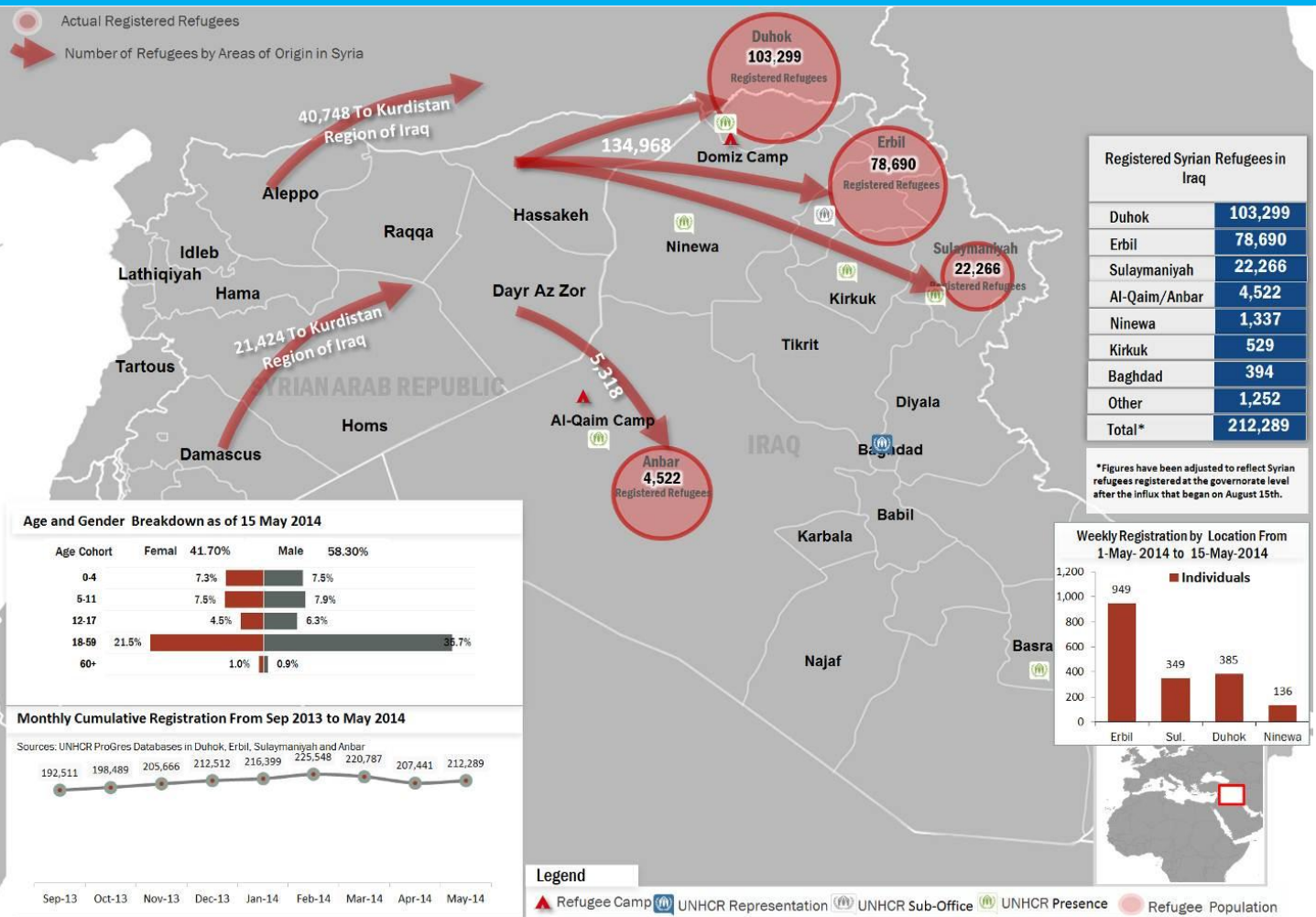


Situation in IRAQ

Inter-agency Update No. 64

May 1-15 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/>

irqpi@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

UNHCR Registration Trends for Syrian Persons of Concern

15 May 2014



Registration Unit

Total Persons of Concern

Individuals

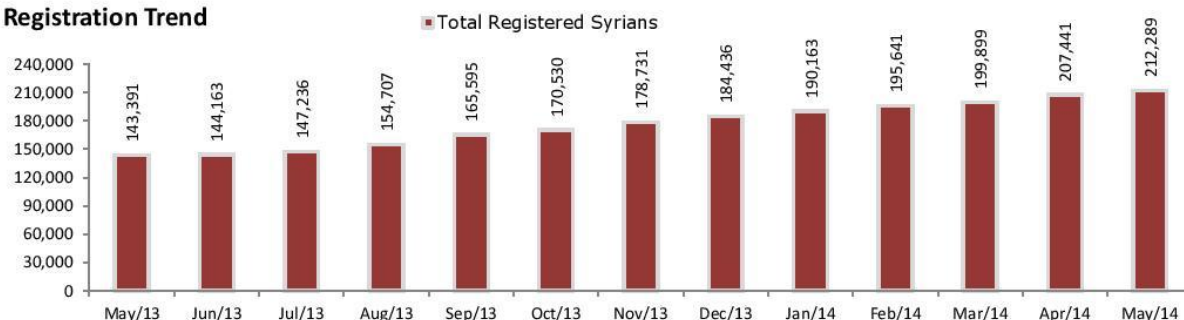
225,409

Households

80,961



Registration Trend

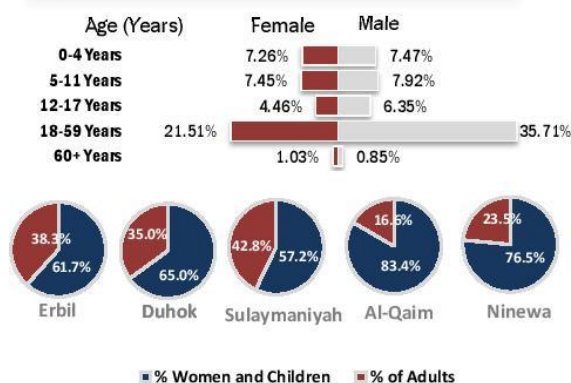


This profile is based on
and
The total is

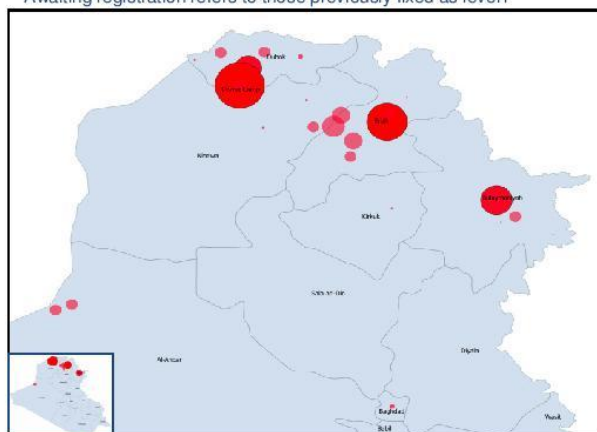
212,289
13,120
225,409

proGres registered individuals
Awaiting registration *
individuals

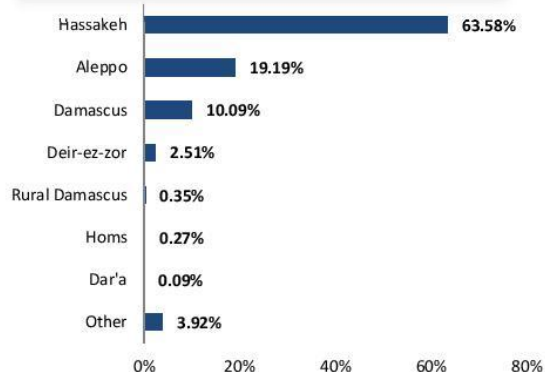
Age and Gender Breakdown



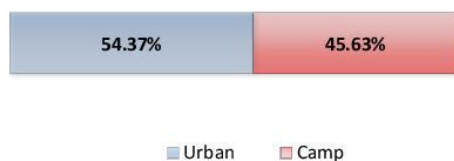
* Awaiting registration refers to those previously fixed as level1



Place of Origin



Camp and non-camp population comparison



| Governorate | Individuals | Households | % Total |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Duhok | 103,299 | 34,785 | 48.66% |
| Erbil | 78,690 | 30,156 | 37.07% |
| Sulaymaniyah | 22,266 | 9,891 | 10.49% |
| Anbar | 4,522 | 1,148 | 2.13% |
| Ninewa | 1,337 | 428 | 0.63% |
| Kirkuk | 529 | 178 | 0.25% |
| Baghdad | 394 | 216 | 0.19% |
| Other | 1,252 | 574 | 0.59% |
| Total Iraq | 212,289 | 77,376 | 100% |

| Camps Population | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Camp | Individuals | Households | % Total |
| Al-Obaidi Camp | 1,523 | 320 | 1.57% |
