

# Syria Situation Weekly Update No.24 25-31 October 2012



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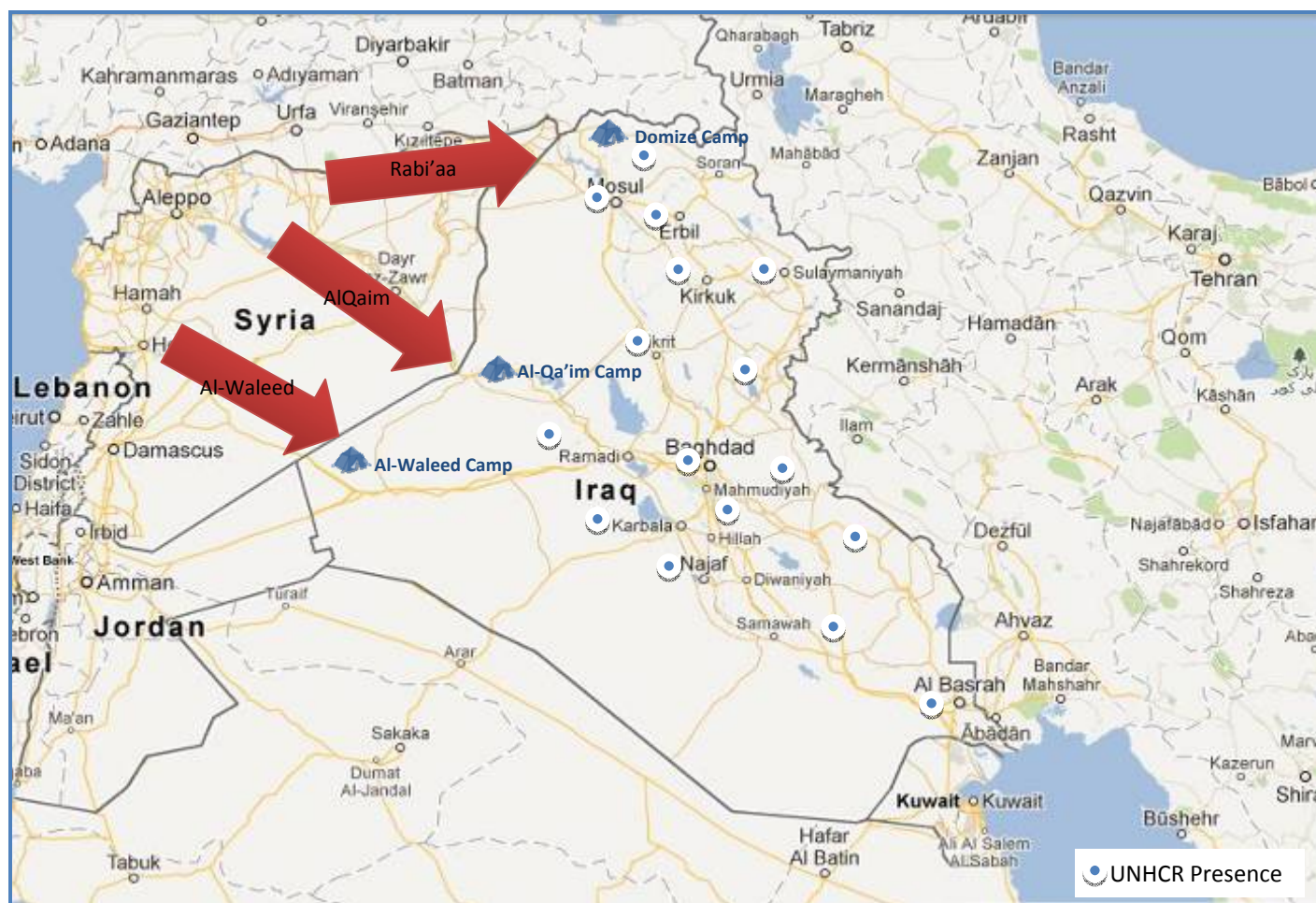
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## Syrian Refugee Brief

| Location           | Total         |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Dahuk              | 28,790        |
| Erbil              | 6,857         |
| Sulaimanyah        | 1,784         |
| Al-Qaim/Anbar      | 8,345         |
| Other Governorates | 73            |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>45 849</b> |



