



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

General Situation and Response 18

This update provides a snapshot of the UNHCR response to the influx of Syrians into Iraq. The response is led by UNHCR, and is undertaken in full coordination with the Government of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, UN agencies as well as international and national NGOs.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

No Syrian new arrivals to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq were reported during the last few days. This may be attributed to the recent violent armed clashes between the Syrian army and opposition fighters along the border with Iraq. Arrivals who had entered the KR during the past weeks continue, however, to approach UNHCR and DDM for registration and subsequent issuance of residence permits.

Some 441 Syrians in Domiz camp and 514 individuals in Erbil have approached the registration centre, claiming they were living within the community for the past few weeks. At the same time, reports from DDM state that some 150 singles have left the camp, owing to difficult life conditions in the camp and the hot weather prevailing in Duhok during the first week of Ramadan.

In Domiz camp, 58 new families comprising 219 individuals and 222 singles were registered during the week. In Erbil, 32 families comprising 177 individuals and 337 singles were registered, while Suleimaniya did not witness any new registration. It is to note that Syrian new arrivals are increasingly approaching UNHCR for registration in order to acquire residence permits.

The Residency Directorate has granted residence permits, valid for six months, to 398 families comprising 1,780 individuals and 700 singles inside and outside Domiz camp.



II. Situation Overview

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As per information from the KRG, the on-going unrest in Syria has so far resulted in some 8,500 persons who were displaced and sought sanctuary in the Kurdistan Region. The total number of Syrians registered with UNHCR and DDM in the KR has reached 8,445 with a total number of 6,653 registered with UNHCR and DDM in Dohuk, 1,412 registered in Erbil and 380 registered in Suleimaniya.

The camp population in Domiz has reached 2,540 individuals, including 350 families, comprising 2,040 persons, and 500 singles. Among the singles, 150 were reported to have left the camp on the 22nd of July, bringing the total population in the camp to 2,390 individuals. In the meantime, 115 singles continue to live nearby the

camp in a mosque.

DDM continues to conduct screening interviews for Syrian singles. Out of 700 singles screened and interviewed, 191 are army deserters who had renounced to military activities and sought protection in Domiz camp. The majority of the singles interviewed were found to be young men who were subjected to compulsory military service; they had served beyond the required period and were not released by the regular army given the security circumstances prevailing in Syria. When given the opportunity for a short leave, they fled Syria and entered the KR illegally and without proper documentation except for the military identity card. Following the screening, DDM considered many as persons in need of international protection while decisions for others are yet to be made.

It is to note; that interviews with singles revealed that many among them fled Syria owing to the general violence in the country but did not experience personal situations and have as such no subjective fear of persecution. The latter faced difficult life conditions in the camp in Duhok governorate combined with lack of job opportunities and exploitation and as a result opted to voluntary return to Syria. The majority however are army deserters, draft evaders or had participated in demonstrations against the Syrian regime; and despite the difficult living conditions in the camp, they consider that being in the KR is safer for their lives and owing to fear of being arrested and killed in Syria opt to stay in the KR where they found protection and assistance.



OVERALL GOAL: Emergency Protection Including Assistance -STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Fair protection process and documentation

1.1. Administrative institutions and practice: overall practice:

The Residency Directorate in Duhok continues the process of granting 6 months temporary residence to the Syrians living in Domiz camp. So far, 398 families comprising of 1,780 individuals and 700 singles inside and outside Domiz camp have been provided with residency permits valid until the end of the year. The permit grants its bearer free access to public services. UNHCR conducts awareness campaigns to inform the Syrians new arrivals on the procedures required to acquire residency and the residency directorate is showing flexibility in granting permits based on UNHCR's certificate and identity documents.

Level two` registration through ProGress continues in all governorates (Erbil, Suleimaniya and Duhok). In Domiz camp, the registration unit had registered 392 families comprising of 1,677 individuals and 298 singles. All registered individuals have been provided with UNHCR` Asylum Seeker Certificates valid for 6 months.

