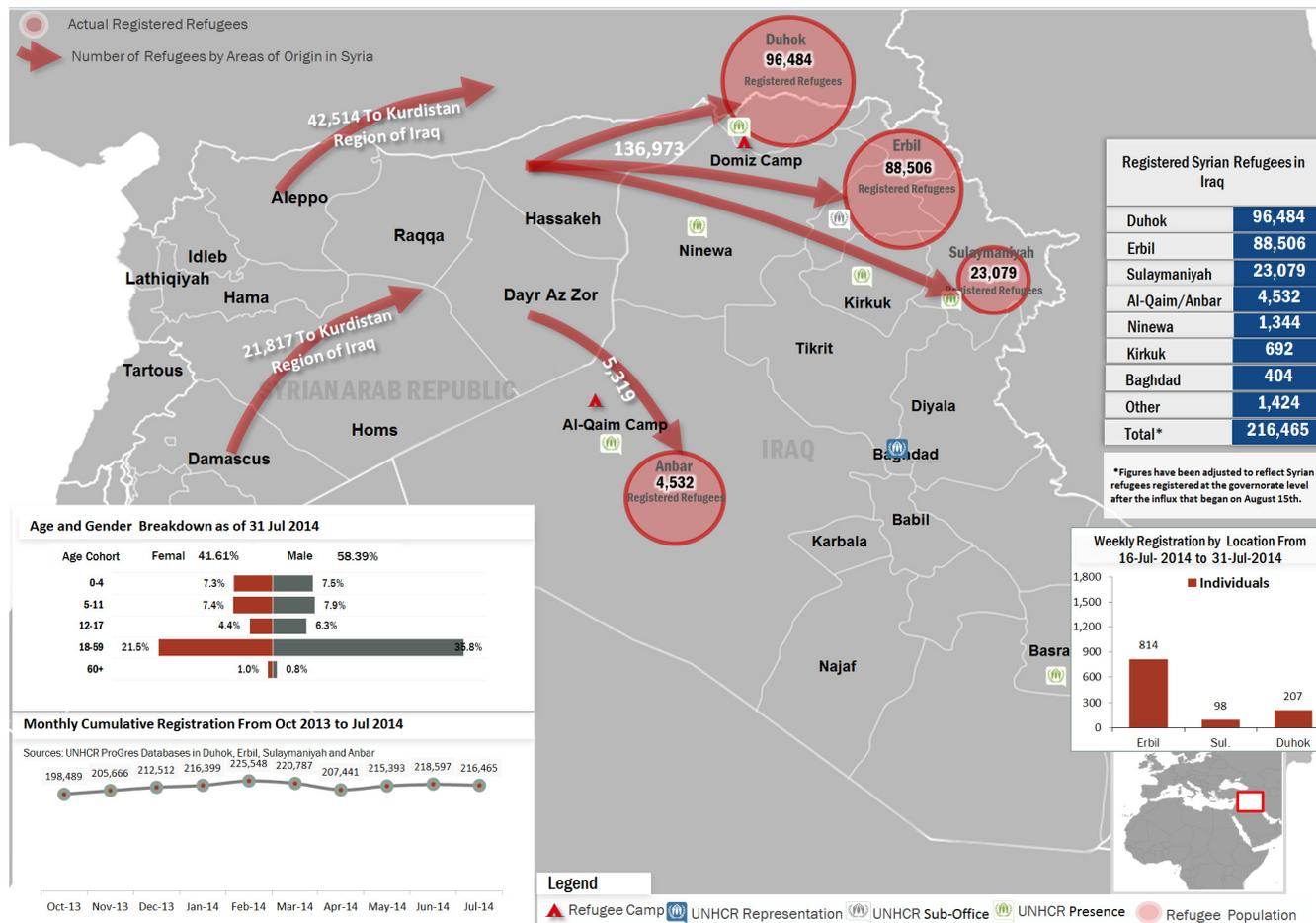


Situation in IRAQ

Inter-agency Update No. 69

July 16-31 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

Syria Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

UNHCR Registration Trends for Syrian Persons of Concern

31 Jul 2014



Registration Unit

Total Persons of Concern

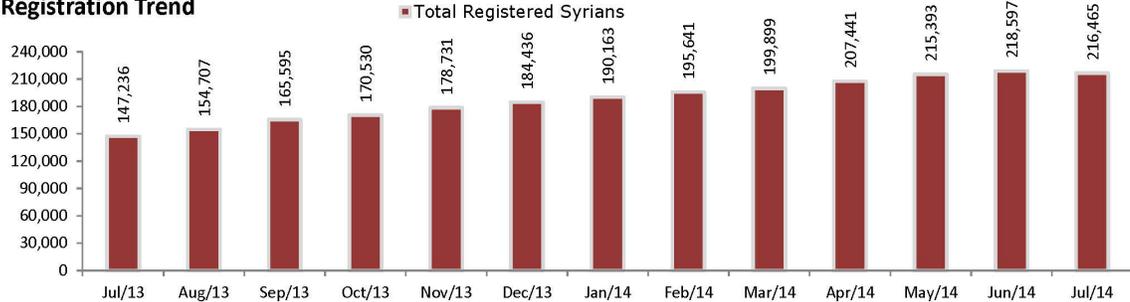
Individuals

218,040

Households

80,181

Registration Trend

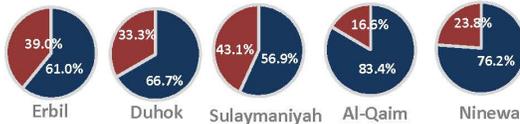
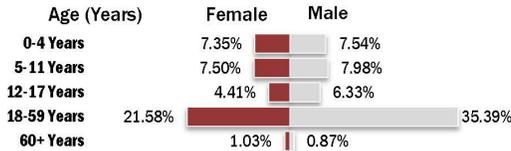


This profile is based on
and
The total is

216,465
1,575
218,040

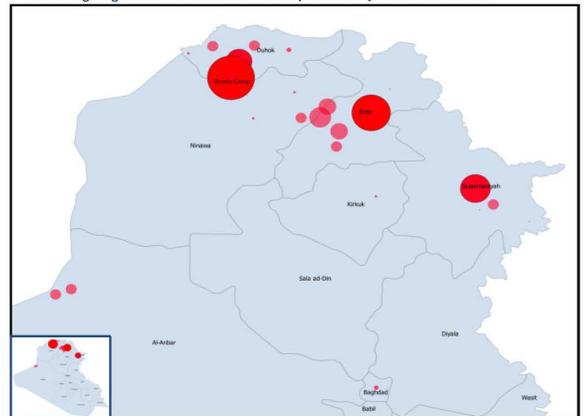
proGres registered individuals
Awaiting registration *
individuals

Age and Gender Breakdown

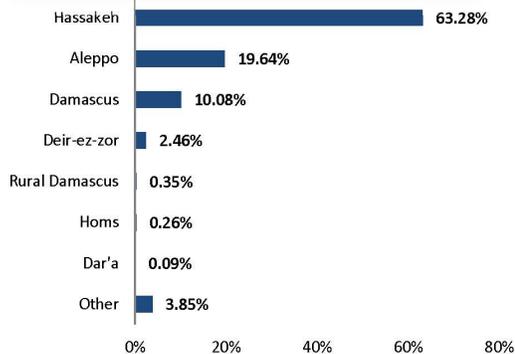


■ % Women and Children ■ % of Male Adults

* Awaiting registration refers to those previously fixed as level1



Place of Origin



Camp and non-camp population comparison



■ Urban ■ Camp

