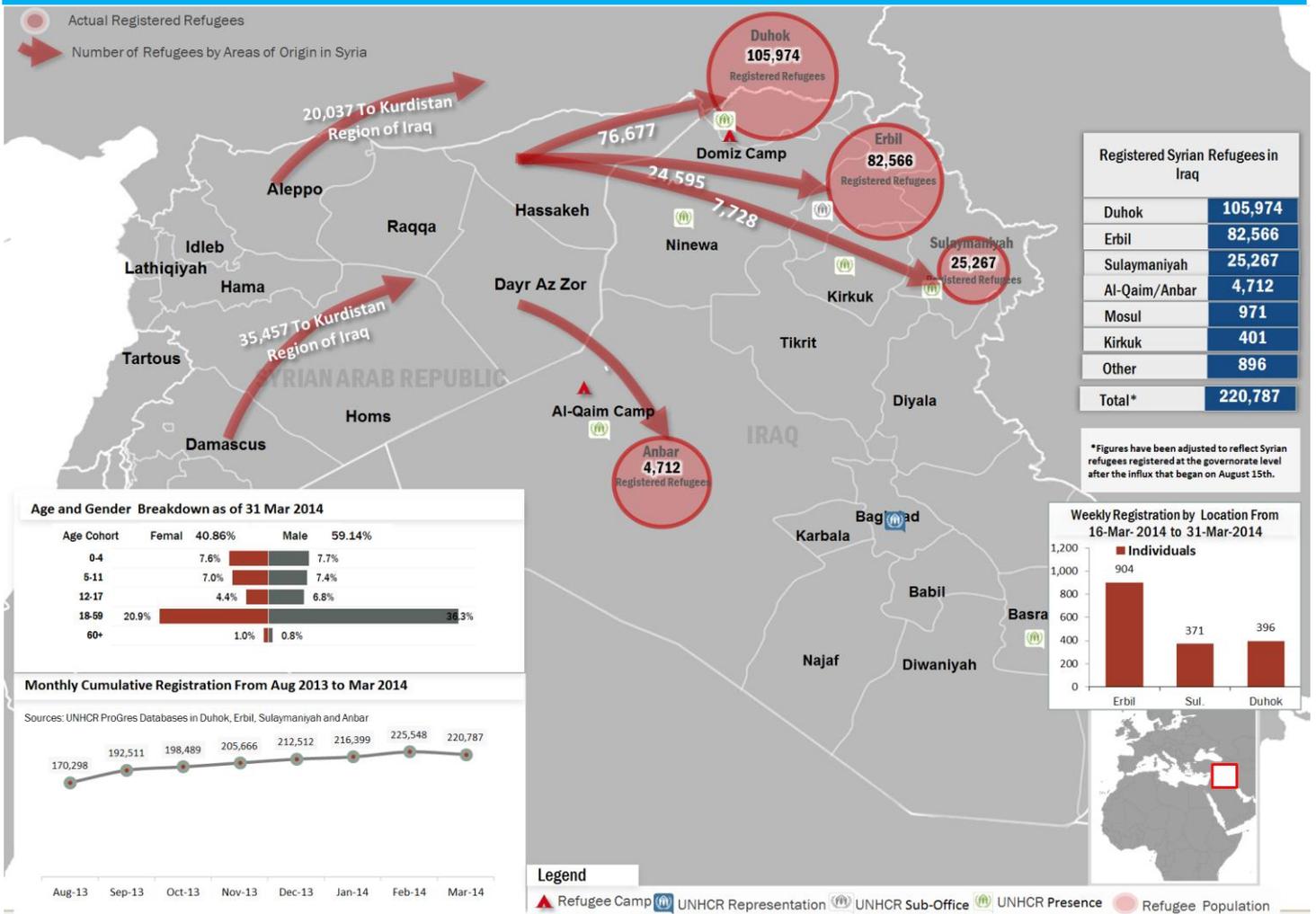


Situation in IRAQ

Inter-agency Update No. 61

16 – 31 March 2014



Donor contributions to the Syrian Response in Iraq, 2012-2014:



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

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

irgpi@unhcr.org

MOMD | DDM | DGC | Local Authorities

Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM | UNDP | UNFPA | FAO | UNESCO | UN-Habitat

NGOs: ACF | ACTED | DRC | FRC/ IRCS | HAI | HI | IMC | INTERSOS | IRC | IRW | KURDS | MAG | Mercy Corps | MSF | NRC |

PEOPLE IN NEED | PU – AMI | PWJ | QANDIL | Relief International | SC KR-I | SCI | STEP | TGH TRIANGLE GH | UPP |