## Iraqi – Syrian Border Points

MoDM/DDM/Local Authorities

Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM

NGOs: IRW | Qandil | ISHO | IRC | HARIKAR | CDO

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

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## 1. Overview

### Syrian Refugees

During the reporting period 1,011 Syrian refugees arrived/registered in Iraq. The vast majority of new arrivals (1,009) entered into the Kurdistan region; since 21 October, the Al Qaim border has been totally closed for Syrian refugees. Authorities have cited the lack of space in the camps as the reason for the closure; however, even urgent medical cases are no longer permitted to enter through this point.<sup>1</sup>

In comparison with previous weeks, a significant decrease was observed in the number of new arrivals into Kurdistan Region.<sup>2</sup> A mission was conducted by the Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM) to the border to assess the situation of the new arrivals. As noted, there is no indication that Syrians are being denied access to the territory; the recent decrease is attributed to the Eid holidays, combined with the start of the winter season that is affecting the decision of Syrians to flee Syria and enter Kurdistan.

The total number of registered new arrivals in the country is 45,849, of whom 37,431 are hosted in Kurdistan Region.

### Iraqi Cross Border Movement

According to UNHCR's Border Monitoring reports, during the past week some 1,518 Iraqis crossed into Iraq from Syria. All three border points (Al Waleed, Rabi'aa and Al Qaim) remained open for Iraqi returnees. Al Waleed continued to receive the largest number of returnees (1,116). For the first time since March 2012, Iraqi women whose husbands (Iraqi or Syrian) are in Syria were permitted to return to Syria.<sup>3</sup>

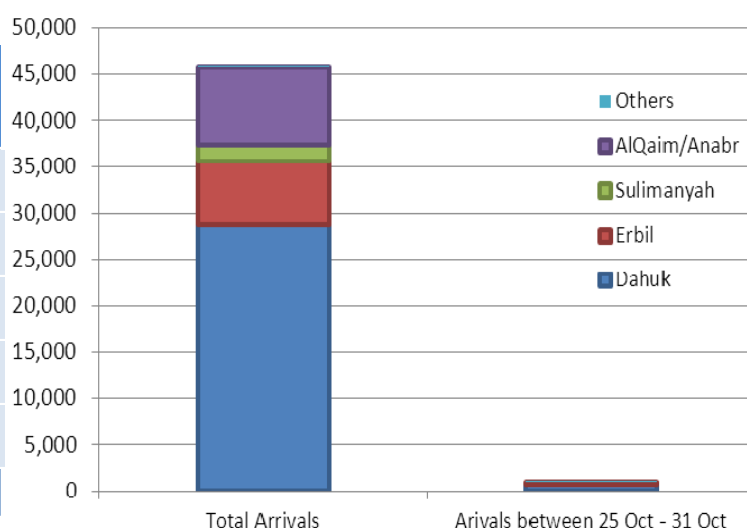
As at 31 October, the total number of returnees since 18 July 2012 is 50,409 including 5,997 by air.<sup>4</sup>

Statistics collected at the border continue to indicate that Baghdad is still the governorate receiving the largest number of Iraqi returnees, followed by Anbar and Ninewa.

## 2. Statistics

### 2.1 Syrian Refugees

| Location           | Syrian Arrivals between 25 Oct – 31 Oct | Total Arrivals |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| Dahuk              | 691                                     | 28,790         |
| Erbil              | 318                                     | 6,857          |
| Sulimanyah         | 0                                       | 1,784          |
| AlQaim/Anabr       | 0                                       | 8,345          |
| Other Governorates | 2                                       | 73             |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>1,011</b>                            | <b>45,849</b>  |

