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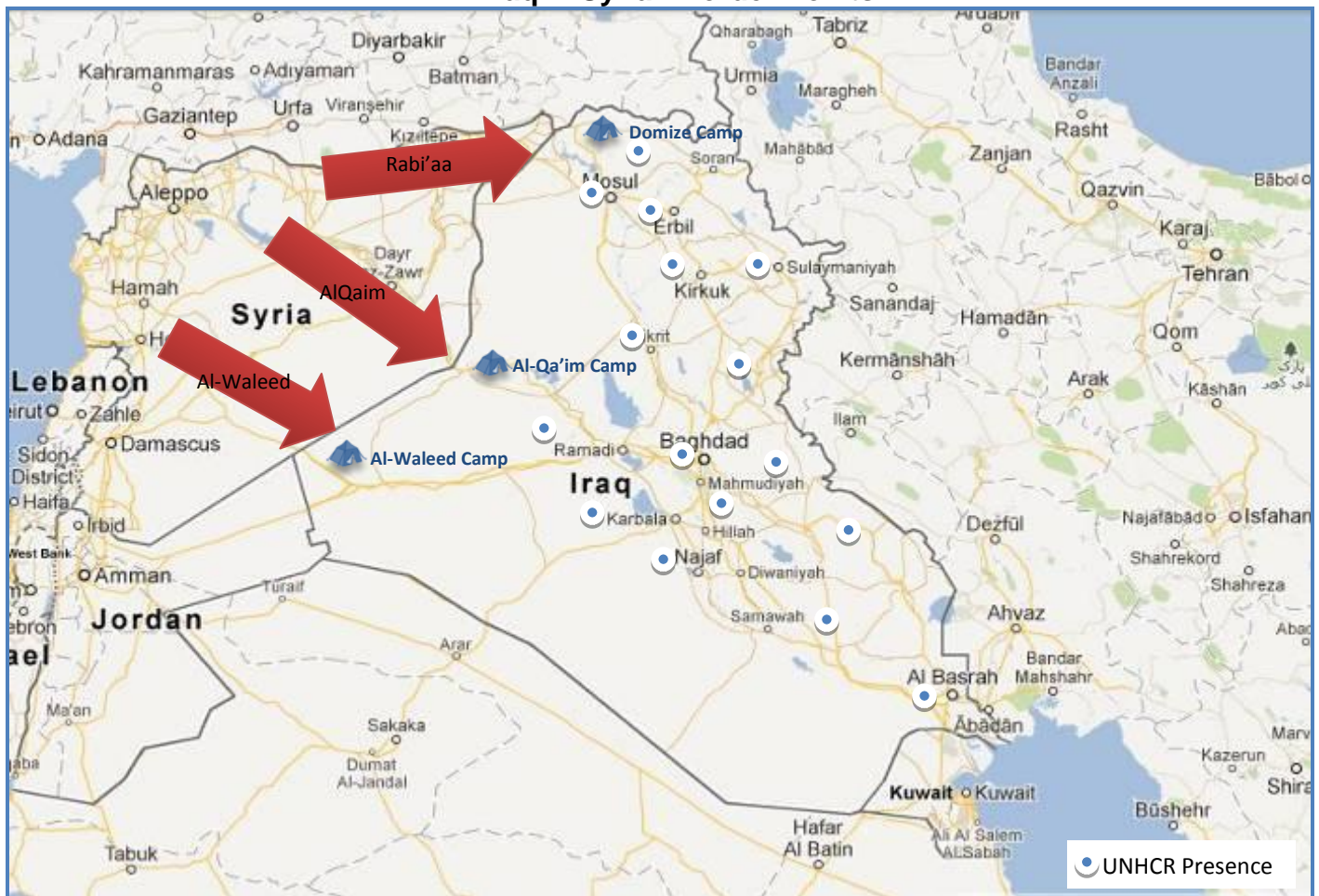
**4 Syrian Refugees/Iraqi Returnees**

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**Syrian Refugee Brief**

Location	Total
Dohuk	44,817
Erbil	12,377
Sulaimanyah	2,957
Al-Qaim/Anbar	9,036
Other Governorates	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,282</b>

