

Syria Situation Weekly Update No.21 4 - 10 October 2012



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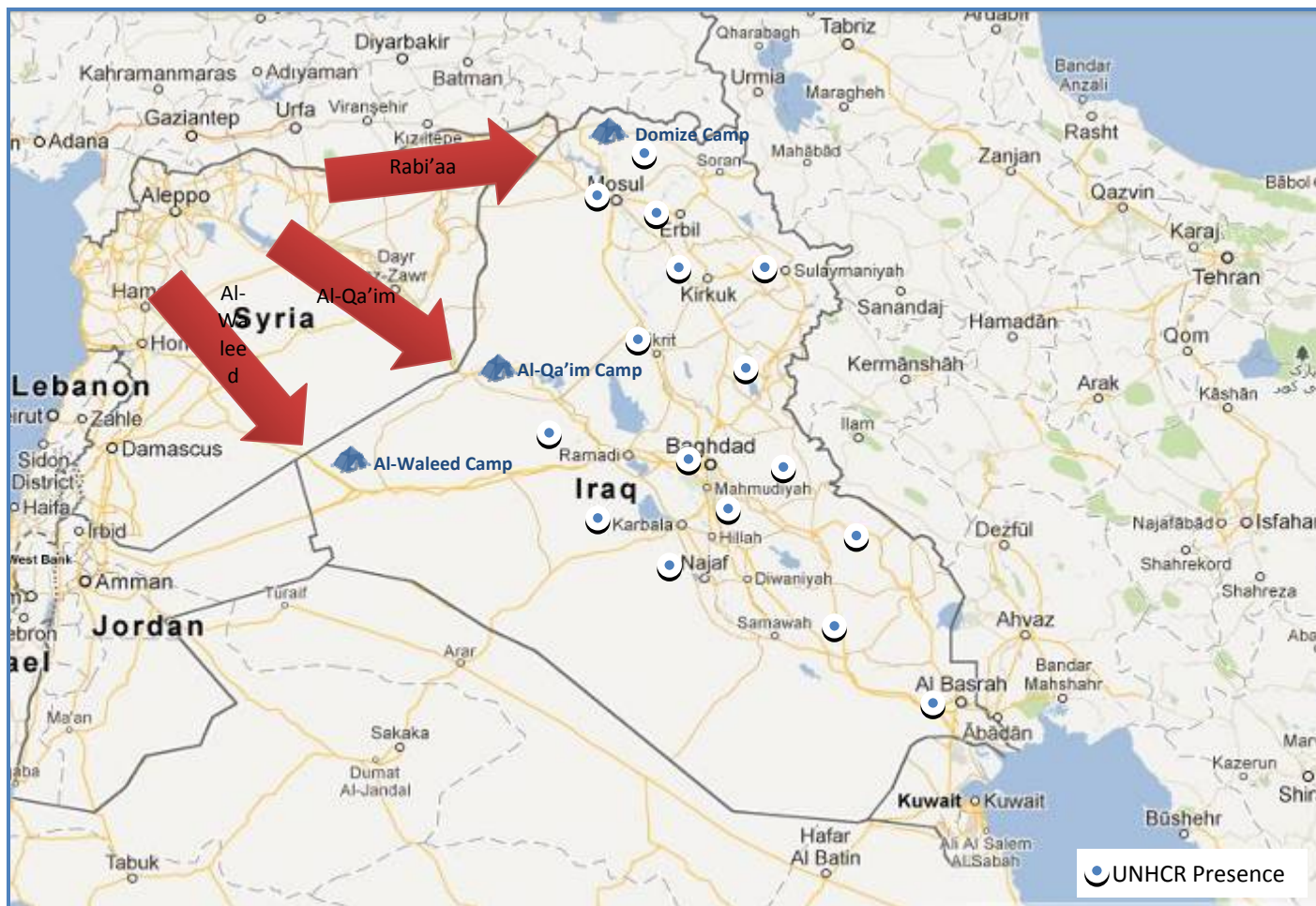
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Syrian Refugee Brief

Location	Total
Duhok	25,191
Erbil	5,164
Sulaimanyah	1,508
Al-Qaim/Anbar	7,173
Total	39,036



Iraqi – Syrian Border Points

MoDM/DDM/Local Authorities

Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM

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

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

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1. Overview

Syrian Refugees

Syrian refugees have continued to flee their country to neighbouring countries, including Iraq. During the past week a total of 2,536 refugees entered Iraq. Of this total, 1,762 entered into **Kurdistan region**, and the remainder, 774 entered through **Al-Qaim**.

On 10 October, a coordination meeting was held at UNHCR's office in **Baghdad**. The meeting, attended by MoDM (Ministry of Displacement and Migration), UN agencies and implementing partners, discussed the overall coordination mechanism, as well as sectoral working groups. The overall coordination is led by MoDM and UNHCR.

