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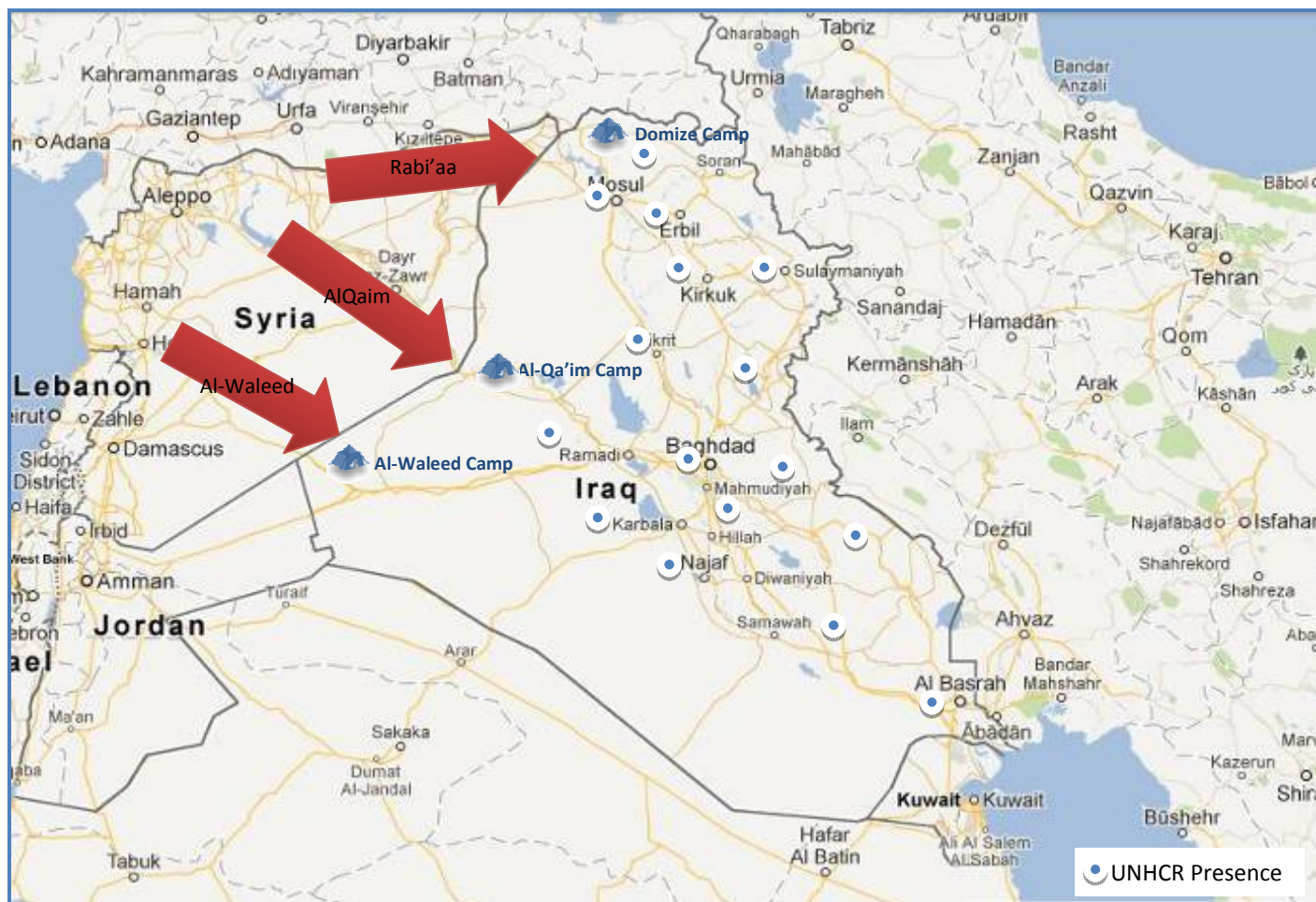
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Syrian Refugee Brief

Location	Total
Duhok	38,274
Erbil	10,260
Sulaimanyah	3,246
Al-Qa'im/Anbar	8,439
Other Governorates	88
Total	60,307



Iraqi – Syrian Border Points

MoDM/DDM/Local Authorities

Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM

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

1. Overview

Syrian Refugees

The number of Syrian refugees arriving in Iraq has reached 60,307 on 28 November 2012. Refugees continued to enter Iraq through Al-Waleed and Al-Rabiaa border crossing points. Al-Qa'im border crossing point is still closed and will be opened only on emergency cases and for family reunion. Only three individuals crossed the border for family reunion in Iraq.

