

Syria Situation

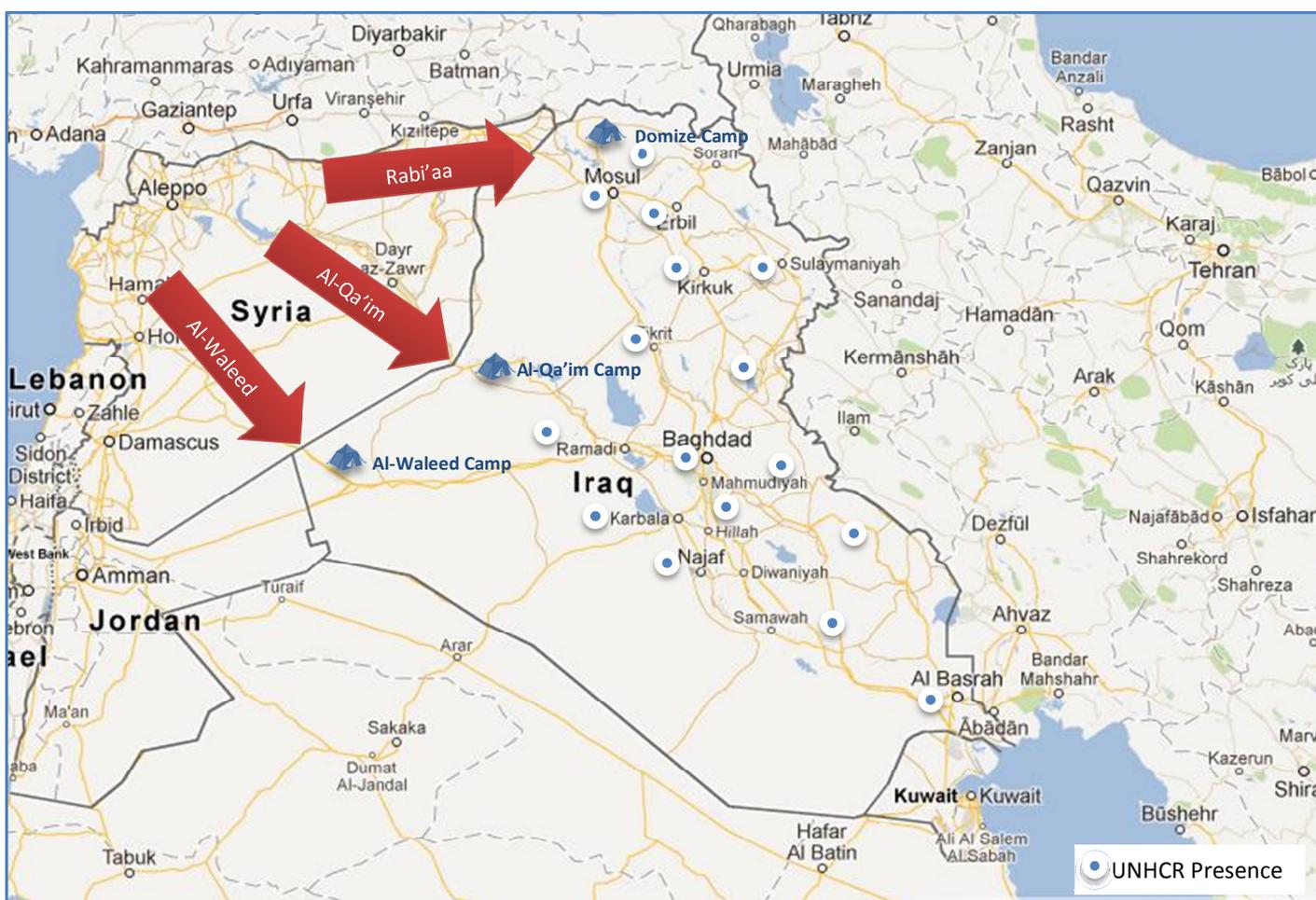
Weekly Update No.13

1 – 8 August, 2012



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Iraqi – Syrian Border Points

Agencies

UNHCR | unicef | IRC | WFP | ISHO | WHO | IOM |

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

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1. Overview

As the security situation in Syria continues to deteriorate, the influx of Syrian refugees into Iraq has continued. All three Border crossing ports in Iraq currently remain open: Al-Waleed, Rabi'aa and Al-Qaim.

