

Update 21
Iraqi Refugee Returns/Syrian Refugees
Syria Situation
10 August 2012

1. Overview:

A total of 444 Iraqis returned from Syria on 9 August. Returnees through Al-Waleed totalled 330, almost triple Rabi'aa figures which stood at 97. In Al-Qa'im, only 17 returnee arrivals were recorded. Since 18 July 2012, total 24,144 Iraqis fled Syria back to their home country, including 5,222 who returned by air.

Iraqi departures for Syria via Al-Waleed were equally high reaching 218, with some reportedly going back to receive cash and other assistance from UNHCR Syria while others transiting before traveling to a third country where they have residence.

Eighty more Syrians entered through Al-Qa'im on the above date, making up a total of 4,025 Syrian arrivals at this border point alone. Rabi'aa border crossing saw one Syrian arrival accompanied by his Iraqi wife. The border authorities did not allow him to go to his wife's home town in Mosul until he approached UNHCR for registration. With these figures, the total number of Syrians who entered Iraq since 21 July rises up to 4,038. This brings the grand total of Syrians across Iraq to 13,811, among them 9,773 in Kurdistan. Of this number, 12,703 are registered with UNHCR as asylum seekers.

UNHCR is making intensive efforts, supported by the local authorities and other actors in Al-Qa'im, to finalise works on the two camp sites. Electricity supply and installations for the first location are close to completion. The remaining 10 metres of the fencing are under construction. Water tanks with 1000-litre capacity each have been set up next to the tents.

UNHCR implementing partner "ISHO" has so far installed 232 tents at the second location. Another 250 were already installed at the first site. UNHCR may add another 500 tents in response to a request from the Emergency Cell if the latter secures the necessary support and services.

UNHCR has agreed with UNICEF that the latter should provide and install six large tents to be used as schools for the refugee children in the camp. Local authorities are to supply the mobile schools with the necessary furniture and services.

The Emergency Cell has, meanwhile, requested UNHCR to organise campaigns or sessions to raise awareness of the Syrian arrivals, mostly descending from tribal communities, about asylum and their rights as asylum seekers or refugees.

2. Statistics

2.1 Iraqi returnees

Border point	Number of arrivals 9 August 2012
Al-Waleed:	330
Total Al-Waleed: 15,000	
Rabi'aa:	97
Total Rabi'aa: 2,142	
Al-Qa'im:	17
Total Al-Qa'im: 1,780	
Total returnees on 9 August 2012:	444
By air: 5,222	
Grand total (since 18 July 2012):	24,144*

2.2 Syrian refugees

Border point	Number of arrivals 9 August 2012
Al-Waleed:	0
Total Al-Waleed: 5	
Rabi'aa:	1
Total Rabi'aa: 3	
Al-Qa'im:	80
Total Al-Qa'im: 4,025	
By air: 5	
Total arrivals since 21 July: 4,038*	
Total arrivals in Kurdistan since March 2011:	9,773
Grand total:	13,811

2.3 Regional statistics on Syrian refugees

Jordan (09 August 2012)

Total refugees – 45,869 individuals

Total registered and assisted – 41,631 individuals

Total assisted awaiting registration – 4,238 individuals

Lebanon (09 August 2012)

Total refugees – 36,841 individuals

Total registered and assisted – 35,141 individuals

Total assisted awaiting registration – 1,700 individuals

* Figures updated as at 12:00 am, Sunday, 10 August 2012
Sources of information: Border Immigration Offices/BIAP

Turkey (09 August 2012)

Total refugees – 50,227 individuals (all registered and assisted)

-According to government 2,200 new arrivals were recorded two days ago.

Iraq (10 August 2012)

Total refugees – 13,811 individuals

Total registered – 12,703 individuals

Total awaiting registration – 1,108 individuals

Total number of Syrian refugees in the region as at 10 August – 146,748 individuals

3. UNHCR assistance**Al-Qa'im:**

- 232 tents installed. Total tents erected at both camp locations: 482
- 200-KV generator to be purchased to supply the camp with electricity. Other 200-KVA and one 50-KVA generators to be bought through IP IRW.

Al-Waleed:

- Adequate NFI stock at rub-hall ready for distribution whenever needed.
- Water, sanitation, electricity ready to be installed.

Rabi'aa:

- Erbil stockpile ready to support Rabi'aa with tents and NFIs.

Centre/South Governorates:

- 50 NFI kits distributed to returnees through UNHCR's six RICCs in Baghdad. Total kits distributed: 110
- 152 NFI kits delivered for distribution to returnees in Anbar, Babylon, Najaf and Diyala.

Domiz camp (Duhok):

- Assistance ongoing

4. Returnee/refugee needs

Needs for NFIs, water network/tanks, generators with fuel and tents have been identified at locations set to receive Syrian refugees in Al-Qa'im and Al-Waleed.

Returnees' needs, however, stretch from documentation, including PDS cards, Jenjiya (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.

5. Coordination

UNHCR is collaborating closely with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoDM), MoI-PC, and Governorate Offices. In the meantime, the 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.