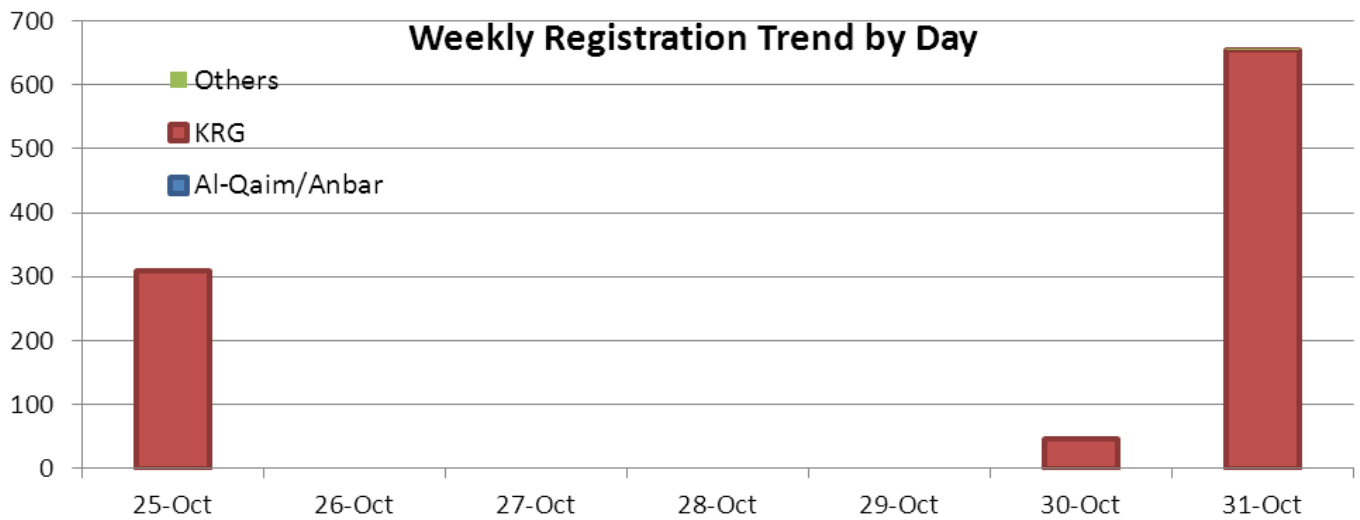
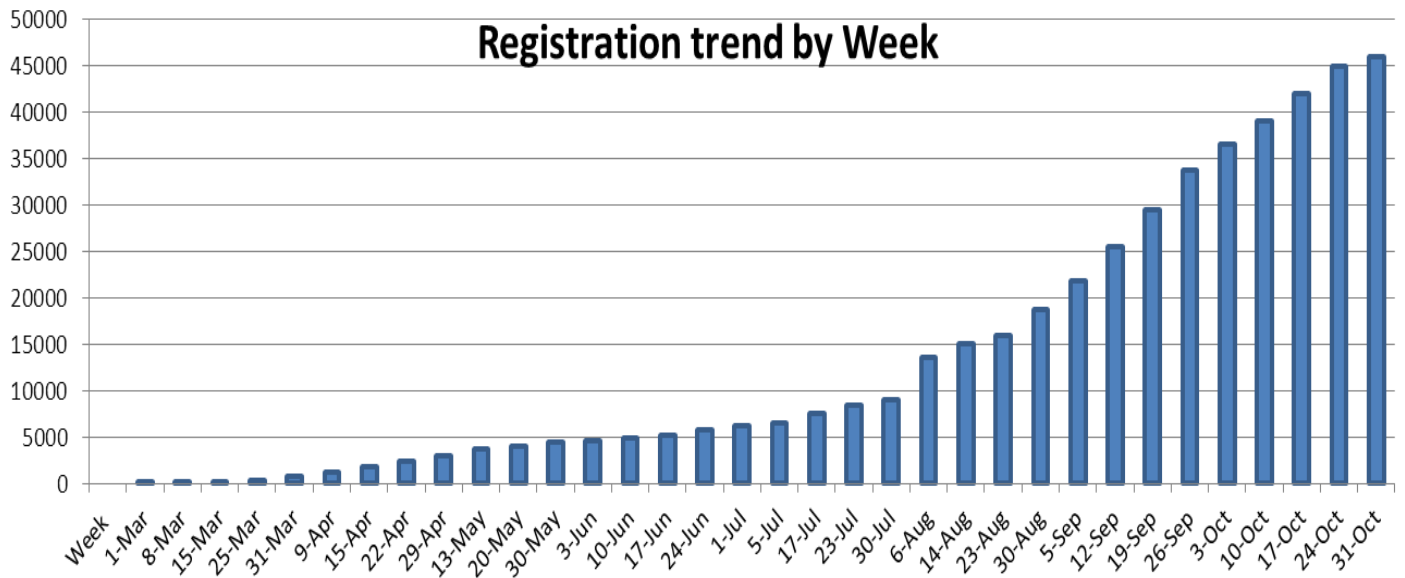


