. This number includes returnees who have been registered in Syria and those who have not been registered. It also includes individuals who cross the border for their private related reasons on a daily basis.

Statistics collected at the border continue to indicate that Baghdad is still the governorate to receive the largest number of Iraqi returnees, followed by Anbar and Ninewa.

In contrast, 962 Iraq individuals crossed the border to Syria, bringing the total number of Iraqis who crossed the border to Syria to 33,782 individuals since July 18, 2012.



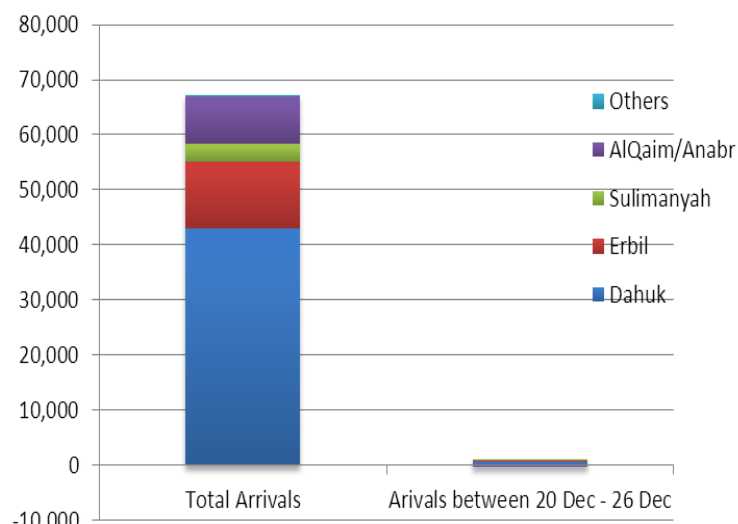
Syrian Refugees Living in Public Buildings in Kurdistan Region

2. Statistics

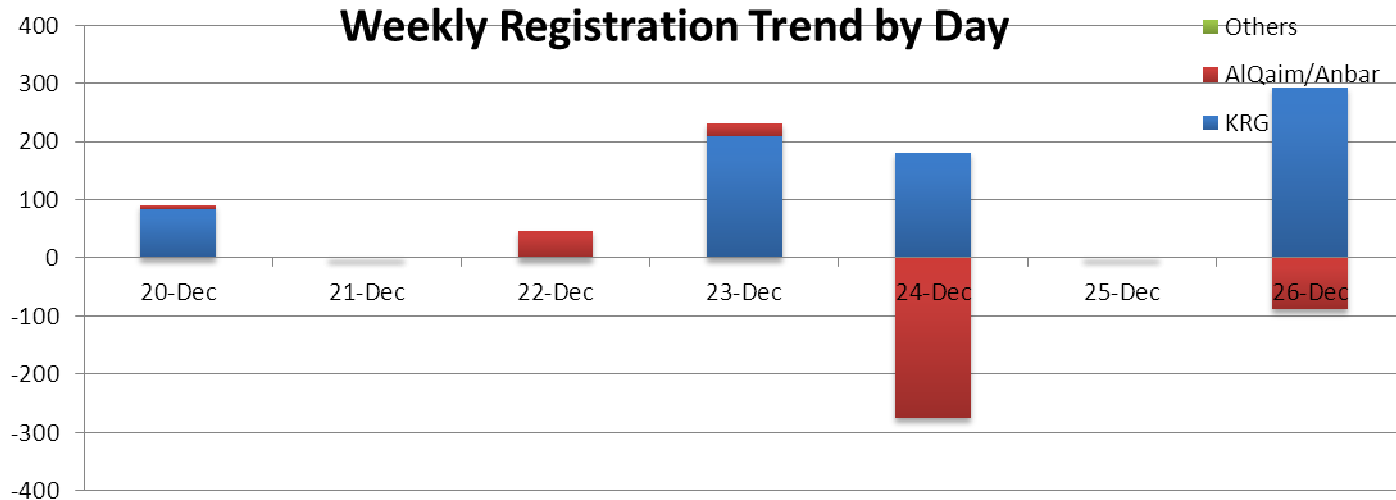
2.1 Syrian Refugees

Location	Syrian Arrivals between 20 Dec – 26 Dec	Total Arrivals
Duhok	609	42,973
Erbil	123	12,101
Sulaimaniyah	34	3,206
Al-Qa'im/Anbar	-283*	8,640
Other Governorates	0	95
Total	483	67,015

