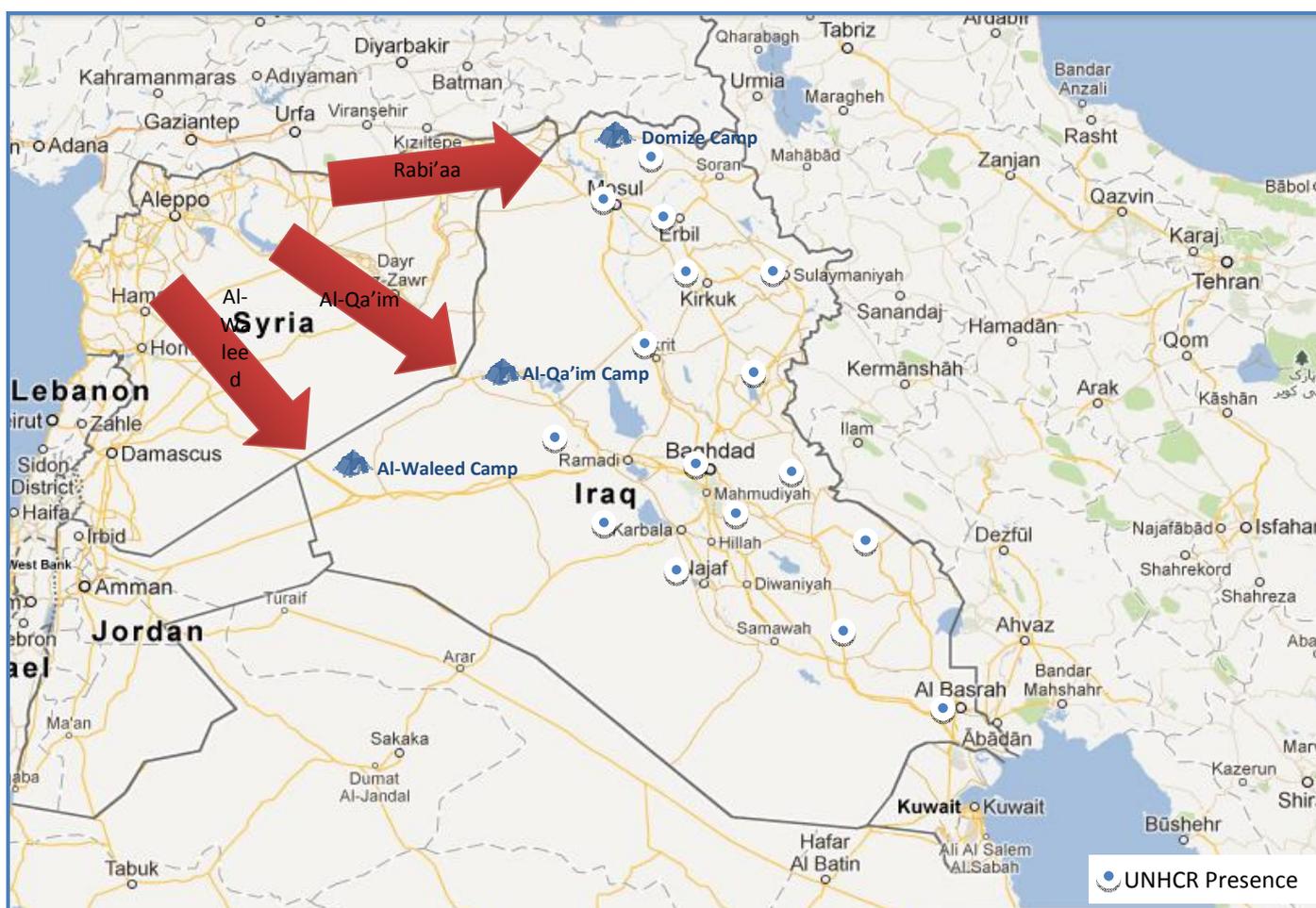


Topics

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Iraqi – Syrian Border Points

MoDM/DDM/Local Authorities
Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM
NGOs: IRW | IQandil | ISHO | IRC | HARIKAR | CDO

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

iraqpi@unhcr.org

1. Overview

Syrian Refugees

Syrian refugees have continued to flee their homes to neighbouring countries, including Iraq. Syrian refugees are entering Iraq through Al-Qa'im and Al-Waleed (both in Anbar Governorate) and Rabi'aa (Nineveh Governorate) border crossing points as well as through illegal entry points to Sehel (Duhok Governorate). The total number of Syrians who have sought asylum in Iraq stands at 29 441 refugees.