<sup>1</sup> As reported in last week's update, from 21 October, access was permitted for urgent medical and humanitarian cases only.

<sup>2</sup> As reported in previous update, a total of 2356 persons entered into the Kurdistan Region.

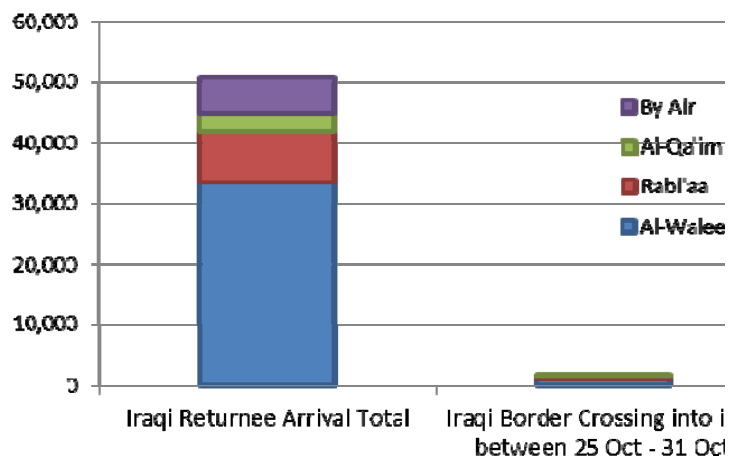
<sup>3</sup> Statistics for the specific period are being verified.