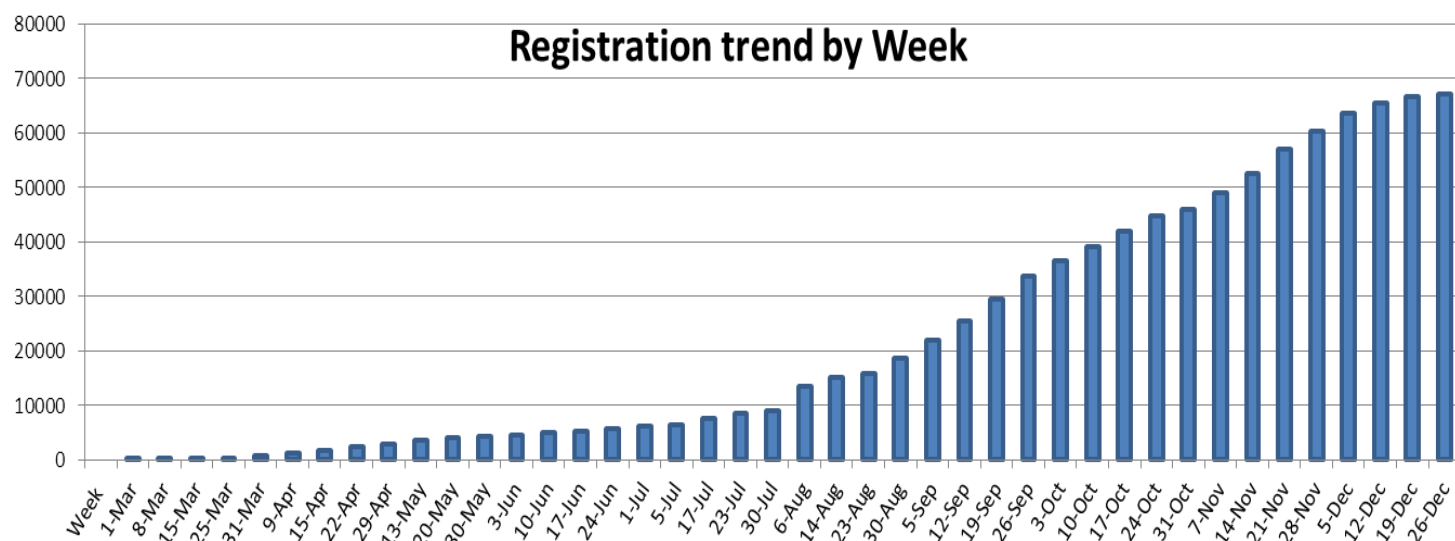
*The minus sign shows the net between new registration and repatriation.



