

Iraq

17 November 2019

Since the start of military action in North East Syria (NES) on 9 October, **15,759 individuals** have crossed into the KR-I seeking refuge.

3,367 Syrian refugees have obtained clearance to reunite with family members in KR-I, or to otherwise reside outside of camps.

A total of **229 new arrivals have voluntarily returned to Syria** in recent weeks.

KEY FIGURES

15,759

New arrivals
since 14 October 2019

234,840

Syrian refugees in Iraq
as of 31 October 2019

KEY STATISTICS – 16 November 2019

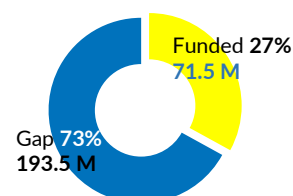
	Individuals
Average daily arrivals since 10 November	140
Bardarash camp population	10,127
Gawilan camp NES population	1,881
Estimated new arrivals who have left camps	3,751

13,631 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR
Out of whom **48% female | 52% male | 51% children**
Main areas of origin Qamishli (34%) | Ras al Ain (33%)

FUNDING AS OF 31 OCTOBER 2019

USD 265 M

requested for 3RP in Iraq²



²3RP appeal preceding NES influx

Operational Context

Recent military operations in North East Syria forced thousands of people to flee their homes and to seek safety across the border in neighbouring Iraq. Refugees are crossing through two main informal points,

Sehela and Al Walid. Two camps have been designated to host the new arrivals; Bardarash, which previously hosted internally displaced Iraqis; and Gawilan, which already hosts over 7,000 Syrian refugees who fled to Iraq earlier. As both locations are now reaching full capacity, the authorities in Dohuk Governorate are identifying an additional site. As of 16 November 2019, a total 15,759 Syrian refugees have crossed into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR_I). Over 10,000 individuals are hosted in Bardarash, and over 1,800 individuals in Gawilan. The number of daily arrivals into the KR-I over the past week has decreased with a new average of around 140 individuals per day.



Overview of Bardarash refugee camp now hosting over 13,000 Syrian refugees @Rasheed Hussien

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Thank you to partners participating in the response

Action Contre la Faim | ACTED | AISPO | Assayesh | Barzani Charity Foundation | Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs | CARE | Directorate of Health | Directorate of Labour and Social Affairs | Escape from Darkness | GOAL | German Red Cross | Harikar | Heevie Organization | ICRC | IOM | Iraqi Red Crescent Society | Khalsa Aid | Lotus Flower | Lutheran World Federation | MedAir | Médecins Sans Frontières | Mercy Corps | Norwegian Refugee Council | Peace Winds Japan | Plain Compassion Crisis Response | Polish Humanitarian Aid | Qandil | REACH Initiative | REACH Iraq | Samaritan's Purse | Save The Children | Seed Foundation | Triangle Génération Humanitaire | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | War Child | World Vision | ZOA

Achievements

As of 16 November, newly arriving Syrian refugees have benefited from the following assistance:



COORDINATION

Achievements and Impact

- Twice weekly interagency coordination meetings are ongoing at Bardarash camp level to ensure a coordinated response.
- A fortnightly inter-agency coordination meeting in Duhok ensures a comprehensive and integrated operational response to the situation, with sector working group coordination meetings also being organized as needed.



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- Protection services are provided to all new arrivals. This includes registration, individual case management, identification and verification of persons with specific needs, psychosocial support, legal aid, protection monitoring, SGBV referral and response, child protection, community-based initiatives, and awareness raising and sensitization on issues including registration and family reunification procedures.
- As of 16 November 2019, 13,631 Syrian refugees have been registered with UNHCR, out of whom 48% are female, 52% are male, and 51% are children. The main areas of origin of those registered are Qamishli (34%), Ras al Ain (33%), Ain Al Arab (10%), al-Hasakeh (8%) and al-Malika (6%). All camp population in Gawilan have been registered while in Bardarash camp, registration stands at 88%. At-risk and extremely vulnerable individuals are being fast-tracked for registration.
- Identified cases of gender-based violence are being closely followed up by specialised partners.
- Following successful advocacy with authorities, family reunification between camps started during the reporting period.
- Reunification of newly arrived refugees with relatives outside the camps continues. 3,367 refugees have so far been cleared to leave. The bulk of departures for family reunification purposes go to Erbil, Duhok and Suleymaniyah have also started issuing clearances for reunification.
- Identification of unaccompanied and separated children is ongoing along with Best Interest Assessments and Child Protection assessments. As of this week, a total of 189 child protection