| Akre Settlement | 1,396 | 344 | 1.44% |
| Bajrd Kandala Transit Camp | 459 | 143 | 0.47% |
| Domiz Camp | 71,759 | 23,858 | 74.07% |
| Gawilan Camp | 2,556 | 665 | 2.64% |
| Basirma Camp | 1,261 | 271 | 1.30% |
| Darashakran Camp | 7,091 | 1,504 | 7.32% |
| Kawergosk Camp | 7,312 | 1,896 | 7.55% |
| Qushtapa Camp | 3,476 | 838 | 3.59% |
| Arbat Camp | 42 | 20 | 0.04% |
| Total | 96,875 | 29,859 | 100% |

1. Highlights

- As at 15 May, **225,409 Syrian refugees** are registered with UNHCR;
- The **UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission** visited Sulaymaniyah Governorate. The goal of the JAM is to determine food security and nutritional needs of both camp and non-camp refugees;
- The Peshkabour/Sehela **border remains closed** to any movement since April 10, 2014; and,
- PC-MOI mission continued the registration of residual caseload in the KR-I during the reporting period.

2. Border update

Al Qa'im

Since 29 March 2013 the border has remained closed. Syrians with a valid visa are allowed to cross the border into Iraq after obtaining prior approval from Iraqi authorities. More medical cases of Syrians were received at the border clinic. Patients return back to Syria the same day after receiving the appropriate treatment.

Peshkabour and Sehela

The border continues to be closed to any movement since April 10, 2014. According to the KRG, the border is closed on the Syrian side, but open at its end.