In Kurdistan Region, 3,278 new Syrian arrivals entered the region during the week. The number of new arrivals into KR continues to increase in comparison with previous two weeks. Between 600 to 1,000 new arrivals arrived in Kurdistan daily bringing the total number of the Syrians in the KR to 51,780 refugees.

Iraqi Cross Border Movement

UNHCR border monitors report that during the past week, some 1,124 Iraqis crossed into Iraq from Syria. All three border points (Al Waleed, Rabi'aa and Al-Qa'im) remained open for Iraqi returnees. Al-Waleed continued to receive the largest number of returnees (817).

As of 28 November, the total number of Iraqis crossing the border into Iraq since 18 July 2012 is 56,824 including 5,997 by air. This number includes returnees who were registered in Syria and those who were not registered. It also includes individuals who cross the border on private reasons on a daily basis. During the same period, some 29,501 Iraqis crossed back into Syria.

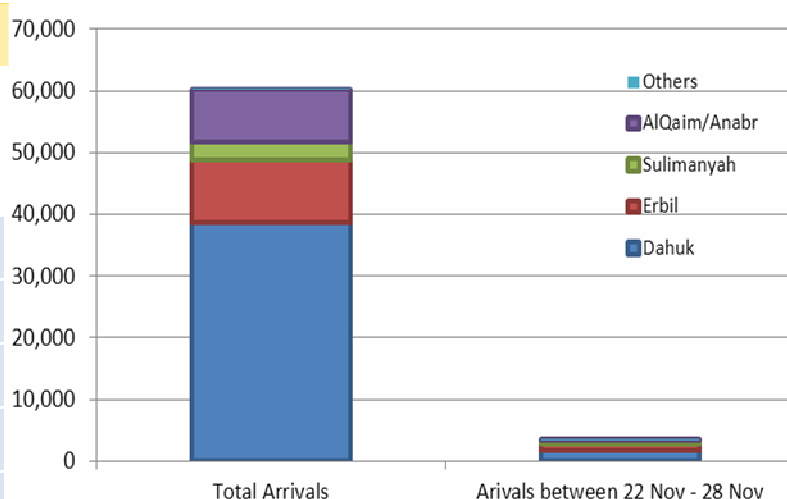
Statistics collected at the border continue to indicate that Baghdad is still remains the governorate to receive the largest number of Iraqi returnees, followed by Anbar and Ninewa.