During the past week an additional 720 Syrian refugees, mainly Syrian Kurds, entered **Kurdistan**. According to UNHCR and Kurdistan Regional Displacement and Migration Department, the region now hosts 9,773 registered Syrians nationals. The new arrivals are being accommodated in Domiz Camp and in the communities in Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimania.

Reports suggest that the majority of Syrians have either left or are preparing to leave Qamishli and Hasaka, fearing the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Government against rebels hidden within community, particularly within Kurdish areas.

It is, however, reported that some individuals are returning to Syria due to the lack of services and job opportunities in Domiz Camp. Furthermore, a number of Syrian singles are reported to have returned to Syria to ensure control of the Kurdish areas in Hassaka following the withdrawal of Syrian armed forces.

In Al-Qaim, the arrival of Syrian refugees has continued, with 595 persons crossing into Iraq via this border point during the past week. However, the number of arrivals has decreased. Since 18 July 2012, a total of 3,802 Syrians have entered via Al Qaim. In comparison, only 7 arrivals have been recorded through Al-Waleed (5 individuals) and Rabi'aa (2 individuals) and 5 by air.

A visit to the border point was conducted by UNHCR team in Al-Qa'im to monitor the refugee movement. The team met with the immigration officers and Iraqi security forces (ISF) commander, who confirmed the decreasing number of Syrian refugees mainly because of the situation in certain areas of Syria as well as the difficult conditions of fellow citizens in Iraq .

The grand total of Syrian refugees who have now entered Iraq is 13,587 (this figure includes the 9,773 in Kurdistan).

Iraqi returnees are continuing to be recorded, mainly through the Al Waleed border point. During the past week, a total of 2,993 returnees were reported, 2,145 of whom were at Al Waleed (741 at Rabi'aa and 107 at Al Qa'im). Including the 5,222 persons who have returned by air, the total number of Iraqi returnees since 18 July is 23,228 persons.

In the **Domiz** camp, the construction of Section 2 has now been completed and local authorities have started levelling works in Section 3. The camp population in Domiz camp has reached 2,080 individuals, among them 421 families comprising of 1,853 persons, and a number of 235 singles.

In the new camp ground at **Al-Qa'im**, planned for about 500 tents, a sample sector of 60 tents is being prepared and fully supplied as a model which will be viewed by the refugee representatives prior to the first move to the camp.

A total of 356 tents have so far been erected, 105 of which are at the camp extension. The camp layout is being undertaken by the authorities. Additional lighting fixtures will be installed, and tents will be connected to the electricity network. The local authorities have delivered 72 out of 250 air coolers to the first location where they will be fixed, one to each tent. Local authorities and UNICEF provide water and sanitation of the camp. Roads will be covered with a layer of gravel by the authorities.