3. Camp based assistance

✓ Reception, Registration and Protection

Al Qa'im

The number of Syrian refugees in Al Obaidy Camp is 317 cases (1,541 individuals) with 821 cases (2,969 individuals) settled in the town of Al Qa'im. The total number of Syrians returned to Syria from Al Qa'im is 6,770 individuals and the main reasons for return include: a) improvement of the security situation and basic services in Abu Kamal b) family reunification c) lack of Freedom of movement d) the supplied items of food parcel are not sufficient for the asylum seekers' needs e) lack of income, and f) lack of health care.

Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I)

With close support from offices in Baghdad and Erbil, the PC-MOI mission continued the registration of the residual caseload in the KR-I during the reporting period.

Preparation for the forthcoming verification exercise of registered refugees to the biometric system has been accelerated. Procurement of necessary equipment has been ordered, whilst the draft verification plan is being discussed with the relevant staff. Comments on the revised draft plan will be sought by the various offices in the KR-I.

During the reporting period 349 individuals were registered; 181 asylum seeker certificates for Syrian asylum seekers and 33 refugee certificates for Iranian refugees were renewed; 100 transfer requests from Dohuk and Erbil to Sulaymaniyah were received. In Dohuk governorate, 148 protection interviews were conducted with refugees.

Camps



Al Obaidy camp © UNHCR



Al Obaidy camp © UNHCR

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Domiz: UNHCR interviewed/counselled and advocated for 30 cases comprising 75 individuals that entered KR-I.

An increase of cases with claim to have entered KR-I illegally has been noticed. Six such cases have approached UNHCR Domiz team requesting access to asylum. Advocacy with DMC and Asayesh for access is ongoing.

Transit sites

Arbat: Twenty two new families (88 individuals) were registered in the Arbat Transit Camp. Only families with vulnerabilities and families directly coming from the border (verified with the stamp proving the date crossing the border and/or with a letter from Asayish) were registered.

Bajed Kandala: A total of 152 individuals are currently hosted in Bajed Kandala transit centre. DMC has provided food and MSF is supporting basic primary healthcare, whereas serious medical cases are referred to Zakho public hospital.

Improvement has been made at the Bajed Kandala transit refugees' centre by DMC providing 40 air conditioning systems, UNHCR provided two new mobile caravans to accommodate the additional security personnel, and NRC established a laboratory analysis centre to monitor and control water purity, turbidity, PH and the EC levels for water used by the refugees.

Akre: UNHCR conducted 17 protection interviews covering issues such as child labour, physical assault, domestic violence and registration, and referred one case to the protection SGBV focal point.



Air Coolers that DMC installed in Bajed Kandala @ UNHCR/B.Amin

✓ Child Protection

KR-I

UNHCR Operational Protection came across several cases of camp-based children with severe health conditions requiring urgent intervention and support. These cases were referred to Raparin and Rizghary hospitals in Erbil for immediate intervention. In view of the complexity of condition and type of treatment required, two cases were referred for resettlement consideration.

Under the auspices of the sub-project agreement, UNHCR Operational Protection shared a list of unaccompanied and separated children from Kawergosk, Qushtapa and Darashakran with the Save the Children (SC) team. The SC team of caseworkers was trained in Best Interest Assessment (BIA) and Best Interest Determination (BID) interviewing and assessment techniques and will start shadowing UNHCR CS in the BIA/BID interviews as of the second half of the reporting month.

UNHCR received reports of increasing cases of violence in the school environment though the camp-based Protection Network Group forums and protection monitoring visits to primary schools in Kawergosk and Darashakran. UNHCR followed up with NRC and UNICEF partners who largely support the safe learning environment programme addressing both teaching personnel and children with psycho-social support needs. Additionally, the new implementing partner, International Medical Corps (IMC) who earlier operated in Domiz camp and plans to expand its activities to Erbil camps and urban area, was advised to take reports for consideration at its needs assessment stage.

Considering the end of school year is approaching and the camp-based primary schools will be closed as of 20 June for subsequent renovation, UNHCR initiated discussions with UNICEF, NRC, ACTED concerning a summer programme of recreational activities for children of different ages.

Camps

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Darashakran: UNHCR Field team visited a Child Protection Unit (CPU) centre, which is run by the government and funded by UNICEF. The centre is used to work on resolving children problems i.e. child labour cases, dropping from school and elimination of violence against children. This centre is the third of its kind in the camp, the other two are managed by ACTED and SC-I.

Domiz: During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted a campaign against early marriage in Derek high school addressing issues such as the health, psychosocial and legal aspects of early/forced marriage. The activity in Domiz was part of the campaign against early marriage among Syrian refugees in different locations in Duhok governorate with particular focus on parents.

Gawilan: 330 out of 490 children are currently involved in the daily activities conducted by UNICEF at the CFS. UNHCR is following up to ensure that the remaining 160 children will benefit from the service. UNHCR held a meeting with the school headmaster and teaching staff in Gawilan at the presence of DMC and a supervisor from the DoE in Barderash area concerning the reported corporal punishment against children, verbal abuse, and the teachers' reaction to the children's behaviour. UNHCR arranged with the UNICEF team to include 200 children in the after school activities in Gawilan

Kawergosk: Save the Children's construction of playgrounds in the two Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and Youth Friendly Spaces (YFS) has been completed. The opening ceremony was conducted on Sunday, 11 May.