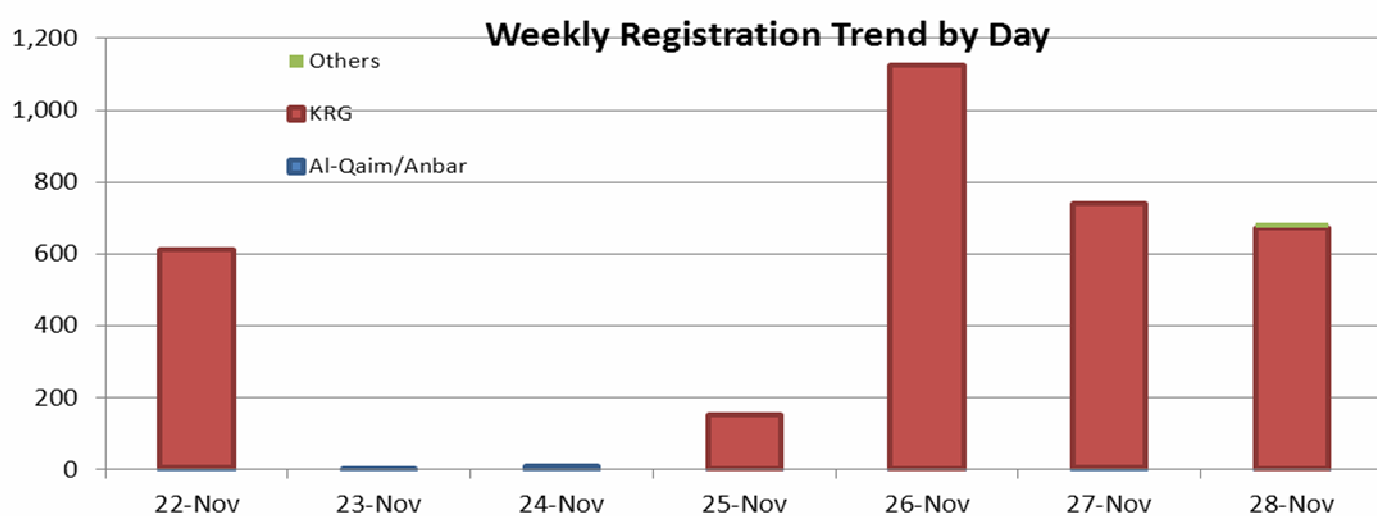
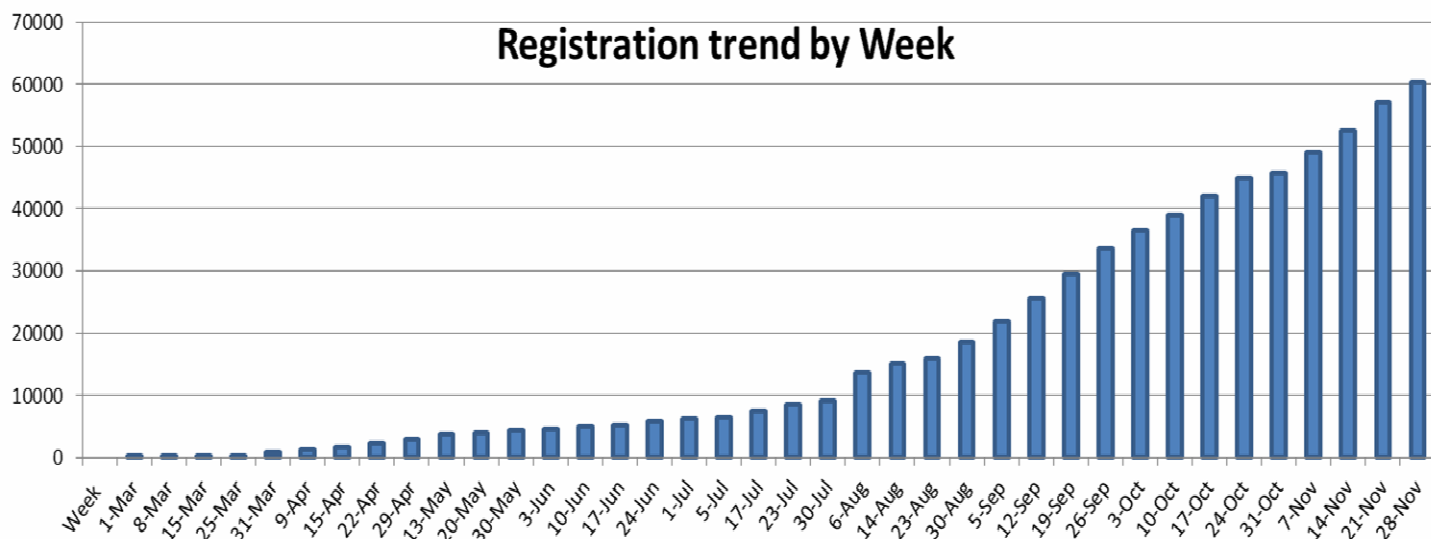
In contrast, 1,018 Iraqi individuals crossed the border to Syria, bringing the total number of Iraqis who crossed the border to Syria to 29,501 individuals since July 18, 2012. Some interviewed Iraqis indicated that they are temporarily visiting Syria to their monthly cash assistance at UNHCR Syria, food basket and 80% coverage of their medical expenses. Some other Iraqis temporarily go back to Syria to sell their property or to obtain their children's school certificates, which are required by the Iraqi Ministry of Education.