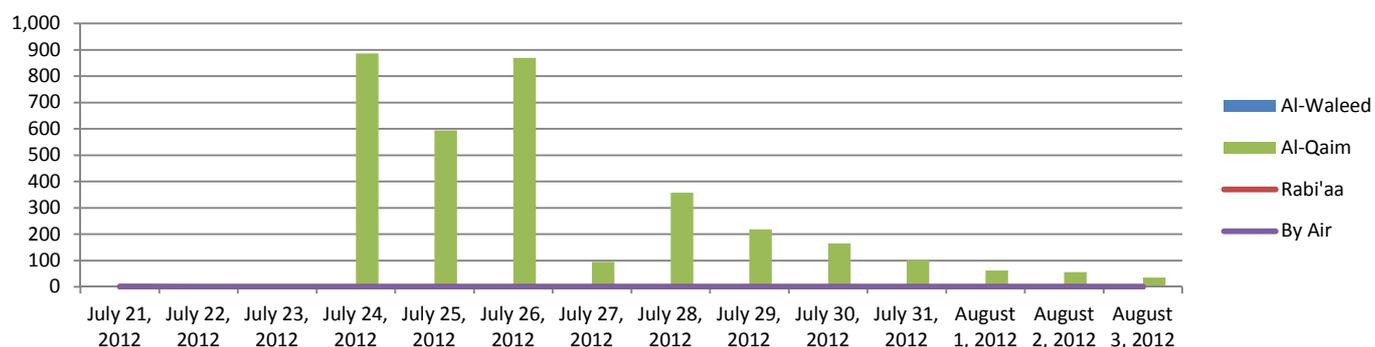
In a demonstration of the Government of Iraq's commitment towards the refugees the local authorities assessed the camp so that the necessary services can be provided as soon as possible. The Electricity Department agreed with UNHCR Shelter staff on the location of the electricity pylons and wiring equipment. The Department of Oil Products delivered a letter to UNHCR to start the provision of an amount of 4,000 litres of fuel per month for the generators. The ISF commander, who visits the camp on regular basis, has expressed his readiness to provide 2 water tankers for showering the camp ground. Twenty-eight ambulances, fully equipped with medical supplies from Baghdad and Ramadi, are on standby ready to respond to any emergency. In addition, MoDM started distribution of cash grant to Syrian families (ID 400,000 per family)..

In Al-Kasik area (more than 50km from Rabiaa BP), a new camp will be installed by UNHCR. The camp will be started with the erection of 200 tents, but UNHCR is waiting for local authority in Ninewa to start levelling the area. An order from the Governor of Ninewa was sent to the Mayor of Talfar where Kasik is located.

2. Statistics

2.1 Syrian Refugees

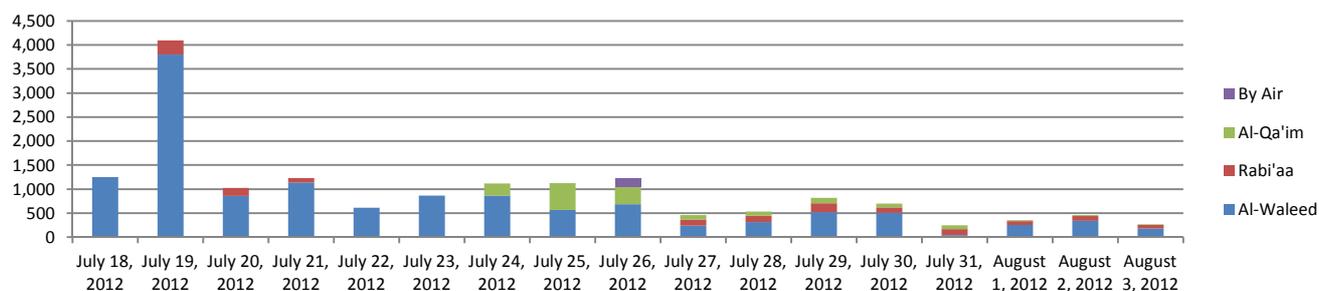
Border Point	Arrivals on 01-08/08/2012	Total arrivals
Al-Waleed	5	5
Al-Rabi'aa	2	2
Al-Qa'im	596	3,802
By Air	5	5
Arrivals to KRG	720	9,773
Total:	1,328	13,587



* Figures updated as at 12:00 AM, Thursday, August 02, 2012
Source of information: Border Immigration Offices/BIAP

2.2 Iraqi Returnees

Border Point	Arrivals on 01-08/08/2012	Total arrivals
Al-Waleed	2,145	14,326
Rabi'aa	741	1,938
Al-Qa'im	107	1,742
By Air	0	5,222
Total	2,993	23,228



3. UNHCR Assistance Update – Syrian nationals

3. Protection

3.1. Administrative institutions and practice: overall practice:

Residency permits continue to be issued to new arrivals as per the new instructions from the Ministry of Interior (Mol). Permits are exclusively issued for applications referred from **Domiz** camp. Application forms in the camp are kept by the Assayish who initiates the process and pass it to DDM and UNHCR to confirm the registration of the applicant.