In terms of border crossing; UNHCR Dohuk coordinated with the border security forces to facilitate entry of two new Syrian arrivals; the latter were received and registered in Domiz camp. However the first case of refoulement was reported in Ninewa, Rabiaa entry point, where a head of family, a holder of an entry visa has

seen his children, without an entry visa denied access to the Iraqi territory. The children were reportedly sent back to Syria. Discussions are on going with the GoI at Baghdad level to allow the Syrians fleeing violence access to the Iraqi territory. Given the last armed clashes at the borders between Syria and Iraq, many entry points were closed within the past few days, UNHCR had increased its presence in the border and enhanced monitoring is ongoing allowing timely intervention with the Government authorities to allow Syrians fleeing violence in Syria to access the territory.

On the 23rd of July, the Iraqi Prime Minister ordered the borders to be opened to receive Syrian new arrivals as well as Iraqi returnees feeling violence in Syria. UNHCR and the GoI expect the number of Syrians to increase as a result of this order. Syrian Arabs are expected to cross into Iraq through Al Waleed, Al-Qaim and Rabia border points. On July 24th, the Iraqi Government declared its intention to set up camps to accommodate Syrian new arrivals at the above mentioned location and sought UNHCR support for the rehabilitation of Al-Waleed camp and the establishment of two other camps. Therefore, UNHCR is embarking, jointly with the GoI, on the establishment of the required camps. The Office has also updated its contin-

gency plan, focussing primarily on a worst case scenario which foresees a potential mass influx into Iraq in the event of further deterioration of the security situation in Syria.

An increased number of families continue to approach UNHCR in Duhok seeking reunification with family members either abroad or in other neighbouring countries. UNHCR continues to provide legal counselling to those families while at the same time liaising with ICRC to initiate family tracing.



1.2 Quality of Registration and Profiling

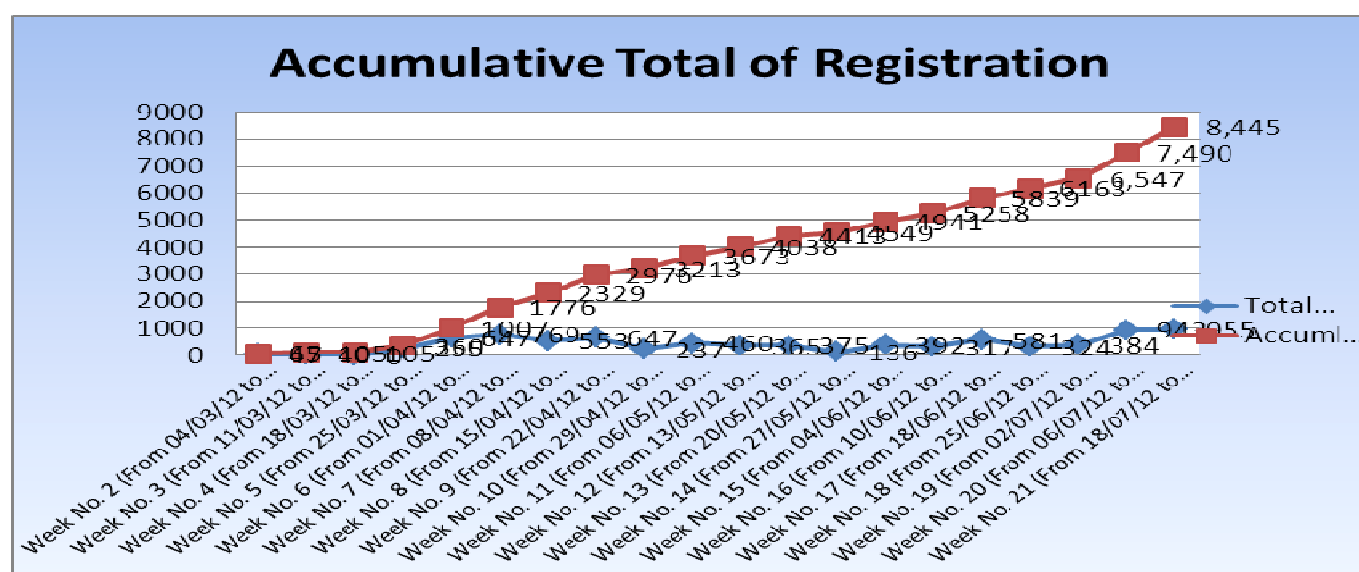
As of 23rd of July, UNHCR in Erbil, and DDM in Duhok and Suleimaniya have registered an accumulative total of 8,445 Syrians of Kurdish origin. Among these are 784 families, comprising of 3,325 individuals, and 5,120 singles. In Erbil, a total of 98 families, comprising of 430 individuals are registered. In Suleimaniya, no new arrivals were registered during the week and the total of Syrian registered remains 21 families comprising of 67 individuals and 313 singles. In Duhok Governorate, 665 families comprising of 2,828 individuals and 3,825 singles are registered. As previously mentioned, given the lack of new arrivals during the week, there are no known numbers of Syrians awaiting registration.