WarChild UK | WARVIN

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

UNHCR Registration Trends for Syrians

31 Mar 2014



Registration Unit

Total Registered Up to Date

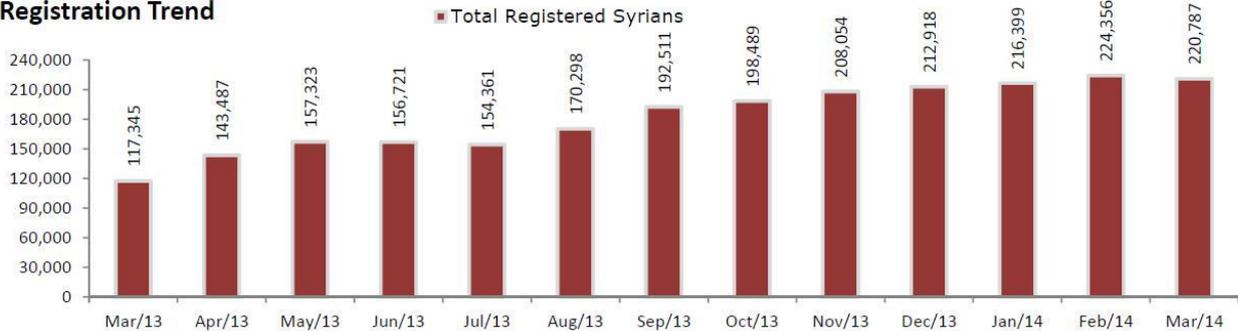
Individuals

220,787

Households

79,047

Registration Trend

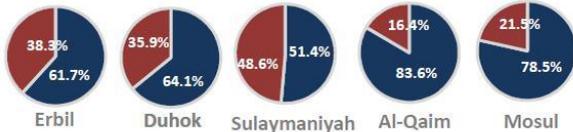


This profile is based on and The total is **200,813** and **19,974** **220,787**

proGRES registered persons (Level 2) level 1 registration * individuals

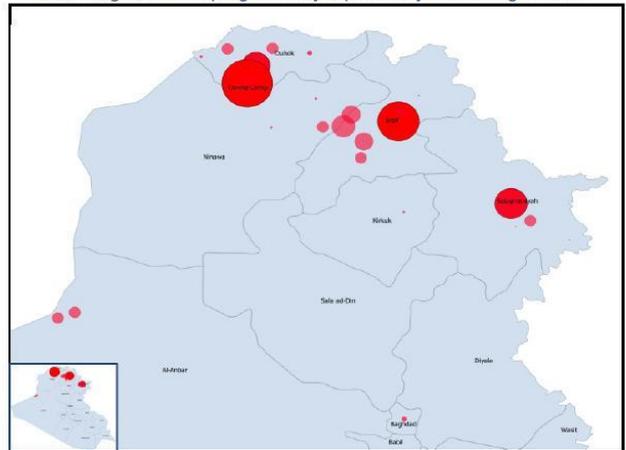
Age and Gender Breakdown

Age (Years)	Female	Male
0-4	7.50%	7.70%
5-11	7.27%	7.66%
12-17	4.50%	6.70%
18-59	21.24%	35.55%
60+	1.02%	0.85%

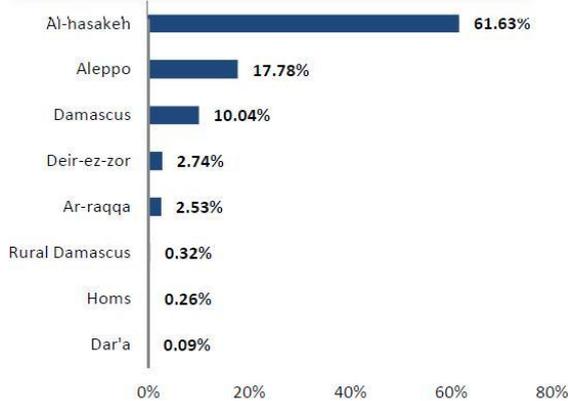


■ % Women and Children ■ % of Adults

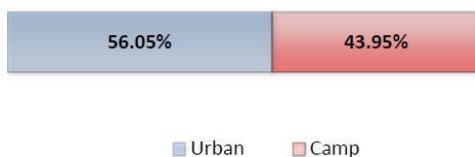
* Level 1 registration is progressively replaced by level 2 registration



Place of Origin



Camp and non-camp population comparison



Governorate	Individuals	Households	% Total
Duhok	105,974	36,006	48.00%
Erbil	82,566	30,579	37.40%
Sulaymanniyah	25,267	10,480	11.44%
Anbar	4,712	1,186	2.13%
Mosul	971	306	0.44%
Kirkuk	401	132	0.18%
Other	896	358	0.41%
Total Iraq	220,787	79,047	100%

Camps Population			
Camp	Individuals	Households	% Total
Domiz Camp	58,500	10,000	60.29%
Al-Obaidi Camp	1,662	351	1.71%
Kawergosk Camp	13,646	3,791	14.06%
Darashakran Camp	7,500	1,800	7.73%
Qushtapa Camp	4,726	1,060	4.87%
Basirma Camp	3,384	815	3.49%
Arbat Camp	3,455	944	3.56%
Akre Camp	1,442	356	1.49%
Gawilan Camp	2,715	719	2.80%
Total	97,030	19,836	100%

