



## NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

Syrians continue to enter the KR-I, with 4,493 individuals entering through the Peshkhabour border in the month of November. Of this figure only 156 individuals were admitted as asylum seekers on family reunification grounds by the authorities in Duhok, while 4,337 Syrians entered as visitors or for medical reasons. 2,187 Syrian refugees were also registered or awaiting registration in the month of November across the KR-I.

In November, the number of spontaneous **returns** to Syria was less than the previous month, with 1,663 registered asylum seekers departing from the KR-I through the Peshkhabour border, representing a decrease of 28% for the reporting period. The increased regularity of airstrikes over Aleppo city and surrounding villages is reported to have led to a slight decrease in the number of the Syrian returnees either to these targeted areas or to nearby vicinities.

Spontaneous **departures** of Syrian individuals from the KR-I to Turkey continue to be observed, with the numbers of departures decreasing since August. During the reporting period, 1,267 Syrians crossed legally into Turkey from the KR-I via the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing, representing an approximate 44% decrease.

**Child protection** interventions and wide-ranging activities for refugee children continued in November. In Sulaimaniyah Governorate, a music concert and a Clowns Without Borders performance was organised for children at Arbat refugee camp; and psychosocial support and child friendly activities were organised for refugee children in non-camp locations.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign was launched in the KR-I during the reporting period. Members of the **SGBV** SWG coordinated activities in refugee camp and non-camp locations on the theme "From peace in the home to peace in the world: Make education safe for all". Activities were also organised as part of the campaign against child marriage, produced in cooperation with the General Directorate for Combatting Violence Against Women.

In November, 26 cases of 101 persons were referred for **resettlement**. Eighteen cases of 69 persons were submitted to the UK, nine cases of 49 persons were submitted to Australia and one case of five persons was submitted to Sweden. Ten persons departed for resettlement to the UK.



Erbil, UNHCR/ C. Coves

## NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The number of Syrians being admitted as asylum-seekers upon arrival into KR-I through the Peshkhabour border continues to be limited. Only a small percentage (3%) were admitted in November as asylum seekers for family reunification purposes in Duhok governorate. With several changes in admission procedures, the decision making criteria is yet to be clarified. Criteria for admission by Duhok authorities is currently understood to be based on; family reunification for children and women of family members already registered with UNHCR in the KR-I; reunification of spouses; and those fleeing forced recruitment or political persecution.

The Al-Obaidi camp in Al-Qaim received 45 Syrian families during the reporting period, mainly from Al Bukamal in Syria, which was subject to heavy airstrikes.

The delay in access to residency documentation in Erbil Governorate remains a key issue for Syrian refugees without valid residency permits who face difficulties in movement (crossing checkpoints) and in accessing employment and education in the KR-I.

While the provision of child protection services continues in all camp locations, outreach to non-camp refugee children remains limited (only 16% of refugee children are reached in non-camp locations). To address the gaps in the provision of services in urban locations, the CP SWG is exploring the use of 50 Directorate of Youth and Sport-managed youth centres across the KR-I. Use of the centres may prove a valuable opportunity to expand urban programming while also maximizing local resources and supporting longer-term sustainability.

SGBV partners in the 3RP response are still not effectively engaged in reporting through the Activity Info system, leading to under-reporting on SGBV interventions. Further sensitization on the importance of reporting is required.

Reports have been received on military recruitment and the presence of combatants in refugee camps. UNHCR continues to raise community awareness and engagement on the civilian nature of asylum through sensitisation and messaging and has raised its concerns with the KRG.

## IRAQ RESPONSE INDICATORS: NOVEMBER 2015