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assessments were conducted; in addition, 65 Best Interest Assessments have been conducted for unaccompanied and separated children, children without documentation and child marriage cases.

- Immediate care through Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support are being provided to all new arrivals, along with counselling for children.
- 209 persons with specific needs were identified, counselled and referred to relevant service providers.
- Child friendly spaces (CFS) are being established in Bardarash camp to provide recreational activities, non-formal education, psychosocial support, art therapy, and child and youth resilience activities. One CFS is now operational and provides daily recreational activities. Two more will be up and running in the next few days. Existing facilities in Gawilan are being enhanced.
- Two help desks continue to be operated in both camps. Key messages on, *inter alia*, registration processes, fraud and exploitation amongst others continue to be disseminated through community outreach volunteers.
- A total of 229 new arrivals have voluntarily returned to Syria. Pre-return rapid surveys and protection counselling are conducted for families/individuals who expressed their wish to return to Syria. Individuals who wish to return are supported by Assayesh and return through Peshkabour crossing point. Overall, the top three reasons for wanting to return include:
 1. Desire to reunite with their families (32%);
 2. Lengthy Assayesh clearance procedures to depart camp, tied to restriction on freedom of movement (27%); and
 3. Services (including medical treatment) in the camps not meeting expectations of refugees (12%).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is mounting frustration among those who wish to reunite with family members already outside of the camps in the KR-I due to complex and lengthy procedures to leave the camp.
- Participatory refugee/community leadership structures are being developed in Bardarash and efforts to ensure inclusion of new arrivals in participatory structures in Gawilan are ongoing. Capacity building will be required.
- Given the high number of adolescents among the population, targeted activities for adolescents and youth remain a gap in Bardarash.



BASIC NEEDS

Achievements and Impact

- All new arrivals continue to be provided with core relief items including, but not limited to: cooking stoves, kerosene heaters, kitchen items, high thermal blankets, mattresses, quilts and jerry cans. Winterization kits for tents are also being distributed in preparation for the winter. Provision of additional blankets is also ongoing – two per person, as is kerosene.
- Partners continue providing hygiene and dignity kits, as well as blankets and mattresses, at the Sehela transit site for new arrivals overnighting.
- Fire extinguishers distribution has started in both camps. In Bardarash, a total of 749 extinguishers are planned to be distributed, one extinguisher per four shelters. This is in accordance with the minimum standards for fire prevention and response. Custodians are required to share with

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neighbours and inform if empty or expired. In Gawilan camp, a total of 200 extinguishers are planned to be distributed. Fire prevention awareness is conducted in both camps.

- Distribution of clothes took place in Gawilan camp in response to the reported need for clothes and shoes.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A significant number of people continue reporting the need for winter clothes and shoes.
- Kerosene provision for January and February 2020 has not been secured yet.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- New arrivals and those overnighing in Sehela are provided a hot meal upon arrival.
- Upon arrival, all families/individuals in Bardarash and Gawilan Refugee Camps have benefited from regular food assistance through provision of Family Food Rations (FFR) and Immediate Response Rations. Based on feedback from the community, rice will be excluded in the next cycle of FFR distribution.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Nutritional Surveys will be undertaken.
- Consideration of implementation of possible cash modalities in lieu of rations is ongoing.