Weekly Registration Trend by Day

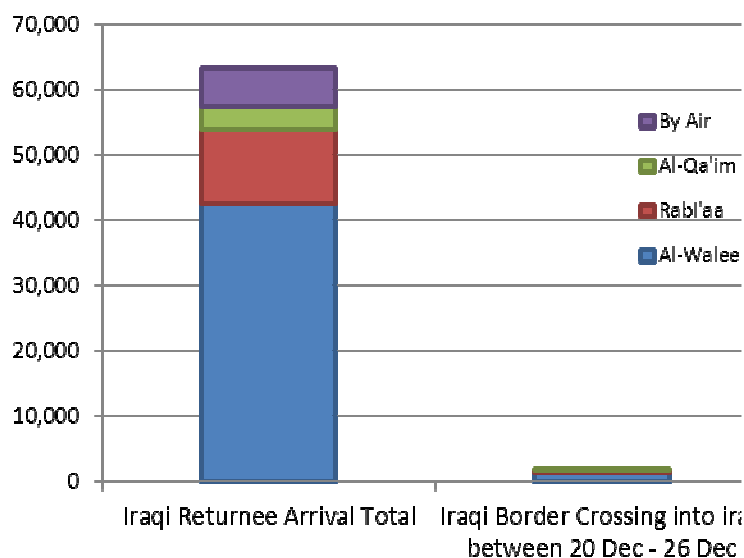


Registration trend by Week

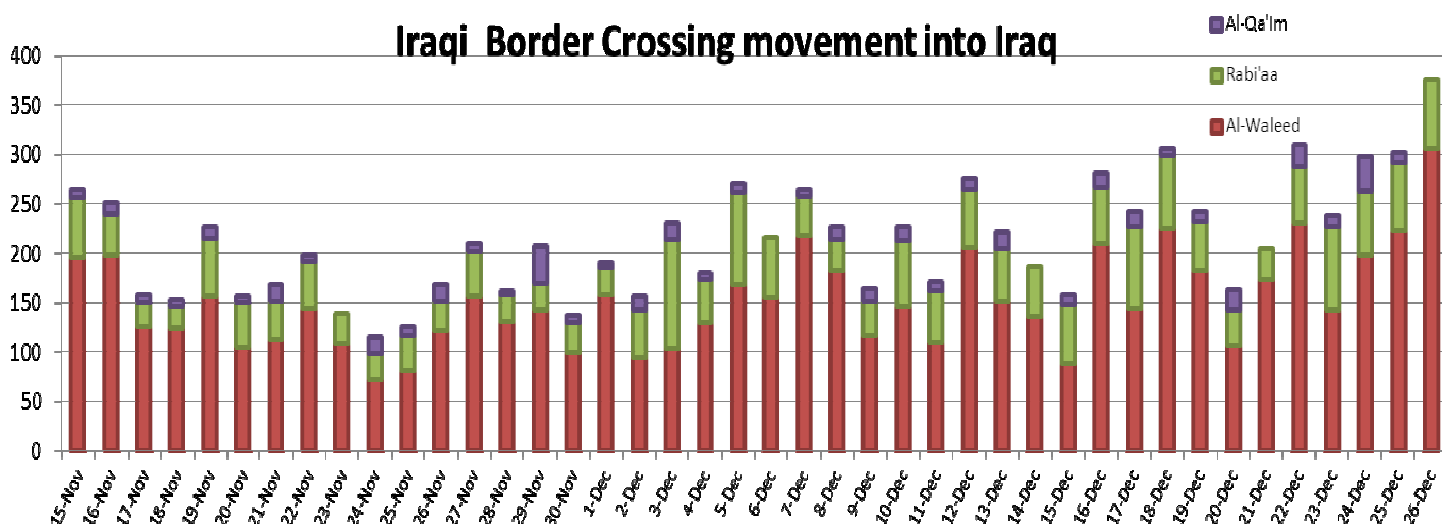


2.2 Iraqi Returnees (Cross Border Movement)

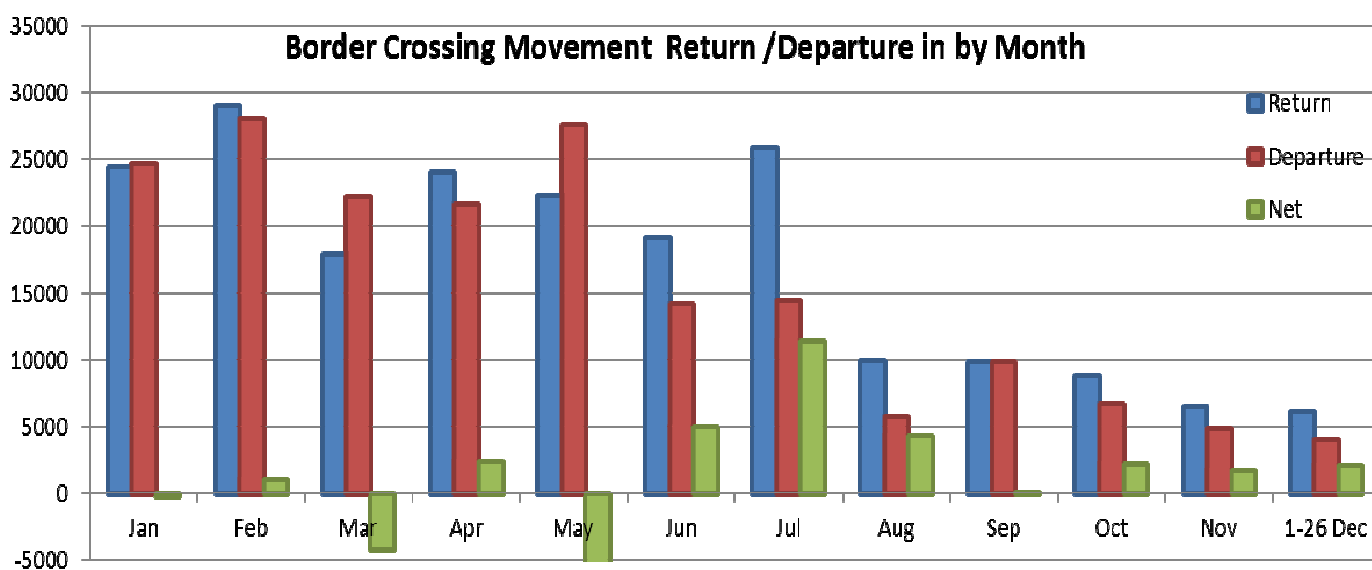
Border Point	Iraqi Returnees (cross border) between 20 Dec – 26 Dec	Total Arrivals Since 18 July
Al-Waleed	1,379	42,395
Rabi'aa	412	11,399
Al-Qa'im	101	3,464
By Air	0	5,997
Total	1,892	63,255



