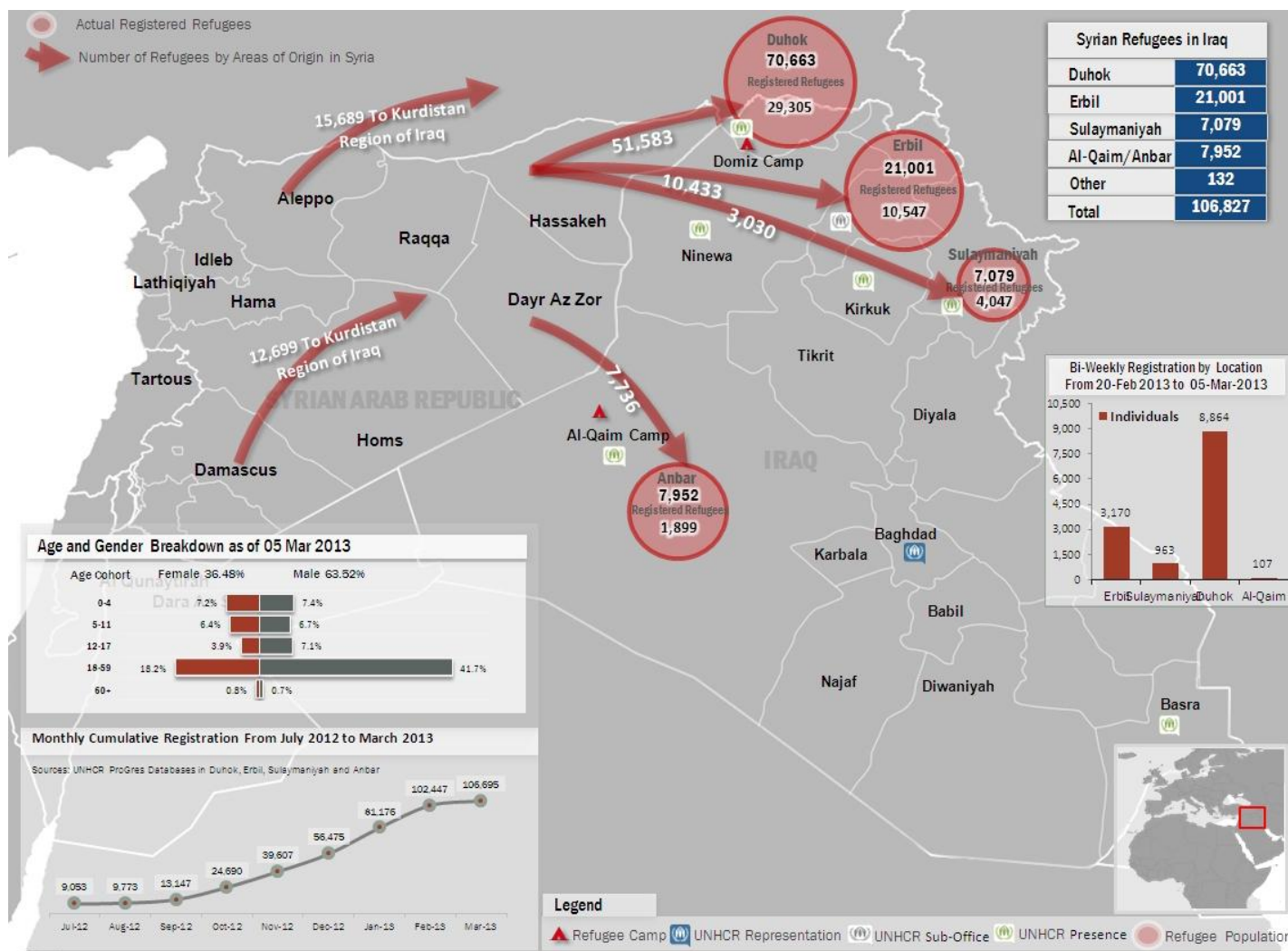


Syria Situation

Bi-Weekly update No. 37

20 February – 5 March 2013



To date the following donors have contributed to the Regional Response Plan Jan-June 2013:



Funding also received from PRIVATE DONORS, the Emergency Response Fund, ECHO, OCHA, the CERF, and in-kind and cash donations from the local population.