In **Al-Qaim**, the authorities continue to agree that about 120 individuals are entering Iraq and they are directly hosted and accommodated in Camp 2. During the reporting period, their number reached 2,990.

The number of new arrivals into **Kurdistan region** has decreased slightly over the past weeks, despite the continuing deterioration of the security and economic situation in Syria. During September, the figure dropped from an average of 100-120 families and 350-400 singles per day, to 60-80 families and 150-200 singles at the end of the month. There is no indication, however, that refugees are being denied access to Iraqi territory.

Refugees originate mainly from Hassaka, Qameshly, as well as Kurds who were living in Damascus, Reef Damascus and Aleppo. Those arriving from Aleppo reported heavy clashes including in the old city and in the historic Souk market, which has been partially destroyed. Some mentioned severe power cuts and closure of food stores resulting in lack of essential livelihood resources.

The effect of the recent shelling by the Turkish military in Malkia has yet to be seen, but if tensions continue to escalate between Syria and Turkey, an increase in refugees into Kurdistan region could be expected.

The situation at the **Al-Qaim** crossing has remained the same - the border point is open daily, but with restrictions. A maximum of 130 persons are permitted to enter through **Al-Qaim**, with priority for those perceived to be most vulnerable, including women, children under 15 years and persons requiring emergency medical treatment.

As of today 39,036 Syrian refugees entered Iraq. As of 10 October, a total of 31,863 Syrians are hosted in **Kurdistan Region**, 1,726 among them have arrived during the week. Duhok remains host to the largest number of Syrian refugees, with 25,191 persons, followed by Erbil, with 5,226 and Suleimaniya with 1,446.

Iraqi Returnees

According to UNHCR border monitoring reports, on 10 October, a total of 200 Iraqis departed Iraq for Syria, with 149 departed through Al-Waleed border point and 51 through Rabiaa bringing the total number departures to Syria to 20,288 since 18 July 2012.

The total number of Iraqi returnees has now reached 44,883, including 5,997 returnees who reached Iraqi soil by air. Among them 50 per cent have been registered by MoDM and only 20 per cent of the registered returnees received 4 Million Iraqi Dinar cash assistance. A total of 25 per cent of returnees were registered by UNHCR in Syria.

The majority of returnees noted Baghdad and other governorates as their final destinations. Some returnees confirmed that they would return to Syria, if the security situation improves, in order to

arrange their voluntary and legal return to Iraq. Returnees are also concerned about their cases with UNHCR- Syria.

Up today, a total of 4,087 Iraqi cases households (about 50% of the returnees mentioned above) have been registered with MoDM, of whom 2,222 cases (about 25% of the returnees) had been registered with UNHCR in Syria. A total of 861 Iraqi returnee households have now received MoDM cash assistance of 4 Million IQD. During the reporting period, 127 Iraqi returnees approached RICCs for help.

MoDM in Kurdistan Region has registered 69 cases of Iraqi returnees from Syria, 51 had settled in Erbil, 7 in Duhok and 11 in Suleimaniya. Among them 14 returnee individuals were granted a cash assistance of 4 Million IQD, others, mainly those with resettlement pending cases are reluctant to accept the assistance fearing to be denied departure from the country in the future.