**Iraqi – Syrian Border Points**



**MoDM/DDM/Local Authorities**

**Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM**

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

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

[iraqpi@unhcr.org](mailto:iraqpi@unhcr.org)

## 1. Overview

### Syrian Refugees

There are now **69,282** Syrian refugees registered in Iraq. The population in Al Qa'im, Anbar governorate, remains stable at 9,036 and the total number of Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region (KR), Dohuk governorate, is 60,151. The Domiz camp in the KR is hosting an estimated 35,000 people. There are an additional 95 registered Syrian refugees in other governorates.

The Al-Qa'im border crossing remains closed with exceptions being made related to medical emergencies and family reunification, for which there were five and seven cases respectively during the reporting period. While mild weather was reported through the New Year, nightly temperatures are reaching the freezing mark, further exacerbating the precarious conditions the refugee community is facing. Advocacy efforts continue with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MOMD) to facilitate the re-opening of the Al Qa'im border crossing.

Similarly, in the KR and particularly in border areas with Syria, extreme climatic conditions with heavy rain and low temperatures are impacting the number of refugees arriving into the KR. In the last two weeks the number of arrivals decreased significantly to approximately 155 per day with the previous average in December 400-500 daily arrivals. There may be a co-relation between the worsening winter conditions and the decrease in new arrivals. A total of 2,164 new arrivals in the KR were recorded during the reported period.



### Iraqi Cross Border Movement

According to UNHCR Border Monitoring reports, 2,603 Iraqis crossed into Iraq from Syria during the reporting period. All three border points (Al Waleed, Rabi'aa and Al Qaim) remained open for Iraqi returnees, in which Al-Waleed continued to receive the greatest number of returnees (2,098). Al-Waleed Border authorities are also facilitating the arrival of Syrian refugees and coordinate with UNHCR at the Al-Qa'im Camp.

The total number of Iraqis crossing the border into Iraq since 18 July 2012 is **66,098**, which includes 5,997 returnees by air. This number includes returnees who are registered in Syria as well as those who are not. It also includes individuals who cross the border on a daily basis.