Transit Sites

Akre: UNHCR is coordinating with DMC, UPP and UNICEF to launch a campaign against child labour.

Arbat: WFP through ACTED distributed food rations to 2,778 individuals (45.254) metric tons with 1.650 metric tons of high energy biscuits of UNICEF. In total, 46.904 metric tons of food was distributed

✓ Core Relief Items



Distribution Activities in Al Obaidy @ UNHCR/Haitham

Camps

Al Obaidy: ISHO distributed 630 pieces of adult hygiene products to 21 refugees with disabilities in the camp. On 8 May, the host community distributed clothes to female refugees aged (19-40 years). On 8 May, UNICEF in collaboration with UNHCR and ISHO distributed summer clothes to camp refugees aged 0-18 years

Basirma: On 7 May, IOM distributed plastic mats and cooler boxes to all the camp residents.

Gawilan: During the reporting period, UNHCR through Qandil distributed 94 packages of baby diapers (0-2 yr) and 529 sanitary napkins for women (11-55 yr). IOM started distributing summer kits and hygiene items such as plastic mats, rechargeable fans, cool boxes, soap, detergent powders and sanitary napkins to all families in Gawilan (458 families).

Transit Sites

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Arbat: YAO distributed CRIs to all new registered individuals including seven families in the transit camp. Save the Children distributed hygiene items to 641 families. IOM has distributed hygiene items, rugs and fans to 597 families.

Bajet Kandala: DMC provided 40 communal tents with air coolers as part of the response to rising summer temperatures for families in the transit centre. DMC provided 108 beds.

✓ Food

Camps

Al Obaidy: On 4 May, Al-Eslah Association in collaboration with Sheik Nader, an emergency cell member, and UNHCR Al Qa'im team distributed food parcels to 347 families in Al Obaidy Camp. On 6 May, ISHO distributed eggs to the camp refugees and the number of beneficiaries was 235 families. On May 5, WFP through IRW started the distribution of food parcels to camp refugees and the activity is ongoing.

WFP started coordination with UNHCR, IRW, and the local community to select 500 most vulnerable IDP families in line with WFP criteria (size of family, shelter condition, people with specific needs, unaccompanied children, and female headed family, etc). On 13 May, WFP through IRW distributed 300 food parcels to IDPs of Anbar in the city centre of Al Qa'im and the surrounding villages. The remaining 200 parcels will be distributed in Al Qa'im sub district.

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



Food Parcels distribution to IDPs in Al Qa'im @ WFP/Ziad



Traditional bread in Al Obaidy @ ISHO/Zaid

WFP started assessing the needs of refugees in Bajed Kandala transit camp and replenishment of the food stockpile for a possible influx. A similar assessment and replenishment of stockpile of kitchen sets in BK warehouse is also needed for the contingency planning.

Transit Sites

Akre: DMC distributed milk formula (0-1yr) to 69 babies and baby diapers to 161 (3yr) children. However, the MoH is discouraging the distribution and use of milk formulas to children, particularly 0-1 year-old babies.

✓ Health

KR-I

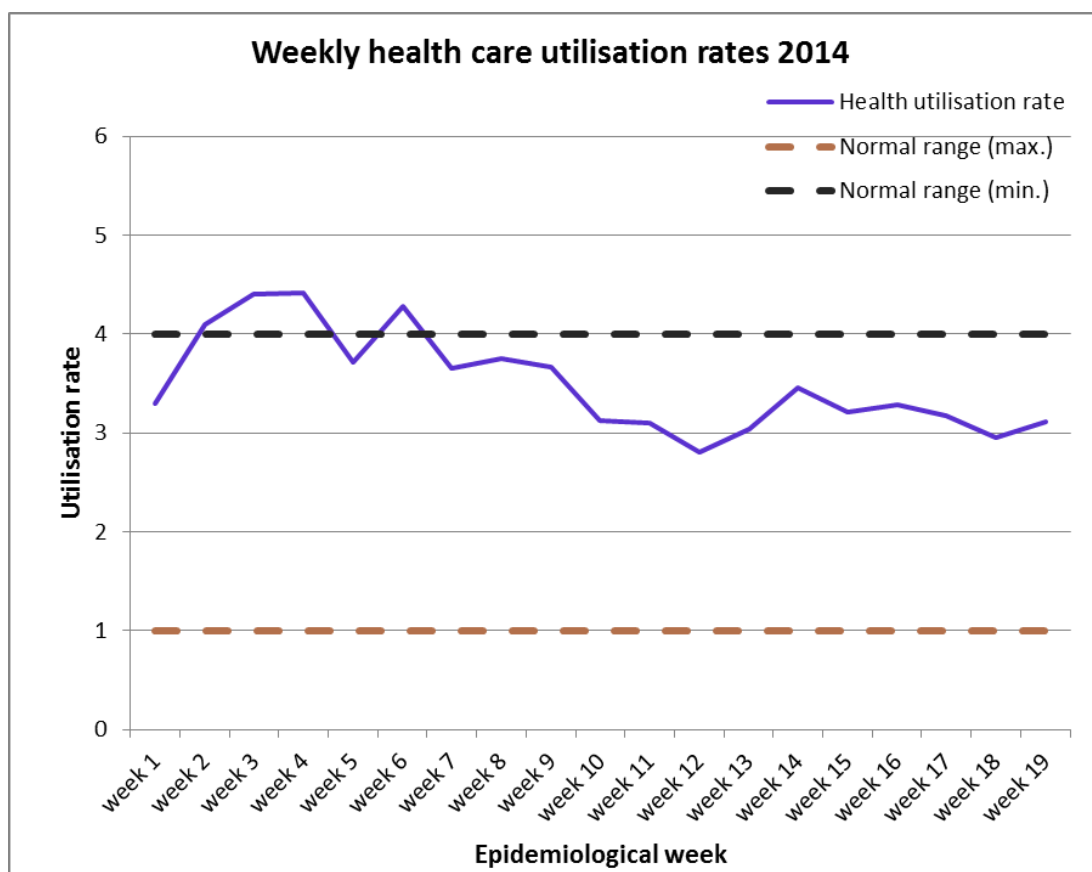
The national polio campaign started in KR-I on 11 May and lasted for five days. In the campaign all children below 5 years of age will receive oral polio vaccines. In all governorates the revision of cholera preparedness plans has started in view of the upcoming summer season and the expected rise in diarrhea cases. A training of medical doctors on the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) has been completed by DoH and UNICEF.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