2. Statistics

2.1 Syrian Refugees

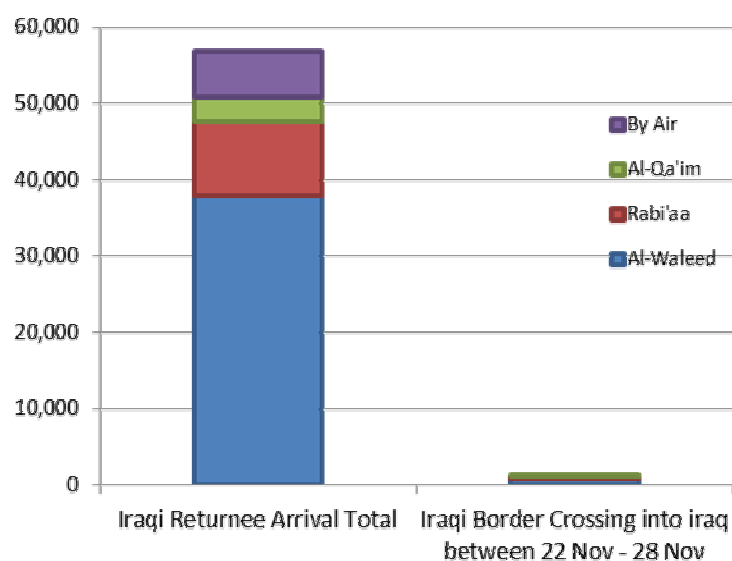
Location	Syrian Arrivals between 22 Nov – 28 Nov	Total Arrivals
Duhok	1,780	38,274
Erbil	968	10,260
Sulimanyah	530	3,246
Al-Qa'im/Anbar	33	8,439
Other Governorates	14	88
Total	3,325	60,307