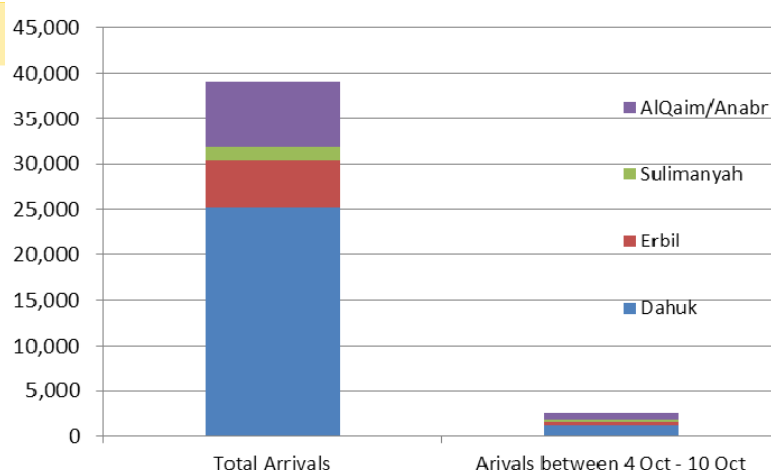


Installing Outdoor Lighting System in Al-Qaim Camp

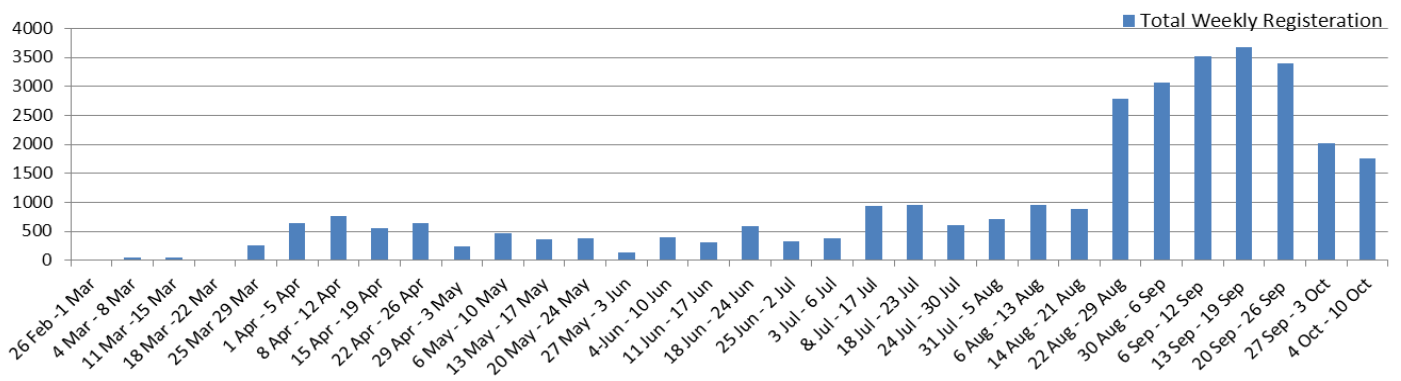
2. Statistics

2.1 Syrian Refugees

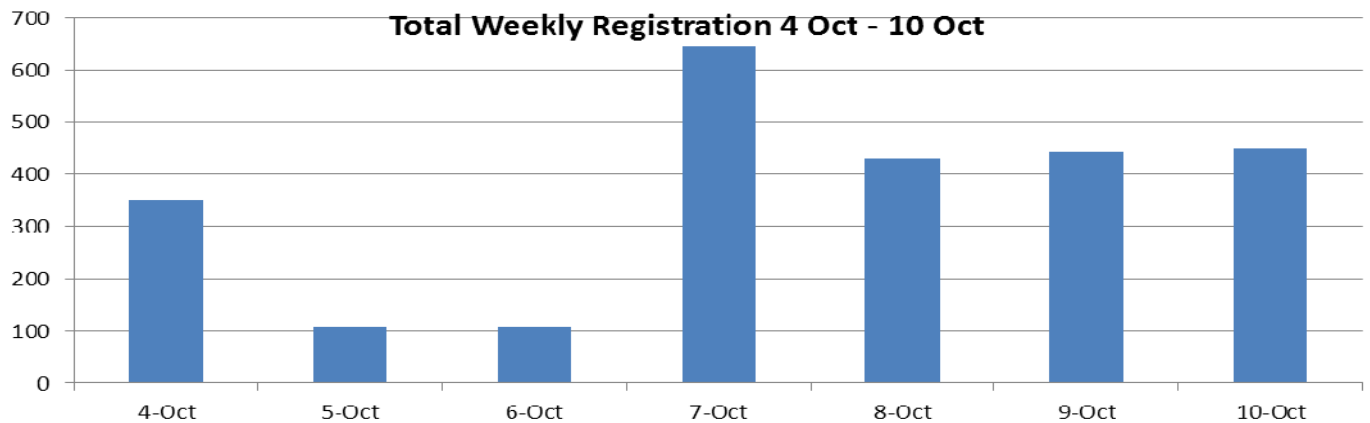
Location	Syrian Arrivals between 4 Oct – 10 Oct	Total Arrivals
Duhok	1,242	25,191
Erbil	305	5,164
Sulimanyah	215	1,508
Al-Qaim/Anabr	774	7,173
Total	2,536	39,036