Duhok remains host to the largest number of Syrian new arrivals, with 6,653 individuals, followed by Erbil with 1,412 individuals and then Suleimaniya with 380 individuals as indicated below.

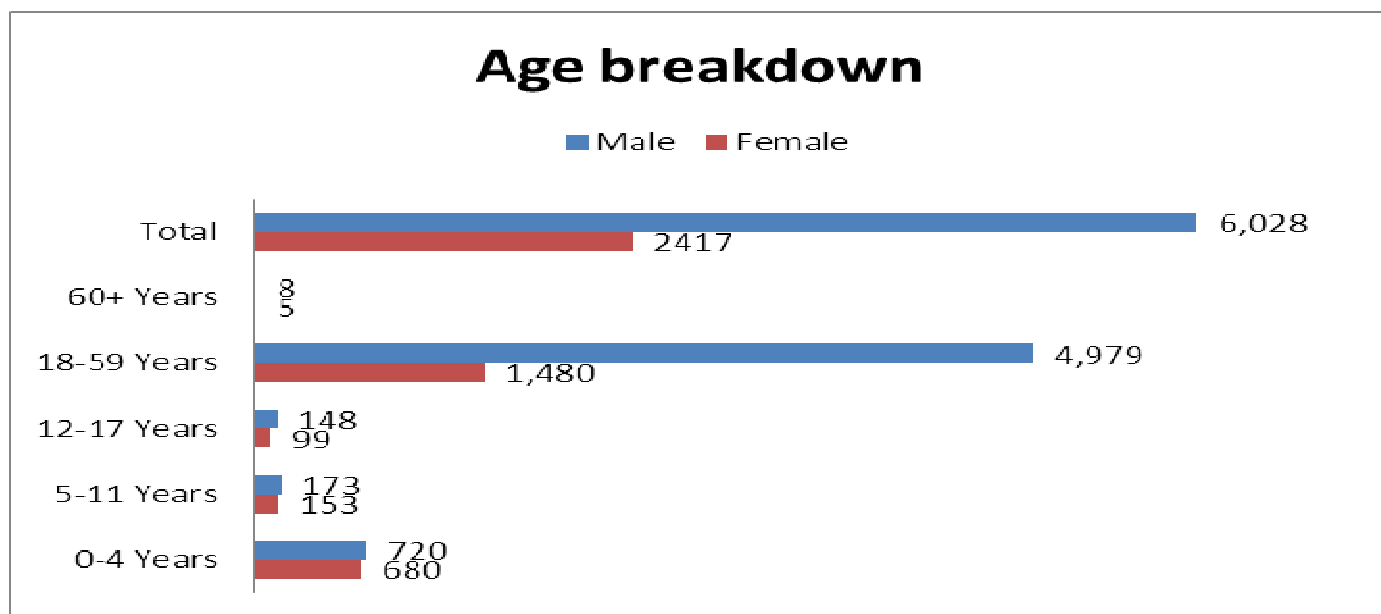
Reporting period	Families	Individuals in families	Singles +UAMs	Total Registered	Pending Registration	Total Arrivals
As of the 5 th of July	632	2,561 individuals	3,886 Singles including 31 UAMs and SC SCs	6,547	1,453	8,000
As of the 17 th of July	723	2,929 individuals	4,561 Singles including 31 UAMs and SC SCs	7,490	550	8,040
As of the 24 th of July	784	3,325 individuals	5,120 Singles including 31 UAMs and SC SCs	8,445	Unknown	8,500

Below is a table showing the registration trends per month from the period of 26th February up to the 5th of July 2012, and shows the steadily increasing numbers approaching UNHCR to register. Also is presented an age/gender breakdown of the registered Syrians. It is to note that the below table does not reflect or takes into consideration the number of asylum seekers who fled Syria prior to the violence.