DDM continues to conduct screening interviews for the single deserters, so far, out of 1,150 singles screened and interviewed, 318 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 military conscription.

According to the decision of Cabinet Syrian families arrived in Iraq between 24 and 28 July and falling under one of the below criteria got permission to live with their relatives in **Al Qaim** area. The criteria are: i. families with the head of the household older 60 years; ii. Female headed households; iii. Single female; iv. Families with at least one Iraqi national..

During the past week, Government of Iraq has given approval to 310 individual sponsorship requests allowing Syrians to live with their relatives. Less than 10 per cent of Syrian arrivals can benefit from such privileges.

3.2. Quality of Registration and Profiling

As of the 6 August, UNHCR in **Erbil**, and DDM in **Dohuk** and **Suleimaniya** have registered an accumulative total of 9,773 Syrians of Kurdish origin. Among these are 947 families, comprising of 4,002 individuals, and 5,771 singles. In Erbil, a total of 119 families, comprising of 511 individuals and 1,123 singles are registered. In Suleimaniya, a total of 25 families comprising of 85 individuals and 376 singles are registered. In Dohuk Governorate, 803 families comprising of 3,406 individuals and 4,272 singles are registered. Dohuk remains host to the largest number of Syrian new arrivals with 7,678 individuals followed by Erbil with 1,634 individuals and then Suleimaniya with 461 individuals.

Up to present a total of 591 families (2,668 individuals) have been registered in **Al-Qaim**. In Al-Qaim, Syrian refugees are located also in Al-Amali, Malik Bin Rabi'ah schools and medical centre in Karbala. New Syrian arrivals crossing through Al-Waleed are also transferred to Al-Qaim.

Assistance by Sectors

Health Status and psycho-social support

UNHCR is holding a health working group meeting together with UNICEF, WHO and DoH to address the alarming rate of diarrhoea in **Domiz** camp that reached 72% among children under (5) years and other raised health concerns.

DoH launched its child and maternity health, nutrition and family planning program in Domiz camp. MSF deployed a psychologist to support DoH mental health clinic-mainly with training and supervision of staff for a period of two months. The psychologist will be working in two shifts to provide counselling to the singles as well.

DoH organised a health day on Saturday (August 4th) in the camp by deploying 4 mobile clinics and supported by 10-15 specialist doctors. Information is disseminated about the specialities available through the Refugee Committee who will be also assisting with receiving and registering the outpatients in coordination with the DoH.

In **Al-Qaim**, Ministry of Health of Iraq has dispatched ambulances to provide medical service for Syrian nationals residing in schools. Iraqi Red Crescent Society also provides medical assistance to refugees.

Water

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

UNHCR through Qandil has started implementation of water project for phase 1 and 2 through Kurds (LNGO). Water system is 85% completed and is expected to be functional by August 9th, thus replacing the aforementioned water tinkering.

In **Al-Qaim**, the Water Department met with UNICEF and agreed to lay water pipelines extending from the existing water compact.

Sanitation

In **Domiz**, Fayda Municipality continued irregular garbage collection within both Families and singles sections. Follow up with DDM on its earlier proposal submitted to the Governor's office for funds approval for regular garbage collection is ongoing. Sanitation and Hygiene issues are also provided for **Al-Qaim**.

Food

In **Dohuk**, DDM continues the provision of two hot meals a day during the holy month of Ramadan to the single males and distributed dry food rations to 747 families residing inside and outside Domiz camp. Islamic WFP was expected to start food distribution as of August 1st but have advised that food trucks will only arrive from Turkey later during the week. As agreed with WFP the food will be stored in the rub hull in the camp and distribution will be managed by Islamic Relief as per the sub agreement with UNHCR and WFP.