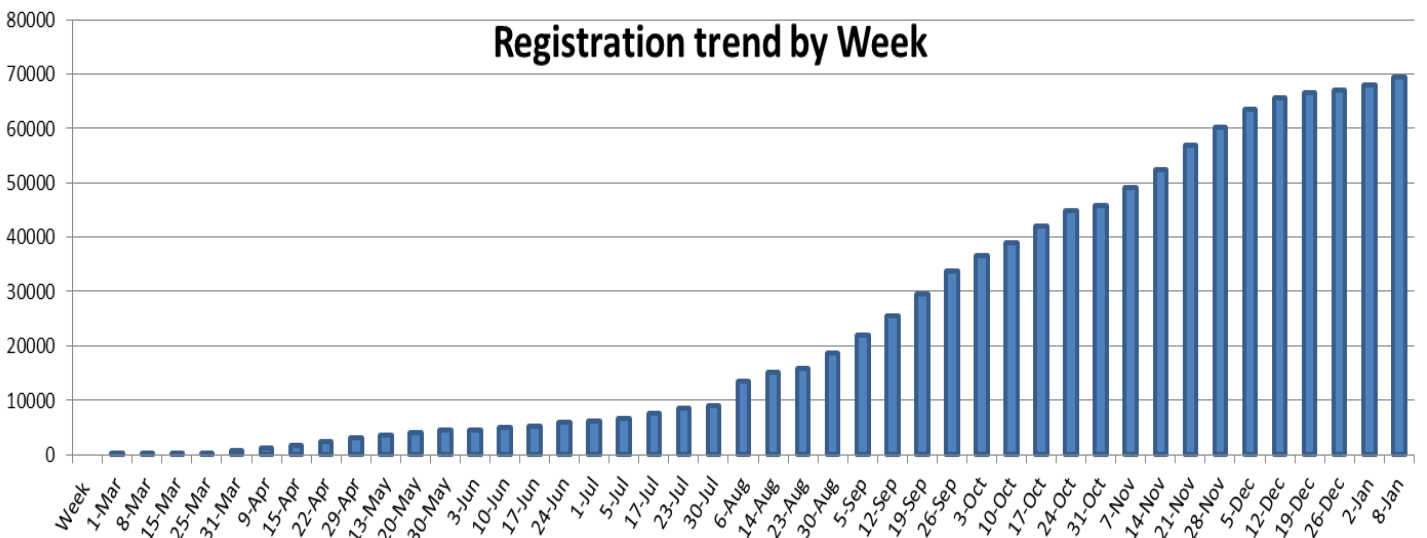
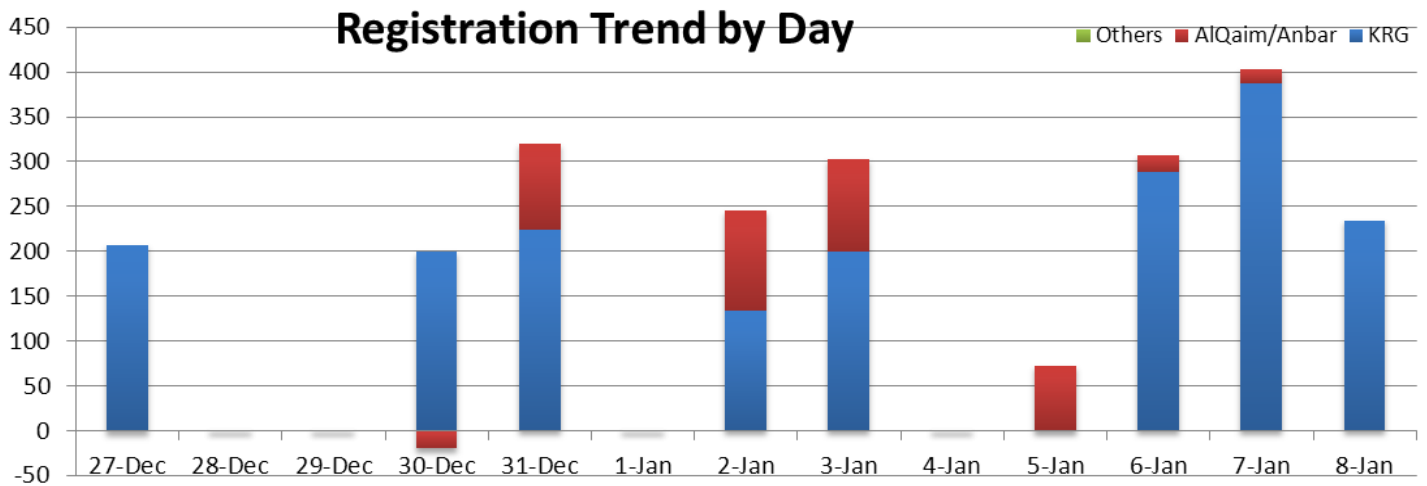
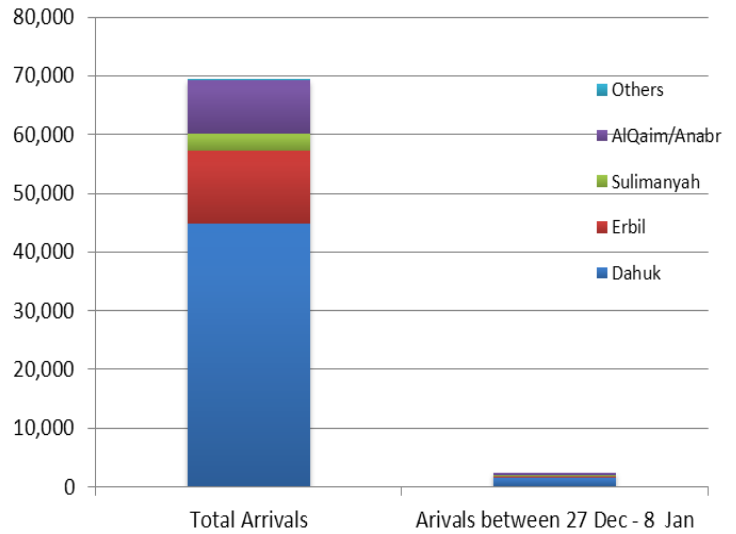
Statistics indicate that Baghdad is still the governorate receiving the largest number of Iraqi returnees, followed by Anbar, Ninawa, Diyala, Nasiriya, Babil, KRG, Kirkuk and Salah Al Din.