UNHCR mass information awareness leaflets for the new birth registration process have been delivered to all PHCs in Erbil in order to sensitize the community about the importance of birth certificates to avoid statelessness.

The average consultation rate/ person/ year reached 3.1 and are within the expected range of 1-4 consultations/ person/ week.

Graph 1: average weekly consultation rates in camps, 2014



Camps

Al Obaidy: A total of 527 persons attended the PHC for consultations with UIMS. Services provided include paediatric consultations, internal medicine, cardiology, gynaecology and dental care. In addition preventive services such as vaccination and antenatal care are provided in the clinic.

Six Syrian female refugees who were trained recently started giving awareness sessions on communicable and non-communicable diseases to families in the camp.

From 13 -19 May, DoH/Al Qa'im in collaboration with UNHCR and UIMS conducted a mass polio vaccination campaign for children less than five years old in the camp.



UIMS activities in Al Qaim @UIMS/Mahmood

Domiz: Up to 3,112 persons with acute, chronic and mental health conditions have benefited from the health services provided by MSF, DoH/ IMC and Kirkuk foundation centre. Preparation for the construction of a new health post started in Domiz 2.

Gawilan: In total 975 patients received treatment for acute, chronic and mental health conditions during the reporting period, and 41 patients were referred for secondary health care services.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

UNHCR intervened with DoH in Duhok and managed to obtain and facilitate the delivery of medicines for epilepsy to the PU AMI centre. All epileptic patients in the camp are now receiving their medications regularly.

In the four camps in the Erbil governorate, a total of 5,838 primary health care consultations have been conducted. The need for additional female doctors has been identified as a key obstacle to access to care for women in two of the camps and will be addressed by DoH with support from UNFPA. Medical waste management is key concern to improve hygiene conditions in the four PHCs. Different options to improve the situation have been elaborated and will be discussed with all partners in the second half of May.

Kawergosk: Following the “Keep Kawergosk Clean (KKC)” Campaign that took place on 8 April, 2014, a meeting was held to design the general concept of the next campaign. A meeting was held on Monday, 12 May where a decision was taken to start an awareness cleaning campaign from 25 May and conduct the actual cleaning of the camp on Friday, 30 May. It should be noted that a review of the previous KKC initiative was done through focus group discussions cutting across the refugee community; observations and recommendations from the review will be instrumental in shaping the next cleaning activity.

Transit sites

Arbat: In total 1,044 patients received treatment for acute and chronic health conditions during the reporting period. Mental health services will be provided from June onwards.

✓ Education

KR-I

UNHCR continues to follow up with UNICEF on the condition of primary schools in the camps. Notably, the harsh climatic conditions affected the tents in Qushtapa and Darashakran camps and there's an urgent need to replace the tents with a more permanent structure. Issues with infrastructure, lack of water, and poor sanitary conditions in and around the schools continue to raise concerns on the part of refugee councils and camp management.

Camps

Al Obaidy: On 3 May, the final exams for grades 1-5 in the Iraqi primary schools, including the camp school, started and were completed on 12 May. On 14 May, final exams of the sixth grade started.

Through the Literacy initiative for empowerment (life) in Iraq, AFKAR distributed stationary the students of both genders in the literacy centre in the camp. Mid-year exams ended and the results were endorsed by DoE/ Al Qa'im.

Basirma: The school administration provided UNHCR CS with a list of musical instruments needed. The list was subsequently discussed with the partnership network and donations were ensured through Rise foundation and other private actors in the camp.

Domiz: During the reporting period, the Education Working Group has drafted a Code of Conduct in schools, following the recent reports of verbal and physical abuse of children. The draft is reviewed by all members and will be signed by all teachers, administrative and support staff in all schools.

Gawilan: A total of 368 children are currently benefiting from the elementary and secondary schools that are operating in the camp.

UNHCR is advocating for additional science classes in the camp, as it was raised as a concern among students. Approval is obtained from the school headmaster to facilitate the launch of the additional classes.

Qushtapa: The UNICEF engineer visited the site for the construction of the UNICEF permanent school.

Transit Sites

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Akre: The school in Akre continues to operate providing education to 357 students. UNHCR and DMC had a meeting with UNICEF and PWJ to facilitate the installation of additional learning-teaching materials in the school.

