

SITUATION REPORT No.3, 23-24 AUGUST 2013

RESPONDING TO THE INFLUX OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

IRAQ COUNTRY OFFICE

HIGHLIGHTS

- To date, over 43,000 people have crossed the border or whom 45 per cent are children. Fifty-two per cent are above the age of 18 and 3 per cent are above the age of 60. The gender breakdown is 47 per cent female / 53 per cent male.
- The border was closed at 1400 on Thursday. Prior to closure, approximately 2,000 Syrians crossed into Iraq and were then transported to Erbil.
- A new transit centre will be established in Bajed Kandala, 5-6km from Sehela border crossing. The centre will cater for up to 5,000 people for a period of 2-3 nights.
- The KRG will establish a new camp at Baradash which is located roughly half way between Dohuk City and Erbil. This will be established as a permanent camp with a capacity of 50,000.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The border was closed at 1400 on Thursday. Prior to closure, approximately 2,000 Syrians crossed into Iraq and were then transported to Erbil. The border remained closed on Friday but will reopen on Saturday.

Daily statistics of Syrian refugees crossing the border (UNHCR)

Date	Border crossing point	Persons
15 August 2013	Peshkhabour	Up to 7,000
17 August 2013	Peshkhabour	Up to 13,500
18 August 2013	Sehela	Up to 7,500
19 August 2013	Sehela	Approximately 5,100
20 August 2013 (as of 2pm)	Sehela	Approximately *4,500 (500 on the way)
21 August 2013	Sehela	Approx. 4,200
22 August	Sehela	Approx. 2,200
Total		More than 43,000

IOM continues to transport people away from the border using busses. However people also using other modes of transport such minibuses and taxis. In addition, relatives and friends are also said to be meeting new arrivals and transporting them away from the border.

New Syrian arrivals in each location (UNHCR)*

Governorate	Location	Population (persons)
Erbil	Kawergosk Camp	Approx. 15,000 (160 families in Kawrgosk town)
	Bahrak warehouse (temporary Shelter)	Approx. 3,000 (1,000 persons expected yesterday (Friday))
	Qushtapa temporary site – Formerly Kawa site	Approx. 2,650 refugees are in schools and other buildings in Qsuhtapa area
	Basirma temporary site	Approx. 3-4,000 refugees are accommodated in schools and mosque and another 1200-1500 in Hariri)
Suleimaniyah	Temporary accommodation in schools until new site is complete	Approx. 3,246 (4000 new arrival expect in the evening of 21 August)
People outside temporary sites		Approx. 20,000

- *These figures are estimations based on the best available information at the time of reporting.*

The total number of Syrian refugees in Iraq prior to the new influx was 154,635 persons.

UNICEF RESPONSE

To date, over 43,000 people have crossed the border of whom 45 per cent are children. Fifty-two per cent are above the age of 18 and 3 per cent are above the age of 60. The gender breakdown is 47 per cent female / 53 per cent male.

SEHELA BORDER

The border was closed at 1400 on Thursday. Prior to closure, approximately 2,000 Syrians crossed into Iraq and were then transported to Erbil. As per Ministry of Interior (MoI) instructions, the border remained closed on Friday but reopened today on the Dohuk side but closed early on the Syrian side. As a result 750 Syrians crossed the border today. The KRG will establish a new camp at Baradash which is located roughly half way between Dohuk City and Erbil. It will be established to accommodate approximately the same number of refugees as Domiz (35-40,000). A joint mission will take place in the coming week to assess the needs of the refugees.

A joint assessment mission was made to the border area by Department of Modification and Coordination (DMC), UNICEF and UNHCR to determine WASH needs. UNICEF recommended the installation of 2-3 tanks (21cbm each) which will provide a standard 7 litres per person per day. The capacity of the local water well remains unknown. With respect to sanitation needs, 100 toilets are required based on 1 per 50 people. UNICEF is working with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Qandil to define the costs and specifications for implementation. UNICEF is working with IRW to manage hygiene promotion activities.

