

## Topics

1 Overview

2 Statistics

3 UNHCR Assistance Update

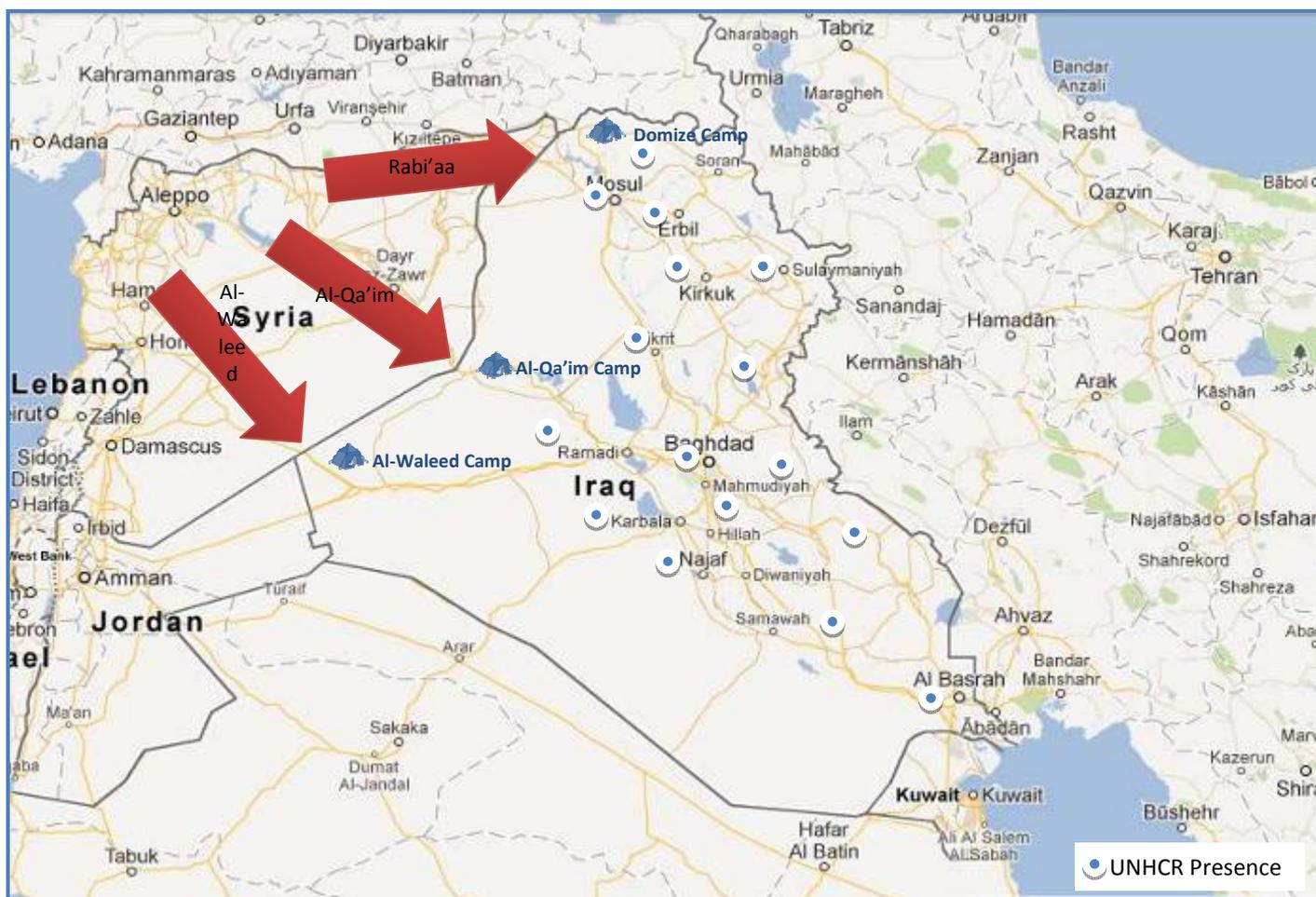
4 Syrian Refugee and Iraqi Returnee Needs

5 Interviews with New Arrivals

6 Coordination

## Syrian Refugee Brief

Location	Totals
Dahuk	22,466
Erbil	4,549
Sulimanyah	1,059
Al-Waleed	18
Rabyaa	123
Al-Qaim	5,484
By Air	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,704</b>