Iraqi Border Crossing movement into Iraq



Border Crossing Movement Return /Departure in by Month



3. Sector updates

3.1 Reception, Registration and Protection

Al-Qa'im

As of 26 December 2012, the total number of active cases: 1,955 and an overall a total of 8,640 individuals have been verified so far.

Al-Qa'im Camp-1 is hosting 589 cases (2,733 individuals) and Camp 2 - 786 cases (3,674 individuals) and for outside the camp there are 580 Cases (2,233 individuals).

The number of Voluntary Repatriation cases reached 245 with 1,139 individuals.

Kurdistan Region

UNHCR had enhanced its capacity to verify and document all Syrians seeking sanctuary in Kurdistan. Joint work and coordination with the local authorities is on-going and the KRG remains committed to support all Syrians. In the three UNHCR's registration centres, the residency had deployed a team of residency officials to process the residency permit for the Syrian new arrivals, in Douk only 30,481 residency permits were issued.

UNHCR's Protection centres along with UNHCR conduct regular protection monitoring on Syrians living outside of the camp, the deterioration of living conditions are reported, Syrians increasingly opt to live outside Domiz Camp given the cold weather in the camp. More than 10 Syrian families went to live in Kirkuk city. Many among them have lost family members during the civilian unrest in Syria. In Sulaimaniyah, Syrian families are unable to pay for their rent and had self-erected tents or live in make-shift shelters in isolated areas.

In Mosul, 16 Syrian families live in public schools because of shelter opportunities. Syrians continue to be subject to arrest and detention in Mosul, to date, 26 individuals remain in detention in Mosul and Rabiaa, others were transferred to Baghdad prison.

Kurdistan hosts a total number of 58,280 individuals, 12,101 among them are in Erbil, 3,206 in Sulaimaniyah and 42,973 in Duhok. Among them 18 individuals had relocated to live in Kirkuk and 42 are reported to be in Mosul, while 31,738 live in Domiz Camp.

Iraqi Returnees

During the reporting period 170 Iraqi returnee households (1,020 individuals) registered with the MoMD. To date, a total of 5,912 Iraqi returnees households (35,472) individuals have been registered with MoMD since 29 July 2012. Out of this number, 2,860 households have received the 4 million IQD grant. No grant has been distributed yet in Kirkuk, Salah Aldin and Muthana due to the lack of funds and logistic related issues. Registration is slow in some of the southern governorates due to the background check conducted by the Ministry of Interior.

Based on the needs UNHCR Iraq started the distribution of a one-time cash grant of \$ 400 per family and \$ 200 for singles to Iraqi returnees to meet their immediate and short-term needs.

During the reporting period, 76 families (456 individuals) received the UNHCR cash assistance bringing the total number of households who received UNHCR Cash Assistance to 2,240 households (13,440 individuals).

3.2 Security

Al-Qa'im

No particular concerns have been registered in camps 1 and 2. Iraqi security forces are taking care of security issues in the camps. The current situation is stable in Al-Qa'im now, but Syrian side of the border is not properly guarded by Syrian side.

Domiz

The overall security in Domiz Camp and in the KR is stable. In Domiz Camp Syrian families are satisfied with the level of the security patrolling in the camp. No incidents are reported so far except for a woman who was injured by a car and was transferred to the hospital.

3.3 Assistance Update

Shelter / infrastructure

Al-Qa'im

A new CFS was opened in Camp 2. Recreational and psychosocial activities are taking place in three shifts a day and six days per week. Daily attendance is significantly increasing in Camp 1; 350 children are attending on a daily basis and 415 children were newly registered in both CFS's in the past two weeks. An additional 18 volunteers are facilitating CFS activities in Camp 2; 10 psychosocial kits were also provided.