A coordination meeting was held between UN agencies and DMC on Friday 23 August, whereby the Government urged that they double the resources allocated to the border area and for camps within Dohuk. The vast majority of people crossing the border are Syrian Kurds, but it noted that Syrian Arabs are also crossing. The Government has outlined that the border will remain open for both Kurds and Arabs.

UNICEF has identified a need for: additional transportation to support people with disabilities and the elderly who are walking from the checkpoint in Syria; additional toilets closer to the waiting area; and a water distribution point to be established closer to the border to cater for those who have walked the long journey.

WASH

Cleaning services are continuing at the border area by Atroosh Cleaning Company in partnership with IRW. IRW have put 'Do Not Drink This Water' on all old water boxes that were provided during the first day of arrival. They have provided soap and disinfectant to all toilets. UNCHR made a request for cleaning services to be extended to Peskhabour, however the Government has committed to undertaking this and will advise UNICEF if they need support. Harikar's water distribution continues and is working efficiently. One water tanker (10 cubic meters) and the trucks of water cartons were distributed today. WASH Sector Coordination Group Coordination will be done jointly with DMC.

Child Protection

On 22 August the CP team has identified: 18 separated children and 13 unaccompanied minors. All were boys aged between 14 -17. Transportation was arranged for one child to return to Domiz and another to Zakho, indicating that the new verification system is established and functioning. Nine MRM cases were reported. A meeting will be held next week with DoLSA to amend the DoLSA-UNICEF working agreement so that it covers this latest emergency and incorporates new funding needs.

Bajed Kandala (New transit centre next to border)

A new transit centre will be established in Bajed Kandala, 5-6km from Sehelda border crossing. The centre will cater for up to 5,000 people for a period of 2-3 nights. The Mine Action Group will start clearance work on Sunday. It is expected to take up to 10 days.

The minimum standards of WASH facilities will be supplied by UNICEF and are applied with respect to water and sanitation and hygiene promotion.

The Directorate of Health (DoH) Dohuk is covering the health needs of the refugees by providing primary health care services including referral of pathologies identified to the main health centres in Dohuk city. Government is providing food until WFP is fully operational.

SULIEMANIYEH

Refugees in Suleimaniyeh (UNHCR) are accommodated in temporary shelters including schools, a mosque and library. In the new temporary camp, with a capacity of 500 tents catering to 2,500 people, up to know all tents are reported to have electricity. By tomorrow, 25 August, families will be relocated from the temporary shelters to the temporary camp.

IRC has shared a list of 71 cases of separated children.

UNICEF WASH & hygiene items have been unloaded today in the Transit Camp. IRC will manage the distribution soon. UNHCR/KURDS has installed 50 latrines according to UNICEF recommendations out of 125 latrines, beside 22 showers. IRC, funded by UNICEF, started distributed of water (80,000 litres) and HHP teams will start work tomorrow.

WASH

UNICEF's is supporting International Rescue Committee (IRC) to implement of a comprehensive package of WASH activities in Arbat Transit Camp.

Comprehensive package of WASH services

Water Supply	Prepare an overall water supply distribution plan, to ensure equitable distribution Water point construction – including storage tanks and distribution tap stands Ensuring safe water quality through chlorination Support Department of Water to manage any water trucking for the first four months Monitor quality, quantity and timing of water deliveries Distribution of bottled water to people for the first five days (if and only if necessary)
Sanitation	Upgrade emergency toilets to ensure safety and durability (improved pit lining; durable connection between the pits and the superstructure) Support Municipal authorities for latrine pit de-sludging Supporting Municipal authorities to ensure the site is free of garbage.
Drainage	Monitor any potential problems with drainage and coordinate with UNHCR to install lined drainage ditches and small bridges before winter Drainage clearing and maintenance through community mobilization.
Hygiene	Hygiene promotion in line with UNICEF C4D approach Community volunteers 1:100 households Waste minimization program (waste segregation, recycling).
NFI Distribution	Jerry cans / Waste bins / Communal waste bins (suitable for pick up at by government waste disposal truck) / Household waste segregation bins / Hygiene kits / Dignity kits.