## Iraqi – Syrian Border Points

MoDM/DDM/Local Authorities

Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM

NGOs: IRW | Iqandil | IISHO | IRC | HARIKARI | CDO

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

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## 1. Overview

Due to the on-going clashes between Syrian government forces and the opposition fighters, refugees have continued to flee the violence and seek safety in Iraq. The majority of new arrivals continue to enter into Kurdistan, with 3,405 reportedly arriving in the past week. The reopening of the Al Qaim border point during the reporting period, albeit with restrictions, has been welcomed, enabling refugee movements to resume through this crossing point. Al Waleed (in Anbar Governorate) and Rabi'aa (Nineveh Governorate) border crossing points have remained open. The total number of Syrians who have sought asylum in Iraq stands at 33,704 refugees, out of which 28,704 are hosted in Kurdistan Region and 5,484 hosted in Al Qa'im.

It is reported that the Syrian side of Al-Qaim is now totally controlled by the Syrian Free Army. The Syrian National Army is still controlling the Syrian side of Rabiaa Crossing Point.

### Al Qa'im

On 18 September 2012, the Al-Qa'im border crossing point was finally reopened. Restrictions have been imposed, however - families with children below 15 years of age, women, elderly, sick and injured persons are being allowed to enter, at a rate of some 120 a day. The total number of Syrians who crossed into Iraq via Al-Qaim from 18<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September is 1,109 individuals.

The majority of refugees who were accommodated in the public buildings have now been relocated to the Al Qaim camp. Most of the public buildings have now been vacated – following the relocation of 496 persons to Zone H of the camp, only two schools and one health centre are still accommodating refugees (463 persons). These remaining refugees will be transferred to the MoMD camp as agreed with local authorities and the Emergency Cell on 26 September.

The total number of Syrians accommodated in the Al Qa'im camp currently stands at 4,594 (3,140 individuals in camp 1, and 1,454 individuals in camp 2). The total number of refugees currently in the MoMD camp is 875 individuals. Some 643 persons have been included in the sponsorship programme.

The establishment of a third camp at Al-Obaidi, some 23 km from Al-Qa'im border point and 12 km from Al-Qa'im camp, is being considered, in anticipation of a larger Syrian refugee influx. Once established, this camp could accommodate 20,000 refugees. The Gol's official approval of the establishment of the camp on the given land plot is expected to be received in the coming few days.



New view of Al Qa'im camp



New Syrians arrival to Al Qa'im



**Levelling the land for the third camp- Al Qa'im**

**Kurdistan Region** of Iraq continues to host the largest number of Syrian refugees, originating mainly from Hassaka, Damascus, Reef Damascus and Aleppo. The refugees report on-going shelling of towns and cities. Many families have arrived with no personal belongings, having been forced to flee following the destruction of their homes.

As of 26 September, a total of 28,074 Syrians are hosted in Kurdistan Region, with 3,405 having arrived during the reporting week. Duhok remains host to the largest number of Syrian refugees, with 22,466 persons, followed by Erbil, with 4,549 and Suleimaniya with 1,059.

### **Iraqi Returnees**

Total cross border movements have so far reached 40,089 including 5,997 returnees by air. A total of 609 Iraqis returned from Syria by land, with 392 entering through Al-Waleed border point, and 212 through Rabiaa and 25 from Al-Qaim.

According to data received from the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), the total number of registered returnee cases is 3,474. Out of this figure, 631 have received the MoMD grant of (4,000,000 ID).

Statistics collected at the borders indicate that Baghdad governorate is still the main governorate that receives the largest number of Iraqi Returnees, followed by Anbar and then Ninewa.