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

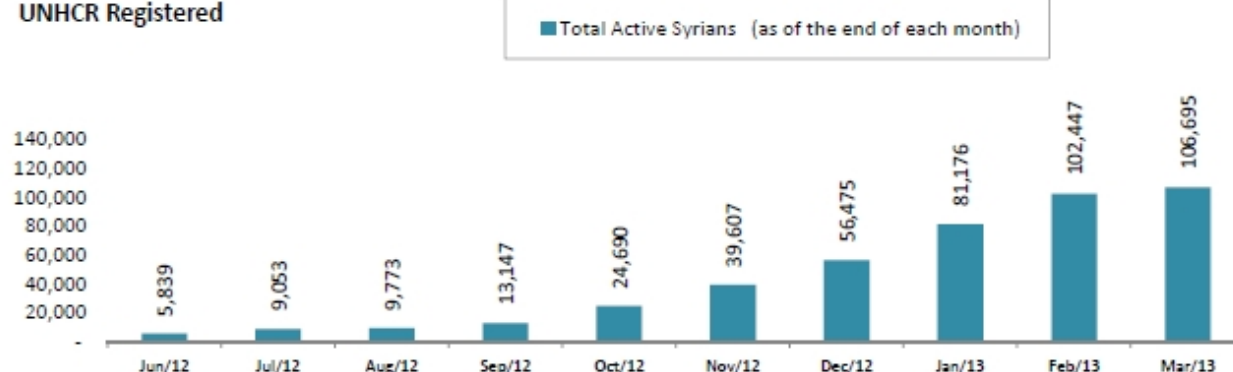
iraqpi@unhcr.org

MOMD | DDM | DGC | Local Authorities

Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM | UNFPA

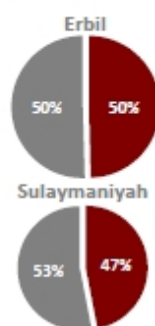
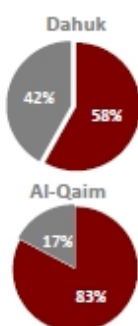
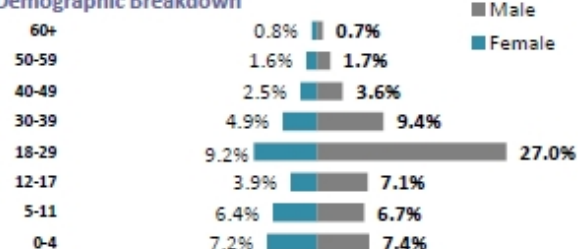
NGOs: IRW | Qandil | ISHO | IRC | HARIKAR | CDO | RIRP | ACTED | Save the CHILDREN | NRC | Muslim Aid | IKL | CAPNI | Rabin | Asayeesh | MSF | Oxfam | Afkar | Caritas | UPP |