SHELTER

Achievements and Impact

- Infrastructure works are ongoing in Bardarash and Gawilan, including improvement of roads, cleaning of shelter surroundings, fumigation, installation of solar lights, and enhancement of common facilities.
- In Gawilan, tent bases and surrounding areas are being completed, refugees are being moved with the help of partners. A total of 374 families have been relocated thus far. This will allow for more dignified living conditions as winter approaches.
- Rehabilitation of kitchens in all camp sectors in Bardarash camp is planned in the coming weeks.
- Rehabilitation of the registration centre and renovation of the damaged fence in Bardarash camp is ongoing.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Communal cooking areas are needed in Gawilan in order to prevent additional risks created by families cooking inside tents. These will be prioritised as soon as basic infrastructure is in place.
- Upon identification of a new camp location by the authorities, partners will mobilize to ensure all necessary infrastructure is in place.



WASH

Achievements and Impact

- Water storage tanks have been provided to all households, installation is going.

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- Desludging of septic tanks and water quality monitoring is ongoing in both camps.
- Distribution of hygiene kits is continuing in Bardarash camp as well as the hygiene promotion and advocacy campaign in both camps.
- Water trucks are being provided in both camps for sectors facing water shortages.
- In Gawilan Refugee Camp, the submersible pump repair and rehabilitation has been completed

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- As the population increases and in order to move away from communal WASH facilities as soon as possible, efforts to enhance overall WASH infrastructure in both locations is ongoing.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- Health services are provided round the clock in Sehela transit site through a mobile medical unit. Vaccination teams from the Directorate of Health are vaccinating all new arrivals under 15 years of age with polio and measles vaccines.
- Primary Health Care Centres (PHCC) are available in both camps, providing a range of health services including outpatient consultations, sexual and reproductive health consultations, Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support, in addition to individual mental-health counselling sessions.
- Health education activities started in Bardarash camp. There are some scabies cases in Bardarash; health/WASH sectors are following-up on the cases to provide medical support and hygiene awareness.
- Selection of a health actor to operate the night shift in Bardarash camp has been finalised by the Directorate of Health and is expected to start operating soon.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Gawilan camp, with the increased number of consultations there is a need to provide more medicines and medical supplies.
- In Bardarash camp, laboratory services are still not functional due to a shortage of laboratory equipment and supplies. Medicines for chronic illness are also in short supply.
- Gaps in MHPSS Services for adults include individual counselling, psychiatric care and provision of psychotropic drugs. In coordination with Directorate of Health, proposals are being studied to identify specialized partners to ensure the continuity of comprehensive primary health care and MHPSS beyond the immediate emergency phase.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- Education partners visited the formal schools in Gawilan refugee camp, met with the camp management in Gawilan and Bardarash refugee camps and held a meeting with DoE Duhok and Bardarash to document education challenges and request from Ministry of Education (MoE) through Directorate of Education in Duhok to, *inter alia*, give access to children regardless of the documentation issue through conduct of placement tests.

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- Education partners, together with local authorities in Duhok, will begin the construction of a primary school in Bardarash Refugee Camp. The school is expected to be ready by the end of the year. In the interim, non-formal education activities and temporary learning spaces are operational. The eventual education curriculum will be decided by the Ministry of Higher Education.
- Non-formal education activities (PSS, sport and recreational activities) are operational by the education actors in Bardarash using alternative space until TLSs are ready.
- 40 refugees with teaching experience are identified in Bardarash Refugee Camp.
- 8 facilitators from the community are conducting education and outreach activities in Bardarash Refugee Camp recruited by education actors.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Currently, 2269 school age children have been identified in Bardarash and 526 in Gawilan.
- New and enhanced primary and secondary education facilities will be required.
- There are needs for increased educational programmes and recreational activities for children and youth.



LIVELIHOODS

Achievements and Impact

- Camp management in Bardarash is establishing a “job centre” for in-camp employment, as well as a market area.
- In both camps, numerous refugee-run shops and food establishments have started to open.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- No specific livelihood and self-reliance programmes have been established to date. This remains a major gap with refugees reporting having little to no cash. According to current data, around 40% of individuals in the camp are of working age.

Special Thanks to Donors

Partners are very grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Syrian refugee response in Iraq as well as those who have contributed un-earmarked & broadly earmarked funds:

Canada | European Union | Denmark | Estonia | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Kuwait | Netherlands | Norway | Private Donors | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

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