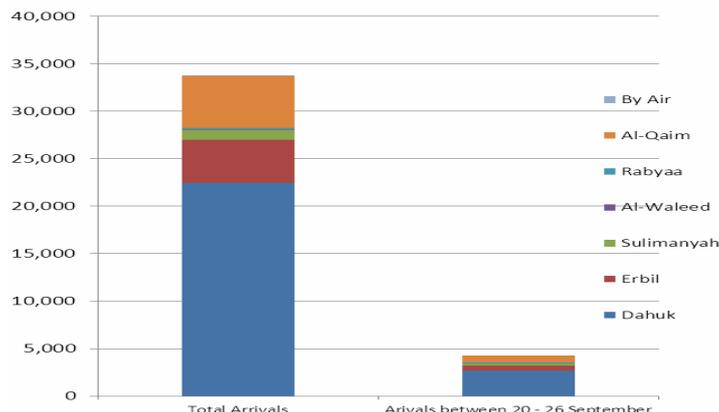
A total of 434 Iraqis departed from Iraq to Syria during the reporting period, with 305 departing through Al-Waleed border point and 129 through Rabiaa.

Information leaflets for returnees are being distributed at the three crossing points at the Iraqi-Syrian borders. The leaflets include contact details of the Returnee Assistance Centres in all governorates, as well as information about the cash assistance provided by the MoMD and UNHCR.

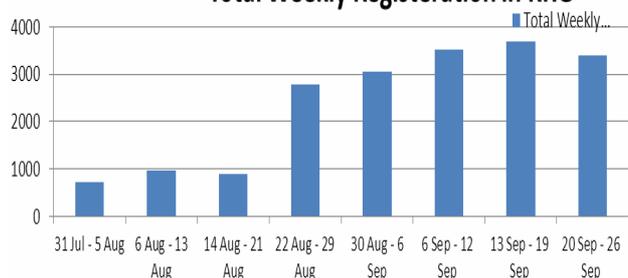
## 2. Statistics

### 2.1 Syrian Refugees

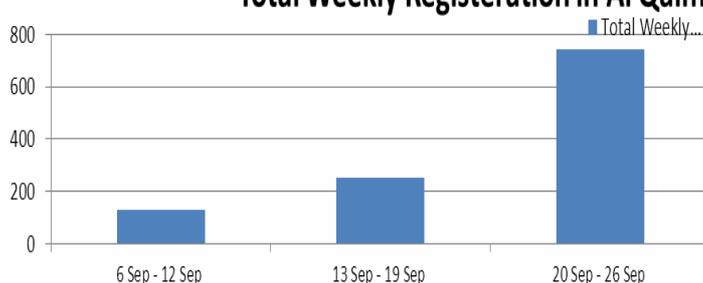
Location	Syrian Refugees between 20–26 Sep	Total Arrivals
Al-Waleed	0	18
Rabyaa	115	123
Al-Qaim	743	5,484
By Air	0	5
KRG	3,405	28,074
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,263</b>	<b>33,704</b>



Total Weekly Registration in KRG

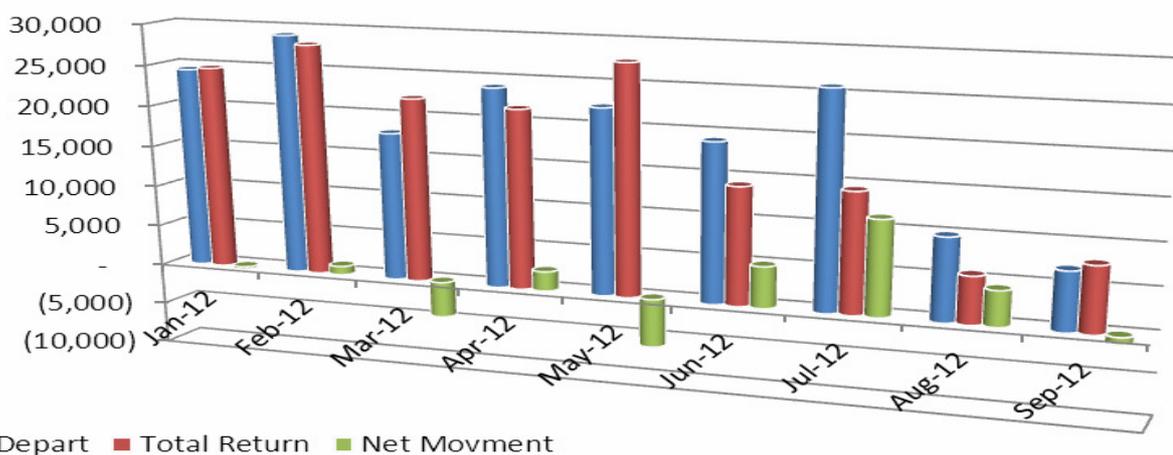
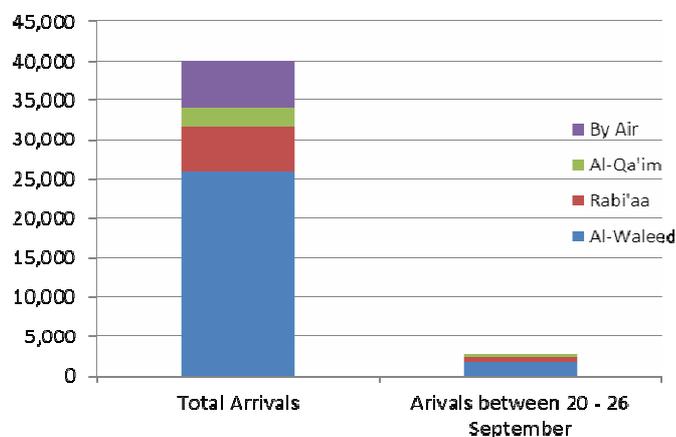