UNHCR Registered



Demographic profile based on 106,695 proGres registered persons

Demographic Breakdown

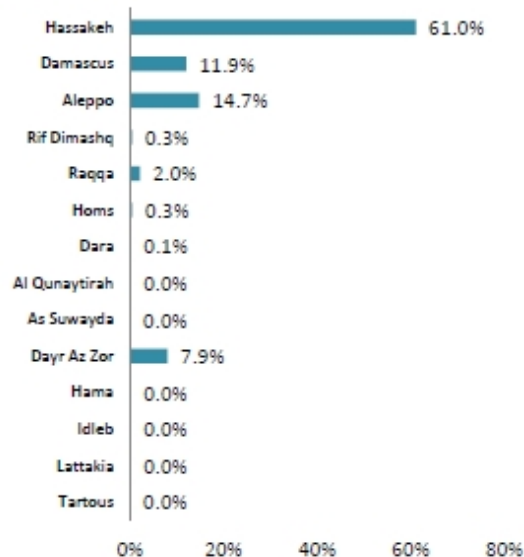


■ Women and Children
■ Adult Males

Localisation of the Registration



Place of origin



Governorate Persons House holds % Total

Dahuk*	70,663	29,305	66.1%
Erbil	21,001	10,547	19.7%
Sulaymaniah	7,079	4,047	6.6%
Anbar	7,952	1,899	7.4%
Other	132	27	0.1%
Total Iraq	106,827	45,798	100.0%

* Includes Syrians registered in Domiz Camp

Camps Persons House holds

Domiz**	61,911	24,934
Al-Qaim Camp1	2,146	474
Al-Qaim Camp2	2,901	633

** Note that this figure reflects the number of refugees registered in Domiz Camp. However, a substantial number of refugees relocated out of the camp. The camp population is estimated to be 35,000.

Syrian response in Iraq: highlights

- A total of **106,827 Syrian refugees** are now registered in Iraq of which 99,138 are in the KR
- Around **928 new Syrians arrive daily** with 12,997 recorded in the KR during the reporting period
- The security situation in Hasaka Governorate is generating a steady increase in daily new arrivals and UNHCR is monitoring the situation to address increasing registration needs
- **Domiz camp is critically overcrowded** with thousands of families having to share tents and is generating tension and conflict among the persons of concern
- **Two new refugee camp locations are under discussion** in Erbil and in Sulaymaniyah and under technical assessment between the KRG, UNHCR and partners
- The distribution of in-kind donations received during the Kurdsat TV/UNHCR campaign started on 5 March in Erbil and distribution will soon follow in Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah for urban refugees
- The **Al Qa'im border remains closed** for Syrians seeking asylum in Iraq while UNHCR, other agencies and partners continue to advocate for it to be opened
- **Camp 3 in Al Qa'im is ready** to receive 4,500 new refugees
- The **Al Rabhia border was closed** despite intense fighting on the Syrian side
- The MoE launched **school feeding programmes** in the two open schools in Domiz camp

2. Sector updates

2.1 Reception, Registration and Protection

Al Qa'im

In Al Qa'im, Anbar governorate, the Syrian refugee population is 7,952, a reduction from the previous reporting period due to return to Syria and refugees who received sponsorship and left the camp.

The border at Al Qa'im remains closed except for family reunification, which is limited to spouses with a maximum number of three cases per day. Syrians in need of medical attention are admitted for day-care mainly provided at the health unit established at the border.

The number of voluntary repatriation cases reached a total of 2,670 individuals; 561 are new cases during the reporting period. Main reasons for return continue to be lack of freedom of movement out of the camp and lack of livelihood activities. UNHCR continues to provide support to those expressing interest in returning but is not encouraging repatriation given the lack of conditions conducive to a stable return.

To ensure refugees are able to contact their families, ICRC resumed the provision of phone access; each refugee can contact any family member worldwide or any relative for three minutes. In coordination with IRW, UNHCR staff supported this activity by installing two tents, one as a waiting area and one to place the calls in privacy.



Kurdistan Region

Syrian refugee families and singles continue to approach the UNHCR office in Duhok (including Domiz Camp), Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. During the reporting period, UNHCR recorded 12,997 new arrivals comprising of 2,095 families (10,272 individuals) and 2,725 singles.

- Erbil: 583 families (2,415 individuals) and 755 singles.
- Sulaymaniyah: 146 families (657 individuals) and 306 singles.
- Dohuk: 1,366 families (7,200 individuals) and 1,664 singles.

In early February, Dohuk had around 55,000 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR. As of early March the registration records for Dohuk reached 67,250 individuals with a daily average of over 800 new arrivals (nearly double of the average for January 2013).