✓ SGBV

KR-I

During the reporting period, three serious GBV cases in Basirma and Kawergosk were reported through the protection network. The cases were referred to NRC programme for follow up.

During the protection monitoring, UNHCR team registered that the recently opened the Al Waha (The Oasis) centre saw a very low attendance on the part of women and girls. In preliminary interviews with community members, it became apparent that the centre is frequented by male members of the community for recreational activities. UNHCR will continue following up on the matter with NRC which is the agency in charge of the WAHA Centre.

Camps

Al Obaidy: Through the Women Listening Centre two cases were identified and received psychological and legal support.

Domiz: During the reporting period, UNHCR identified and followed up on four new cases of SGBV. In addition, follow up has been made for two cases of SGBV that were identified during previous reporting periods. UNHCR held a sub working group meeting for SGBV to strengthen the partnership with the Department for Tracing Violence Against Women (DtVAW) in preventing and responding to SGBV among the refugee population in Duhok. UNHCR held two meetings to finalize the scope of its partnership with the partners that are working on SGBV issues. UNHCR compiled a report on The Women Preparation and Rehabilitation Centre (NAWA) outlining recommendations that include implementation of a Quick Impact Project, capacity building of staff, vocational skills, education and livelihoods program for the women in the shelter and activities for the children in the centre.

Gawilan: The construction of the Women's Listening Centre funded by IRC is finalized. IRC will work to enhance the capacity of Harikar staff that will run the facility.

Transit Sites

Bajet Kandala: UNHCR referred one SGBV case to UPP for psychosocial counselling.

✓ Community services

KR-I

UNHCR Operational protection conducted a round of focus group discussions with refugee youth from Kawergosk, Darashakran, Qushtapa and Basirma camps in response the Youth Initiative Fund Call for proposals, which was launched by the Division of International Protection (DIP) earlier in April. A consolidated proposal designed by the Qushtapa youth group and supported by UNHCR screening team was shared with the Child Protection department/ the HQs on 15 May.

UNHCR CS team in Darashakran camp received 14 cases, including serious medical cases and person with disability. Also PARC CS has conducted field visits to the tents which include a visit to a person with disability (female with visual challenges) for the registration purpose.

During the reporting period, UNHCR CS team in Kawegorsk camp identified 200 cases: 79 legal cases, 81 medical cases, 35 persons with disability cases, two separated children, and three women at risk.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

UNHCR CS conducted monitoring visit to the camp hospital in Basirma Camp. The team observed that the hospital refers the urgent cases to the hospitals in Harir and Shaqlawa districts. The PHC has only one ambulance which significantly constrains referral of urgent cases. One of the observations from the monitoring is that the PHC lacks specialized staff to deal with SGBV cases neither HIV/AIDS services. The PHC will soon open a reproductive health services department.

Camps

Al Obaidy: On 6 May, UNHCR and ISHO celebrated the graduation of 25 Syrian participants in the CTA project (English and Computer Science).



CTA Graduation Celebration in Al Obaidy @ ISHO/Abdualrahman

Domiz: During the reporting period, UNHCR identified and assisted 193 individuals with specific needs. UNHCR held three meetings with several youth groups to brainstorm on project ideas for the Youth Initiative Fund. The groups identified projects that they can implement with the support of UNHCR.

✓ Livelihoods

KR-I

During the reporting period, UNHCR's multi-functional team comprised of the Field and Community Services staff continued monitoring the livelihood projects implemented by the DRC and IOM in the camps within the Governorate of Erbil. Some concerns raised by the community on the equal distribution of shops amongst the families identified in the camp were addressed through verification of registration data by the Community Services staff.

Camps

Domiz: During the reporting period, UNHCR facilitated the recruitment of 13 refugees with employers outside of the camp. UNHCR identified six cases of employment irregularities and referred them for legal aid, as they reported to have issues with their employers such as rates of compensation and delay in payments.

Kawergosk: The lack of a strategy for the use of the Job Centre to streamline employment of refugees continues to be a concern. During the Camp Coordination Meeting, the Camp Administrator requested the recruitment and employment strategy from the Job Centre. He asserted the need for a strategy as soon as possible, which is to be shared with the recruiting agencies in the camp to avoid any unfairness in recruitment procedures. The Camp Administration urged partners to rotate all non-key staff on a regular basis. Contracts should be signed for approximately six months.

4. Non-camp assistance

✓ Reception, Registration and Protection

In a follow-up to the meeting on 10 April, the Head of Residency Department of Erbil governorate commissioned a team to assess the existing registration facilities within PARC/Qandil premises. The

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

assessment resulted in compilation of the proposal on technical requirements for resumption of residency issuance process for non-camp refugees. At the end of the reporting period, the budget requirements were finalized and presented for endorsement. With all the requirements being met in time, the Residency Department is expected to resume the issuance of urban residency permits as of 1 June.

Dohuk: UNHCR referred several cases to PARC and FHoH for legal aid in including but not limited to social advice, medical needs and livelihood support. UNHCR through PARC lawyers were able to release a Syrian detainee for unavailability of probative evidence, who was accused of forgery of banknote.

Sulaymaniyah: During the reporting period 223 Syrian households – 349 individuals have been registered in urban areas.