Total Weekly Registration in Al Qaim



### 2.2 Iraqi Returnees (Cross Border Movement)

Border Point	Iraqi Returnees between 20–26 Sep	Total Arrivals
Al-Waleed	1,728	25,927
Rabi'aa	662	5,723
Al-Qa'im	341	2,442
By Air	0	5,997
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,731</b>	<b>40,089</b>



### 3. UNHCR Assistance Update

The reports of Inter-agency missions conducted in Al Qa'im, late August, and in the Kurdistan region, in July 2012, have been finalised and can be obtained upon request. These comprehensive reports form a solid base to adjust needs, gaps and response.

#### 3.1. Administrative institutions and practice



UNHCR mission to Al Qa'im

An inter-agency mission to Al Qaim, led by UNHCR Deputy Representative, and with participation of UNICEF, took place from 22 to 24 September. The purpose of the mission was to assess the situation in Al Qa'im camps and at the border. A number of meetings were held including with the Deputy Minister of MoMD, the Commander of Al Qa'im military base, the Officer responsible for the border crossing, the Chief Commander of the Infantry and the Governor of Al Qa'im.

A meeting was also held with the various humanitarian actors on the ground (MoMD, UN agencies and NGOs) to set up a coordination

mechanism in order to avoid duplication and gaps and improve the delivery of services to persons of concern. The coordination mechanism includes an overall coordination structure and working groups on various sectors such as protection, education, health, shelter, water and sanitation. The main achievement of the mission was the agreement from the Chief Commander of the Military Infantry on behalf of the Prime Minister regarding the (1) use of the helipad in Al Qa'im military base, including the authorization to secure the helipad to UN requirements, the possibility of flights 24hrs a day, stop-over in the Baghdadi military airport at Ayn Al Asad military airport for refuelling and storage of UN fuel in both locations; (2) the allocation of space within the AL Qa'im military base to set up caravans for UN staff accommodation and necessary arrangements for security; and (3) the allocation of a site for the establishment of a new camp further away from the border at Al-Oubaidi that could accommodate 19,000 to 20,000 asylum seekers

#### 3.2. Protection, Registration and Profiling

##### Al Qa'im



Registration Unit -Al Qa'im

The Registration unit is equipped and prepared. The process of registration at UNHCR camp started by 47 cases – 280 individuals and keeps providing the directions and the required consultation to fill forms. The admin caravan will be used as an additional registration office.

## **Kurdistan Region**

Syrian refugee families and singles continue to approach UNHCR office in Duhok (including Domiz camp), Erbil and Suleimaniya. During the week, UNHCR recorded an additional 3,405 individuals, comprised of 405 families (1735 individuals) and 1,670 singles.

- New arrivals in Erbil: 65 families (260 individuals) and 263 singles.
- New arrivals in Suleimaniya: 9 families (32 individuals) and 184 singles.
- New arrivals in Duhok: 331 families (1443 individuals) and 1,223 singles.

A total of 257 families comprising 1091 individuals and 199 single cases were registered.

UNHCR registration team is stepping up efforts to ensure registration and verification using ProGres. UNHCR is also enhancing the registration capacity and is deploying an additional task force as well as an additional registration centre to reduce the waiting time for the registration into ProGres.