Governorate	Individuals	Households	% Total
Duhok	96,484	30,552	44.57%
Erbil	88,506	34,536	40.89%
Sulaymaniyah	23,079	10,362	10.66%
Anbar	4,532	1,150	2.09%
Ninewa	1,344	439	0.62%
Kirkuk	692	242	0.32%
Baghdad	404	222	0.19%
Other	1,424	641	0.66%
Total Iraq	216,465	78,144	100%

Camps Registered Population			
Camp	Individuals	Households	% Total
Al-Obaidi Camp	1,536	322	1.67%
Akre Settlement	1,410	345	1.53%
Bajid Kandala Transit Camp	77	18	0.08%
Domiz Camp	60,164	18,773	65.42%
Gawilan Camp	2,565	646	2.79%
Basirma Camp	3,185	751	3.46%
Darashakran Camp	7,826	1,660	8.51%
Kawergosk Camp	9,068	2,381	9.86%
Qushtapa Camp	4,250	1,038	4.62%
Arbat Camp	1,880	524	2.04%
Total	91,961	26,458	100%

1. Highlights

Aerial bombardments and clashes continued in Al Qa'im, resulting in casualties among civilians. **UNHCR is distributing 33 USD per refugee through partner ISHO** as cash assistance to enable the refugees to purchase the food they need; UN agencies are unable to access Al Qa'im.