The construction works are going on in Camp 3 in Al-Obaidy by ISHO and IRW. UNHCR is closely monitoring construction works in the camp.

Summary of works:

Completed the sewage system for 80 toilets out of 85;
Completed pouring with concrete for 70 toilets out of 85;

Works are on-going to install the registration and admin caravans in the admin area;
Works are on-going to install the chain link fence of the admin area;
Works are on-going to manufacture steel stands for the water tanks (UNICEF);
Works are on-going to install galvanized water pipes for the toilets and washing places (UNICEF);
Rub Hall, the floor was poured with concrete and ready to install the Rub hall.

Domiz

Heavy daily rains continue to delay the overall construction works in the camp. Several roads

are affected by storm water stagnating in different areas and are impracticable for either walking or driving. However, despite the major climate challenges, labourers continue their work to ensure completion of key infrastructure, i.e. new health centre, schools, roads, etc.

ISHO erected so far 180 tents in transit 4 and 171 (8 today) of them were distributed to the selected families by the established committee from UNHCR, DDM and Community. The construction of internal road in phase 4 is on-going by DDM.

DDM started the construction of internal road at the beginning of phase 2, 3, 4, transit 3 & 4. DDM constructed 42 meter length of corrugated water channel for trucks to reach to Rub hall, transit 1, civil defence unit and police office during raining days.



Water and Sanitation

Duhok

HCR field team coordinated with DDM about the issue of 8 tents at transit 3 which are without sanitation units. Jabal Mountain, sectors 1&2 are still without water and sanitation units at mountain 1&2 needs to assess by DDM site engineer for improvement. Field team coordinated with DDM for the issue of rain water, which got into three tents in phase 1. DDM assisted them in order with soil to level the area between their tents. DDM provided the camp with 833,250 litres of clean water by water carriers. KURDS could not manage to work in phase 4 due to the heavy rain for the last few days. Majority of sectors are complaining about the lack of water. Field team coordinated with Qandil engineer and KURDS about the need of covers for two manholes near storage tanks of phase 3.

Al-Qa'im

High turbidity in the Euphrates remains problematic and trucking continues in Camp 1 to ensure that a safe and adequate supply of water is available for the refugee population. UNICEF and partners are exploring options including advocating for a trunk pipe to Camp 1 from a nearby main line.

Water network installation is on-going in Camp 3. However, the layout for Camp 3 water lines is being reviewed to ensure optimal capacity and access to storage tanks.

NFIs

Al-Qa'im

IRW team continues distributing kerosene in camps 1 and 2, 50 litres per day.

According to report, the distribution of kerosene completed in both camps by MoDM. Each family received 20 litres of kerosene following the implementation of winterization programme.

Domiz

A total of 1,500 children received winter package (one jersey, one cap, one gumboot) from NRC.

In urban cities, UNHCR is starting the distribution of one quilt to each individual as part of the winterization package as well as kerosene.

UNHCR winterization package distribution has been completed in Domiz Camp. The regular NFI distribution will be started on Sunday in Domiz Camp.

Food

Al-Qa'im

UNICEF supported the MoH and the National Nutrition Research Institution teams to conduct a field visit in Al-Qa'im to assess the quality of nutrition and MCH services and to identify gaps.

The second batch of food items has arrived in Al-Qa'im from Amman on 25 December this year. In addition, MoDM continues providing refugees with food three times a day.

Domiz

DDM distributed 1,070 kg of rice, 428 vegetable oil litres 428 cans of tomato paste and 1,070 kg of sugar to 219 families of 985 individuals. DDM also distributed 0.5 KG of baby formula milk, 2 diapers/child and 27 children received. In addition, 33 families received 150 blankets while 554 families received empty kerosene barrels.

A total of 3,975 families in Domiz Camp received food voucher distribution form WFP for the month of December 2012.

Health

Al-Qa'im

The Public Health Centre (PHC) Centre in Camp 2 was officially inaugurated on 16 December; the facility is managed by 25 health staff including one gynaecologist and two doctors (1 female and 1 male). UNICEF supported the health facility with ice lined refrigerators and vaccine carriers.

Six hundred and sixty six children between 6 months and 5 years and 290 children between 5-18 years were vaccinated against measles during a national immunization campaign. UNICEF is supporting social mobilization and awareness raising for the campaign.