1. Highlights

- UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Khaled Hosseini visited northern Iraq during the reporting period. Following his visit he called on the international community to do more to help the tens of thousands of Syrians living in camps or towns across northern Iraq while praising the resilience of refugees.
- On 27 March, 791 Syrian nationals crossed the Peshkhabour border into the KR-I. The majority consist of large families, composed of women and children. They say dire conditions in their areas of origin triggered by the deteriorating security situation left them with no option but to seek safety in the Kurdish region of Iraq.
- Nawroze celebrations took place during the reporting period in locations accommodating Syrian refugees. A confrontation in Gawilan Camp between the Asayeesh, DMC officials and Zeravani during the Nawroz celebrations on 21 March turned violent, leading to the temporary withdrawal of humanitarian actors and the suspension of assistance.
- UNESCO set up a secondary school in the Darashakran camp. However the hiring of teachers for the school is problematic, as the Department of Education lacks the funds necessary to pay for salaries. UNESCO is seeking the assistance of donors.

3. Border update

Al Qa'im

The border remains closed since 29 March 2013. Syrians with valid visa are still allowed to cross the border toward Iraq after they obtain prior approval from Iraqi authorities. More medical cases of Syrians are received at the clinic of Border. Patients return back to Syria the same day after receiving the appropriate treatment.

Peshkhabour and Sehela

The Syrian border with northern Iraq at Peshkhabour remained open throughout the reporting period for Syrian nationals seeking asylum, except for a four day period starting 20 March, on account of the official holidays in northern Iraq. On 27 March, some 791 individuals crossed into the Kurdistan region.

4. Response by sector and location

✓ Reception, Registration and Protection

Al Qa'im

The number of Syrian refugees returning to their country of origin saw a slight increase from the previous reporting period and currently stands at 6,527 persons. The reasons for return range from limitations in the freedom of movement and health and family reunification to the lack of a proper source of income for refugees.

Kurdistan Region

Similar to the new arrivals during the previous reporting period, the 791 individuals who fled into the Kurdistan region on 27 March say they spent some time on the Syrian side of the border, some for more than three weeks, until they were able to cross the Peshkhabour border. A majority of the latest population movement consist of large families, composed of women and children. They say dire conditions in their areas of origin triggered by the deteriorating security situation in their areas of origin left them with no option but to seek safety in the Kurdistan region.

In Erbil, UNHCR continued to follow-up on a number of cases of registered asylum-seekers detained in Baghdad and at risk of deportation by the Federal authorities, upon release. During the reporting period, the KRG authorities agreed to the transfer back to KR-I of three such individuals. Further requests remain pending.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Meanwhile during a recent assessment conducted in Domiz camp it was reported that some Arab families who arrived during August 2013 mass-influx and were settled in Domiz-1 camp are yet to be provided with Residency Permits, which directly hinders/limits their freedom of movement. UNHCR will bring this the attention of senior authorities and a solution will be sought to ensure equal treatment of all persons of concern.

Spontaneous & verified returns

During the reporting period some 406 cases (755 Syrian refugees) registered with UNHCR in KR-I returned to their place of origin such as Al-Hasakah and Damascus. Another 351 Syrians not registered with UNHCR are also said to have returned to Syria. Many of the returns are due to family reunifications, to follow up on the issuance of importance documents in their place of origin, and medical reasons etc.

In total, 25,707 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR have returned to Syria since January 2013. Another 23,074 Syrians not registered with UNHCR also returned to their country during the same period.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

The merged RSD and resettlement procedure for Syrians continued to be rolled-out on a pilot basis. A total of 35 cases assessed and/or interviewed under the regular RSD procedure were reviewed. Of these, five cases will proceed with resettlement consideration, while the remaining 30 having been deprioritized, mostly due to not falling within one of the prioritized profiles.

The regional framework SOPs for the merged RSD/resettlement procedure having been finalized and issued on 10 March, the RSD/RST team embarked on immediate implementation. More information is provided below under Resettlement.

Camps

Gawilan camp: Up to 20 Protection interviews and 83 preliminary intake interviews were conducted over the reporting period, covering issues including registration, health, and child labour. Referrals were made to Registration, UPP, and Community Services. The team is also tracking unaccompanied and separated children who were registered in Gawilan, with either DMC and/or UNHCR. Thus far, five separated children and one unaccompanied child have been verified to be living in Gawilan camp.

UNHCR participated in a meeting on prioritizing vulnerable households in the relocation to the permanent site, with community members, and DMC. UNHCR also worked on identifying households with individuals with limited mobility and specific needs for priority plot consideration for the relocation to the permanent site.