Total Weekly Registration in KRG

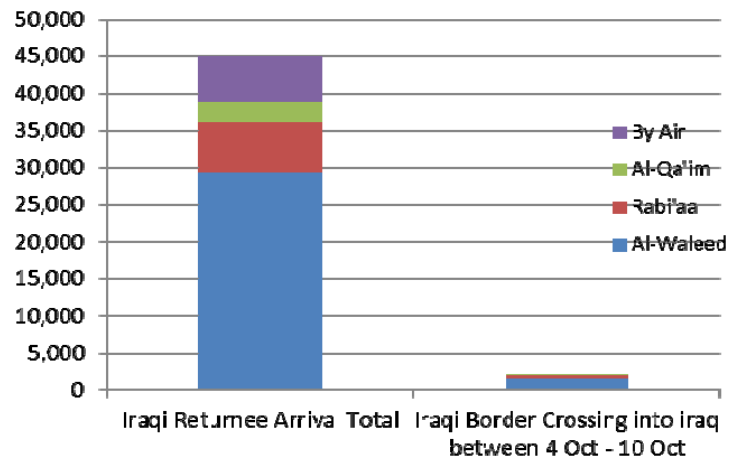


Total Weekly Registration 4 Oct - 10 Oct

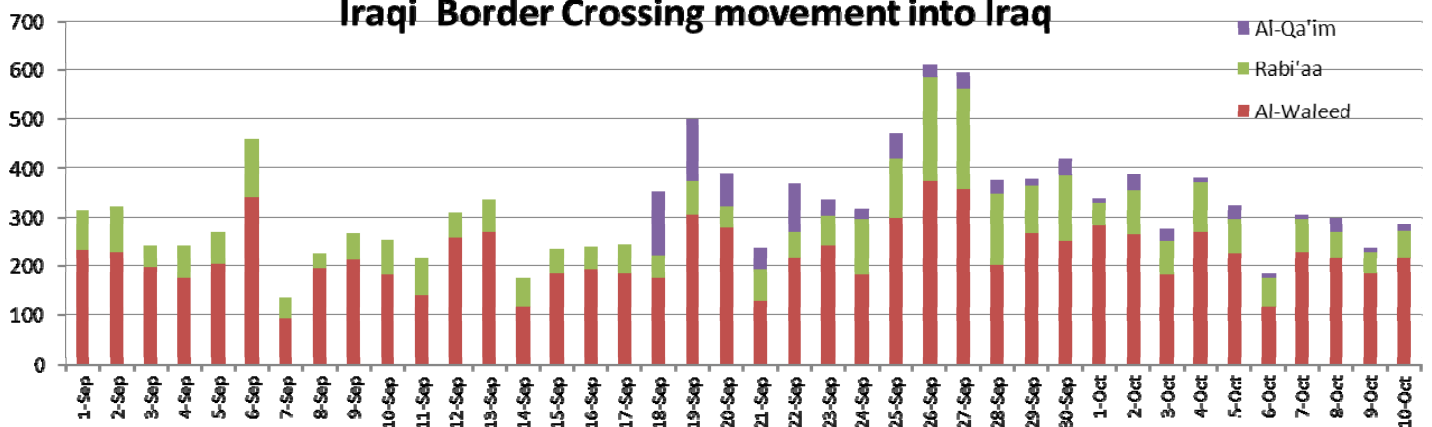


2.2 Iraqi Returnees (Cross Border Movement)

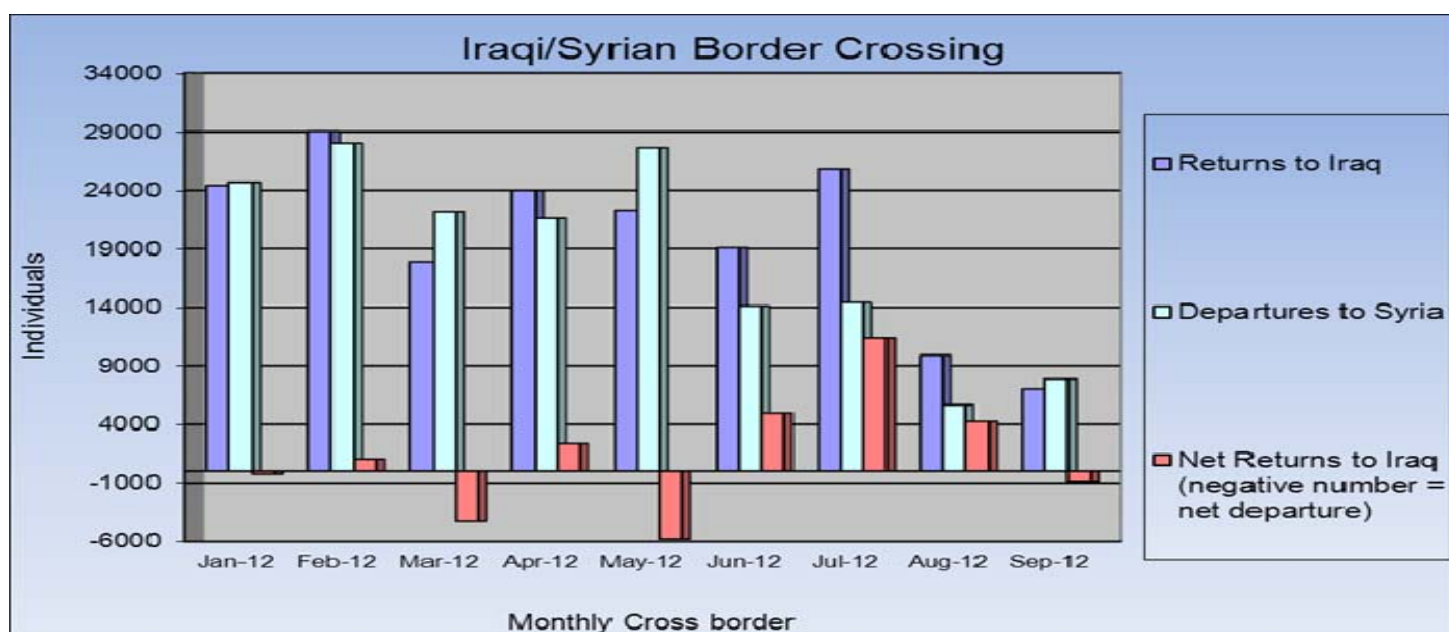
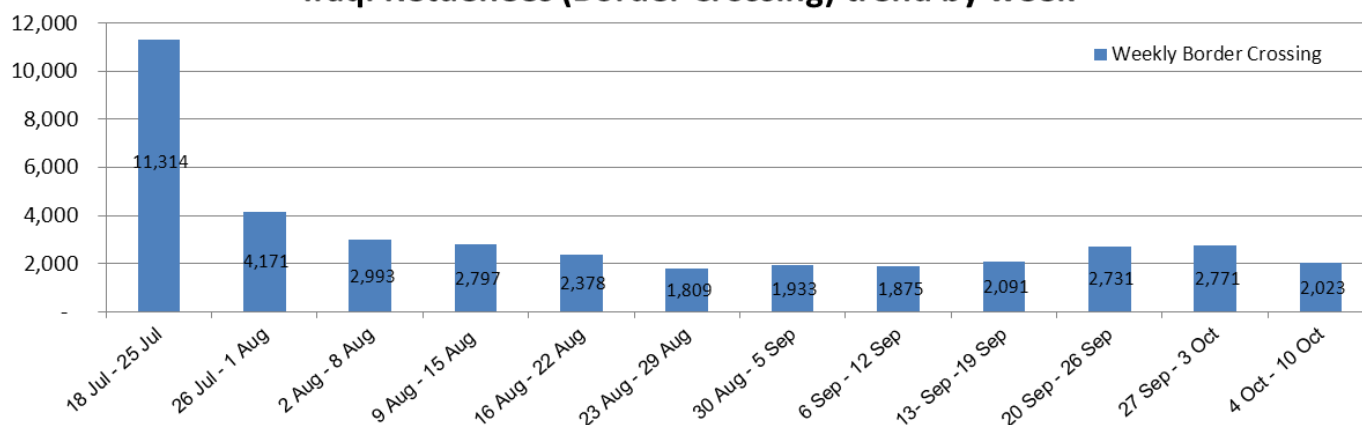
Border Point	Iraqi Returnees between 4 Oct – 10 Oct	Total Arrivals
Al-Waleed	1,466	29,208
Rabi'aa	447	6,950
Al-Qa'im	110	2,728
By Air	0	5,997
Total	2,023	44,883



Iraqi Border Crossing movement into Iraq



Iraqi Returnees (Border Crossing) trend by week



3. UNHCR Assistance Update

3.1. Administrative institutions and practice

In collaboration with UN agencies and other key partners, UNHCR continues advocacy both at national and international levels to protect the rights of Syrian refugees and Iraqi returnees, to meet their basic needs, particularly shelter and food.

Advocacy is also used to expand practicing Sponsorship Programme for refugees in the country, which may decrease expenses. Up to present, a total of 643 individuals in **Al-Qaim** have benefited from the Sponsorship Programme.

In **Al-Qaim**, refugees still do not have freedom of movement. It is hoped that the policy will be reviewed for those who receive UNHCR asylum seeker certificates.

3.2. Protection, Registration and Profiling

Al Qa'im

Al-Qaim Camp '1' is now accommodating 3,188 and Camp '2' is accommodating 2,990 individuals.

The registration team has continued its work during the reporting period. A total of 1,041 cases / 4,636 individuals have been registered, and asylum seeker certificates issued. The total number of verified cases totals 565 / 2,669 individuals.

A large number of families registered are headed by females, and are supporting minor children. Many were reportedly separated from their husbands because of the restrictions imposed by the Iraqi authorities on the admission of adult males to Iraq.

Kurdistan Region

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 1762 new arrivals which comprises of 213 families (863 individuals) and 899 singles.

- New arrivals in Erbil: 27 families (125 individuals) and singles are 180.
- New arrivals in Suleimaniya: 16 families (62 individuals) and 153 singles.
- New arrivals in Duhok: 170 families (676 individuals) and 566 singles.