It was announced that for 2014 UNHCR only has **1,000 resettlement places for refugees for Iraq**, and only very vulnerable refugees are to be considered.

The IKEA Foundation donates mattresses and blankets to Syrian refugees in Iraq – see page 11 for story.

From **15-18 July, the UNCHR High Commissioner visited Iraq**, as part of his annual Ramadan solidarity trip. The High Commissioner visited IDPs in the north of the country affected by the recent crisis, Syrian refugees, as well as government officials in Baghdad and Erbil. The High Commissioner visited Sulaymaniyah and held a meeting with the concerned authorities including the Governor of Sulaymaniyah. In addition, the High Commissioner visited Arbat Permanent Camp where he met with refugee families. During a press conference, the High Commissioner highly appreciated the role and response of the concerned authorities on the ground for receiving and supporting refugees, as well as IDPs. The High Commissioner also called for international community support to KR-I.



(L) High Commissioner opening new UNHCR Sulaymaniyah Office; (R) Meeting Deputy Mayor of Sulaymaniyah, Governor's Representatives and Head of Residency Department. UNHCR/K.Ali

2. Border update

Peshkabout and Sehela: Peshkabout border point has remained closed since 10 April, 2014 for Syrian new arrivals. However, since June 10, 2014, it has been open to only process the return of Syrians from KR-I back to Syria. Despite the closure of the border, local authorities in Duhok have cleared 20 Syrians (3 families/5 persons + 5 singles) that illegally entered on 18 July into KR-I through the Turkish border. They were referred to relevant authorities for inclusion into the asylum process. The border point was closed to any sort of movement during the Eid holiday period (25-31 July).

During the reporting period, a total number of 1,742 Syrians, out of which 1,446 were UNHCR registered asylum-seekers returned to Syria from KR-I via Peshkabout border to Syria, bringing the total number of Syrians returned during the month of July to 4,078 (3,406 UNHCR Registered and 672 non-registered). The overall figure for return in 2014 as of 31 July has reached 16,967.

Al Qa'im: Border remains under the control of armed groups. The border situation remains fluid, Now Syrians and Iraqis are moving back and forth between the two sides of the borders freely. Aerial bombardments and clashes continued in Al Qa'im (border and city), resulting in casualties among civilians. The clashes are a deterrent to the movement of vehicles and people.

Rabia'a: As of 31 July, Kurdish forces were still in control of the Rabia'a border, and maintained it closed in both directions, except to humanitarian aid convoys. (Since 31 July, however, armed groups have been attempting to gain control of the border point).

3. Response by sector and location

✓ *Reception, Registration and Protection*

The UNHCR Senior Advisor announced that for 2014 UNHCR only has 1,000 resettlement places for refugees for Iraq, and only very vulnerable refugees are to be considered.

A 104-year-old refugee woman (believed to be the eldest refugee among Syrians) is residing at **Domiz** camp.

Gawilan Camp: UNHCR added 99 newborn babies (45 male and 54 female) to their parent's file. This brought the total number of newly-born babies in July to 323 (165 male and 158 female). Since January 2014, a total of 2,132 (1,077 male and 1,055 female) newborn babies have been added to their parent's files.

Erbil: A joint Registration Unit / ODM team continued preparation of registration and biometric equipment for other locations where registration is conducted. To this end, aside from preparation of new servers, upgrading of registration workstations has continued. Upon completion of the process, Registration teams will conduct missions to Sulaymaniyah and Duhok to apply the latest updates at respective registration centres. Preparations and trainings on usage of iris equipment and software have been made and organized for registration staff operating in Basirma camp. Iris-scanning will begin in this location as a pilot immediately after Eid holidays.

Sulaymaniyah: The Asayish (Kurdish Intelligence/Security), in coordination with the Residency Department, addressed a letter to UNHCR asking to send back all Syrian asylum seekers who have been registered in Erbil or Duhok to the city of their registration. UNHCR replied to the letter and explained the transfer procedures to the Asayish and the Residency Department.