The majority of new arrivals originate from Hassakah province, (mainly Kurds from Qamishli city) and others come from Aleppo and Damascus. Many of the refugees are women and children. Newcomers claimed to have crossed into KR via the unofficial border point of Sehela. Most of them state that they left Syria to escape the prolonged conflict, which has not only claimed lives but also caused the depletion of business and livelihoods. They no longer could provide for their families who are struggling to cope with the harsh living conditions and lack of basic services such as water, electricity, medical care and education. Some refugees explained that they paid 1,000 Syrian Lira per person inside Syrian territory to cross into Iraq.

New arrivals reported heavy fighting in the border areas of Al-Yaroubia, causing displacement of civilian inhabitants towards Qamishli city, a population that could potentially seek asylum in Iraq. Information gathered from interviews with asylum seekers coupled with the continued deterioration in Syria indicates that more arrivals are to be expected, which was also confirmed by the Dohuk Governorate Office.

The capacity of Domiz camp is exhausted with double occupancies - it is no longer possible to request refugees to share tents or to find their own solutions for accommodation. Space has run out.

The UNHCR registration team is now maintaining a presence in Domiz camp seven days a week to receive/process registration of new arrivals as well as renewals of expired or expiring certificates.

Dohuk Governorate Office, which is now representing the government in the camp, is in a reorganization phase. The transition is critically affecting coordination as their camp presence has substantially diminished.

Accommodation for new arrivals: The Development Modification Centre (DMC) places new arrivals with host families through sector leaders. However, there are 3,157 “guest” families including 260 single groups and the camp has exceeded its capacity. Phases 1 through 3 are overcrowded with double occupancies and the DMC sees a potential risk of tension within the community due to strained resources for host families. DMC is also aware of the families who have occupied or taken tents from Phase 5, however they are reluctant to move the families as there are no other options for settling them in the camp. UNHCR and DMC are currently working on reviewing the camp capacity and developing options for settling people in different areas.



UNHCR and the DMC met to develop a plan to respond to the increasing number of new arrivals, provide them with safe and humane reception conditions, ensure provision of basic assistance upon arrival, and facilitate registration process. The following actions were agreed with the DMC:

1. Establish a Reception Centre in Domiz Camp with the capacity of up to 2,000 persons to be accommodated for a maximum duration of two to three days; and,
2. Develop Phase 7 into a Transit Area (with communal WASH facilities).

Urban Communities

Refugees living in urban environments continue to face many challenges. While job opportunities are available, the majority who are employed are considerably underpaid by private contractors.

There are very few schools in the KR with the Arabic curriculum, which is leading to **greater numbers of children out of school**. Meanwhile health, medical facilities and medicines in the public hospitals are limited. Patients in need of specialized treatment for serious illnesses cannot afford to pay for private clinics and patients with chronic illnesses are in dire need of continuous access to medication.

A protection team conducted a visit with Syrian refugees living in Waar City compound. Those who were interviewed reported concerns about high rent, lack access to school and medical services.

A Women's Listening Centre was opened for services on 3 March. The Centre is run by IRC in collaboration with Harikar. In addition to serving as an entry point for reporting and response to sexual and gender based violence, life skills trainings and SGBV sensitization activities will also be available at the centre. IRC-Harikar, UPP, UNFPA and ACTED are carrying activities/sessions targeting women, youth and children aiming at awareness raising on GBV/RH, individual psychosocial support sessions, support groups, individual counselling sessions.

UNICEF and partners and in collaboration with DDM, have agreed to establish a second Child Friendly Space/Youth Friendly Space and Child Protection Unit in Phase 5. The number of children assisted in the Domiz camp CFS has increased with 524 children benefiting from the services.

On rainy days, the evenings turn cold and muddy and families accompanied by their children (even babies and infants) have trouble coping with the lack of proper shelter.



New arrivals and registered refugees awaiting residency cards at the ASAYISH office, Domiz camp

2.2 Security

Al Qa'im
NTR

Domiz

Some fires continue as a result of gas leakage; no casualties are reported.