However a confrontation in Gawilan Camp between the Asayeesh, DMC officials and Zeravani (comprised largely of Syrian nationals, and whose detachment is based close to Gawilan Camp) during the Nawroz celebrations turned violent, leading to the temporary withdrawal of humanitarian actors and the suspension of assistance. Camp residents say they feel safe, but are concerned about the impending food distribution and access to work, as they cannot leave the camp and travel without permission from the Asayeesh. At the time of writing, high-level meetings at both the KR-I and Dohuk levels were planned. There is a common understanding that the situation in the camp is not acceptable and that the authorities and UNHCR are mutually committed to finding a solution to maintain the civilian nature of the camp and ensure the safety and security of its residents.

Domiz Camp: During the reporting period, 77 Syrians have undergone Level-2 UNHCR registration at Domiz Registration centre, including family reunification.

Arbat Transit Site: UNHCR has observed that an increasing number of Syrian refugees in non-camp locations are moving in to the Arbat Transit Site, to ensure a space in the Arbat permanent camp that is currently under construction. By the third week of March, given the limited space available in the Arbat Transit Site, UNHCR and the Arbat municipality agreed to discourage this trend and prioritize allocation of space in the Arbat Permanent Camp to refugees directly arriving from the border. As of end-March, UNHCR stopped registering new families in the transit site except those deemed extremely vulnerable due to both lack of space but also due to inadequate WASH facilities.

Meanwhile 31 new Syrian cases were recorded as in need of various legal interventions/advice and were assisted accordingly. The issues included marriage/death/guardianship certificates, permits from the security for housing, issuance and renewal of residence permits, proof of lineage, social welfare, taxation and exploitative working conditions.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Transit sites

Bajid Kandela: A total of 1,066 Syrian Individuals asylum seekers, including the new arrivals, are currently hosted at this transit site. Food is provided by WFP & DMC, whereas basic primary health care is provided by MSF team.

A vaccination campaign targeting the following refugee age groups was carried-out: MMR vaccine for ages ranging from 2 to 25 year old and Meningitis vaccine for age group 6 months to 1 year. During the campaign 493 registered refugee children were vaccinated and medical cards were issued accordingly.

Action Against Hunger Canada - part of the ACF international network, has provided four tonnes of new clothes for refugees (age groups 14 and above).

Akre: UNHCR conducted 12 protection interviews and 30 preliminary intake interviews, covering issues including unpaid wages, registration, conflict, livelihoods, and detention. Referrals were made to PARC for legal aid, ICRC for tracing, Community Services, and Registration.

✓ Shelter/Infrastructure

Al Obaidy

As part of UNHCR livelihood projects, the bakeries continue producing traditional bread to the refugees in Al Obaidy Camp.

Bakeries @ ISHO/Laith



Kurdistan Region

Camps

Kawergosk Camp: On 20 March, a fire broke out in the camp, burning down two tents and a shop and damaging two others. No casualties were reported. The fire is said to have been caused by an electrical short circuit. There is a deep concern regarding the increasing number of similar incidents taking place in the camp.

On 27 March, UNHCR received seven caravans that will be used as office space for the agency and its partners.



Caravans for office space in Kawergosk Camp @ UNHCR/C. Muhanika

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Darashakran Camp: The land was prepared for UNFPA's YFS in the camp during the reporting period.

Meanwhile the Darashakran camp council raised the issue of families arriving to the camp as visitors and then staying for an extended period of time without shelter and food. Currently, some 161 families are without shelter in the camp.

UNFPA's YFS being set up @ UNHCR/C. Muhanika



Domiz Camp: During the reporting period, Kurds continued distributing tent insulation kits, bringing the total distributed as of 31 March to 5,114 kits. UNHCR also continued to replace tents in the camp. Up to 2,574 tents have been replaced so far.



Distribution of tent insulation kits in Domiz @ UNHCR/ F.Yousuf

Gawilan Camp: The construction of 400 tent base, kitchens and sanitation facilities by UNHCR and DMC is ongoing. In addition, UNHCR and DMC have completed the construction of internal roads in permanent site, 13KM stretch with sub base gravel A.

Transit sites

Bajet Kandala: UNHCR accommodated all the new arrivals that have crossed the border on 27 March. Currently, 70 community tents are occupied by 1,039 persons, which include refugees that have arrived earlier.

✓ Water and Sanitation

Al Obaidy

On 17 March, UNICEF in collaboration with UNHCR and AFKAR celebrated World Water Day in Al Obaidy Camp. UNICEF and AFKAR and DoH/AI Qa'im started a hygiene awareness program for the 25 beneficiaries from Al Obaidy Camp and 12 non-camp families.

UNICEF and AFKAR also continued with maintenance activities which included changing two pumps for potable water and installing floats for potable water tanks.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update



Maintenance activities in Al Obaidy @UNICEF/Majeed



World Water Day in Al Obaidy @UNICEF/Majeed

Kurdistan Region

Camps

Domiz Camp: During the reporting period, UNHCR, UNICEF and DMC entered into a tripartite agreement for road construction and drainage and sanitation.