Al Obaidy Camp: The number of Syrian refugees in Al Obaidy Camp is 182 cases / 949 individuals including 161 unregistered individuals (56 cases). For the non-camp refugees 822 cases / 2,971 individuals settled in the town of Al Qa'im on a sponsorship program. The total number of spontaneous returns to Syria from Al Qa'im is 6,773 individuals as of 15 June 2014. The figures could not be updated since that date as UNHCR national staff have been relocated to Erbil and the city of Al Qa'im remains under the control of armed groups.

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✓ **Child Protection**

UNICEF continued providing child protection services to children in refugee camps across the KR-I. Approximately, 3,408 children participated in the structured recreational activities organised by IPs through the CFS. A two-day training was facilitated for approximately 20 facilitators from Dohuk, Erbil, and Sulaymaniyah regarding the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), which is used to identify potential grave violations against both refugee and IDP children.

Some 56 staff, mainly social workers in the Child Protection Units of CFS, received advanced child protection training in **Dohuk** and **Sulaymaniyah**.

Domiz Camp: During the reporting period, UNHCR received 13 new cases and closed 29 cases. UNHCR continued to support 127 unaccompanied and separated children with case management services.

During the summer break, ACTED is organizing classes for children living with hearing and speech impairment in child-friendly spaces in **Darashakran** and **Qushtapa** camps. It has been observed that some children with hearing and speech impairments are improving their skills. They are indeed starting to learn the alphabet and to read some words in English.

Al Obaidy Camp: A limited number of activities are being implemented in the CFS by Syrian facilitators of Afkar (UNICEF partner); most of the Afkar staff are unable to reach the camp.

✓ **Mass Information**

UNHCR has finalized the service directories for **Kawergosk**, **Darashakran** and **Basirma** camps, which are now pending translation and graphic work. The directories, developed to improve communication with Syrian refugees, contain a wealth of information on available services, people's rights and entitlements, emergency numbers and procedures inherent to asylum and displacement.

Un Ponte Per has completed the translation to Arabic of a leaflet on refugee rights and Iraqi laws. Distribution is pending graphic work.

UNHCR has developed a poster to inform Syrian refugees of the upcoming verification exercise and as well as the introduction of iris scan biometrics. The poster will be put up at UNHCR registration centre across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

✓ **SGBV**

At **Gawilan Camp**, UNHCR referred two cases to the focal point and Women's Listening Centre.

✓ **Shelter/Infrastructure**

During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted rapid assessments for tent replacement in Sarbasti and Khabat quarters of **Domiz 1**. Out of 504 shelters assessed, 207 families will receive new UNHCR family tents and 112 families will be provided with additional plastic sheets. Meanwhile, the Development and Modification Centre (DMC) continues to issue permission letters for construction materials to improve shelter, which will help other families to develop their shelters through construction of concrete blocks or sandwich panels.

To support the privacy of the newly married couples in **Domiz**, DMC with support of Turkish private company is constructing "wedding rooms".

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The construction of wedding rooms in Domiz-1 (UNHCR/ B. Amin)

DMC is planning to relocate some 500 families from irregular areas in **Domiz-1 to Gawilan Camp**; UNHCR discussed with DMC the modalities and criteria of the relocation.

✓ **Water and Sanitation**

Domiz Camp: During the reporting period, FRC started the repairs and construction of family toilets in Shorash and Khabat quarters.

KURDS is constructing 500 m of box culverts for the main drainage channel (ERF-funded) at the north-western corner of the camp. The box culvert is completed; only the manholes remain to be finished.



The construction of box culverts for the main drainage channel in Domiz-1 (UNHCR/C. Hungerbuehler)

In both **Gawilan Camp** and **Bajet Kandala Transit Camp**, construction of the water distribution network has been completed, improving the sanitation of the camp.

Basirma Camp: Action Contre la Faim (ACF) has submitted design of water network to Directorate of Surrounding Water, Erbil, for approval.

Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) continues the construction of sanitation facilities at **Arbat Camp**.