On 18 September 2012, **Al-Qa'im** border crossing point was reopened. Families with children below 15 year of age, women, elderly, sick and injured persons were allowed to enter Iraq at a rate of some 120 a day.

Most Syrian refugees who entered Iraq at Al-Qa'im and were initially hosted in schools and public buildings have been transferred to the newly established in the area camp, where 2,647 individuals are currently accommodated.



The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) is finalizing, with support from UNHCR, the establishment of a second camp at Al-Qa'im. On 18 and 19 September, MoDM's camp received 251 Syrian refugees, including 7 injured individuals who were transferred from Al-Qa'im Hospital, where they had received the necessary medical treatment. The arrival of Syrian refugees to MoDM camp was monitored by UNHCR team operating in the area.

The establishment of a third camp at Al-Obaidi, some 23 km from Al-Qa'im border point and 7km from Al-Qa'im camp, is being considered, in anticipation of a bigger Syrian refugee influx. Once established, this camp could accommodate 20,000 refugees.

The **Kurdistan Region** of Iraq is hosting the largest number of Syrian refugees, originating mainly from Deraa and Idlib. The refugees reported shelling of their cities, and some claimed having left behind their belongings, after their houses have been destroyed. Many claimed having fled first to Hassaka and then to Kurdistan Region, seeking better safety.

As of 19 September, a total of 24,669 Syrians are hosted in Kurdistan Region, with 3,682 having arrived during the reporting week. Duhok remains host to the largest number of Syrian refugees, with 19,800 persons, followed by Erbil, with 4,026 and Suleimaniya with 843.



Last week, the High Commissioner's Special Envoy, Angelina Jolie, visited Iraq, following a visit to Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, in which she accompanied the High Commissioner, to show solidarity both with Syrian refugees and their host countries. While in Iraq, Angelina Jolie met Iraqi senior Government officials, Iraqi internally displaced persons and returnees as well as Syrian refugees in Domiz Camp in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The HC's Special Envoy hailed the Iraqi Government's willingness to host Syrian nationals fleeing violence in their home country and hoped that all Syrians seeking asylum in Iraq would be welcomed. "I want to highlight the noble efforts of the Iraqi Government and the people of Iraq to support Syrian refugees", said Ms.

Jolie. “At this juncture, it is critical that Iraq receives urgent international support and continues to welcome refugees across its border”, concluded Ms. Jolie.

The Special Envoy’s visit to Domiz camp enjoyed wide media coverage by Kurdistan TV, Al-Arabiya, Sky news, Duhok TV, Metrograph Kurdistan, Freelance news, as well as other TV channels, newspapers and radio stations.

Iraqi Returnees

A total of 2,091 Iraqis returned from Syria during the reporting period, mostly entering through Al-Waleed , Rabiaa and Al-Qa’im. 2,315 Iraqis departed to Syria during the same period.

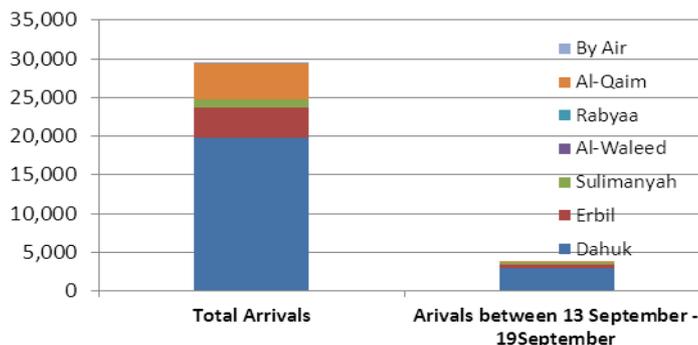
Total cross border movement has so far reached 37,358, including 5,997 returnees by air.