In contrast 1,064 Iraq individuals crossed the border to Syria, bringing the total number of Iraqis who crossed the border to Syria to 35,599 individuals since July 18, 2012.

## 2. Statistics

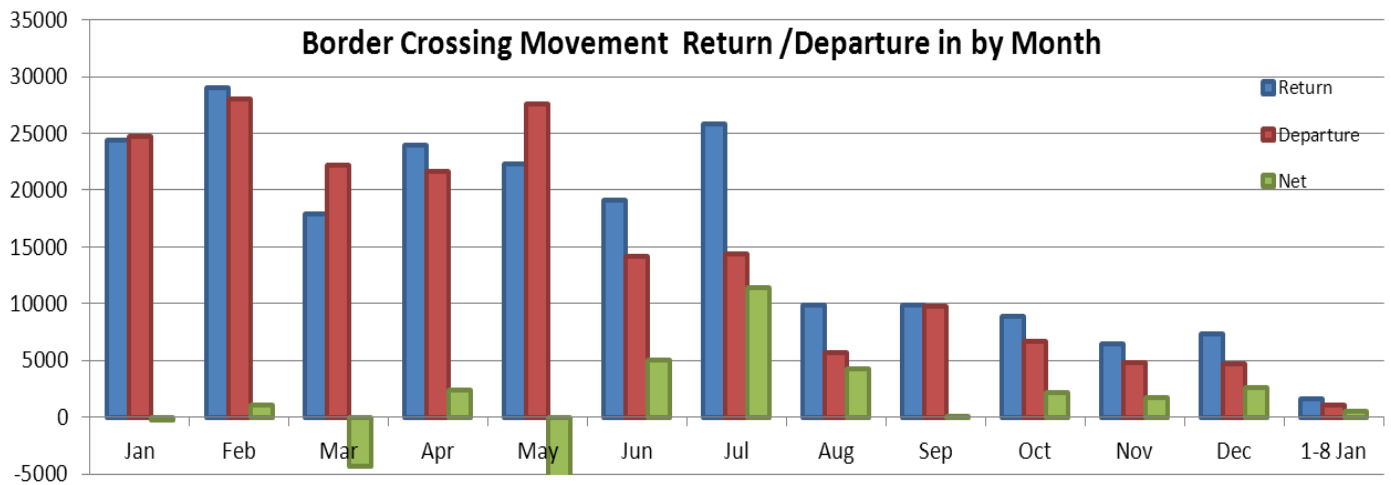
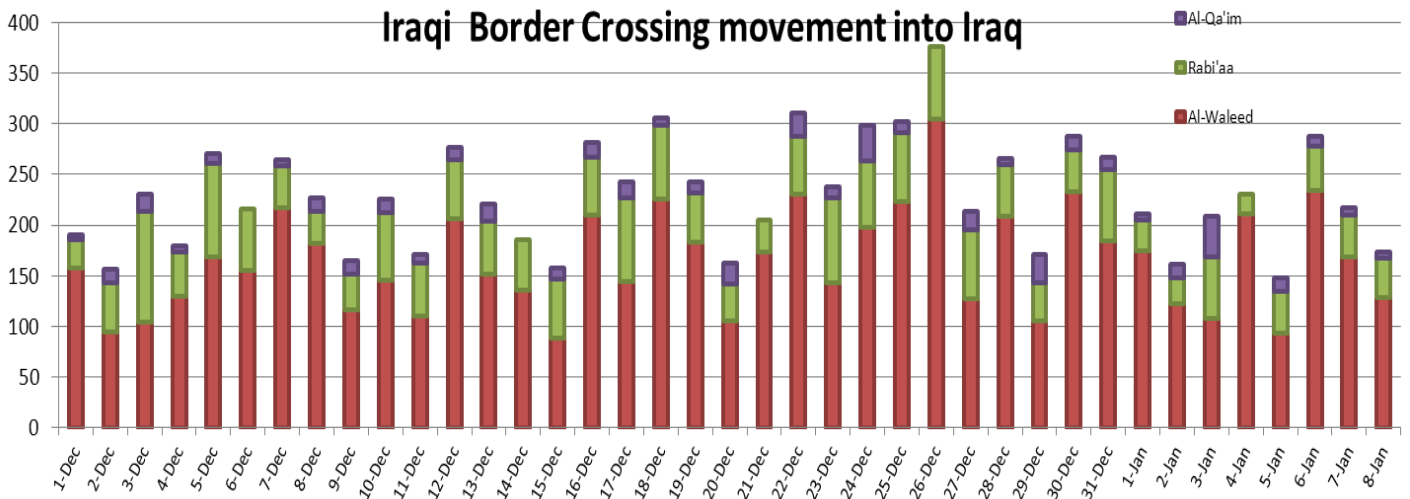
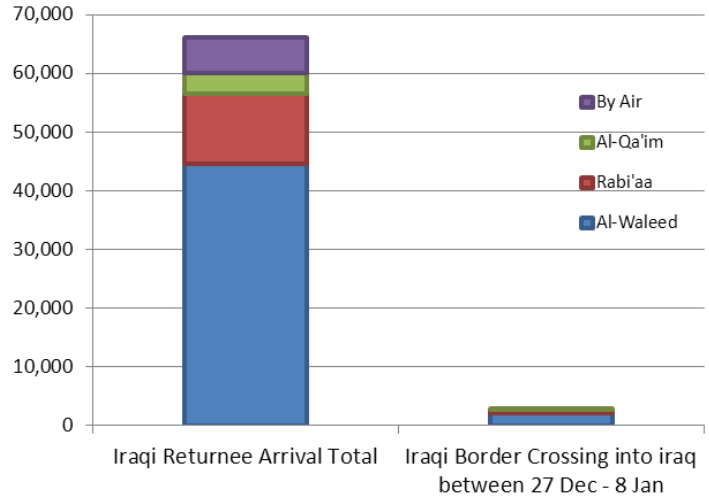
### 2.1 Syrian Refugees