Graph 1

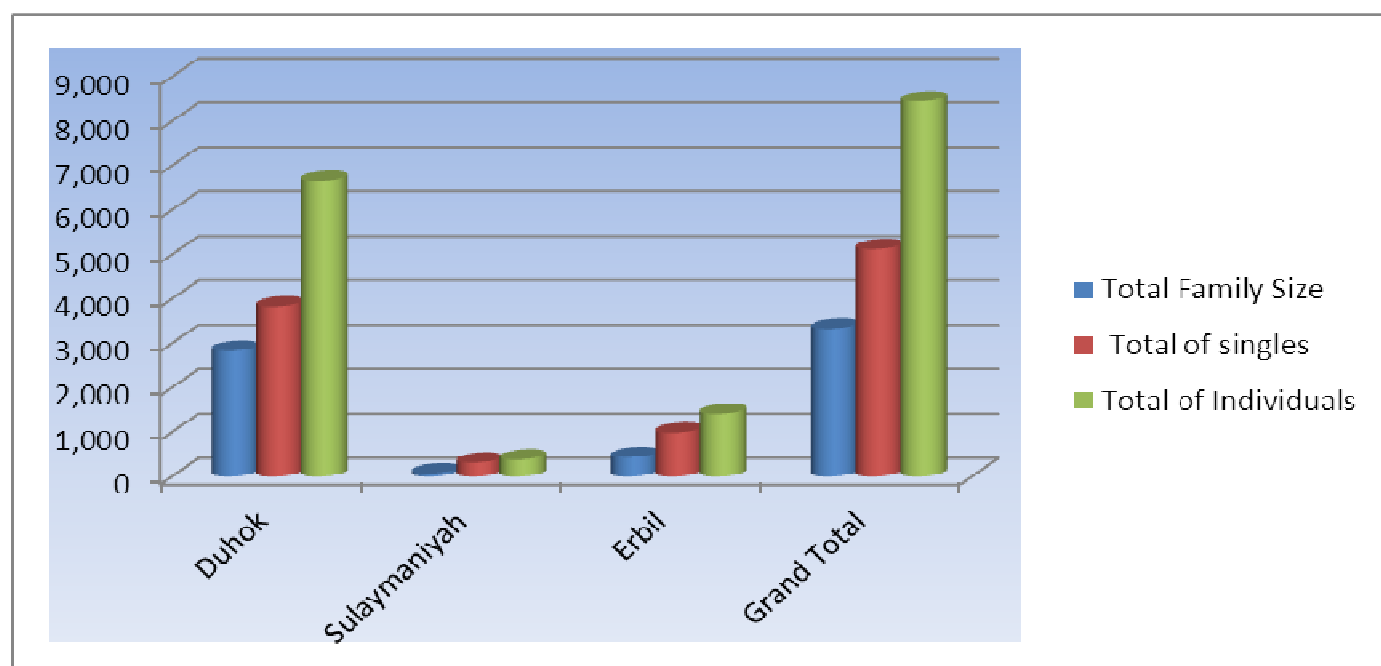


Graph 2



The table below illustrates the rate of arrivals to the different Governorates in the KR (Erbil- Suleimaniya and Duhok). The KR's borders remain open to Syrian nationals fleeing unrest in Syria.

Graph 3: Registration per Governorate



2-Basic needs and essential services (Duhok)

2.1 Shelter and Infrastructure

As of the 23rdth of July, 350 families comprising 2,040 persons are residing in Domiz camp, in the family's section, and 350 singles are residing in the singles' section. A total of 405 tents have been erected in the family' section and 120 in the singles' section. The preparatory work of the transit location for 50 families started on the 18th of July.

Individual sanitation units with sewerage - Sector 1:

The number of family plots is 211. The sector was divided between two contractors (Dosko and Zudam companies). The contractors have started working in building the individual sanitation units and closed sewerage for 211 families.

The work progress is as shown below:

Detail	Planned number	Performed	Estimated work progress %
Sanitation foundation	211	176	84%
Sanitation walls	211	159	73%
Sanitation roof	211	99	47%
Septic tanks	46	46	100%
Sewerage lines	3063 m	2500	82%

The work in this activity is very slow and the main reason is the nature of the work inside the residential part of the camp.

Family plots - Sector 2:

4 contractors are working in constructing tents foundations, walls, cooking areas and sanitation units for 214 plots (Zab company 70 plots plus Nipple, Dolub and Qalaat Ninewa companies- 48 plots for each).