Statistics collected at the borders indicate that Baghdad governorate remains recipient of the largest number of Iraqi returnees, followed by Anbar and then Ninawa.

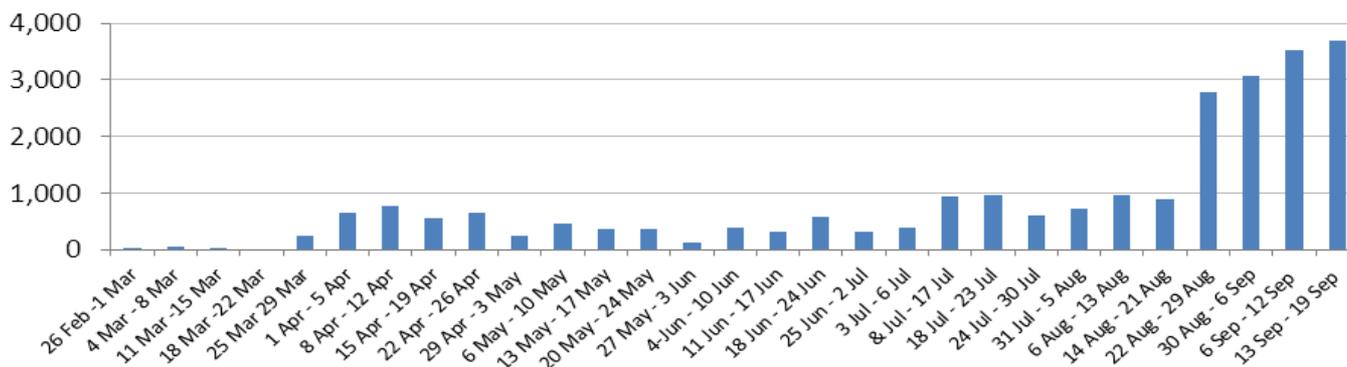
2. Statistics

2.1 Syrian Refugees

Total Arrivals	Syrian Refugees between 13–19 Sep	Total Arrivals
Al-Waleed	0	18
Rabyaa	0	8
Al-Qa'im	251	4,741
By Air	0	5
Arrival To KRG	3,682	24,669
Total	3,933	29,441