Seventeen cases of Hepatitis A were detected. UNICEF through their field monitor is closely observing the situation and working with the EPI manger in Al-Qa'im to identify the causes and support preventive measures.

Domiz

A total of 785 tents were fumigated by DDM through Duhok Health Prevention Department. A total of 37 septic tanks were cleaned (25 by DDM and 12 by Qandil)

The Artush Company collected garbage from the camp.

Education

Al-Qa'im

The construction of the 15 UNICEF funded prefabricated classrooms for the new school in Camp 2 reached 25 per cent completion and is expected to be finalized within 10 days.

A five day training on psychosocial support during emergencies for teachers began in the Camp 2 school; 13 Syrian and 12 Iraqi education staff are attending. The training will identify the most qualified teachers and is supported and supervised by UNICEF and organized by the local partner Afkar in coordination with the DoE. Registration for the Camp 2 school will start upon completion of the training.

School is regularly operating in Camp1 with a steady attendance rate and high level of performance. UNICEF agreed to support the incentives and transportation for the teachers for three months while the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) is expected to cover these expenses for the future.

Domiz

A total of 1,922 students are studying in school in two shifts and a total of 23 teachers are teaching. These teachers have not received their incentives since October 2012. The issue has been brought into attention of DDM but still not satisfactory answer has been given to the teachers.

4. Interviews with Syrian Refugees/Iraqi Returnees

Syrian Refugees

Syrians latest arrivals reported fleeing their country Syria due to the heavy fights between different factions inside Syria. Among the new arrivals, many are professionals and highly educated persons such as lawyers, bankers and pharmacists. Syrian new arrivals report of arbitrary bombardments and shelling that caused deaths of civilians and destroy of residential areas. Syrians fear executions, extra judicial killing of civilians, arbitrary arrest and detentions, and report that torture and other forms of ill-treatment against civilians are increasing in Damascus and its out skirts as well as abuse and kidnapping and forced military recruitment of children.

New arrivals from Aleppo report fighting from different factions, and willingness of the city residents to flee to Kurdistan, but are prevented by the insecurity and the several check points on the way in addition to fighting groups at the border charging each individual 1,000 SL to cross into the KR. Many of the new arrivals had lost their family members during the shelling, had lost their property and are highly traumatized, added that they do not have any belongings and rely on the support of the host community at their arrival.

Iraqi Returnees

Some interviewed Iraqis' indicated that they are temporarily visiting Syria to get UNHCR Syria monthly cash assistance, food basket and 80% coverage of their medical expenses. Some other Iraqis temporarily go back to Syria to sell their property or to obtain their kids school certificates, which is required by the Iraqi Ministry of Education.

Some interviewed Iraqi returnees indicated that they were unable to approach UNHCR Syria Office to register for the Voluntary Repatriation Package. Damascus streets are completely unsafe. Interviewed departures mentioned that they are temporary visiting Syria to sell their property and belongings in order to permanently settle in Iraq.

Reports indicated that there are many Iraqi families living in Damascus and Reef Damascus have been displaced from their houses due to sectarian reasons by armed groups. Some returned to Iraq and the others are unable to return because travel costs and life in Iraq is very expensive.

5. Coordination

Al-Qa'im

Al-Qa'im Mayor has visited UNHCR Office in Camp 1 and met the representatives of the implementing partners of UNHCR in Al-Qa'im. UNHCR team requested from the mayor to accelerate electrical works in Camp 3 in addition to providing water through connecting the camp to the main water pipe from Al-Obaidi Water Directorate to Camp 3. The mayor also got familiar with the living conditions of families living in Camp 1 in Al-Qa'im.

The next coordination meeting led by UNHCR was conducted on 24 December with the participation of IPs, representatives from MoDM, Al-Qa'im Health Directorate, WFP, UNICEF, IOM, IRW, ISHO, IRC, Save the Children, IRIP and Afkar NGO. The aim of the coordination meeting was to provide brief presentation about the activities carried out in camps and future planning for the coming year in order to maintain excellent level of coordination among all stakeholders and to avoid any unnecessary overlap of the activities in Al-Qa'im. The participants made brief presentations of their activities and there were comprehensive discussions on all sectors by the participants.

Kurdistan Region

Domiz

Two staff from International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic visited the camp.

Media

The joint mission of UNHCR PI and Kurdish TV (arranged by HCR DFR) visited the camp interviewed a family in the camp in order to advocate with donor community.