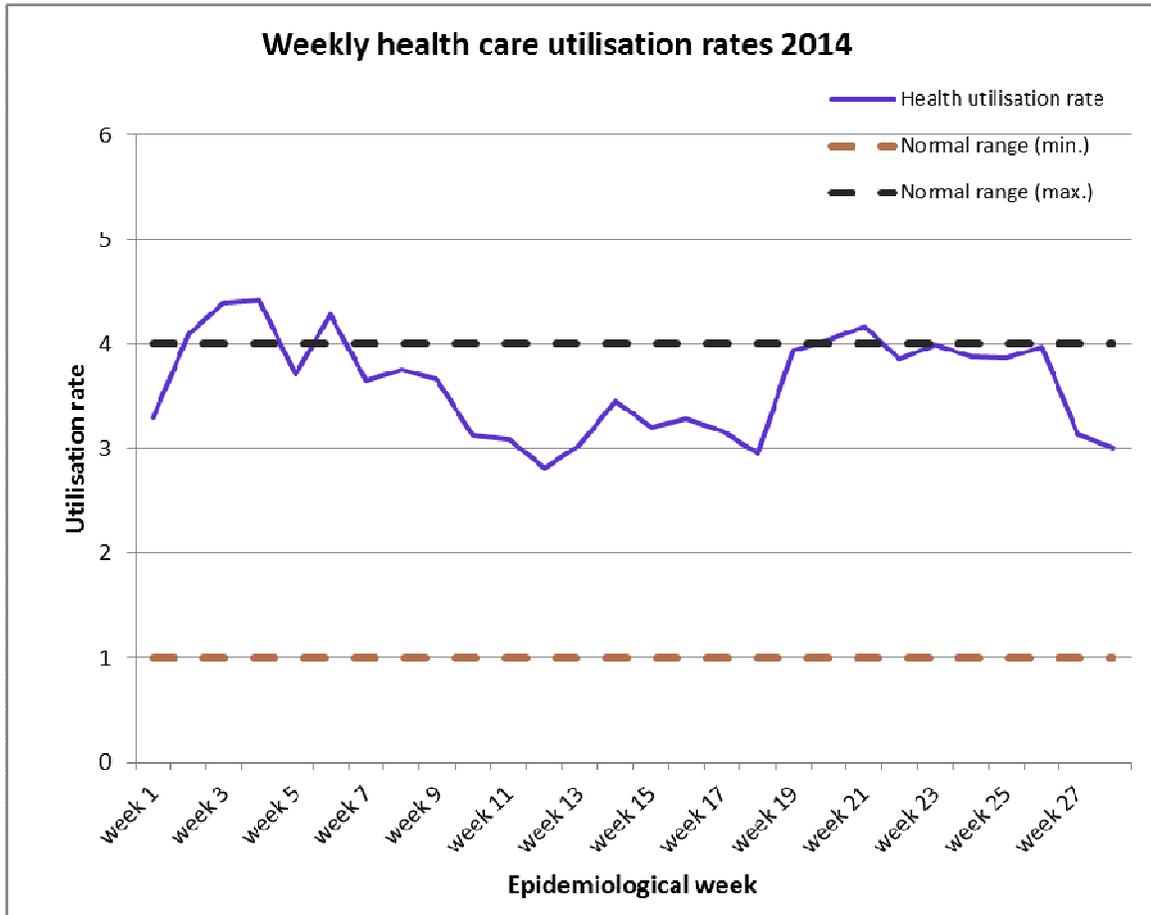
UNICEF received completed sewage designs for **Qushtapa** camp from partner KURDs, and the organization has been requested to implement the design. The water design for Block C of the camp has been approved by the Sulaymaniyah Directorate of Surrounding Water. UNICEF, in partnership with the Qatar Red Crescent, is preparing to begin construction.

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UNICEF has transferred funds to the Erbil Directorate of surrounding water for construction of the water supplies in **Kawergosk and Qushtapa** camps. Construction will start immediately after the Eid holiday.

✓ Health

KR-I: The consultation rate/ person/ year remained at an average of 3.0 and are within the expected range of 1 – 4 consultations/ person/ week. The number of diarrhea cases is increasing in all camps and monitoring of trends and stool samples has intensified. Hygiene messages are spread by partners on the prevention and treatment of diarrheal diseases.



Graph 1: average weekly consultation rates in all camps, 2014

Domiz Camp: Up to 3643 persons with acute, chronic and mental health conditions have benefited from the health services provided by MSF, DoH/ IMC and Kirkuk foundation center. In addition preventive health services including EPI, growth monitoring and reproductive health are provided by DoH with support of UN agencies. In July PU-AMI started providing health services in Domiz-2 in close cooperation with DoH/IMC team.