UNHCR has developed a pamphlet to inform the refugees about their rights and the procedures for registration and for receiving assistance. Messages on sign boards have been posted in the registration centre as well.

## **Iraqi returnees**

Based on the MoMD's instructions of 25 July 2012, Iraqi returnees who return after 20 June 2012 should be immediately registered with MoMD. Up to the present, a total of 3,474 cases have been registered with MoMD. A total of 631 households have received the 4 million IQD grant.

During the reporting period, 95 Iraqi family returnees approached the 6 UNHCR Registration and integration community centers in Baghdad for consultation.

## **3.3. Security for refugees**

### **Al-Qa'im Camp**

Security is being provided by Iraqi security forces. No particular threat was registered in the camp.

On 23 September a joint meeting was held comprising of UNHCR team, UNHCR's partner IRW, the Iraqi security forces and the MoMD. A number of concrete recommendations were agreed upon, in order to enhance the physical security measures in the camp to ensure better safety for UNHCR staff, its partners and the safety of the refugees.

### **Domiz Camp**

Due to the increasing number of Syrian new arrivals seeking registration and assistance, additional police have been deployed to guard the UNHCR cabins and the food/NFI distribution areas for crowd control.



**New life of refugees in Domiz camp**

During the reporting period a fire in phase 2 of the camp led to the destruction of 15 tents. Fortunately the fire was immediately extinguished, due to the close proximity of a fire crew, and there were no injuries. The government is investigating the cause of the fire and a fire awareness campaign will be conducted in the camp.

### 3.4. Assistance by Sectors Shelter and infrastructure:



Generators delivered to Al Qa'im camp



Zone H in Al Qa'im

In **Al-Qa'im** construction has been completed in Zone H (UNHCR camp) which includes 93 tents, 5 sets of toilets & shower, 5 kitchens, sub base roads and net pipe of potable water. As agreed with the local authorities in Al-Qaim, UNHCR received 492 Syrian refugees who were relocated from Fateh Al-Fatooh primary school and Al-Karbala secondary school. The relocation proceeded smoothly thanks to the joint efforts of Iraqi Military Forces, UNHCR and its implementing partners (IPs).

5 generators have been delivered to Al Qa'im camp (three 250 KAV, one 50 KAV and one 35 KAV). One 250 KAV generator was installed in Zone A, B, and C (UNHCR camp). UNHCR's implementing partner received 400 family tents which are stored in UNHCR rub hall, ready to be installed.

#### **Domiz Camp**

While construction work is on-going in Phase 3 (implemented by UNHCR/ IPs), the government has started with the construction works in Phase 4. Both transit areas are over-occupied and hence a new expansion of transit area (2) is underway.

The lack of sufficient number of latrines and baths is a main concern. Both UNHCR and DDM have exerted more efforts to cope with the situation and to accelerate the implementation rate by involving more contractors.

As of 25 September, some 10,145 individuals are residing in Domiz camp of which, 2019 families comprised of 8,400 persons are residing in phase 1, 2, transit area and scattered in the families section, and 1625 singles are residing in the singles section and 120 singles are in the nearby Mosque. A total of 2015 tents have been erected in the family phase 1, 2, and the transit area (1 and 2), in addition to 312 tents in the singles section. More than one family are sharing the same tents and sanitation facilities.

Shelter development in phase 3 is under construction. Out of 174 plots planned, the work of 102 plots is 95% in progress while rate of work for remaining 72 plots reached 75%. The expected completion date is 4 October for the 102 plots and 6 October for the remaining 72 plots.

In order to accelerate shelter development, UNHCR Dohuk implemented some activities directly through local contractors, completed the installation of 10 AC split units for Assaysh and Police cabins, construction of a concrete latrine for Assaysh cabin, fabricated one PVC guard post for police in the entrance of the camp, placed pre cast concrete cover for septic tank of Domiz school, fixed 1785 meters length of fence with metal frames in the entrance of Domiz camp and

in beginning of phase, completed shedding area 260 sq meters in front of UNHCR, DDM, Health and registration cabins and installed 20 sign boards placed in different locations within Domiz camp.