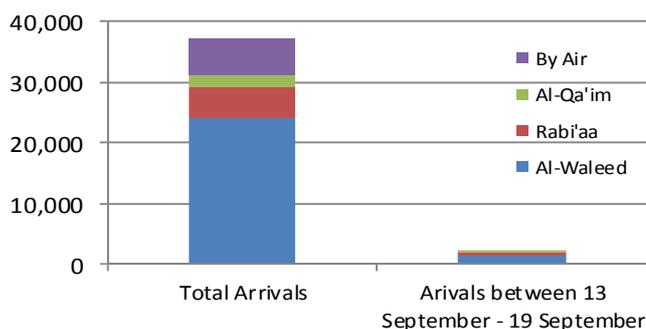


Total Weekly Registration in KRG

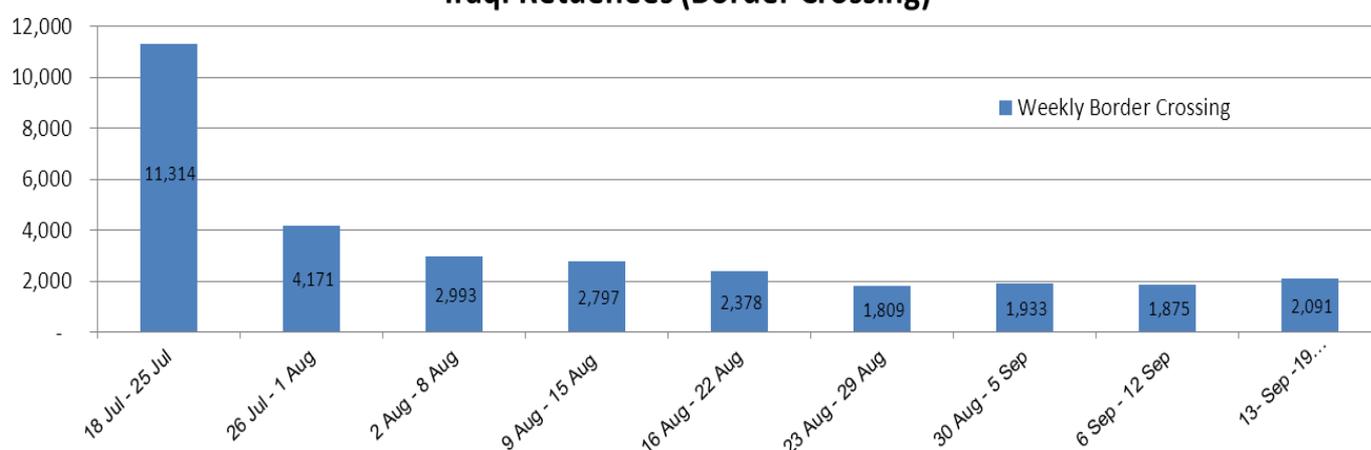


2.2 Iraqi Returnees (Cross Border Movement)

Border Point	Iraqi Returnees between 13–19 Sep	Total Arrivals
Al-Waleed	1,436	24,199
Rabi'aa	398	5,061
Al-Qa'im	257	2,101
By Air	0	5,997
Total	2,091	37,358



Iraqi Returnees (Border Crossing)



3. UNHCR Assistance Update

The reports of Inter-agency missions conducted in Al Qa'im, late August, and in the Kurdistan region, in July 2012, have been finalised and can be obtained upon request. These comprehensive reports form a solid base to adjust needs, gaps and response.

3.1. Administrative institutions and practice

In the Kurdistan region, UNHCR is working to ensure that the new arrivals are accommodated at least in the transit center pending transfer to the Domiz camp, which has been expanded to host a larger population, but is not completely ready yet. Syrians increasingly opt to live in Domiz camp, being lacking means of livelihood elsewhere. With support from UNHCR, the authorities in Duhok, are expanding their capacity to host more refugees. The Governor of Duhok announced recently that his governorate will soon become unable to host more Syrian refugees, while the capacity of Domiz camp will be limited to 30.000 refugees. In a meeting with all stakeholders in Duhok, the Governor called for enhanced efforts to respond to the situation of Syrians seeking sanctuary in the Kurdistan region and announced a KRG grant of additional funding. He urged UNHCR and partners to speed up the camp development activities in preparation for the winter season. The Governor of Suleimaniya, in turn, requested UNHCR to support the efforts in establishing a new camp in the governorate. According to the governor, Syrians live in deteriorating conditions in urban settings and need shelter as a matter of priority.

On 18 September, the Residency Directorate resumed the process of granting residence permits to all Syrian refugees in KR, including those living in urban settings. A proper working space has been allocated for this purpose, and the procedure was simplified for the sake of speeding up the

process. The residency directorate plans to complete the paper work and issuance of residence permits in the camp with a capacity of 500 to 600 individuals daily. So far some 4000 Syrians have benefited from residence permits.

Through agreement between UNHCR and the residency directorate, Syrian refugees are subjected to a blood test only as a matter of routine. Refugees undertake the blood test once they receive the residence permit, according to the General Director; the result of the test would not affect the issuance of permits, rather allow the referral of individuals to health treatment.

In Al-Qa'im, UNHCR conducted a site visit to the proposed camp location in al-Obaidi. GPS coordinates were taken. The site has sufficient space for 4,000 and is located close to public services. The authorities requested that UNHCR undertakes to establish and manage this camp. A caravan has been installed as UNHCR admin office in Al-Qa'im and UNHCR accommodation internet network has been set up. It is expected that the Iraqi authorities at the central level will agree to issue 6-month residence permits for Syrian refugees.