Detail	Planned number	Performed	Estimated work progress %
Tents foundation	286	286	100%
Tents walls	286	286	100%
kitchen foundation	214	214	100%
Kitchen walls	214	214	100%
Kitchen roof	214	214	100%
Sanitation foundation	214	214	100%
Sanitation walls	214	214	100%
Sanitation roof	214	158	74%
Septic tanks excavation	54	54	100%
Pits excavations	54	54	100%
Sanitation works	214	156	73%

Singles:

A contractor (Salar Company) has started working with establishing 100 tents, cooking areas and sanitation units for singles. The work includes fixing a fence around the singles tents.

Detail	Planned number	Performed	Estimated work progress %
Tents foundation	44	44	100%
Tents walls	44	44	100%
kitchen foundation	100	100	100%
Kitchen walls	100	100	100%
Kitchen roof	100	100	100%
Sanitation foundation	100	100	100%
Sanitation walls	100	100	100%
Sanitation roof	100	100	100%
Sanitation works	100	84	73%
Septic tanks	17	17	84%
Pits with boulder	11	11	100%
Fence around singles tents	750 m. Length	750 m. length of poles and pole base cast	97%
gate	1	0	0

Transit area

A contractor (Sobel Haditha Company) has started the work on 18 July; it includes establishing 48 tents with 24 sanitation units for new arrived families. The work includes fixing water tanks for each family.

Detail	Planned number	Performed	Estimated work progress %
Excavation of septic tanks	24	24	100%
Casting roof of septic tanks	24	24	100%
Installing mobile latrines	24	20	83%
Installing tents	48	0	0

Fence for family section

A contractor (Shajarat Al-Rayan Company) has started working on 17 July with installation of fence around family section:

Detail	Planned number	Performed	Estimated work progress %
Site preparation	950 ML	950 ML	100%
Excavation of holes	450	360	80%
Poles installation and casting foundations	450	0	0
Installation of BRC fence	1350 ML	0	0
Install of two gates	2	0	0

2.2 Health Status and psycho-social support

The medical unit established in the camp by DoH continues to provide daily health services to an average of 50-60 cases per day and no major health concerns were reported during the reporting week. On July 17th a vaccination team visited the camp to provide required vaccination to the children in Domiz camp. The DoH vaccination team visits the camp once every month and provides vaccination to children who are given appointments. A mobile dental team from DoH also visited the camp during the reporting week to provide dental care for the residents in the camp. It was the second visit of the dental unit to the camp. The health centre continues to test the Syrians new arrivals from 15 to 65 years for Hepatitis B and HIV. This blood test is a requirement for all foreigners to obtain residency in KR.

2.3 Supply of potable water

Water Department of Fayda continues provision of clean water by tankers to residents of the camp in a rate of 200,000 liters per day. DoH continues providing chlorinate tabs to families and singles once every three days.

UNHCR through Qandil has started implementation of water project on 02 July for sector 1 and 2 through Kurds (LNGO). The work includes laying of more than 7000 polyethylene pipes, construction of 5 elevated storage tank (23 m3 each) and drilling one deep well. The water project is in good progress where completed some 2500 Meters Length (ML) of excavation works, 2300 ML connection of pipes of different sizes diameters, covered with soil 870 ML of connected water network, fixed 240 water joints by connecting one meter length pipe of 1/2 inch in diameter in front of 240 tents, connected 2 water valves to pipes of 125 mm in diameters, cast foundation of concrete tank base after reinforcing with steel bars and dug 100 meters depth for deep well in sector 2.



2.4 Nutrition

DDM continues the provision of three hot meals a day to the single males, and dry food rations to the families who have kitchen facilities. DDM will continue the distribution of food rations until WFP is able to take over by the first of August. DDM will provide the singles with two meals per day during the holy month of Ramadhan. One meal will be provided at dinner time and the other one for the Suhor time.

IKL NGO distributed 100,000 Iraqi dinars per family and 50,000 Iraqi Dinars, Darin group provided 3 kg of meat per family to the entire families in Domiz camp.

2.5 Sanitation and Hygiene

Irregular garbage collection by Fayda Municipality was conducted during the reporting period in parallel with a three day cleaning campaigns that were launched by Islamic Kurdistan League (IKL) for garbage collection within both families and singles sectors.