DDM commenced shelter construction in phase 4; as per the DDM plan some 285 plots will be constructed. Both UNHCR and UNICEF are preparing to work in phase 5 where 1008 tents and 1008 metal frame kitchens will be installed by UNHCR to meet the increasing need of new Syrian arrivals who randomly installed tents in and outside the camp. UNICEF will implement water and sanitation in phase 5.

#### **a- Water**

In **Al-Qa'im**, the camp is being provided with water. Previously, a number of Syrian refugees complained about the quality of drinking water and expressed concern regarding its safety. UNICEF specialists are now conducting regular water quality tests in the camp, so that now the camp has full access to the safe drinking water. UNICEF is securing an additional quantity of water.

In **Domiz**, DDM continues to provide potable water to families and singles by tankers but the distributed 440,000 Ltr per day does not meet the camp residents` needs due to the sudden increase in the number of the newly arrived Syrian refugees. Therefore, it is urgent to provide the constructed deep well with chlorine, power supply, diesel and generator operator to cover the shortage of water provided water by tankers. KURDS have been contracted to drill two boreholes for phase 3 and erect two water storage tanks with 21,000 lts capacity in each.

UNICEF mission from Baghdad committed to carry out the WASH activities in Domiz II, after agreement with the DDM and water department.



**Providing water in Domiz camp**

#### **b- Nutrition**

**Al-Qa'im:** MoDM is providing all refugees with meals three times per day. The food distribution is being monitored by UNHCR team on a daily basis; both the quality and quantity are good. It is planned that the MoDM will replace the three hot meals by dry food. WFP installed Rub hall and will distribute food baskets for the refugees in coordination with UNHCR

**Domiz Camp:** DDM continues with the provision of three hot meals a day to the single males. However, as of 1 October this service will be discontinued. UNHCR and IOM have already distributed cooking sets/stoves.

During reporting period, WFP distributed food items to 622 families comprised of 2668 individuals in addition to 1155 singles. The items are salt, sugar, lentils, and vegetable oil. From 01 October a one time two months ration of rice will be distributed with a plan to replace food rations with the food voucher system. The food voucher system will be particularly beneficial for the Syrian refugees residing in the host communities. Due to increasing number of new arrivals WFP has distributed the whole share of food which covered 10000 individuals- except rice that reached the site lately during first cycle

The host community supplied 400 families of the camp with food items (rice, sugar, v. oil, tomato paste).

A private bakery started producing bread in the camp. It distributed bread free of charge for several days then started selling the bread with subsidised prices.

### **c- Sanitation/Hygiene**

**Al-Qa'im:** UNHCR continues to provide hygiene kits and is conducting awareness raising about sanitation and hygiene issues.

**Domiz:** UNHCR distributed 399 hygiene kits to families as part of the NFI packages distributed to refugees.

More than 1,000 families and 100 single groups are sharing the sanitation units with other new arrivals families.

DDM hired a truck for collecting and removing garbage in a capacity of two trips per day, also hired one tanker for cleaning septic tanks in phase 1 and 2, UNHCR through Qandil hired another tanker for cleaning septic tanks in phase 1 and 2.

DDM will contract Artush Company for removal of garbage for Domiz camp; Fayda Municipality will organize garbage campaign once per week.

### **d- NFI Assistance**

#### **Syrian Refugees**

**Al-Qa'im:** UNHCR and its partner are continuing the distribution of non-food items to the new Syrian families hosted in the MoDM camp.

UNHCR's partner, Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) received 300 NFI packages which are being stored at UNHCR Rub Hall to be delivered upon requirements

#### **Domiz:**

NFI distribution was temporarily suspended from 18 September pending provision of emergency latrines in the DDM identified temporary site for accommodating new arrivals. NFI distribution will be resumed upon relocating in the temporary site. NFI distribution will be limited for camp residents only, and other options, e.g one time cash assistance, will be considered for refugees living in the urban host communities. There is a plan to combine WFP voucher system with the cash assistance for urban refugees.

18 NFI packages including tents were distributed to 15 families affected by fire incident in Domiz camp. Three additional packages were distributed to three vulnerable families. 2 NFIs packages distributed to 2 refugee families in Gre Gawre settlement whose belongings burnt due to electric failure. As per UNHCR request, IOM has distributed 117 cookers to singles that received food rations from WFP and IRW



**NFI distribution for Iraqi returnees**



**NFI distribution for Refugees in Domiz**

### **Iraqi Returnees**

A total of 1,617 NFI kits have so far been distributed. 60 NFI kits are kept in stock at each of UNHCR Baghdad RICCs.