MoDM provided 474 Iraqi returnees with cash grant (ID4,000,000). UNHCR is the UN agency leading the response to protection and assistance needs of Syrian refugees and Iraqi returnees.

3.2. Protection, Registration and Profiling

Al Qa'im

The installation of UNHCR Registration Point is on-going. UNHCR team has started the installation of IT equipment and ProGres system.

Domiz

Syrian refugee families and singles continue to approach UNHCR office in Duhok (including Domiz camp), Erbil and Suleimaniya. During the week, UNHCR recorded an additional number of 3,682 individuals, including 46 families comprising 211 individuals and 287 singles in Erbil, 14 families comprising 54 individuals and 163 singles in Suleimaniya and 411 families comprising 1,707 individuals and 1,260 singles in Duhok. As at 18 September, UNHCR office and DDM recorded a total number of 24,669 individuals, 19,800 individuals in Duhok, 4,026 in Erbil and 843 in Suleimaniya.

UNHCR registration team is stepping up efforts to ensure registration and verification using ProGres. UNHCR is also enhancing the registration capacity and is deploying additional task force as well as an additional registration centre to reduce the waiting time for the registration into ProGres. As at 19 September, a total number of 11,626 individuals were registered on ProGres, which constitutes 46,37% of the total population. 13,229 continue to hold an appointment for registration on ProGres.

UNHCR developed a pamphlet to inform the refugees on their rights and procedures to follow to get registered and to receive assistance. Messages on sign boards have been posted in the registration centre as well.

Iraqi returnees

UNHCR Registration and integration community centers in Baghdad identified a total of 172 Iraqi returnees with resettlement cases in Syria among returnees approaching UNHCR and MoDM for registration and assistance

3.3. Security for refugees

Al-Qa'im

Security is being provided by Iraqi security forces. No particular threat was registered in the camp. The provision of security measures are discussed during coordination meetings with the camp management. However, the issues of installing additional fences have been raised by the coordination group.

Domiz

Due to the increasing number of Syrian refugees seeking registration and assistance, police was deployed to provide guards to UNHCR cabins during working hours on a daily basis.

Entering into the camp, for both single and family areas, remains uncontrolled due to many breaches made illegally by the camp inhabitants to the constructed fence.

3.4. Assistance by Sectors

a- Shelter and infrastructure:

In **Al-Qa'im**, construction works are on-going in Zone H. A total of 93 tents have been installed so far. Land levelling process completed in Zone I and it is planned to install 35 tents there with all associated service. Zone D is now ready to accommodate Syrian refugees. MoDM continues providing coolers for each tents.



As at 19 September, some 8,533 individuals are residing in Domiz camp, of which 1,979 families comprising 6,833 persons live in phase 1, 2, and transit area with some scattered in the families section, and 1,700 singles reside in the singles section and 350 singles in the nearby Mosque. A total of 1,613 tents have been erected in the family phase 1, 2, transit area and around and 312 tents in the singles section.



b- Water

In **Al-Qa'im**, the camp is being provided with water. Previously, some of Syrian refugees complained about the quality of drinking water and expressed concern regarding its safety. The water quality was checked by UNICEF specialists. Now the camp has full access to the safe drinking water.

In **Domiz**, DDM continues to provide potable water to families and singles by tankers but the distributed 440,000 Ltr per day does not meet the camp residents' needs due to the sudden increase in the number of the newly arrived Syrian refugees. Therefore, it is urgent to provide the constructed deep well with chlorine, power supply, diesel and generator operator as soon as possible to cover the shortage of the provided water by tankers.

The sudden unorganized expansion of the camp makes it difficult for water tanker drivers to reach all families.

DDM distributed 243 water tanks to Domiz camp and water chlorine process continues at the water source during the reporting period.



c- Nutrition

Al-Qa'im: MoDM is providing all refugees with meals three times per day. The food distribution is being monitored by UNHCR team on a daily basis; both the quality and quantity are good. It is planned that the MoDM will replace the three hot meals by dry food.