The IT equipment in the new registration cabins has been installed and additional office space was provided to ensure protection and community services related interviews are conducted in a confidential manner. These arrangements will double UNHCR capacity and will eliminate the waiting period for the registration into ProGress.

The current registration capacity consists of two teams; one is dedicated to register the new arrivals without delay, while the second is dedicated to register the old caseload, a process that will avoid accumulating a new backlog. In **Erbil** four additional caravans were installed in the PARC office and additional receptionists were deployed to ensure reception and organization of the registration activities. In Suleimaniya, there is no delay in the registration, and given the reduced number of new arrivals, the latter are registered the day of arrival into progress and are provided with documentation.

As of 10 October, an approximate figure of 13,000 individuals (some 2500 families) is residing in **Domiz** camp. New arrivals, changing trends and population movement coupled with the registration backlog preclude accurate figure count. UNHCR conducts regular head count/physical verification for an appropriate estimation of camp population.

Child protection:

In **Domiz**, various meetings with counterparts and implementing partners were held by UNICEF to discuss scaling up of child protection interventions, including opening a second CFS (Child Friendly Space) with support from UNHCR and UNICEF, setting up a Child Protection unit and developing a referral mechanism for child protection. Involvement of the Directorate of Social Affairs and Development will be enhanced through the incorporation of four social workers and four Arts facilitators in to the CFS to work alongside the community volunteers. Awareness sessions on Child rights, Human rights, and GBV will be organized for Parents, community members and Youth.

3.3. Security for refugees

Al-Qa'im Camp

Iraqi security forces provide the security in the camp; no specific incidents were reported during the past week. However, it is still the military forces that are providing security to the camp instead of the police forces as required by UNHCR .

Work to secure the front section of UNHCR Camp No. 1 and its administrative area using a 3 metre high sand barrier has already been completed.

Domiz Camp

Six guards have been hired among the Syrian singles to provide security for the camp during the relocation of families into the new allocated areas/plots. Additionally 16 social monitors and guards are recruited among the refugees by DDM acting as the camp management agency in Domiz and additional guards were hired to guard the registration centres.

New arrivals continue to self-erect their tents near their friends and families residing in the camp pending their relocation to the assigned tent after the completion of phases 3, 4 and Domiz II. This has created congestion and overcrowding in the first two completed phases 1 and 2, resulting in overload on services delivery, camp infrastructure and WASH facilities.

The Government allocated and demarked some 7500 Sq meters to function as a market area for the residents in the camp.

3.4. Assistance by Sectors

a) Shelter and infrastructure:

Al-Qa'im

The construction works are on-going in the camps. The construction of roads connecting camps 1 and 2 is 95% complete. Installation of the administrative caravan (3mx12m) has been completed.

In Camp Number 1 (zone G), work is progressing to establish a shaded social centre and child-friendly space. When completed, these will provide space for children and their families to enjoy recreational activities.

Eight large canvas tents supplied by UNHCR have been erected and allocated as a market including several shops to sell groceries, different kinds of goods to meet the needs of the residents.

Domiz Camp

The current camp structure is as follows: Domiz I (zones/phases 1 to 4), Domiz II (zone 5), and Singles area.

Zones 1, 2 and 3 are completed, zone 3 being completed during the reporting period allowing 170 families to be relocated in that zone where each one benefitted from its latrine and kitchen. Zone 4 is currently being constructed by the Government and is expected to be completed by end of October. Demarcation for the new site (Phase 5) has started and planning of the water supply project is underway. WASH works will be simultaneously implemented by UNICEF.

In order to accommodate the increasing number of new arrivals two transit areas have emerged in addition to a large number of new arrival families scattered within the camp which make it quite congestion. Singles reside in the singles section and in the nearby Mosque. During the reporting period, in an effort to de-congestion the camp, 220 families were move to the new transit centre .

A new singles area will be constructed by the government. Land situated 2 km from Domiz has been allocated, whereby a number of 4000 singles are expected to be hosted. The existing area for singles will be modified into a families' area

The Government agreed to the UNHCR request to provide additional electricity for inside the tents, cooking areas, bathrooms and latrines. UNHCR provided the Government with the design plan for phases 3, 4, 5 and for the area for singles.

b) Water

In **Al-Qa'im**, the camp is being provided with water. Previously, a number of Syrian refugees complained about the quality of drinking water and expressed concern regarding its safety. UNICEF specialists are now conducting regular water quality tests in the camp, so that now the camp has full access to the safe drinking water. UNICEF is securing an additional quantity of water.

In **Domiz**, phases 1 and 2 are connected to the water project implemented by UNHCR. Non-regular tents erected are being supplied by DDM using tankers.

Water is being tested at source and chlorine added. Additional tabs are provided to families by DoH.