#### **e- Health**

**Al-Qa'im:** During UNHCR team visit to the MoDM camp, an urgent need for wheelchairs was identified - and the 6 wheelchairs required have now been delivered

A dentist chair with required equipments was provided to cover this part of medical treatment.

A director of Medecins Sans Frontieres Org( MSF) had visited UNHCR refugee camp along with a delegation of Health Directorate chaired by the Manager of Al-Qaim hospital with group of physicians . The delegation visited the camp medical clinic and met with medical staff to inquire about the medical assistance provided to the refugees. The delegation visited the pharmacy, sonar, and dentist departments at the clinic to assess the overall circumstances inside the clinic and availability of medical equipments.



**Dental unit in the Clink in Al Qa'im**



**The Clink in Al Qa'im**

**Domiz:** The Department of Health reported that 80-100 patients are received and treated daily. The main reported diseases are upper respiratory tract infection, tonsillitis and diarrhoea, and chronic ailments e.g diabetes, hyper tension and heart condition.

WHO Baghdad visited the camp on 24 September, and proposed the relocation of the current health centre near the camp entrance to be accessible to the camp population as well as to the

surrounding local community. WHO also submitted the layout proposal for the new HC to UNHCR to provide cabins. The new HC will have triple capacity compared to the present one.

The antenatal care has started the registration of pregnant women. A female doctor is following up the condition of the pregnant women through the registration forms on a monthly basis. MSF confirmed that they are planning for the employment of two extra nurses for the clinic in Domiz camp after the working hours of DoH staff.

On 26 September a case of an 8 year old child with advanced leukaemia, was identified and promptly transferred from the camp to a rented apartment in Duhok city with the assistance of Harikar.

## **g- Education**

**Al Qa'im:** On 25 September, UNICEF team visited Al Qa'im camp to follow up on the recommendations listed during the meeting of UNHCR team with the Ministry of Education.

**Domiz:** The new school year will start from 01 October. The enrolment of Syrian refugee children is on-going; a total of 4, 500 school going age children are residing in Domiz. HOSO held meetings with the Minister of Education (primary) and Minister of Higher Education to discuss the education needs in the camp as well as in the host communities. As a special measure to ensure the enrolment of Syrian refugee children for the current school year, the Minister extended the enrolment deadline to 15 October.

In the meeting with the MoE, it was agreed that the current school cabins provided by UNHCR will be extended by UNICEF with the provision of 18 more cabins (total 24 units) to accommodate 500 children in one shift with a total of 1000 in two shifts. UNICEF will also provide school materials and text books in this unit.

However, considering the enormous needs, UNHCR, as the agency of last resort, agreed to undertake the task of building an additional school unit with 24 class room cabins to accommodate another 1000 children. The possibility of running three shifts was also discussed, as it will enable another 1000 children to attend school. However, some reservations have been expressed by the MoE due to lack of funds for teachers' salaries.

For the Syrian refugee children residing in the host communities, the Minister requested UNHCR To provide additional classroom cabins including furniture to be placed in the existing public schools as there is an acute space deficit in the public schools. The Ministry will entirely cover the additional associated costs i.e teachers' salaries, electricity etc. The minister requested UNICEF to provide the school supplies and text books.

Singles at college grade in the camp demand also to be enrolled in universities and colleges. As a follow up to HOSO's meeting with the Minister of Higher education, lists of students eligible for universities and colleges are being prepared by UNHCR through PARCs for submission to ministry of higher education for necessary processing for enrolment.

The possibility of scholarship programme from donor countries is being pursued. The German government has expressed interest in supporting such a programme.

## **h- Employment**

UNHCR's partner, IRW, is recruiting 80% of the workers who are doing the construction works in the camp from the Syrians in **Al-Qa'im**. 13 teacher have been identified and they have the priority to be hired in the camp

## 4. Syrian Refugee / Iraqi Returnee Needs

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

There is a need to accelerate the sponsorship procedures of the first and second kin as the procedure to obtain approval continues to be subject to delays. Some cases have been under consideration for about 20 days. During interviews conducted by UNHCR, refugees are also concerned about the lack of sustainability of the sponsorship programme, claiming host families are unable to take care of them for longer period of time.