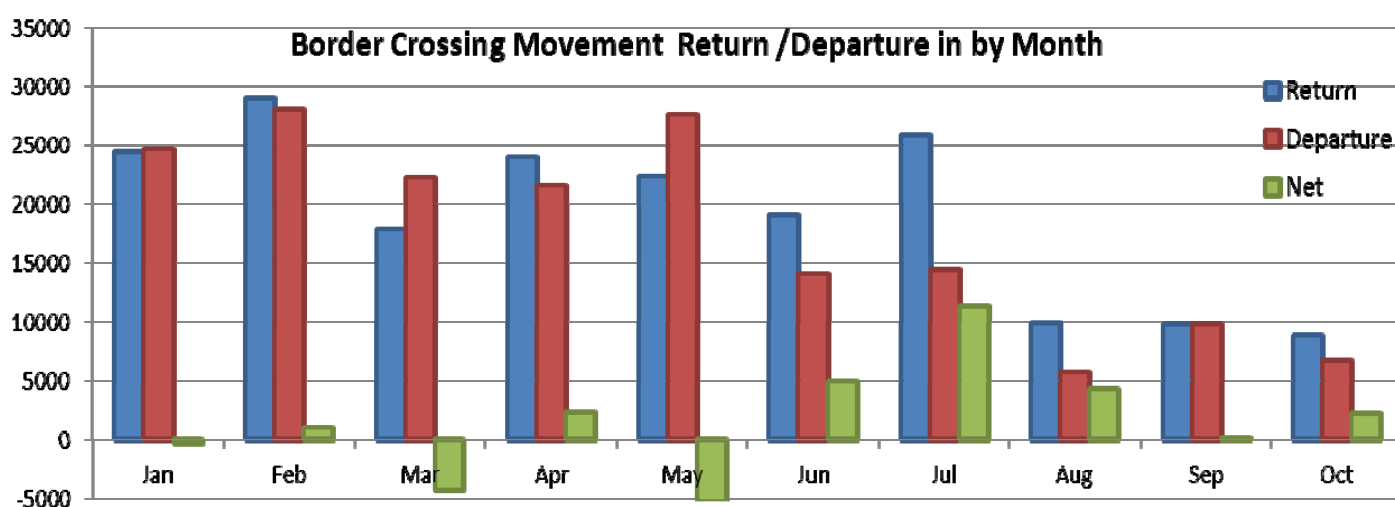
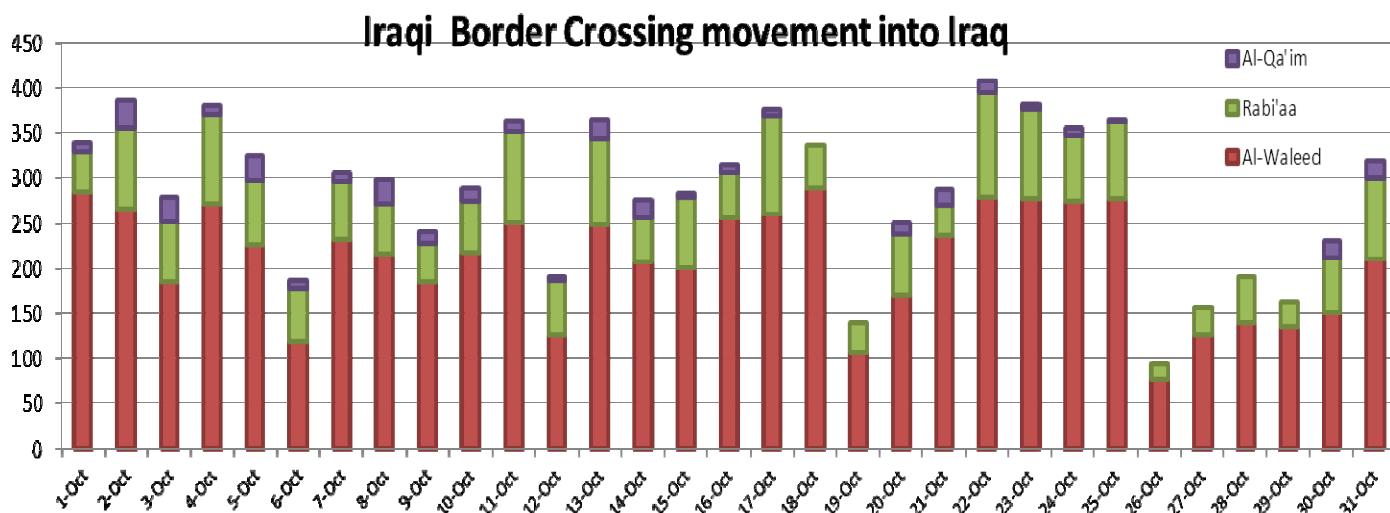
<sup>4</sup> It should be noted that this number includes individuals who cross the border for private reasons on a daily basis.



## 2.2 Iraqi Returnees (Cross Border Movement)

| Border Point | Iraqi Returnees (cross border) between 25 Oct – 31 Oct | Total Arrivals Since 18 July |
|--------------|--|------------------------------|
| Al-Waleed    | 1,116  | 33,292                       |
| Rabi'aa      | 361  | 8,236                        |
| Al-Qa'im     | 41   | 2,884                        |
| By Air       | 0  | 5,997                        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1,518</b>   | <b>50,728</b>                |





### 3. Sector updates

#### 3.1 Reception, registration and Protection

##### Al Qaim

In Al Qaim, there has been no progress on the issue of freedom of movement. Refugees are still not permitted to leave the camp, and the issuance of temporary residence permits has not yet commenced. UNHCR registration teams continue to register the new arrivals (the work stopped during Eid Holiday). During the reporting period 189 were registered ,bringing the total to 4,793

As at 31 October, the two camps in Al Qaim accommodate some 7,190 persons: 3,090 in Camp 1, and 4,100 in Camp 2. 25 persons are being hosted by the communities in Al-Bert village of Al-Ubaydi; the figure released through the sponsorship programme remains at 643 persons.