The construction of a water supply network is soon to start in zones 3 (implemented by UNHCR) and 4 (implemented by UNICEF).

c) Food/Nutrition

Al-Qa'im

MoDM continues to provide all refugees with meals three times per day. It is planned that the MoDM will replace the meals with dry food. WFP has installed a rub hall and will distribute food baskets for the refugees in coordination with UNHCR.

During a coordination meeting with Director of Petroleum Products in AL-Qaim it was agreed to accelerate the distribution of kerosene to Syrians in Al-Qaim to be used for cooking and heating, 20 litres of kerosene per month for each family

Additionally, UNHCR will provide the families through IRW with 30 liters per month for each family as of the mid of the current month.

UNICEF is providing supplementary feeding as well as health education on breastfeeding at the nutrition centre at the Al-Qa'im hospital.

Domiz Camp

WFP is expecting an additional 162 MT of food to distribute to the residents in the camp for the month of October.

Preparations by the WFP are underway to implement the food voucher programme in Duhok by mid-October. The programme will be particularly beneficial for the Syrian refugees residing in the host communities in the region.

Under the Regional Response Plan, WFP has requested for US\$5.8 million to assist 60,000 refugees in Iraq by December 2012 (40,000 in the north-Kurdistan Region).

d) Sanitation/Hygiene

Al-Qa'im

UNHCR continues to provide hygiene kits and is conducting awareness-raising about sanitation and hygiene issues.

UNICEF is installing the following: 191 latrines, 190 showers, 78 septic tanks, 110 drinking water points, six 10,000 litre tanks, three 45,000 litre tanks, 47 wash basins and 6,500m out of 7350m of

water networking are being provided Forty hygiene mobilizers (50% female) started daily Hygiene Promotion.

Domiz

The sanitation situation in the camp remains below the required standards. In an effort to address this issue, the Government installed 155 emergency latrines. UNICEF is exploring the feasibility of recruiting workers to regularly clean the communal latrines facilities and thereby improve their use.

Waste water drainage is also a source of concern since soils capacity to absorb water is limited. In order to find a solution for the uncollected garbage, DDM and Artush Company reached an agreement for proper removal of garbage disposal in all zones of the camp as on 1 October.

The tent to tent hygiene promotion campaign, launched by UNICEF and DoH, continued and 1693 persons (287 females, 288 males, 278 girls and 306 boys) were reached with hygiene messages making the total of 3669 (948 females, 757 males, 694 girls and 736 boys).

e) NFI Assistance

Al-Qa'im

UNHCR's partner, Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) distributed NFI packages for all newly-arrived Syrian families in Camp 1 and Camp 2.

Domiz

NFI distribution was resumed, limiting it for camp residents only and other options e.g one-time cash assistance will be considered for refugees living in the urban host communities. A number of 419 packages were distributed to 398 families of 1704 individuals and 21 groups of singles of 62 individuals.

There is a plan to combine WFP voucher system with the cash assistance for urban refugees. UNHCR is also coordinating with KRG for addressing the needs of Syrian refugees residing in the host community particularly for ensuring access to education and health services.

f) Health

Al-Qa'im

UNHCR held a meeting with the medical personnel at the clinic in Camp 1. The quality of medical services (diagnoses and availability of medication aspects) provided to Syrian refugees was a key issue discussed, after complaints were raised by some refugees on this issue. It was agreed to refer emergency cases to Al-Qaim Hospital.

IRW will follow up with health directorates to appoint more experienced doctors for the medical clinic in the camp. It was also agreed to accelerate supplying the camp's clinic with chronic disease medications via the health directorate in Al-Qaim. The directorate will provide the camp with the required medications after receiving the final list of patients' names from the clinic.

Some cases of diarrhoea have been reported by community around Camp 1. UNHCR Al-Qaim Team conduct monitoring to check information of the spread of this disease.

Domiz

Due to the rapidly increasing refugee population in the camp, the health centre is overcrowded with an average of 300 patients are attended on daily basis. Most of cases suffer from upper respiratory tract diseases and acute watery diarrhoea. Patients in need of secondary and tertiary as well as those with chronic diseases are referred to various hospitals in Duhok for evaluation and management.

The UNICEF/DoH joint campaign for MMR and DT for people from 7 - 24 years continued and 1269 people received MMR vaccine and 1360 the TD vaccine, reaching a cumulative figure of 2470 for MMR and 2703 for TD.

An outbreak of cholera was declared by the Department of Health in Sulaimaniya Governorate with over 200 cases and 4 deaths reported by the 4 October. An increase in the number of acute watery diarrhoea has been noted but is attributed to the increasing population and seasonal variation (MOH/WHO).