2.3 Assistance Update

Shelter / infrastructure

Al Qa'im



Camp 3, Al Obaidy, Al Qa'im

Construction in Camp 3, Al-Obaidy, is complete with some remaining installations:

Ongoing works

Water network: The drinking water network was completed and connected with the main source, wash water is not yet connected with the main source

School fence: Installation of the fence will start this week

Completed works

School caravans: Schools are now fully furnished

Clinic: Works to install caravans and construction of latrines in the clinic area were completed

Internal roads: Completed

Bakery Camp 1: The construction was completed while the bakery equipment will be installed this week

Domiz

Phase 5: Thus far, 90 per cent of levelling of Phase 5 internal roads has been completed and the total progress of internal roads is at 35 per cent. Street construction has left piles of sand in various locations in Phase 5, which needs to be removed by the municipality.

Approximately 20 sanitation units in Phase 5 were reconstructed by refugees as they are reluctant to share them with other families.

UNHCR's partner, Qandil, completed the levelling and compacting of the allocated site for temporary reception of new arrivals (while they complete formalities and obtain Residency IDs). The plan is to pitch 15 semi-rub halls (7m x 12m) to host overnight families and EVI's. Sanitation facilities are being constructed and tents will be installed this week.

Transit Area 7: Qandil is advertising for bids to develop transit area 7. However, the challenge continues to be the daily increase of irregular tent installations in transit 7, which may delay works. There are 222 irregular tents erected by refugees, mainly in the lower part of transit 7. The government started site preparation for the construction of a cultural centre in transit 7. A bakery is also under construction in transit 7.

Reception Centre: The first layer of ground levelling for one section of the reception area was completed. The contractor transported gravel to compact the ground as there will not be concrete slabs for the tents.



Bakery construction in transit area 7, Domiz Camp

Water and Sanitation

Al Qa'im

To promote healthy hygiene practices in Camps 1 and 2, UNICEF began a second phase of Hygiene Promotion activities with twenty-nine UNICEF-trained hygiene mobilizers (15 female & 14 male) from their local partner AFKAR, who are deployed to conduct daily awareness sessions. Hygiene materials, including disinfectant, garbage bags and dustbins, were also distributed to 1,400 families in both camps. Adult and baby kits as well as soap are to be delivered next week.

Domiz

366,000 litres of water was distributed to refugees by nine tankers to transit areas and scattered irregular tents in all phases. Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 receive water from the water system. MSF is overseeing the water trucking by tractors pending DMC take over.

Approximately 170 families, (70 in transit 4 and 100 in transit 7) are without sanitation units.

The extension of the water trunk pipe, implemented by UNICEF and the Duhok water directorate, is ongoing with more than 1,000 metres of soil excavated and 100 metres of pipe laid during the reporting period. The trunk pipe will deliver water from the Domiz boosting station to Domiz camp (phases 1-5) benefitting around 15,000 persons when completed in mid-March.



Refugees from irregular tents in phase 7 waiting for the water truck

The DoH, in coordination with UNICEF and IRW, will select and train promoters to implement a tent-to-tent hygiene and health promotion campaign; while IRW will implement and monitor the hygiene promotion activities.

Approximately 170 families, (70 in transit 4, 100 in transit 7) are without regular access to sanitation units.

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Electricity

Al Qa'im

Installation of cables and converters is still ongoing in Camp 3.

Domiz

Seven sectors of transit 4 remain without electricity. Electrical connection to the market, health clinic, and two schools is almost complete.

NFIs

Al Qa'im

UNHCR is currently distributing cooking stoves in order to replace previous ones which were of lesser quality.

For families that are greater than six individuals and who received a second tent, UNHCR is distributing mattresses and quilts as well as complementary NFI packages, (plastic sheeting, fleece blankets, water jerry can, kitchen sets & hygiene kits).

Domiz

In order to cope with the increasing number of new arrivals and to process the backlog of NFI distributions, Qandil is now conducting NFI distribution seven days a week. A total of 15,473 individuals received NFIs. UNHCR continues to distribute NFIs, mainly to refugees living in the transit areas.