Flooded cesspools and septic tanks continue to be a challenge in Domiz 2. UNHCR stated the construction of cesspool overflows and open drainage channels.

UNHCR also discussed with NRC and French Red Cross (FRC) the coordination of hygiene promotion and related messages for the refugee populations.

Gawilan Camp: PWJ has started constructing the drainage channels along the plots. Up to 40 new toilets constructed by ACF are fully operational. UNHCR also gave the green light to the BoQ for PHC septic tank, retaining wall and internal water distribution network.

Transit Sites

Bajid Kandela: UNHCR conducted a random technical check for the 400 family plots and identified several problems in electrical wiring and quality of doors/windows construction. Necessary action will be taken by the contractor. Meanwhile NRC is continuing with the construction of 168 shared toilets for the communal tents. NRC is also continuing with the care and maintenance of WASH facilities. UNHCR allocated one truck for water supply and care maintenance of sanitation units that conducts three trips on daily basis.

✓ Core Relief Items

Kurdistan Region

Camps

Domiz Camp: During the reporting period, UNHCR through Qandil distributed 87 CRI packages to 78 families and nine groups made up of single individuals from the non-camp population that were registered over the last month.

Gawilan Camp: UNHCR provided urgent CRI packages to four new families from the non-camp that had arrived and settled in Qasruk sub-district. UNHCR is currently in discussions with DMC regarding the growing need to establish CRI a distribution process for the non-camp population.

Transit Sites

Akre: UNHCR through Qandil distributed baby diapers to 108 children age 0-2 years-old, and sanitary napkins to 370 women; Barzani Charity Foundation distributed cloth packages to 291 families.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Bajid Kandela: UNHCR through Qandil and DMC provided all families with CRIs such as mattresses, quilts and plastic sheets. NRC also distributed hygiene kits to 18 families..

✓ Food

Al Obaidy

The distribution for the month of March was completed. Some 1,776 individuals were covered.



Distribution of food parcels in Al Qaim@ WFP/Monkith

Transit Sites

Bajid Kandela: During the reporting period, DMC provided ready meals such as rice and soup for 740 persons that arrived on 27 March. Meanwhile WFP conducted food distribution, a package/person/month, which was appreciated by the refugees that used to receive only dry food.

*Food distribution in Bajid Kandala
@UNHCR/G.Gubaeva*



✓ Child Protection

Al Obaidy

The psychologist is continuing her assessment on the psychosocial condition of children attending the CFS in the camp. Activities such as board games and drawing continue in the CFS. Refreshments are also provided twice a week.

Kurdistan Region

Camps

Domiz Camp: A Child Protection Sub-Working Group meeting was held during the reporting period. In addition to the regular coordination issues, it was also agreed to strengthen awareness raising and community sensitization regarding early marriage. As a result UNHCR lead in organizing a campaign against early marriage in collaboration with UNFPA, IRC and Save the Children. The campaign will be launched in Domiz Camp. The same format will also be used for other locations in the Dohuk governorate.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Six child friendly spaces are operating in Domiz Camp and a large number of children are benefiting from them with different kinds of activities operated in the CFS and YFS through which psychological support is provided. The ACTED CFS started carrying out tutorial classes for language and mathematics.

UNHCR also visited Transit 6 (Arab families) to identify potential protection concerns. It was identified that most of the children were not benefiting from the CFS in the area, and the UNHCR team raised the issue with the Save the Children.

Gawilan Camp: UNICEF has equipped two of the four tents allocated for child friendly activities and services are provided regularly. The activities are implemented by the UNICEF community mobilization team.

Transit Sites

Akre: UNICEF activities for children are ongoing.

✓ Mass Information

Kurdistan Region

Messages for refugees: Within the context of delays in food distribution in Erbil's camps, a message was developed in cooperation with WFP and disseminated among refugees through camp management partners. The message read as follows: "We acknowledge your frustration over delays in food distribution and we apologize for the distress that this situation has caused to you and your family. WFP confirmed that the food supplies have arrived at the border with Iraq and are pending clearance from the customs authorities. For this reason, we are not in a position to indicate the exact date of the next distribution. We are in conversations with the authorities to expedite this process and conduct the next distribution as soon as possible. Please be ensured that we will keep you informed of any further developments."

SOPs: Standard Operating Procedures for the use of the Public Address system in camps were finalized and shared with relevant units for internal review prior to dissemination to camp management partners.

Printed Material: Text for a leaflet and poster on UNHCR registration procedures was drafted and shared with relevant units for review. Further discussions are pending for comments and final clearance.

Assessment: Closed-ended mass information questionnaire was designed and shared with REACH/ACTED for inclusion into the "Intention Assessment" due to take place in camps in the coming months. The questionnaire aims at collecting information about refugees' information needs and access. Feedback is pending from REACH/ACTED about the length and feasibility of the questionnaire.