2.6 Services for persons with specific needs

UNHCR continues its daily field visits to the Syrian families and singles in order to assess the needs and identify possible gaps. Lack of job opportunities remains the major concern along with exploitation in the labor market. Cases of exploitation are referred to and followed up by lawyers working for the UNHCR Protection, Assistance and Reintegration Centre implemented by local NGOs. During the reporting week, UNHCR Community Services identified 4 cases of persons with disabilities in Domiz camp. One family with a child with Autism was living with relatives in the camp and was prioritized on the list of provision of tent and NFIs to give the child the space needed. The child was also referred to the team from Duhok Mental Health Centre which continues to conduct four weekly visits Domiz camp for provision of counselling and assistance to individuals. Moreover the persons with disabilities had asked UNHCR for cash assistance due to their vulnerability and inability of accessing jobs.

2.7 Education

The summer schooling in the camp continues for 123 students of grade 1 to 9. A meeting in the Education Sub Working Group chaired by UNICEF was held on 17 July 2012 in the administration building in Domiz camp. DoE, UNICEF, Harikar, UNHCR and the principal and assistant principal of the school participated in the meeting. The meeting was used to discuss the status of the school one week after it started and the additional needs and requirements for the coming months of summer school prior to the start of the next academic year. The material needs discussed included provision of filing cabinets; stationery and school bags for more students; water dispensers; and an additional caravan/prefab for the teachers as well as air conditioners for the old school building. The members of the working group were to check with their respective agencies of possible contributions to these needs. IOM has already committed to provide 4 additional air coolers. The registration of additional students in the school was also discussed in the Education Sub Working Group meeting. A DoE committee will set a date to interview the new children who will be required to present a set of documents in order to be officially registered in the school.

Out of 229 students who are registered in the school from 1st to 9th grades, only 189 students are attending classes, the remaining are temporarily awaiting the issuance of the residency permits that is a requirement for the registration in the school.

On 19 July, the KRG Minister of Education has visited Domiz School, during his visit; he informed that these two months summer school will be an intensive study for the students, MoE will consider it as a passing year if students pass the final examination that will be organized by special committee formed by DoE.

2.8 NFIs assistance

During the reporting week, UNHCR distributed 35 packages of NFIs to 35 families of 139 individuals.

Arrangement of UNHCR Rub-Hall was completed, 85 palettes were placed on plastic rolls on the rub-hall floor following the cleaning inside the rub-hall. Two guards have been hired and started their work 24 hours /7 days.

A 50 KVA generator was received with its spare parts, the generator will be connected with the administration part to feed power for admin and registration cabins during main power cut.

Out of 665 Syrian new arrival families that registered by UNHCR, 576 families received NFIs and out of 3750 singles that registered with UNHCR, 954 singles received NFIs assistance from UNHCR since the beginning of the Syrian arrival.



3. Security

The security situation in the camp needs improvement as the number of the provided security staff by the local authority comparing to the size and the population of the camp is limited. Access to and from the camp is yet to be organized. During the week two security incidents were reported. One of the UNHCR/Qandil's Caravan's glasses has been broken and a water tank driver has been attacked by asylum seekers allegedly due to shortage of supplied quantities of water.

4. Coordination and Partnership

- ◆ On 18th of July, Governor Office, DDM, Security, Police and UNHCR, organized a meeting for enhancing the security in Domiz camp.
- ◆ On 18th of July, UNHCR Dohuk organized a meeting with the Syrian new arrival committee members and other Syrians, the meeting aimed at familiarizing Syrian new arrivals with their roles and responsibilities, as well as the rights and obligation of the camp` residents.
- ◆ On 18th of July, a meeting was organized with the Director of Municipality of Fayda. The meeting aimed at receiving the Government approval for assigning contingency site for some 5000 individuals.
- ◆ On the 19th of July, a meeting was held between DDM and UNHCR field staff for establishing a security committee from the Syrian new arrivals residing in Domiz camp.
- ◆ On the 21st of July, a Journalist from IRIN along with UNHCR`s Assistant Representative (Protection), UNHCR`s Erbil Protection Officer, and Baghdad` Senior durable solutions Officer and Senior Field Coordinator visited Domiz camp and conducted several interviews with the camp population and the refugee committee to inquire about the situation of the Syrian arrivals and their living conditions. Similarly a meeting with DDM was held the same day in Domiz camp.

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