Gawilan Camp: In total 431 patients received treatment for acute, chronic and mental health conditions during the reporting period. In an effort to enhance efficiency of health the health sector response PU-AMI is providing 24/7 health services in Gawilan, the human resources from DoH cover other areas in need of further support.

In the 4 camps in **Erbil** governorate a total of 5798 primary health care consultations have been conducted. Power supply interruptions started to occur more frequently and overload the limited capacity of the existing back-up generators. The purchase of additional generators is planned for July.

Arbat Transit Site/ Permanent Camp: Families started to move from the transit camp to the permanent camp. During the transition phase while families are moving to the permanent camp, a nurse is conducting

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triage and provides basic health care in the permanent camp site. A 24/ 7 ambulance is referring patients for further treatment. In early July, once the majority of families have moved, full PHC services will be provided in the permanent camp and stand by services will be provided for those staying behind in the transit camp. In total 453 patients received treatment for acute and chronic health conditions during the reporting period.

Al Obaidy Camp: The Pediatrician, internist, gynecologist, and dentist continue receiving medical cases from Saturday to Thursday each week. Due to deterioration in security situation, there is a shortage in the chronic medicine in the PHC, and United Iraqi Medical Society (UIMS) will try to ensure the medicine provision as soon as possible.



UIMS activities in Al Obaidy @ UIMS/Mahmood

✓ Core Relief Items

Domiz Camp: During the reporting period, Qandil distributed CRI kits to 97 new registered families and 11 single groups. Lovan Company has distributed summer packages of water coolers, heater plus filters, electrical fans, cooking stoves, kettle set and buckets to 472 families in **Gawilan Camp**.



Distribution of NFIs in Domiz. (UNHCR/ B. Amin)



YAO distributing a CRI kit to a newly arrived refugee family in Arbat Transit Camp. (UNHCR)

Al Obaidy Camp: ISHO distributed new air coolers to some 163 households in Al Obaidy camp.

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✓ **Food**

Domiz Camp: WFP food voucher distribution (cycle 19) started on 6 July and ended on 22 July, covering 66,989 persons.

WFP distributed 620 food packages in **Arbat Transit Camp** and 2013 food packages in Arbat Permanent Camp. In total, 2,663 food packages were distributed.

No WFP food parcels were distributed to **Al Obaidy Camp** refugees during this reporting period since there are no stocks in WFP rumbhall and there is no safe route from Erbil to provide the camp with food parcels. UNHCR filled the gap by distributing 33 USD per refugee there through ISHO as cash assistance to enable the refugees to purchase the food they need. This activity will continue for July and August. As part of UNHCR livelihood projects, the bakeries continue producing traditional bread for the refugees in Al Obaidy Camp, in addition to one block of ice per family on a daily basis. The host community distributed vegetables to the refugees.

✓ **Community services**

At **Domiz Camp**, UNHCR referred 15 families with specific needs to DMC for assistance with shelter.

During the reporting period, a cleaning campaign was held in the single men's area with the participation of 9 members of the single men committee and more than 40 residents.

More than 20 popular cartoons for different ages are running 3 times a week on large screens that have attracted 238 children. Also, the program provides children learning tools, games and puzzles.



Children enjoying cartoons in Domiz-1. The services are provided by IRC @ UNHCR/ S. Abdullah

Gawilan Camp: UNHCR visited 29 families with specific needs and disable person and made referrals for 10 individuals with disability to MSF so that they may receive better psychosocial services and transportation to medical facilities in Bardarash. UNHCR referred 4 individuals for potential resettlement.

UNHCR conducted campaigns and identified critical issues such as early marriage within the refugee community and children dropping out of schools to support their parents. 500 copies of leaflets containing information on issues, negative effects and solutions were distributed in the camp.

✓ **Education**

Preparations are underway by the Department of Education and UNICEF to enrol 5,000 children in summer courses in **Domiz 1, Domiz II, Akre and Gawilan** camps. The classes will commence immediately after the Eid holidays and will offer courses in sports and fine arts activities.