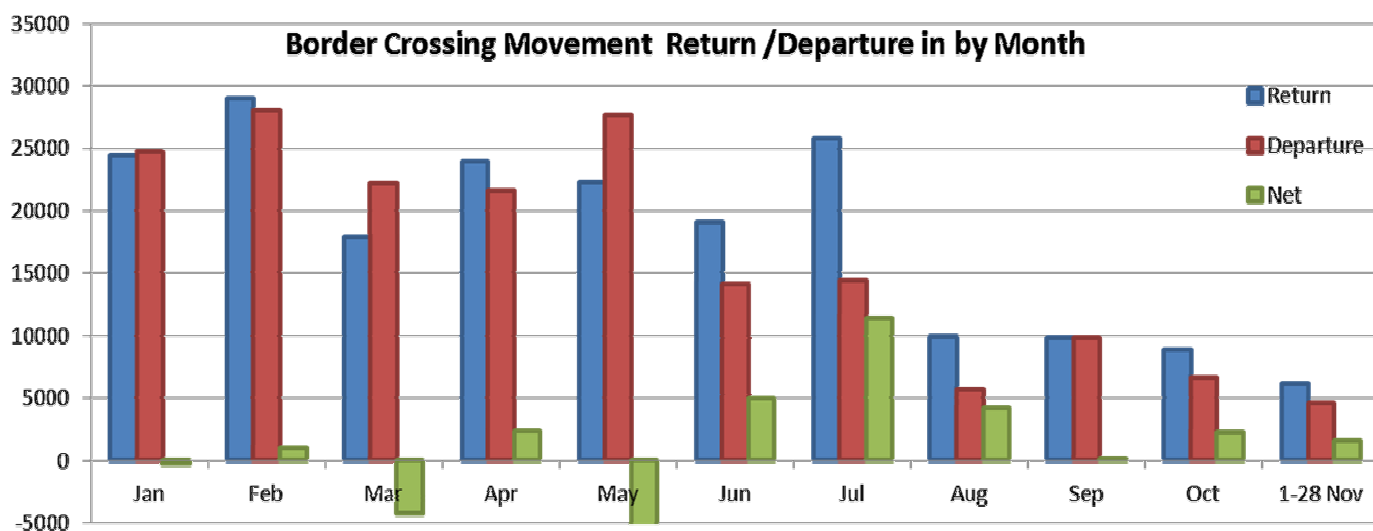
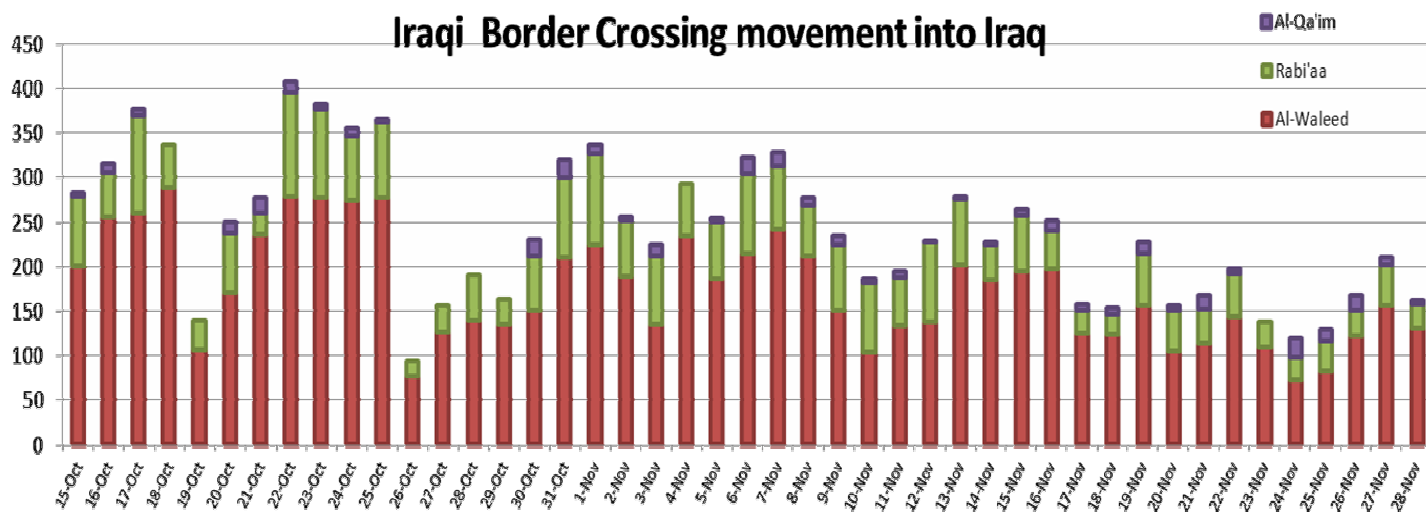




2.2 Iraqi Returnees (Cross Border Movement)

Border Point	Iraqi Returnees (cross border) between 22 Nov – 28 Nov	Total Arrivals Since 18 July
Al-Waleed	817	37,849
Rabi'aa	239	9,839
Al-Qa'im	68	3,139
By Air	0	5,997
Total	1,124	56,824





3. Sector updates

3.1 Reception, Registration and Protection

Al-Qa'im

According to Al-Qa'im Camp Management, Camp 1 accommodates 3,113 and seven refugees left the camp after being recognised as Iraqi nationals. During the reporting period, 70 Syrian refugees voluntarily returned to Syria and eight entered the camp for family reunion. Camp 2 is now covering 4,050 refugees. Five refugees entered the camp for family reunion.

In addition to the camps, 25 individuals are hosted by community in Al-Bert Village in Al-Obaydi District. Refugees are also hosted by the sponsorship programme. Today, 1,621 (402 families) benefit from sponsorship programme. The asylum seekers covered by the sponsorship programme have been registered have been given certificates.

Registration Summary: total verified cases: 1,934. Camp 1 – 664 cases (3,128 individuals), Camp 2 – 868 cases (4,077 individuals). Overall, 8,826 individual cases have been verified so far.

Kurdistan Region

During the week, UNHCR recorded a number of 3,278 new arrivals, comprising of 452 families (1,933 individuals) and 1,345 singles.

- New arrivals in Erbil: 148 families (529 individuals) and 439 singles.
- New arrivals in Suleimaniya: 74 families (316 individuals) and 530 singles

- New arrivals in Duhok: 230 families (1,088 individuals) and 692) singles.