ERBIL CAMPS

Kawrgosk (Permanent Camp)

There are approximately 15,000 refugees in Kawrgosk (UNHCR). The camp is at full capacity surrounded by a host population of 8,000 people. The services of the host population should be strengthened as a medium-term response.

Today the following items were delivered to the camp including: 70 large 660L garbage bins, 10,000 bottles of drinking water, 2 rectangular tents (24sqm), 74 garbage bins, 800 water containers (10L), and 400 hygiene kits. 1,760 tents have been pitched. The hygiene kits will be distributed on 25 August. UNICEF participated in the coordination meeting with the Mayor, UNHCR, IRC, ACTED, BARZ WFP and KURDS – Kitchen sets were highlighted as a priority along with WASH actions.

WASH

UNICEF is joining ACTED on tent to tent HHP and other small scale C4D messaging. Training will take place on Monday. The UNICEF Wash team visited the medical clinic to assess the high reported cases of diarrhea. It was reported that 50 per cent of clinic visits related to diarrhea and 80 per cent of these were children. It was reported that the cases were not of a form warranting major concern. Nevertheless, UNICEF has ordered diarrhea prevention leaflets which will be provided to the clinic. There is no availability of ORS in the clinic; UNICEF will procure this from the local market.

UNICEF seeking a WASH coordination meeting with local partners this week. Tomorrow a site plan will be produced and distributed to all agencies for comment. This will help in making decisions about the positioning of latrines etc. On 25 August NRC will start water quality monitoring. Garbage collection is currently being done for free for one month; UNICEF will engage the garbage collection company in a 6-12 month contract for when this first months' arrangement ends.

A site assessment was conducted by UNICEF protection team to assess the site for the establishment of a CFS and CPU. An area was identified and the site had been levelled. Two UNICEF-branded tents will arrive tomorrow and will be operational one-two days thereafter.

Education

A rapid assessment of school aged children is being conducted by NRC with the support of UNICEF, including the identification of Syrian teachers living in the camp. Three tents of 72 sqm will be used as alternative learning space up until the moment that the new school is established with permanent infrastructure. An mission will be conducted on 25 August by the education team to engage with partners on education needs.

Health

A rapid nutritional assessment is being planned in order to identify cases of middle acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition. There are reports of malnourished children in the camp.

UNICEF is providing technical and financial assistance to the DoH to conduct a mass vaccination campaign for measles and Vitamin A. UNICEF is planning to provide vaccination teams and supervisors, logistics, transport, and incentives. The campaign will last for eight days and twenty teams will be deployed across four tents (each team will comprise five people). A team of outreach workers (mobile teams) will be deployed tent by tent in order to ensure more than 90 per cent coverage. UNICEF will also support the Government in the permanent camps by implementing two caravans for the Expanded Programme of Immunization and other health promotion services such as anti-natal care and baby huts. A proposal from the Government will be sent in the coming days.

Qushtapa (Temporary Camp)

A joint assessment mission team visited Qushtapa to assess the situation of the refugees and their living conditions. A coordination meeting with Government was held on the spot.

There are 475 tents pitched and an additional 1,000 tents are planned. Refugees currently living in school buildings will begin moving to the camp on 25 August.

Basirma (Temporary Camp)

A joint assessment mission team visited Basirma to assess the living conditions of the refugees who are currently living in the schools and mosque.

WASH systems represent a major concern as does the absence of a school. This was strongly addressed by the local Mayor. The relocation of refugees to the temporary camp will start today and continue through to Monday. They will be housed in 80 caravans and 280 tents provided by UNHCR and 280 tents by IOM. UNICEF is exploring potential partners to implement the comprehensive package of WASH services.

MORE INFORMATION

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CAMP AND TRANSIT AREA LOCATIONS