Domiz: DDM continues with the provision of three hot meals a day to the single males.

During reporting period, WFP distributed food items to 880 families of 3,840 individuals. The items are salt, sugar, lentils, and vegetable oil.

d- Sanitation/Hygiene

Al-Qa'im: UNICEF continues the construction of latrines and showers for the 93 remaining tents in the new zone. UNHCR also provided hygiene kits and is still raising refugees' awareness about sanitation and hygiene issues.

Domiz: UNHCR distributed 399 hygiene kits to families as part of the NFI packages distributed to refugees.

More than 1,000 families and 100 single groups need to share the sanitation units with other families having already their own unit. .

e- NFI Assistance

Syrian Refugees

Al-Qa'im: UNHCR team and its IP distributed about non-food items to the Syrian families newly transferred to the camp as well as to the families living with their sponsors in Ramadi to ease the burden on the sponsoring families.

Domiz: A number of 532 families and 155 groups of singles received NFIs.

Iraqi Returnees

A total of 1,605 NFI kits has been released. Those distributed so far total 1,425. 60 NFI kits are kept in stock at each of UNHCR Baghdad RICCs.



f- Health

Al-Qa'im: Integrated clinic has been established by UNHCR IP "IRW" which is annexed with the pharmacy and lab. Two doctors are working from 08:00-13:00 hours and from 16:00-19:00 hours. A gynaecologist doctor visits the camp twice a week. A dentist chair will be provided as additional service.

A medical team from Al-Qa'im hospital is also support with visits and examination of sick people. Medicines are also being supplied.

A Polio vaccination campaign was conducted by the Government for the Syrian children.



Domiz: The Department of Health confirmed that 80-100 patients are received and treated daily. The main reported diseases are upper respiratory tract infection, tonsillitis and diarrhoea.

The mobile dental support unit visited the camp on 18 September and provided medical assistance to those in need in the camp.

The antenatal care has started the registration of

pregnant women. A female doctor is following up the condition of the pregnant women through the registration forms on a monthly basis.

MSF confirmed that they are planning for the employment of two extra nurses for the clinic in Domiz camp after the working hours of DoH staff.

The main concern of DoH is that the space is so crowded and insufficient for medical assistance and for providing additional medical staff. Following the visit of the Minister of Health to Domiz camp on 18 September, DoH requested the possibility of the expansion of the clinic in the camp and is establishing a new caravan that would host additional patients.

g- Education

Al Qa'im: UNHCR, in coordination with UNHCIEF, established 7 tents to be used as school classes. Supplies are to be provided by UNICIEF. UNHCR has provided the data of the eligible children to be enrolled in school (628 for primary schools and 122 for secondary schools).

A meeting was held with the Emergency Cell during which the curriculums, hiring of teaches and mechanism of registration were discussed. A representative from the Ministry of Education attended the meeting.



Domiz: The new school has just started.

The number of students registered to be enrolled in the first grade reached 150. A committee from the Department of Education (DoE) conducted interviews with the students from grade two to grade nine in order to assess their levels of education. The committee is to finalize the interviews with the remaining students soon.

A committee from DoE, with the cooperation of UNHCR community services team, has conducted interviews with approximately 70 refugees so as to select 25 teachers who already have graduate certificate and experience in the field of education. DoE confirmed to UNHCR CS that the school will be into two shifts. The students of the first shift will study in Kurdish language and the second will study in Arabic language.

Singles at college grade in the camp demand also to be enrolled in universities and colleges. UNHCR is exploring possibilities with the University of Duhok to give access to the latter to pursue high-level studies.

h- Employment

UNHCR IP "IRW" is recruiting 80% of the workers who are doing the construction works in the camp from the Syrians in Al-Qa'im.

4.Syrian Refugee / Iraqi Returnee Needs

In **Al-Qa'im**, Syrian refugees' needs include documentation, sponsorship programmes and family tracing. In addition, the need for NFIs, water tanks, generators and tents have been highlighted at the locations set to receive refugees in Al-Qa'im and Al-Waleed.