An average of 600 to 1,000 individuals is registered daily in Domiz. The total camp population is currently estimated at around 22,500 individuals

This week, families fleeing Syria were mostly from Damascus and Aleppo, the latter reported that they become increasingly worried about the safety of their children, particularly girls. Syrian new arrivals mentioned that families are fleeing Damascus because women from inside Syria are increasingly becoming victims of rape and subjected to sexual violence. Others mentioned that the major cities were destroyed and the insecurity is prevailing in all areas, this combined with lack of any livelihood opportunities had made their lives untenable.

UNHCR has intensified its capacity for the reception, registration and documentation of the Syrians new arrivals. Registration centres have been reinforced in Duhok, Erbil and Suleimaniya with additional registration capacity allowing a better access to asylum and creating a better protection space. Through joint efforts with the Government of Kurdistan Region, additional officials from the residency departments have been deployed to the UNHCR's registration centres. With this in place, Syrians are able to register with UNHCR and to acquire residency within few days. Priority is given to persons with specific needs who are processed on a fast track basis. In Duhok, however and owing to the increasing number of new arrivals, Syrians, particularly singles, complained during the field monitoring that they receive the appointment for the receipt of residency permits for a month ahead. Many say this puts them in a dire social situation, as they cannot provide for themselves.

Syrians living in urban areas continue to face a range of challenges, those newly-arrived are unable to enroll their children in schools, because of the late arrival, for the majority, renting a house and providing subsidy to the family remains a serious challenge. Kurdistan Region, however remains the sanctuary to many Syrians fleeing violence, the latter are able to access few jobs opportunities.

To date, ten Syrian new arrivals remain in detention in Mosul. UNHCR is stepping efforts to secure their release and to advocate with the local authorities in Mosul to review the policy regarding sanctions on Syrians who enter illegally. Currently, 16 Syrians live in a school in Mosul with little access to services.

3.2 Security

Al-Qa'im

Iraqi security forces are responsible for providing security in both camps. No particular complains were received from refugees related to security related issues.

Domiz

A 21 – year old Syrian refugee was subject to an electric shock that caused his death in the camp. The incident occurred when the late was “illegally” connecting electricity to his tent installed at the temporary transit site (2 extensions). Governorate decided to issue 5,000 USD of one-time assistance to the family of the deceased person.

With the rains, a growing number of tents risk to be partially submerged, especially in the singles area.

On 26 November, Mine Action Group (MAG) distributed 800 leaflets about mines other explosive materials risks.

3.3 Assistance Update

Shelter / infrastructure

Al-Qa'im

The installation of the second rub hall has been completed in Camp 1. Tents replacement completed in Camp 2. The implementation of Al-Obaidy Camp is still going on by ISHO and IRW teams. Latrines and kitchens construction is continued. UNHCR staff closely monitor the construction works on the ground.

UNICEF WASH facilitators and UNHCR management team visited the camp to monitor water supplying in Camp 1 and it was reported that turbidity is still problem that Camp 1 is facing the last two weeks. Water compact units need maintenance and filters need to be changed. The existing power generator needs to be repaired and frequent power cut-off affected the quantity of water supply. UNICEF has been informed of the existing problems and it promised to take action.

Domiz

Movement in the camp is particularly difficult in the rainy weather, thus limiting the beneficiaries' access to services. Construction of the central road that goes through phases 1 to 4 to the new transit area is needed.

UNHCR, DDM and implementing partners continue to expand the camp in order to accommodate all Syrians and to relocate them from the transit centre. With weather improving, newly-arrived families erected 139 tents in the Phase 4 pending the relocation to shelter units.

UNHCR IP "ShelterBox" already contributed 500 tents that helped in providing temporary shelter for new arrivals awaiting the construction of more sustainable shelter. The tents came with thermal blankets and solar lamps.

UNHCR requested new land plot for yet another transit site as the recently founded transit site of 500 tents capacity is fully occupied now while new arrivals continue to come. A new land plot is being allocated with capacity to accommodate 500 tents. Following levelling land in the transit centre, UNHCR met ISHO, Governorate Camp Coordinator and DDM to start foundation works. ISHO is finalizing the site plan to enable tents, latrines, showers, septic tanks demarcation. Government will start with excavation of septic tanks-once demarcation completes.