✓ Health

Al Obaidy

Around 537 medical cases received treatment in the PHC during the reporting period.

During the period 23-25 March, United Iraqi Medical Society in collaboration with UNHCR conducted a workshop on child health, nutrition, and vaccination for 23 pregnant women and females with new born babies in Al Obaidy Camp. In addition, six Syrian females who completed the UIMS first aid training also participated.

The Green initiative launched by UIMS during the previous reporting period is still on-going in the PHC.

Meanwhile UIMS installed the dental ex-ray in the PHC, which is expected to help reduce the number of referral cases. PHC emergency phone numbers were distributed in the camp in case of emergencies in the camp as well as for refugees' complaints, if any.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update



UIMS activities in Al Qa'im @UIMS/Mahmood

Kurdistan Region

Camps

Darashakran Camp: MSF started work at the PHC in Darashakran Camp. So far, some 180 patients have been treated.

UNFPA's clinic has also been opened. Two midwives are present, and a general practitioner is present from Sunday through Thursday. Moreover starting in April, a gynaecologist will be present once a week.

Domiz Camp: During the reporting period, the MSF health centre continued to provide services to refugees. Also, 309 persons suffering from acute, chronic and mental health conditions have benefited from the health services provided by Kirkuk Foundation.

Gawilan Camp: The health centre continued to receive patients for primary care, but following the security incident in the camp during the reporting period, PU-AMI temporarily suspended its services and as a result, all primary health services are provided by the DoH. PU-AMI reported that referral to secondary health services in the camp is currently a challenge following the security incident, and DMC confirmed that it is putting an effort to coordinate with PU-AMI and DoH to facilitate referrals. The vaccination campaign by Bardarash-DoH has continued on a three days per week basis.

Transit sites

Akre: The health centre continued to receive patients on daily basis providing only primary and basic care; one case of autism was referred to UPP for psychotherapy.

✓ Education

Kurdistan Region

A meeting was held between UNHCR, UNESCO and UNICEF in Erbil in order to discuss teacher issues for secondary schools. UNESCO has constructed classrooms in Darashakran and Kawergosk refugee camps but the government has failed to hire teachers due to financial constraints. While the government may look into that issue for the next school year starting next September, suggestions on how to manage the situation in the interim were made, including involving the community through volunteers and seeking support from donors.

Camps

Darashakran Camp: UNESCO has set up a secondary school in Darashakran. UNESCO is currently in the process of seeking students and hiring teachers. The latter poses a challenge, as the KRG does not have the necessary funds to cover six months of teacher salaries. Therefore, UNESCO is now in the process of seeking donors.

Domiz Camp: Six schools are operating at Domiz camps 1 and 2, providing education services for more than 3,000 children. UNHCR through IOM is providing transportation for children residing in Domiz 2 and still attending schools in Domiz 1 (currently the number is 120 children). For the next academic year, the plan is that all children will enroll in schools in their vicinities.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

During the monthly Education Working Group meeting, the low enrolment rate of children in the new schools was taken up for discussion. As three primary school opened after the start of the academic year, parents are reluctant to send their children to those schools. Agencies agreed to launch a robust mobilization campaign to enhance the enrolment and attendance rate for catch-up school programs.

Gawilan Camp: Primary education in Gawilan is offered in two schools; the new school in the permanent site offers services to children from grade 1 to 6 while the old school in the transit site is runs classes in two shifts for grade 7 to 9. However, due to the current security situations, all education services are on hold.

✓ **SGBV**

Al Obaidy

Through the Women's Listening Centre, three cases were identified and two of them received psychological and legal support.

Kurdistan Region

Darashakran Camp: NRC has provided trainings to 100 Asayeesh staff on GBV and case referral. UNHCR also contributed with trainings on refugee rights, while SCI discussed the rights of children.

Domiz Camp: During the monthly SGBV sub-working group meeting, issues pertaining to coordination, challenges in case management and referrals were taken up for discussion. In addition, new partners in the sector were introduced and presented their interventions. It was agreed that SGBV standard operating procedures need to be formally endorsed and signed by each member agency. UNHCR will take the lead in the process and implementation.

Four cases of SGBV were identified during the reporting period and assistance/support to survivors and families is on-going. Most of the cases were survivors of complex domestic violence (involving physical violence, emotional violence and sexual violence). Moreover, in most of the cases, violence against children was also involved at different levels.

Nine other cases are still receiving legal, psychological assistance and UNHCR is leading the process of referrals and providing different kind of support including shelter, NFI, facilitation in registration, Food items and medical support.

Gawilan Camp: UNHCR follow up on four cases of SGBV identified in Gawilan Camp.

Camps

Transit sites

Akre: A case of SGBV has been reported. UNHCR is coordinating the appropriate response to the incident.