Some refugees are concerned about long procedures and pending approvals related to their participation in the sponsorship programme by local authorities. Some cases have been under consideration for about 20 days. During interviews conducted by UNHCR, refugees are also concerned about the lack of sustainability of the sponsorship programme, claiming host families are unable to take care of them for longer period of time.

Based on a rapid assessment conducted by UNHCR, both at the border and at the disembarkation point, Iraqi returnees' needs include documentation, PDS cards, Jenjiya (national ID) documents, shelter, health care and cash, as well as employment.

Returnees' needs in **Erbil** and **Duhok** similarly include lack of documentation (PDS and national ID), non-recognition of school certificates, cash assistance and NFIs. In addition, based on the protection monitoring conducted by Protection center(PARC), many medical cases are reported among returnees, particularly amongst children, including cases of trauma resulting from the violence in Syria. There have also been concerns raised regarding the arrest of family members by the Syrians and the property left behind.

Many of the returnees interviewed in the Kurdistan Region originated from Mosul and Baghdad but have opted to relocate in Kurdistan for better security. PARC is monitoring the situation of the Iraqi returnees by conducting house-to-house visits. When needed, NFIs are being provided and PARC is referring the cases with medical needs to service providers and ensuring follow-up. Therapeutic milk is another need but so far such assistance has not been provided. Discussions with MoDM are on-going to enhance assistance to the returnees and to ensure cash assistance is received shortly.

Many Iraqi returnees who left Syria due to the current situation, expressed that they would follow the developments in the conflict with the aim of returning to Syria as soon as stability is restored.

A group of returnees voiced their concern over high living costs in Iraq in comparison with Syria. It was also reported that some of the Iraqi returnees reportedly left Iraq again to get their cash assistance and to visit their families and friends in Syria.

A small group of returnees are concerned about the secondary education system of Syria, which is affected by conflicts. Families are scared of further study of their children in Syria and prefer to enrol their children in Iraqi educational institutions until security allows them to resume education in Syria.

In the Kurdistan Region, a group of returnees mentioned that their family members were arrested and they were forced to flee Syria leaving behind their property. Returnees frequently opt to return to areas in Erbil and Duhok despite originating from Baghdad and Mosul and claim to fear return to their places of origin.

Many of the Iraqi returnees requested assistance in returning to their governmental jobs in Iraq. The returnees claim that they left their previous jobs for security reasons.

Some returnees mentioned that the Syrian authorities stopped the procedures of granting residency to the majority of Iraqis in Syria for unknown reasons and they were being forced to live illegally. As a result, this prompted many of them to return to Iraq.

5. Interviews with New Arrivals (including Iraqi returnees)

Some interviewed returnees have stated that their return to Iraq is temporary, waiting for the situation in Syria to improve. Other returnees will be assessing the living circumstances and services in Iraq before making their final decision to return home permanently.

Iraqis returning from Aleppo, Homs and other areas indicated that Iraqis are facing direct threats by armed groups who forced them to leave their houses. Some Iraqi families are reported to have lost some of their members to violence and direct threats.

Protection and Community services teams are conducting regular interviews with the new arrivals to assess their needs. The teams reported that the sudden deterioration of the security situation in Deraa, Idlib and Rural Damascus had a direct impact on the refugees as many living in these areas fled to safer locations or decided to leave for Kurdistan region. For many, one of the family members was arrested and tortured by the Syrian regime, for others shelling destroying their houses had left them with no means of livelihood. Fearing for the safety of their children, Kurdistan remains the only safe haven. Many Syrians refugees mentioned that fleeing Syria will continue and that a number of families are heading up to Kurdistan region, others mentioned that they ran away from both extremists and the government. An intellectual man said even if the regime would fall down, he would not go back because rebuilding the largely destroyed infrastructure could take very long time..