Government allocated a new land plot for phase 7 in response to UNHCR request to consider planning for additional numbers that continue to arrive, the government agreed to allocate a new land plot of 95 dunam (In Iraq, a dunam is 2,500 square meters), which is right after phase 4-in parallel to the four phases constructed . UNHCR is discussing with its partners the shelter works to start whilst phase 5 construction is underway.

Water and Sanitation:

Families moving to the Phase 4 returned 39 water tanks, to be handed over to DDM for further re-distribution in the new transit area. Electricity wiring for the well No. 2 is completed and KURDS are finalizing the plastering of the first well room.

Water project works for phases 3 and 'Single' have continued. The water project for phase 4 has started.

UNHCR and DDM continue to daily pumping out of septic tanks.

UNHCR distributed hygiene materials for the school while the government hired labour cleaned and disinfected the latrines and area around the school.

Special attention to water and sanitation situation particularly in the 'Single' phase is required. UNHCR attracted the attention of the DDM to the situation in the singles area, which promised to address concerns raised with respect to sanitation and water namely providing extra latrines and ensuring regular supply of water.

NFIs

Al-Qa'im

As part of winterization programme, quilts, plastic sheet, jerry cans and fleece blankets have been completed in both camps. The distribution of kerosene is still on-going in Camp 2. In addition, NFIs have been distributed for refugees living outside the camp. In total, 200 NFI kits have been distributed outside the camp so far.

Local community from Anbar donated 100 NFI kits for widow and pregnant women in both camps.

Domiz

A total of 96 families (414 persons) and 54 groups of singles (216 persons) registered to receive UNHCR NFIs. 70 families of 338 individuals, accommodated in the new transit received the mattresses and quilts. UNHCR distributed 55 tents to the families moving to the Phase 4. At the same time, 35 canvas tents were returned to the warehouse.

UNHCR received winterisation packages comprising of one quilt and one blanket per individual, one plastic sheet, one jerry can and two fleece blankets per family. Distribution started on Thursday with enhanced capacity of the team to ensure full coverage of the camp population within 10 days plan of action.

DDM distributed 1,000 metal barrels among 1,000 families with a plan to cover the entire camp population. Distribution of the government committed share of 150 L per family has started on 26 November and it continues with a rate of 200 families covered per day; 2,200 gas stoves and cylinders have been distributed whilst distribution of other 800-making total of 3,000 pieces-is on-going by the government/DDM. IOM is distributing heaters now.

DDM distributed 62 water tanks among the families and singles; i.e. 59 and 3 respectively. In addition, based on UNHCR request, DDM distributed 300 plastic sheets (6x6 m) to cover the tents with leakages.

Food

Al-Qa'im

MoDM continued distributing food for refugees three times a day. In addition, MoDM distributed sugar, tea packets and rice in both camps. DDM may extend the provision of food due pending the arrival of WFP food as it was foreseen for late November.

Domiz

WFP started distribution of food vouchers on 29 November. WFP confirmed the food vouchers will be provided for the entire camp population registered up to 15 November during the first cycle of distribution. UNHCR is working on availing space for WFP in the camp (20m*50m) to accommodate 4 cabins and one rub hall.

Health

Al-Qa'im

It is reported that there is a need to prepare an update of chronic diseases / patient lists to ensure that patients get their needed medications.

Existing ambulances cannot meet the needs of more than 7,000 individuals living in the camp. Two vehicles are available in the camps for now. Female doctors cannot provide medical assistance to all refugees who approach the medical clinic. Cases of hepatitis are reportedly spread, particularly among children and more than 30 cases have been registered.

Last week, UNICEF hygiene promoters conducted awareness raising activities on hand washing.

Domiz

DOH is closely following/monitoring the current increase in the number of hepatitis A cases inside the camp. There is close follow up, last week medical staff working inside the camp (DOH, MSF and ASB) witness increase in the number of patient with jaundice but so far there is no report of severe cases. As the disease is directly linked with personal hygiene and proper sanitation, there is need to intensify efforts directed into that direction

ASB shared their report for the last week. During that week, NGO attended to 520 cases, many are common cold (111), diarrhoea (58 cases, 15 of them watery diarrhoea), worms (58 cases). ASB notes the trend with Hepatitis A cases.