✓ **Community services**

Al Obaidy

On 19 March, in collaboration with UNHCR, Al-Maamura Humanitarian Establishment funded by OCHA distributed parcels of clothes to 638 camp and non-camp families.



Distribution of clothes in Al Obaidy @ UNHCR/Omer

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Computer courses are ongoing for both men and women in the YFS as well as sports activities. In addition, knitting and embroidery activities for girls continue to take place.



CFS and YFS activities in Al Obaidy @ UNICEF/Edrees

✓ Psychosocial Services

Kurdistan Region

Camps

Kawergosk & Darashakran Camps: In Kawergosk camp, nine cases have been followed up on by UNHCR. The agency is also following 11 persons with the specific needs in Darashakran camp. The cases are related to medical conditions, unaccompanied and separated children, single females and persons with disabilities.

Domiz Camp: Up to 39 families were identified and assisted during the reporting period including cash assistance to extremely vulnerable families, assistance to facilitate registration with government and Asayeesh, families with children with specific needs and families seeking advice regarding family reunification overseas. Necessary referrals were also made to MSF and Kirkuk Foundation.

UNHCR and IRC held a meeting to outline IRC's community development interventions. It was agreed that IRC will mainly focus on community empowerment and engaging refugee communities in community based protection. It was agreed that enhancing the knowledge, attitude and skills of staff of UNHCR and IRC, who are responsible for implementation/monitoring is the immediate priority.

Gawilan Camp: Elven families/individuals with specific needs were identified and assisted with medical and psychosocial counseling.

Transit sites

Akre: Two individuals with specific needs were assisted. One of the cases is newly identified while the other is a follow up on a referral for a chronic medical condition.

Bajid Kandela: Overall, 33 individuals with specific needs were identified at the border. However, since only a small segment of persons who cross the border seek asylum, the proportion of vulnerable asylum seeker families identified is low. Elderly refugees and chronically/seriously ill individuals constitute a majority of the vulnerable cases, followed by single female headed households, persons with disabilities and separated/unaccompanied minors.

UNHCR discussed with MSF the possibility of improving medical services at the Transit Centre. Discussions were also held with NRC over the garbage issue at the site as well as providing hygiene kits for new arrivals.

Arbat Transit Site: CDO assisted a woman whose tent caught fire to the provision of a cash grant.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

✓ Livelihoods

Camps

Domiz Camp: During the monthly livelihoods working group meeting, UNHCR urged partners to implement planned programs in a timely fashion. The newest addition to the group is the French Red Cross who reported to have confirmed funding for livelihoods projects for 50 families.

During the meeting the possibility of livelihood programs in Domiz 2, Akre and Gawilan as a preventive intervention for different forms of psychosocial issues and violence was also discussed. UNHCR underlined the importance of using the 'employment database' to ensure that all qualified refugees get fair employment opportunities by agencies operating in the governorate.

UNHCR facilitated the recruitment of 15 male refugees at a construction company in Dohuk. In addition, the team identified and documented 22 professionally qualified refugees for potential job seekers. Currently the database of qualified refugees has more than 1,000 job seekers.

5. Non-camp assistance

✓ Reception, Registration and Protection

Dohuk

UNHCR continues to provide support to the PARC to identify, refer and address issues faced by non-camp based refugees. Currently, a total of 20 cases are being managed by UNHCR's urban protection team together with the PARC team.

Suleimaniyah

65 families and 145 singles were registered at Level 2 during the reporting period. Total individuals registered were 329 of whom 228 were male and 101 females.

Seven verification interviews were conducted with Syrian refugees who returned to Syria and subsequently came back to KR-I. From the interview findings, the major reasons for their return to Syria are as follows: attending funerals, sitting for exams, taking care of their families and lack of employment prospects in KR-I.

Upon return to KR-I such individuals are facing difficulties in (re) registering, as the local authorities view them as not in need of international protection. In particular single adult men have not been able to (re) register, largely because of rumours that many of them may have joined the armed resistance in Syria.

✓ Child Protection

Erbil

A BID panel meeting was held in order to discuss a BID conducted for a Syrian separated child whose foster family is under resettlement consideration. Besides community services and protection, UNICEF and Save the Children participated in the panel meeting. After discussion on the case, the panel validated the recommendations that the child should stay with the foster family whether in Iraq or in the country of resettlement.

Dohuk

Two child friendly spaces (Save the Children) continue to provide services in two non-camp locations.

Suleimaniyah

UNHCR's partner CDO assisted one sick child through advocacy with a private company to sponsor her medical treatment in India. ICRC will issue a two way travel document to facilitate the process.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

✓ Education

Dohuk

Up to 1,552 children are attending Dohuk non-camps basic Arabic schools, while 4,393 students are attending basic Kurdish schools in Dohuk and 240 students in Arabic High Schools. Harikar provided Var City students with school uniforms following the opening of the Var City basic school on 13 March.