During the reporting period 22 new families (88 individuals) were registered in the Arbat Transit Camp. Only families with vulnerabilities and families directly coming from border (verified with the stamp proofing the date crossing the border and/or with a letter from Asyaesh) were registered.

✓ Child Protection

Cases of violence reported within the premises of Arabic medium schools in Erbil. The prevention of violence was discussed in detail in the meeting of the Education Sub-Working group.

Dohuk: During the reporting period, the three urban CFSs continue to receive children. Currently, 1,358 children are benefiting from activities such as playing, dancing, drawing and Early Childhood Care and Development.

Sulaymaniyah: Two separated children, whose parents are divorced in Syria, are living with their aunt whose husband refused their registration as his dependents. After UNHCR's intervention, the issue was resolved and the two children were registered and linked to the aunt's family. The family expressed willingness to care for the two children.

✓ Education

During the reporting period, UNHCR participated in a meeting to optimize education related interventions between agencies and institutions such as DoE, UNICEF, Save the Children, Harikar and IRC. As a result, Save the Children will intervene in urban schools in Zakho and UNICEF will build two new schools in Zakho and Semel.

During the reporting period, UNHCR CS attended the Education sub-working group meeting to discuss the TORs for the sub-working group, updated School Needs Assessments, violence in schools (Outline of interventions, Code of conduct and ways forward), RRP6 Implementation Planning, and IDP (MoE monitoring information and ongoing interventions). UNHCR CS recommended that the Back to School Campaign experience of UNHCR and its partner be used as guidelines for the school needs assessment including the assessment template, technical staff of UNHCR's partner ACTED/REACH which conducted QIPs assessment in schools through engineers. Regarding violence in schools, UNHCR shared its observation in the schools included violence among IDP and Syrian refugee in Arabic medium schools and violence by school staff/teachers against students in both camp and non-camp settings.

During the same meeting, UNHCR requested from the sub-working group members to provide their plans on educational support to IDPs and non-Syrian refugees, alluding to the recent monitoring visits to IDP areas and to Makhmur camp, where the camp council has requested the fund of printing their curriculum and support the needs of the camp's schools. Regarding the IDP programme, the Department of Education mentioned that it opened two new Arabic medium schools for Anbar IDPs in Erbil city and in Shaqlawa town and was awaiting to finalize the curriculum.

Sulaymaniyah: Bazian school has 172 students with 17 teachers, and there is a plan to open a new school in Kany Kurda in Sulaymaniyah city by the MoE for IDP with a capacity of 1,000 students. UNHCR coordinated between UNICEF and UNESCO in order to also cover the higher education.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

✓ Cash assistance

UNHCR CS is working closely with UNHCR Health Officer who is working on developing Medical Reimbursement SOP. The PARC Manager requested UNHCR to support to draft ToR for a Health Assistant who will manage the medical reimbursement scheme within PARC/Qandil premises. While waiting for the SOP, it was agreed that PARC Health Assistant will make coordination visits to Erbil DoH and government hospitals for the referral of medical cases and the issue of providing medicine for the chronic diseases. Also it was agreed that PARC CS will organize health awareness sessions for refugees and IDPs on health and hygiene.

✓ SGBV

Reporting and referring cases involving SGBV instances continues to present a considerable challenge, both at the camp and in urban locations. In the operational meeting with UNFPA, UNHCR requested the SGBV focal point to review the draft Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) with aim of identifying viable health services within the urban area to process referrals out of camps and areas within Erbil city.

UNHCR conducted an interview of an SGBV case In Sulaymaniyah. The interview was to fill out the RSD screening form, and the form was sent to Erbil. The case was identified by CDO.

In an SGBV WG meeting conducted, with 23 participants from different women service providers, the meeting discussed the role of organizations in responding to the SGBV cases and the challenges that they are facing in providing this service. Also it discussed the UN women report on SGBV cases in KR-I. The action points of the meeting were arranging a visit to the Erbil shelter of Women Union, circulating the service provider mapping, and arranging training on GBV Information Management Systems.

✓ Health

The national polio campaign started in KR-I on 11 May and lasted for five days. In the campaign all children below 5 years of age will receive oral polio vaccines. In all governorates the revision of cholera preparedness plans has started in view of the upcoming summer season and the expected rise in diarrhea cases. A training of medical doctors on the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) has been completed by DoH and UNICEF. Treatment units for SAM will be established in pediatric hospitals in each governorate.

During the reporting period, UNHCR Dohuk accompanied the UNHCR Health Coordinator from Erbil to a meeting with urban actors, and agreed on concrete steps for UNHCR and DoH to work towards a better KR-I wide referral and assistance mechanism. This includes among others the setup of a Medical Committee in DoH to support the identification of cases with serious medical conditions eligible for resettlement.

UNHCR visited Shindokha Health Centre, Dohuk Emergency Hospital, and the Rheumatic Centre in order to assess their needs and develop QIP proposals.

UNHCR is currently making efforts to strengthen coordination with Heevie Nazdar NGO to better assist children with congenital heart diseases.