A total of 444 tents were fumigated by DoH against snakes, scorpions and insects.

Education

Al-Qa'im

The existing school is attended by 395 primary male students in the morning shift and 350 female primary students in the afternoon shift. However, school dropout remains serious concern due the lack of parents' awareness, long distance, fear of hepatitis outbreak and poor quality of food and water at school.

Domiz

Second school donated by a private company and third one funded by UNHCR remain under construction.

4. Syrian Refugees/Iraqi Returnees

Syrian Refugees

The new arrivals were mostly from Damascus, and Qamishli. The Damascus refugees informed about the new waves of sectarian violence in the outskirts of Damascus that had alarmed people to seek safety.

New arrivals living in urban settings reported about concerns over their children not enrolling in schools by lack of transportation fees, school uniforms and assistance. Increased number of serious medical cases is reported during the registration phase including many disabilities.

During separate interviews, Syrian refugees highlighted cases related to the return of Syrian refugees to their home country due to the lack of freedom of movement and services in the camps. Part of refugees linked the issue with the purpose of family reunification.

Iraqi Returnees

During the reporting period, 133 Iraqi returnee households (798 individuals) registered with the MoMD. Up to date, a total of 5,306 Iraqi returnee households (31,386 individuals) have been registered with MoMD since 29 July 2012. Out of this number, 1,745 households have received the 4million IQD grant. No grant has been distributed in Basra, Kirkuk, Salah Aldin and Muthana. Out of the registered Iraqi returnees, 65% are female and 35% are male. The reason behind this big difference is mainly because of the fact that the percentage of Iraqi females is higher than males. In addition, Iraqi males are either afraid to return back because of their previous engagement with the ex-regime or they are still feeling threatened by the continuous sectarian violence in Iraq.

Based on need, UNHCR Iraq started the distribution of a one-time cash grant of \$ 400 per family and \$ 200 for singles to Iraqi returnees to meet immediate and short-term needs.

During the reporting period, 475 families (2,850 individuals) received the UNHCR cash assistance bringing the total number of households who received UNHCR Cash Assistance to 1,104 households (6,624 individuals).

Many of the Iraqi returnees interviewed by UNHCR have continued to request UNHCR assistance in providing medical assistance and shelters, since many of them departed Iraq since 2006 and sell their properties and quit their jobs.

Returnees at Al-Waleed Border are complaining from long waiting hours at the border before moving them into Baghdad. Al-Waleed Iraqi authorities do not allow any departure before 7:00am. Some returnees have medical cases and they cannot spend cold nights at the border. Iraqis are mainly staying in Jaraman District, which was relatively safe, but it witnessed couple of car bombs during the previous days.

5. Coordination

Al-Qa'im

During the reporting period, UNHCR and WFP representatives from Baghdad visited the camp to familiarize with the situation of refugees in Al-Qa'im Camp and construction works in Al-Obaidy Camp. During the visit, UNHCR team met Head of Al-Qa'im Health Directorate to discuss issues related to the renovation of health clinic in Camp 2 and recruiting health specialists from refugees who have appropriate medical certificate or degree.

Representatives from ICRC and IRCS also visited the camp and they were briefed on the current works and activities in the camps.

Domiz

UNHCR Erbil and ACTED discussed a mapping project for the Syrians living in urban settings. The mapping is a good opportunity to provide a profiling of the urban refugees and to identify their potential needs.

UNHCR met WHO director (Erbil-based) who advised on WHO planned intervention in Domiz, including recruitment of a gynaecologist, pharmacist, health staff and a Health Coordinator. WHO received their cabin and agreed with UNHCR on the exact location where their staff will be based. Activities planned are surveillances (thematic), provision of drugs for the camp pharmacy as well as dispensaries of hospitals receiving urban refugees

UNHCR met Qandil board of Directorate to explore venues for expanded cooperation.

UNHCR met governorate office to prepare for contingency planning and future phases of camp expansion.

UNHCR held its weekly coordination meeting with enhanced presence from government represented by head of development projects, INGOs and UN agencies.