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✓ **Livelihoods**

IOM continues to identify and select beneficiaries for potential vocational training in **Domiz Camp**. The project reaches 200 beneficiaries in Domiz camp including Computer Skills (50), English Language (50), tailoring (10), hairdressing (10), barber (10), book-keeping (30), sweet-making (10), plumbing (5), welding (5), mobile phone repair (10), and roofing (10). Once the vocational trainings are carried out, beneficiaries will receive three-day business development/management training. In addition, IOM will enhance its Community Technology Access (CTA) center to reach 1,000 more beneficiaries. An awareness session will be organized for 100 beneficiaries.

REACH established 12 plastic houses (Darato 2), completing all water system connection of the project and more preparation for autumn season. REACH continues improving sport activities through supporting their teams by supplying sportswear, training in football, volleyball, basketball, and tennis. Preparations are underway for a volleyball training course for fifteen girls in Domiz camp.

Gawilan Camp: 30 individuals were identified and referred by the Community Services team recommended for vocational trainings with IOM. 25 beneficiaries will be considered for the opportunity.

Similarly 40 individuals were identified and referred for on-the-job trainings. IOM will screen and enroll 25 of them in the ongoing on-the-job trainings.

4. Non-camp assistance

✓ **Reception, Registration and Protection**

Duhok: During the reporting period in **Waar City**, the Child Friendly Spaces registered a total of 1,018 children, with 781 visits.

UNHCR gained access to five Syrians (all male adults) held in custody by Security for illegal entry into KR-I. A Best Interest Assessment (BIA) was conducted and a letter for their release was sent to relevant counterparts.

In **Feyda**, the Child Friendly Space registered a total of 285 children, with 332 visits.

The verification exercise has continued at the **Erbil** urban registration center where all iris scan cameras are fully operational. As of 2 August 2014, 2,277 irises have been enrolled for 1,148 individuals.

Following Registration unit interventions at the level of the Head of Erbil Residency Department, a solution has been found to an earlier disagreement between the Residency Department and Asayish. The joint UNHCR-Erbil Residency Department verification exercise has resumed and is expected to pick up pace after the Eid holidays.

Sulaymaniyah: Three Syrian refugees who are detained in prison contacted UNHCR to be interviewed and registered as asylum seekers; all three individuals have been interviewed and registered

✓ **Community services/livelihoods**

Duhok: UNHCR together with Save the Children held a meeting with community groups in **Zakho**. The goal of the meeting was to mobilize community leaders to encourage their communities to send their children to summer schools. Following the meeting, the number of children attending the summer schools increased from 6 to 68. Transportation is available to children attending the schools.

✓ **Education**

Duhok: During the reporting period, Save the Children started summer and catch up classes in 3 schools in Zakho, War City and Hiwa. The activities are conducted five days a week and are expected to run for one

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month. 285 students have joined the classes in the schools benefiting from classes in Kurdish language, Arabic language, English language, Mathematics and Science.

5. Stories from the Field

The IKEA Foundation donates mattresses and blankets to Syrian refugees in Iraq

SULAYMANIYAH, Iraq – 36-year old Abdul Rahman “Abdu” Khalil was one of the first residents to line up to receive two mattresses, quilts and pillow covers, specially designed for summer use in Iraq, where daytime temperature can exceed 45 degrees. Abdu, his wife Sita and their six children fled Syria’s civil war last September for the comparative safety of northern Iraq’s Kurdistan region. Now they live at the Arbat refugee camp near the city of Sulaymaniyah. Abdu says being able to sleep better will make life more comfortable for the whole family, “We needed these mattresses and blankets. The blankets are thin and good for the summer and the mattresses are very good quality.” The mattresses and linens are a donation from IKEA, the world’s largest home furnishing company.



Abdul Rahman and his family at the Arbat camp for Syrian refugees in Iraq. They are holding new mattresses and blankets donated by the IKEA Foundation @ UNHCR/C.Robinson

Abdul Rahman is just one of close to three million Syrians who have sought safety in neighbouring countries in the Middle East. In the past three years, more than two-hundred and fifty thousand people have made the tough journey over the Syrian border into the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region of Iraq. In an effort to provide comfort and support to those refugees, IKEA is making a USD 5 million donation of bedroom products to refugees in Iraq, in partnership with UNHCR.