In Domiz camp, families report they feel safe; however they struggle to provide a good life to their families. In addition a growing number of persons with physical and mental disabilities find it hard to survive the camp conditions; they are unable to seek job opportunities and increasingly seek cash assistance. Moreover, most of the families who are living in the transit centre do not have access to latrines and adequate quantity of water and need refrigerators in order to store food and medicines during the current hot weather. Presence of harmful insects such as scorpions in the transit centre poses an additional concern.

Singles report that the regular army is back in Hassaka and Qamishle, looking for men at the military conscription age to recruit. Singles are fleeing in big numbers to Kurdistan, fearing a forced military recruitment. Among the residents of Domiz camp, many are skilled labourers and have high university degrees ranging from masters to PhDs, but still struggle to find a decent job. Heads of household and singles in need of employment have requested DDM and UNHCR to facilitate access to jobs. As a consequence of lack of resources and income, some female refugees in the camp have turned into prostitution which has created tensions among families who demand that the latter be removed from the camp.

A young Iraqi woman who returned from Syria on June 2012 says she has been separated from her family which has migrated to the USA. The woman is renting a room with another family and she is unable to meet the rental expenses. She wants to join her family as she has no relatives or friends in Baghdad. UNHCR is following up her resettlement case.

Some Iraqi returnees are travelling back to Syria reportedly for medical treatment or to follow up their resettlement cases. Some have children registered in Syrian schools or universities and need to complete or obtain the required documentation. Others have established a new life in Syria and already have jobs and houses there.

6. Coordination

UNHCR is collaborating closely with the MoDM, MoI-PC, and Governorate offices. The Office is also engaged in a coordination process with various humanitarian actors/stakeholders, including the Humanitarian Country Team, consisting of UN agencies and NGOs, to ensure necessary support for Iraqi Government's efforts to respond to the returnees' immediate needs. To strengthen cooperation, UNHCR is regularly organising inter-agency meetings to involve more institutions and organisations to provide assistance to the camps.

UNHCR Team met Iraqi security forces to discuss security at **Al-Qa'im** Camp, opening of a new camp in Al-Obaidi for 20,000 individuals and the provision of tents and other services.

On UNHCR request, the Emergency Cell conducted a meeting at Al-Qa'im to discuss land use issues for the camp as well as provision of accommodation and assistance to Syrian refugees.

UNHCR team attended a meeting, headed by the Deputy of MoDM Minister, with IRW key staff to discuss joint MoDM/UNHCR management of Al Qa'im Camp. The Deputy Minister requested UNHCR and IRW to prepare a presentation explaining responsibilities and roles of UNHCR and MoDM in camp management and the prospects for a joint management of both camps, by enhancing the capacity of MoDM and UNHCR and developing a clear management mechanism.

UNHCR continues to coordinate with various stakeholders, including DDM that became in charge of the camp management. DDM had identified qualified staff and UNHCR provided them with the necessary training to fulfil their tasks.

On 17 September, the Governor of Duhok met all partners operating in Domiz camp as well as concerned local departments. The meeting stressed the importance of increasing all actors' efforts and capacities to respond to the influx of Syrian refugees in Domiz camp.

On 18 September, four coordination meetings were organized between UNHCR and the General Department of Municipalities, DDM, DoH, DoH Preventive Unit of the Municipality of Fayda, Electricity Department, Water Department, MSF, Qandil, Acted, UNICEF, DoH, PIN, GD of water Department. A comprehensive revision of Shelter, water, sanitation, Health and General site planning were the main topics for discussion.

On 19 September, UNHCR in Duhok organized a follow up meeting with GD of Municipalities, Municipality of Fayda, Artush Company and DDM. UNHCR and DDM have agreed with the Municipality and a local contractor to put in place a new System for garbage collection in Domiz camp.

Visits:

A delegation comprising representatives from Iraqi Ground Forces and **Al-Qa'im** local authorities visited UNHCR Camp in Al-Qa'im on 17 September to assess the preparation and capacity of the camp to receive Syrian refugees after re-opening Al-Qa'im border crossing point. UNHCR Deputy Representative and UNHCR Assistant Representative/Protection met with the Deputy Minister of Displacement to discuss camp management and overall coordination of the response to the refugee emergency.

End