✓ Community services/livelihoods

During the reporting period, a multi-functional team comprised of Health, Field and Community Services staff undertook a monitoring visit to the public Health Centres in Erbil city which are currently supported through the Quick Impact Project (QIP) initiative. A number of recommendations proceeded from the monitoring visit e.g. namely to accelerate access to health services by refugee, IDP population and host community.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

During the reporting period, PARC conducted field visits to Duhok, Grebase and Dabin and referred 15 individuals to health service providers, 12 cases to registration, two cases to UNHCR protection, one case to ICRC, and three cases to DRC. DRC is currently conducting business training for 70 beneficiaries in the urban areas.

The field team continues working with REACH on engagement of the Syrian refugees, IDPs, local communities and line government counterparts in the assessment process for the new QIP proposals. REACH managed to collect handful amount of data for further analysis. The field team assists REACH to disaggregate the data by



Implementation of QIPs (renovation of health facilities) AI Obaidy ©UNHCR

sectors (QIPs and livelihood) for appropriate interventions.



Assessment process for the new QIP proposals AI Obaidy ©UNHCR

The field team developed daily, weekly and monthly monitoring plan for the ten approved QIPs in Erbil with the endorsement from the Snr. Field Coordinator. The team visited three projects, where the Syrian refugees and host communities are working together as daily labourers. In addition, the bidding process for the procurement part of all these ten projects is completed and soon will be executed at the field level.



Field team is monitoring the progress of the work on daily basis AI Obaidy ©UNHCR

5. Stories from the field

Love and Hope in a Refugee Camp

15 May, 2014

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Her friends sit in a circle clapping and singing as a hairdresser teases and curls Suzan's long dark hair. In another tent, a group of female relatives labour over steaming pots of chicken which will be served to guest's at this evening's ceremony. This is Suzan's wedding day. Tonight, she and her groom, Rodi, both from Syria, will start their married life together in a refugee camp in Qushtapa, Iraq.

In August 2013, 20-year old Suzan, her parents and one of her brothers walked across the border into Iraq to escape the bombing in their hometown of Qamishli, in the Kurdish region of Syria. They were registered by UNHCR and provided with tents at the Qushtapa camp. Her three older brothers stayed behind for fear of losing their jobs.

Suzan says, "We are happy to be away from the conflict, but if the situation improved I would return home tomorrow. I was studying to be a teacher. I miss school and my friends and my family." She met her future husband through new friends at the refugee camp shortly after she arrived.

Last month, Suzan was able to find work with a non-governmental agency as a Community Hygiene Promoter. Her income will help the young couple make ends meet. "Now that I am getting married I will use that money to support myself and my husband. He has also found a job working outside the camp making ceramics," she explains.

For now, Suzan says she and Rodi aren't making too many plans for the future. They don't want to raise children in the refugee camp, and an early return to Syria looks unlikely as the fighting rages on.

So tonight's wedding is what she has been focusing on. With her hair freshly done, Suzan will soon step into her rented floor-length wedding dress and she and Rodi will take part in a civil and religious wedding ceremony. Then their relatives and friends will celebrate with an evening of eating, singing and traditional Kurdish dancing. After months of fear and hardship, it will be a happy and hopeful event for these two young and resilient refugees.

A local hairdresser visits the Qushtapa refugee camp to help prepare Suzan for her wedding ceremony, @ UNHCR/Robinson, Iraq-15/05/14



Suzan models her wedding dress and veil which she has rented for her big day, @ UNHCR/Robinson, Iraq-15/05/14

6. Security

Al Qa'im

While the Anbar IDP crisis continues, no major security incidents were reported in the Al Qa'im area.

KR-I

The Security situation remains calm in Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

7. Coordination

Al Qa'im

On 6 May, UNHCR team held a meeting with ISF in the UNHCR venue to discuss the security situation in Al Qa'im and all security issues related to the camp. On 8 May, UNHCR Al Qa'im team met with community leaders to discuss the services provided in the camp and all other issues related to refugees.

Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

KR-I

NGO Forum: The Chair of the ISCG attended a meeting of the newly formed NGO Forum Steering Committee on 13 May, where points of mutual interest and coordination were discussed. A member of the steering committee will be invited to future meetings of the ISCG in future to represent NGO positions.

Multi-Sector Needs Assessment: The preliminary results of the Multi-Sector needs assessment for non-camp refugees have been circulated to Sector Leads for inputs to the narrative and technical clearance. It is hoped to clear the report by the end of May.



UNHCR meetings in Al Obaidy @ UNHCR/Omer

Joint Assessment Mission: The UNHCR and WFP JAM continued throughout the first two weeks of May with UNHCR and WFP teams concentrating on Focus Group Discussions in camp and non-camp settings and with key informants. REACH is gathering data for a JAM/MSNA of camp refugees. It is planned to conduct a data collection exercise in Al Qa'im similar to that conducted for the KR-I resident refugees within the next week. Many of the indicators used in the MSNA for non-camp refugees have been incorporated into the JAM assessment in order to provide comparable data between camp and non-camp refugees and across the Governorates. The assessment is due to be completed on 19 May with an exit meeting in Erbil, after which the report will be drafted.

RRP6 Update: ISCG Sector Leads have been working on updating the RRP6 in accordance with the guidance received from the Regional Office in Amman. The issues particular to Al Qaim have been incorporated and sectors have been held to discuss the upcoming RRP6 update. Sectors are now reviewing their continuing gaps and budgets to meet the deadline of 22 May for inputs to the UNHCR regional office. Economic Survey of Syrian Refugees: Complete and draft report circulated for clearance and comments was returned 6 May.

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>

8. 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 |