In **Al-Qaim**, refugees receive food donated by local people and authorities.

Education

In **Dohuk**, in addition to the two water coolers provided by UNHCR to the camp school, IOM supported the school with four split air conditioners which will mitigate the high temperature in class rooms. Barzani charity organisation provided 9 first aid kits and stationary for all students. UNICEF had provided a caravan that would serve as an office for the school teachers who are currently using the Community Centre, temporarily, as an office.

In **Al Qaim**, UNICEF will provide Class room tents to establish school for the children and also develop a playground..

NFIs assistance

During the reporting week in Dohuk, UNHCR distributed two packages of NFIs for two families, 12 singles received NFIs assistance among new arrivals to the camp. In total some 900 NFI packages have been distributed to Syrian nationals in KRG..

200 families have received NFI packages in Al Qaim, which includes rechargeable fan, kitchen set, stove, quilts, mattresses, water/kerosene jerry cans, hygiene kit..

4. UNHCR Assistance Update - Returnees

UNHCR protection and field staff in the governorates are getting lists of the newly arriving returnees from MoDM RACs in Baghdad and branches in the governorates, contacting returnees and assisting them with legal issues, documentation, etc..

Each registered returnee family in Baghdad and governorates gets UNHCR NFI packages (see the composition of the package under 4.6.).

UNHCR also plans assistance to the vulnerable families soon. Preparatory works are ongoing.

6. Syrian Refugee / Iraqi Returnee Needs

Syrian refugees' needs include documentation, employment, sponsorship programmes and family tracing. In addition, needs for NFIs, water tanks, generators and tents have been highlighted at the locations set to receive refugees in Al-Qa'im and Al-Waleed.

Returnees' needs, however, stretch from documentation, including PDS cards, Jensiya (national ID) document, to shelter (for some), food, health care and cash as well as employment, based on a rapid assessment conducted by UNHCR staff both at the border and at the disembarkation point.

7. Interviews with New Arrivals

In Karbala, UNHCR Field/Protection team reported one case of a Syrian refugee woman who is married to an Iraqi and has 3 children. The team interviewed the case that will be registered with UNHCR as asylum seeker.

Iraqi returnees interviewed by Al-Waleed team complained of the long delays at the border crossing and checkpoints. Anbar Operations Command does not allow buses to cross or proceed to Baghdad before 03:00 am. Some returnees required medical treatment after long wait at the border.

Two returnees from Syria were interviewed by UNHCR team in RAC Basra; both were registered with MoDM branch office. The first returnee left Kut for Damascus in 2011 with his wife and daughter. Events in Syria forced them to go

back to Iraq though they have no house to go to. The second returnee, also registered with UNHCR Syria, left Iraq to find job in Syria but had to flee back to the country because of the deteriorating security.

UNHCR team at Al-Waleed border interviewed three families returning from Syria who requested shelter assistance, having been displaced by 2006 violence. The team also observed some Iraqi departures to Syria who made this dangerous trip to receive the cash assistance from UNHCR Syria.

According to interviewed returnees information coming from Aleppo suggests that most of the Iraqis still there will return to Iraq soon because of the deterioration of security situation in Syria. The returnees requested cash assistance as the majority are leaving behind their personal and household belongings. Many families are reportedly leaving one member to take care of the properties or to sell them.

8. Coordination

UNHCR is collaborating closely with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoDM), MoI-PC, and Governorate Offices. In the meantime, UNHCR Office has engaged in a coordination process with various humanitarian actors/stakeholders, including the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) consisting of agencies and NGOs, to ensure necessary support to the Iraqi Government's efforts to respond to the returnees' immediate needs. To strengthen cooperation, UNHCR is regularly organising inter-agency meetings to involve more institutions and organisations to provide assistance to the camps.