Data from Domiz camp suggests that up to 30% of outpatients are due to acute watery diarrhoea. However, no cholera case has been suspected or identified in the camp. Furthermore, comprehensive health promotion activities are being undertaken in order to prevent a cholera outbreak in the camp. UNHCR is availing 3 tents for use as 'stabilization' cholera unit in case of an outbreak in the camp.

g- Education

Al Qa'im

UNICEF has opened a school in the camp¹, not in the camp 2 yet. Registration of students has been started and the distribution of stationary and classes will be started next week. In addition to two teachers, UNICEF has requested from the camp management to hire and pay two guards to be working for the school. In the short term, tents are being used for the school; in the longer term, it is proposed to replace the tents with containers provided by UNHCR.

Domiz

Around 4200 school-aged children are estimated to be residing in Domiz as of 10 October. As a special measure to ensure the enrolment of the refugee children for the current school year, the Minister of Education extended the enrolment deadline to 15 October. A discussion between UNICEF and NGO Harikar is held to finalize the proposal to carry out a school enrolment drive in the camp.

The work to re-organize the camp school and expand it to 24 classrooms in the first unit to accommodate 1200 students in two shifts is continuing with funding from UNICEF. UNHCR is paying 50% of teachers' incentives (25 teachers).

In order to facilitate access to education to all Syrian students in Domiz, the Government allocated a new land of 11100 Sq meters for the construction of two additional schools of 24 classrooms each. The facilities will accommodate some 2000 students. UNHCR is providing the furniture and the 24 cabins for the school.

4. Interview with New Arrivals / Iraqi Returnees

Iraqis who were interviewed crossing Al-Waleed border indicated that they were unable to reach UNHCR Syria to obtain the Voluntary Repatriation package. Some Iraqis are still departing to Syria to receive the UNHCR Syria cash assistance and to obtain their children's school certificates.

Most of the returnees mentioned that Iraqis families in Syria are living a difficult life because of lack the services and lack of employment opportunities due to the deteriorating security situation especially in Qudsiya, Sayda, Zainab and Al-Dhahiya.

During interviews, Iraqi Returnees who departed their country mentioned that would return to Iraq in the next few days after receive their cash assistance from UNHCR in Syria and some of them mentioned that going to transport their assets to Iraq.

Individual stories: Syrian arrivals

M. is a Syrian from Qamishlee, Hassaka but was living in Reef Damascus with his wife and seven children. They fled following heavy bombardments which destroyed their home, and did not have time to take any belongings neither identity documents. While fleeing M was hit by a car and as a consequence had a disability. The family immediately travelled to Hassaka for a short time, until shelling and bomb attacks started again. Fearing for their children's safety the family decided to live Syria, and fled by bus to Kurdistan region.

A., was a government employee working in the national hospital of Hassak province in Syria. In mid-August the Syrian army attacked the hospital, searching for injured opposition fighters. Members of the free Syrian army present in the hospital launched a counter-attack trying to liberate the injured and A was caught in a cross fire, but he jumped from the first floor and hid until morning. The following day he fled with his family to Kurdistan region.

5. Coordination



As noted in the overview, on 10 October, a coordination meeting was held at UNHCR's offices in Baghdad. The meeting was co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of displacement and migration. Other members of that MoDM, UN / I/NGOs working in Al- Qaim and Domiz attended the meeting. Coordination mechanism and key sectoral issues were discussed and action points agreed. Updates were also provided from the participants of the joint mission to **Al-Qaim**.

Al Qaim

Representatives from WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, MoDM, education and health directorates conducted their next emergency cell meeting on 7 October to discuss coordination issues and the construction of Al-Obaidy camp and schooling activities in the camp.

A group of representatives from ICRS visited Al-Qaim Camp to familiarize with living conditions in the camp and refugee needs for possible assistance.

On 10 October, a reporter from Al – Ghad Newspaper visited Al – Qaim Camp and the camp's management provided the newspaper with information about the camp.

Kurdistan region

On 8 October, a Diplomatic delegation from France led by the French Ambassador visited the camp to witness the emergency response efforts in **Domiz** Camp. The participants were briefed on the current situation in the camp, influx trends, current challenges and main actors' contribution.

On 9 October, UNHCR had meetings with some key partners (MSF, IOM, Harikar, UNICEF and DDM) to discuss the plans for the approaching winter season, particularly for the distribution of winter clothes to the camp community.

On 10 October, UNHCR received the director of MoDM Baghdad who advised on the MoDM intention to distribute cash assistance among Syrian refugees in Domiz. Lists of beneficiaries and modalities of distribution were thoroughly discussed between UNHCR and the MoDM.

On 10 October, UNHCR received an Australian Diplomatic Delegation comprised of Liaison, medical and security officers. The delegation which comes as a pre-mission assessment team, advised on the planned visit of the Australian Ambassador to Domiz Camp on 25 October. General briefing on camp context, security situation and agenda proposal were discussed.