The IKEA Foundation is donating a total of 150,000 mattresses, quilts and bed linens to refugees at the Arbat camp over the next year. 50,000 sets have already arrived and the rest are scheduled for delivery in staggered shipments until March 2015. “When conflicts turn peoples’ lives upside down, we believe in supporting those who have lost everything by donating products that will give them a sense of security and home,” said Jonathan Spampinato, Director of Communication, at the IKEA Foundation.

This is the first IKEA donation to UNHCR in Iraq and it is also a welcome one for 52-year old Halima Murad. She and her family, along with 3,000 others in the camp, were among more than 35,000 refugees who arrived

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in a mass influx from Syria last August. Since arriving in Sulaymaniyah, all six of her family members have lived in the cramped quarters of a single tent, at the mercy of Iraq's extreme and harsh winters, summers and dust storms. In the winter temperatures can drop to zero and in the summer they soar to 45 degrees. Halima says, "We are happy to receive this mattress and quilt. We don't have blankets for summer, only winter blankets and they are too heavy." As she rolled out the new mattress inside her tent she smiled and then laughed saying, "I will not let my husband sleep on this, it's for me!" – story by Catherine Robinson

6. Security

The security situation in **KR-I** remained relatively stable and calm. Incidents have however occurred on the borders of KR-I in areas where Kurdish (Peshmerga) forces have come into contact with armed groups, which were slowly making territorial gains outside the KR-I borders. There were confirmed reports of clashes near **Zummar** and **Telseen**, and clashes between armed groups and Peshmerga around **Sinjar**.

Note: Since 31 July (end of the reporting period), there have been significant developments, namely incursions by armed groups including Islamic State into areas previously occupied by the Peshmerga, with these armed groups reportedly gaining control over Sinjar, Zummar, Tel Kaif and Hamdaniyah. In response, the Peshmerga have mounted a counteroffensive, reportedly regaining control over parts of Sinjar. With the capture of Gwer, the armed elements have for the first time reached and taken control of an area right at the boundary to KR-I proper, although they were not able to penetrate further into KR-I territory.

Various international airlines operating in and out of **Erbil** have stopped their flights until further notice, due to security concerns.

Aerial bombardments and clashes continued in **Al Qa'im**, resulting in casualties among civilians. Armed group elements were still in control of the city as of 31 July.

7. Coordination

The UNHCR Senior Advisor also announced that for 2014 UNHCR only have 1,000 resettlement slots for refugees for Iraq and only very vulnerable refugees are to be considered.

Sulaymaniyah: On 22 July the Protection Working Group (PWG) Meeting was held attended by UNHCR Senior Protection Advisor for KRI and she delivered a presentation on Refugee Response Plan (RP6) and the main goals and objectives of RRP6 was explained to the participants. During the meeting it was announced that UNHCR will start verification and biometric scan of the Syrian refugees in August; the goal is to remove the names that are registered more than once. In the camp the teams will visit the tents block by block. Urban refugees will be verified when they show up for renewal of their UNHCR asylum certificate. In the meeting the Terms of Reference (ToR) and workplan of the Erbil PWG were reviewed and discussed, in the near future the Sulaymaniyah PWG will develop its own ToR and workplan in line with the Erbil documents.

On 23 July the UNHCR Senior Protection Advisor for KR-I conducted a workshop for the PWG partners on the UNHCR policy on refugee protection and solutions in the urban areas. She discussed with the participants the situation of the urban refugees and their issues, and urged the organizations to look for clever solutions for their issues and cooperate with all the possible partners to combine resources and be able to connect and extend services with the urban refugees. The UNHCR Senior Advisor also gave a presentation of the REACH Initiative's survey on the urban refugees which was conducted in the three governorates of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok.

WASH Sector coordination for refugees is working to re-establish regular meetings despite the competing priorities with IDPs. WASH partners met at both the **Dohuk** and **Erbil** governorate levels alongside meetings for the IDP response. A key issue addressed includes the bottleneck in Qushtapa camp with regard to the sanitation works, with UNICEF, UNHCR and government partners forming a small group to accelerate implementation.

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UNICEF's Child Protection (CP) section continued to contribute to the CP response for Syrian refugees through weekly Child Protection Working Group coordination meetings.

Coordination remains a challenge for **Al Obaidy Camp** due to the security situation and the necessity for remote management. The only possible means of communication to coordinate the services provided to the refugees with partners on the ground after the relocation of UNHCR team to Erbil is through mobile phone calls.

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