Suleimaniyah

The teachers of the school in Bazyan (for Syrians) went on strike due to non-payment of their salaries. Advocacy is underway with the DoE to push for the payment of their salaries.

✓ SGBV

Erbil

UNHCR continues to follow up on an SGBV case, originating from January, 2014. Legal counselling has been provided to the survivor to enable her and care-givers to make an informed decision on the need to pursue legal action. During the reporting period, the police completed the investigation and the case was referred to court. On 31 March, the first court hearing took place and the PARC lawyer assigned to follow up on the case, is waiting to obtain a copy of the decision.

Dohuk

Follow up of two SGBV cases identified in the previous weeks is on-going.

Suleimaniyah

Through UNHCR's partner CDO, and awareness raising session on the importance of birth control, family planning and gender equality was carried out for women in non-camp locations. It was attended by 40 Syrian women.

Three cases of potential SGBV survivors have also been identified. The Resettlement Screening Forms will be completed for them and shared with Erbil in the next week.

✓ Health

UNHCR identified and referred 14 persons to general and specialized public health services.

✓ Community services/livelihoods

Dohuk

Up to 51 families were identified and assisted by the Community Services team during the reporting period. The assistance includes referrals to unconditional emergency cash assistance to extremely vulnerable families (25) and to livelihood programmes (14), to general or specialized public health providers (14) and to registration (7).

In addition, Harikar conducted focus group discussions and community profilings for Semel, Zakho and Akre to learn about protection concerns and available community capacities.

A meeting was held with DRC to discuss coordination issues in non-camp protection/assistance and possibilities of engaging them in more livelihoods programs in camps/non-camp settings. At the moment DRC is finalizing a list of beneficiaries for unconditional cash assistance. The project covers 250 families and is entirely funded by other sources than UNHCR. They also indicated they are waiting funding to implement livelihoods projects for 300 female headed households in Domiz camp.

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Suleimaniyah

CDO assisted in finding accommodation for nine male students. CDO advocated with a private company to sponsor their rent for four months. The students are studying at Human Development University, where they were assisted in admission by the CDO. The company will pay up to 1,800 US dollars for the students' accommodation.

✓ **Cash Assistance**

Dohuk

Unconditional emergency cash assistance was provided to 25 extremely vulnerable families. DRC and SCI are identifying beneficiaries for cash assistance. Both agencies are also doing assessments in different non-camp areas to explore livelihood opportunities. UNHCR is referring vulnerable individuals.

6. Security

Al Qa'im

No major security incidents were reported and the security situation remains stable.

Kurdistan Region

The security situation remains stable.

7. Coordination

Al Qa'im

On 23 March, UNHCR in collaboration with ISHO partner conducted elections for the refugees' community leaders in Al Obaidy Camp.



Elections in Al Obaidy@ UNHCR/Nameer

Kurdistan Region

Best-selling author and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Khaled Hosseini visited KR-I during the reporting period. Following his visit, Hosseini called on the international community to do more to help the tens of thousands of Syrians living in camps or towns across northern Iraq while praising the resilience of refugees.

Hosseini visited the Kawergosk and Darashakran camps for a first-hand look at what life is like for families living there and to see the facilities available, including schools, health centres and child friendly spaces. He later met with Syrian refugees living outside camps in the Iraqi Kurdistan regional capital Erbil. He also visited UNHCR-funded centres where Syrian refugee families living outside the camps are registered and provided with legal assistance and social services.

For more information please click on <http://www.unhcr.org/533449c99.html>

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For Khaled Hosseini blog post on the Guardian on his visit to northern Iraq please click on <http://www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2014/apr/01/kawergosk-refugee-camp-syrians-khaled-hosseini>



UNHCR GWA Khaled Hosseini visits Kawergosk Camp @ UNHCR/ B. Sokol

Meanwhile the Nawroze festival celebrations took place in locations accommodating Syrian refugees in northern Iraq.



Nawroz celebrations in Kawergosk camp @ UNHCR

For information related to the Regional Response Plan (RRP6) please click on <http://www.unhcr.org/syriarrp6/>

Announcements of all sector meetings along with respective agendas and minutes, and other information reporting sector-wide progress such as 3Ws, dashboards and camp profiles, are available on the inter-agency information sharing portal at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

9. Acronyms and abbreviations

AFS	Adolescent Friendly Space
CFS	Child Friendly Space
CRI	Core Relief Items (formerly known as non-food items/ NFIs)
DDM	Department of Displacement and Migration
DMC	Development and Modification Centre
DoE	Department of Education
DoH	Department of Health
HOFO	Head of Field Office
HOSO	Head of Sub Office
ISF	Iraqi Security Forces
KR	Kurdistan Region of Iraq (or KRI)
MOMD	Ministry of Migration and Displacement
PARC	Protection Assistance Reintegration Centre
PHC	Primary Health Centre
QIPs	Quick impact projects
YFS	Youth Friendly Space