The Syrian refugees requested to allow the refugees crossing the border as one family without separating the young men or prohibiting them from joining their families thus being kept in the Syrian side.

### **Returnees' needs**

Based on a rapid assessment conducted by UNHCR, both at the border and at the disembarkation point, Iraqi returnees' needs include documentation, PDS cards, Jenziya (national ID) documents, shelter, health care and material assistance.

A group of returnees voiced their concern over high living costs in Iraq especially for housing in comparison with Syria. It was also reported that some of the Iraqi returnees reportedly left Iraq again to get their cash assistance and to visit their families and friends in Syria.

Many of the Iraqi returnees requested assistance in returning to their governmental jobs in Iraq. The returnees claim that they left their previous jobs for security reasons.

Some returnees mentioned that the Syrian authorities stopped the procedures of granting residency to the majority of Iraqis in Syria for unknown reasons and they were being forced to live illegally. As a result, this prompted many of them to return to Iraq.

With the beginning of the Academic Year in Iraq, families are worried about enrolling children in the Iraqi schools especially those who missed or were unable to obtain certificates from Syrian schools.

## 5. Interviews with New Arrivals (including Iraqi returnees)

### **Returnees**

Some interviewed Iraqi returnees have stated that their return to Iraq is temporary, waiting for the situation in Syria to improve. Other returnees will be assessing the living circumstances and services in Iraq before making their final decision to return home permanently.

Iraqis returning from Syria reported that Iraqis are facing direct threats by armed groups who forced them to leave their houses. Some Iraqi families stated that they lost some of their members due to violence and direct threats and snipers.

Despite the escalation of violence in Syria, a number of Iraqi families are continuing to travel back to Syria reportedly for medical treatment or reportedly to follow up their resettlement cases. Some

have children registered in Syrian schools or universities and need to complete or obtain the required documentation. Others have established a new life in Syria and already have jobs and houses there. The main challenge is housing and its cost compare to Syria

### *Individual story*

N is a mother for 3 children, She fled to Syria in 2006 after the killing of her husband by militias. “I decided to flee to a secure country before they kill me and my kids” N stated. She settled in Reef Damascus (Sayida Zainab) and established a career as a hair dresser, “the money I earn in addition to cash I get from UNHCR Syria covers our daily need”. As a result of the fighting in Syria, N decided to flee again to rescue her children “in my opinion, Iraq is not completely secure, but with the current situation in Syria, I decided to bring my kids back to Iraq”. However, due to the high cost of living in Iraq compared to Syria, her relatives are unable to support her financially. Therefore, N and her three children travelled back to Syria to a secure neighbourhood.

## **6. Coordination**

UNHCR is collaborating closely with the MoDM, Mol-PC, and Governorate offices. The Office is also engaged in a coordination process with various humanitarian actors/stakeholders, including the Humanitarian Country Team, consisting of UN agencies and NGOs, to ensure necessary support for 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.

### **Visits and meetings:**

On 21 September, a delegation consisting of a member of the Iraqi Parliament from the Iraqia Bloc, the Head of Local Council and the Mayor of Al-Qaim District conducted field visit to UNHCR camp, UNHCR registration center, UNHCR Rubb Hall and Administrative area in the camp. The delegation was briefed about UNHCR activities.

### **Kurdistan**

In addition to the existing coordination mechanism through the sector working groups, as of next week, daily inter-agency camp coordination meetings will be ensured in Domiz camp, to address the increased coordination needs in the wake of continuous daily influx.

The White Helmets Ambassador visited the camp together with the Counsellor based in Geneva to assess the performance of the three White Helmets volunteers deployed for a month in Domiz.

UNAMI SSI mission visited Domiz camp, to assess the security arrangements in the camp and to carry out the security assessment of the proposed office premises.

HoSO held meetings with Head of security (Asaesh) and agreed for additional deployment of security at Domiz.

HOSO held meetings with MoE and Minister of Higher Education as a follow up to discussion between the SE Anjeline Joie and the PM Nechervan Barzani of KRG.