KurdSat TV / UNHCR Campaign

UNHCR held two press conferences jointly with the Governor of Erbil and a representative from the Governor of Sulaymaniyah and KurdSat TV on 25 and 27 February respectively, (in addition to a UNHCR press release).

The total quantity of items received during the campaign from 1 to 7 February in the KR was 735 tons of food and household items for a total value of 1.5 million USD. In Sulaymaniyah, 624 tons of food and essential household items were donated and 107 tons in Erbil.

The distribution plan was made through an established committee including the KRG Governors and the respective DMC offices in Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah in addition to refugees. Donations will be distributed to the Syrian refugees living in the KR in line with the UNHCR's humanitarian mandate. A similar mechanism will follow for the cash donations deposited in the UNHCR bank account for Syrian refugees.

As of 5 March, cash donations reached 287,000 USD and 328 million IQD, a total of about 500,000 USD. Cash donations can be made through the UNHCR bank account with TBI (Trade Bank of Iraq) branches in Iraq. The contribution will support the Syrian refugees in Iraq as well as local communities, particularly in the areas of education and health.

UNHCR wishes also to thank its local NGO partners, PARC, HARIKAR and CDO staff, and the role of the media for their remarkable support during the campaign period.

Distribution for vulnerable urban refugee families



The distribution for Syrian vulnerable refugee families living in urban areas in Erbil governorate started on 5 March.

240 Syrian vulnerable refugee families living in Pirzeen and in Mala-Omar collective towns in Erbil Governorate were targeted to benefit from the assistance. The families were selected and prioritized according to their vulnerability.

All committee members - Governor of Erbil, Kurdsat TV, DDM, and refugee representatives - were present at the time of the distribution.

The food and hygiene items were provided to the families according to Iraqi PDS system.

The distribution was supported by PARC and UNHCR staff and the event was covered by several local media, including Kurdsat TV.



Food

Al Qa'im

UNHCR continues supplying bread to Al-Qaim Camps 1 and 2, which began on 25 February, three pieces per individual per day; the distribution is being implemented through UNHCR's partner Afkar.

The complementary cash food assistance distribution commenced on 25 February at 15 USD per individual per month and was completed for both Camp 1 and 2.

Domiz

In partnership with IRW, working with Barzani Charity Foundation, WFP distributed 947 food vouchers valued at 140,275 USD to 4,525 Syrian refugees in Domiz Camp. WFP plans to reach between 35,000 - 40,000 vulnerable refugees residing in Domiz camp.

WFP and UNHCR agreed to relocate the distribution area within Domiz to avoid overcrowding.

As co-chairs of the food security/nutrition working group, WFP and UNICEF held a joint meeting with the health sector on 26 February where it was agreed to establish a well-coordinated mechanism to control random distribution of food items, including infant milk which UNICEF and WFP strongly discourage.

The government continues to provide newly arrived families with diapers as well as food packages including 3 litres of vegetable oil, 15kgs of rice, biscuits and bread.

Health

Al Qa'im

During the reporting period over 3,000 new consultations were conducted in the clinic. The main cause of morbidity in all age groups is respiratory infection. The second cause of morbidity for children under 5 years old is diarrhea and for adults, it is hypertension.

After an outbreak of typhoid in Syria, UNICEF held sessions with all Child Protection Committees about typhoid and diarrhea in order to prevent possible cases in the Al Qa'im camp and area.

Measles vaccination is ongoing for school aged children as part of the national vaccination campaign; 940 children have been vaccinated against measles during the reporting period.

Domiz

During the reporting period, over 6,000 consultations took place at the health clinic in Domiz. Respiratory infection continues to be the main cause of morbidity for all age groups.

The measles outbreak in Domiz continues with 47 cases reported in the camp between 11 and 24 February. In order to respond to the measles outbreak, daily vaccination of all new arrivals and a national vaccination campaign is ongoing that will target schools all schools in Iraq. In addition, three cases of leishmaniasis were reported in the camp.