In Al Qaim, a coordination mechanism is being established to ensure monitoring and timely reporting to UNHCR, as well as to the authorities of refugees wishing to return to Syria.

##### KRG

In Kurdistan, the issuance of residency permits to Syrian new arrivals continues but was temporarily halted during the Eid holidays. Through the residency permit Syrians continue to enjoy freedom of movement within the KR. However Syrians entering through Rabiaa crossing border and nearby the legal entry points are systematically arrested and detained. As of today six individuals remain in Tesfirt prison in Rabiaa; among

them are two women and one child. Authorities have confirmed that Syrians are only allowed access to the territory if they enter legally, and that release is dependent on their relocation to a camp.

It was reported that one man was killed after he fell from a bridge when trying to cross the border illegally through a village close to the Rabiaa border.

who enter the KR and approach UNHCR are systematically registered and provided with documentation. During the week, UNHCR recorded a number of 1,009 new arrivals, comprised of 129 families (553 individuals) and 456 singles.

- New arrivals in Erbil: 35 families (122 individuals) and 318 singles.
- New arrivals in Suleimaniya: No new arrivals were received.
- New arrivals in Duhok: 94 families (431 individuals) and 260 singles.

Following the fast track exercise conducted in Domiz camp, the camp residents were registered in ProGres. A mechanism is in place to regularly update the registration figures and to ensure that registration of the new arrivals is done without delay. The total camp residents population is currently around 15,000 individuals.

UNHCR is increasing protection monitoring visits to Syrians living in the host communities to inform them about available services, such as legal assistance, resident permits, free access to education and health and winterization assistance.

## 3.2 Security

### Domiz

During the reporting period, no security incidents were reported in Domiz camp. However a peaceful demonstration was organised during Eid to protest against the violence in Syria and to request the recognition of the Syrian population's. Camp management / authorities have agreed that no further demonstrations will be permitted in the camp.

## 3.3 Assistance Update

### Shelter / infrastructure

#### Al-Qaim

As part of the winterization programme, the process of replacing lightweight tents into family tents continued, and is 90% complete.

An assessment has begun to assess the number of vacant tents in the camp. Staff accommodation work remains on-going.

#### Domiz Camp

Casting for 178 tent foundations and 40 kitchen foundations have been completed in phase 5 of Domiz camp. 19 kitchen walls were erected at the different levels. 243 wooden forms for tents foundations were installed and 70 foundations for kitchens were done (cumulative). Demarcation (ground marking) of 800 tent foundation and 400 wooden marking tent foundations have been completed.

#### Phase 4

There is still no clarity from the side of DDM regarding the date when the construction of the gravel road will be finished, thus officially opening the Phase 4 may be delayed further. Meanwhile shelter construction works are continuing and are reaching the final stages.

Following the physical verification it is confirmed that 28 plots remain unoccupied in Phase 3. Refugees will move into the plots once additional canvas tents have been received and erected.





An exercise has begun to obtain the full list of persons residing in self-erected tents, with the aim of gathering information regarding the date of arrival, family size and vulnerabilities. This will allow proper data collection for selection of beneficiaries for the accommodation in the Phase 4.

#### *New transit area*

A total of 223 tents were installed, and a total of 39 septic tanks were dug. UNHCR hired workers from the Syrian singles for tent installation. UNHCR and DDM plan to install 500 tents that were donated by Shelter Box NGO and extend sanitation facility with a capacity of one latrine and one shower for each four families

Some 1,650 m of water pipe system has been completed in the Phase 3 (cumulative) while 173 water joints were installed as of today.

750 m of water pipe system has been completed in the singles area, 155 (out of total 175) water joints have also been completed (cumulative).

The above works are carried out by KURDS under the agreement with Qandil. It is expected that all the works on phase 3 water system will be completed by the first week of December.

### **NFIs**

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

Due to a recent sharp drop in temperatures, the distribution of kerosene will be accelerated. 50 litres will be provided per family, with a first instalment of 20 litres. The remainder will be provided once additional jerry cans are received from Baghdad.

A distribution of food and clothing was undertaken by Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) in camp 1. Canned meat, and clothing for men / boys were distributed, from IRW funding.