UNFPA conducted a four day Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) training for 20 camp staff.

From 4 to 24 February, 92 individuals received services from the mental health centre. The centre staff noted an increase in individuals seeking counselling due to domestic violence. The mental health centre consists of two psychologists and one psychiatrist. The centre is open Sunday to Tuesday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

On 25 February, IOM started a 15 day first aid training course for 24 refugees (6 male and 18 female) which is expected to continue on a weekly basis with support from the Civil Defence Unit.

Education

Al Qa'im

The school in Camp 3 is now completed and furnished.

The decision to keep schools open during the mid-year holiday was successful as dozens of children benefitted from extra-curricular activities, including a UNICEF-supported art exhibition that featured children's drawings and handicrafts. Images of war and violence that once featured in many children's drawings were no longer evident, signifying a major change from when they first arrived to the camp. UNICEF's partner Afkar, in coordination with Education College in Al Qa'im, plans to put the art products up for sale in the college with proceeds to be used for school improvements.

As a result of UNICEF advocacy, the two shift schools in Camps 1 and 2 for girls and boys, respectively, are now officially registered by Anbar DoE, meaning children in the schools will be evaluated and receive certificates like all other schools in Iraq.

UNICEF is also advocating with Al Qa'im DoE to open an intermediate school in Camp 2 for grades 7 and 8.

Domiz

A total of 2,141 students from grade 1 to 9 (1,047 female and 1,094 male) are attending Qamishlu and KAR Basic Schools in Domiz Camp. The third UNHCR School has not been opened by the Ministry of Education (MoE), yet 350 students are registered. Access to Qamishlu School remains difficult due to poor roads.

The MoE launched their school feeding programme in the two open schools in Domiz camp where each student receives biscuits, canned milk and a piece of fruit on a daily basis. It is believed that this school-feeding programme will encourage enrolment in both schools.

UNICEF has developed a plan to conduct a second school enrollment drive in the camp to register all new arrivals and children who are currently not attending school, the DoE in Dohuk and partner HARIKAR will start the drive immediately after the UNHCR School is opened.

3. Coordination

Al Qa'im

The Minister of MoMD visited Al Qa'im Camps 1 and 2 on 3 March; the visit was broadcasted by Iraqia Media Network (IMN). The purpose of the visit was to discuss several issues with the refugee community including the possible allocation of a monthly salary for each refugee as a replacement of canned food, milk, vegetables that was previously provided by MoMD as well as enabling refugees to work outside the camp; the possibility for refugees with Iraqi wives/husbands to live outside the camp; use of the primary schools as intermediate and high schools with a double shift system; and, the return of some families to Syria due to the living conditions in the camp and continued deterioration in Syria.



Kurdistan Region

On 25 and 27 February, HOSO met with the Governors of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah respectively to discuss the urgent need to open two new refugee camps. The results, outcomes and distribution plans of the Kurdsat TV/UNHCR campaign were also discussed. The HOSO also met with the Governor of Dohuk on 28 February to discuss the critical overcrowded situation of Domiz camp and the way forward. On 4 March, UNHCR Representative and HOSO met with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Governor of Erbil to discuss the opening of the new camp for Syrian refugees, which is located 40 km away from Erbil city.

On 3 March, HOSO met with the Syria Commission of Inquiry; headed by Ms Karen AboZayd, to discuss the current situation and the assistance provided to the Syrian refugees in KR. Ms. Aboziyad also visited Domiz camp and met with DMC and UNHCR staff.

Acronyms and abbreviations

CFS	Child Friendly Space
DDM	Department of Displacement and Migration
DoH	Department of Health
EVI	Extremely vulnerable individuals
HOFO	Head of Field Office
HOSO	Head of Sub Office
IPs	Implementing Partners
IQD	Iraqi Dinars
KR	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
MOMD	Ministry of Migration and Displacement (also referred to as MODM)
PARC	Protection Assistance Reintegration Centre
PHC	Primary Health Centre