Given the onset of the winter season, agencies are seeking to procure warm clothing for the refugees. Save the Children plans to provide winter clothes for children and newborns during November.



#### **Domiz**

There was no distribution of NFIs during the week; however 26 families of 92 persons and 24 singles were registered for future distribution.

A charity concert by a well-known singer in the KR was organized in Domiz camp by the mobile communication operator Korek. Korek, together with DDM, distributed 15,000 blankets for all camp residents. The distribution was organized through the leaders of phases/sectors.

IOM is planning to start the distribution of the winterization package

## **Health**

### **Al Qaim**

Code of conduct sessions were conducted by UNHCR Community Services staff for IPs, UNICEF Hygiene Promoters, Social workers, MoDM staff, Save the Children, school staff, and other NGOs that are working on projects related to Syrians. The sessions were a mix of conduct rules, social counseling on GBV, SGBV, and PSEA, and health leaflet distribution by Iraqi MoH on breast diseases and personal health.



### **Domiz**

The existing camp clinic continued to receive on average 330 cases per day. A medical team of ASB (comprised of 7 medical professionals) has arrived in the camp, ahead of their drugs and equipment, and is working in the clinic jointly with DoH and MSF staff. ASB actions on the establishment of the emergency health clinic for the period of 6 weeks are done in coordination with and DOH/DDM and UNHCR. Preparation work on levelling the ground for the temporary clinic is due to be completed shortly.

## **Education**

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

Following a temporary suspension over the Eid period, ISHO has resumed construction activities in the accommodation and school. By the end of the reporting period, 70% of the prefabricated classrooms had been installed.

A joint visit was undertaken by UNHCR and UNICEF on 24 October to the school in camp 1. The school currently operates in two shifts, morning for boys (358 students) and afternoon classes for girls (347 students). A total of 24 teachers, (10 female, 14 male), are working in the school, 11 of whom are living outside of the camp. The teachers recently completed a 5 day psycho-social training by UNICEF, and confirmed that cases of traumatized children continue to be observed in the school.

### **Domiz**

As a result of the completion of the "Awareness creation on education and enrolment drive in Domiz Camp", a total of 4,720 children age 0-17 was registered during a tent by tent survey. Some 2,020 children are identified as being 6-17 (school age). With 1,228 attending the existing school in the camp, only 792 of school age children need to be enrolled in the second school. A private company has started the work on the second school that will accommodate the remaining children.



## 4. Iraqi Returnees

To date, a total of 4,733 Iraqi cases have been registered with MoMD since 29 July 2012. Out of this number, 1,322 have received the 4million IQD grant. Of the registered Iraqi returnees, 65% are female and 35% male. Further analysis will be undertaken to ascertain the reasons for this difference in figures.

A total of 87 Iraqi returnees approached UNHCR Return Integration and Community Centres (RICCs) in Baghdad for assistance and consultation during the reporting period.

Many of the Iraqi returnees interviewed by UNHCR have continued to report that their return is temporary, and that they intend to return to Syria once the situation improves. Others confirm that they will assess the situation and the living conditions in Baghdad before making a final decision on whether to return.

School enrolment continues to be a concern for returnees, particularly for those who did not receive certificates from Syria before they fled.

## 5. Coordination

### Al Qaim

On 24 October, a meeting was held between the UNICEF Emergency Education Facilitator and UNHCR (refer to Education section above).

On 30 October, a meeting was held between UNHCR and the head of the Health Directorate in Al Qaim. Proposals for the establishment of a health clinic in Al Qaim camp, case referrals, and issuance of birth / death certificates were discussed. The MoH will be responsible for the running of the health centre as soon as the premises and facilities are in place.

Following the coordination meeting on the Syria situation held in Baghdad 10 October, working group meetings are being organised by the various sectors – a protection working group meeting is planned for 5 November in Baghdad.

### Domiz

On 31 October, a media mission comprised of journalists from Elle Magazine (Swiss/USA) and Global Post (USA) visited Domiz in order to interview some refugee women and girls, in order to understand more about their life in the camp.