Location	Syrian Arrivals between 27 Dec – 8 Jan	Total Arrivals
Dohuk	1,510	42,973
Erbil	276	12,101
Sulimanyah	85	3,206
Al-Qaim/Anbar	396	8,640
Other Governorates	0	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>69,282</b>



## 2.2 Iraqi Returnees (Cross Border Movement)

Border Point	Iraqi Returnees (cross border) between 27 Dec – 8 Jan	Total Arrivals Since 18 July
Al-Waleed	2,098	44,493
Rabi'aa	571	11,970
Al-Qaim	174	3,638
By air	0	5,997
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,843</b>	<b>66,098</b>



## 3. Sector updates

### 3.1 Reception, Registration and Protection

#### Al-Qa'im

Between 26 December 2012 and 8 January 2013, 104 urban refugee families, consisting of 367 individuals were registered with the UNHCR. In addition, three new families were registered in Camp 1 and two in Camp 2 under family reunification.

During the reporting period certificates were issued for four births and one marriage as well as six national Iraqi identification cards for refugees with dual nationality.

The number of voluntary repatriation cases reached 1,285 individuals. Reasons cited for return are varied and include an improvement of the security situation in Albu Kamal (Syrian side of the Al Qa'im border crossing), family reunification; lack of freedom of movement; insufficient food supplies and lack of employment and income opportunities. To ensure all potential returnees are able to make informed decisions vis-à-vis their return to Syria, UNHCR and border authorities are collaborating to ensure that all Syrians approaching the border are guided to the Al Qa'im camp where they will receive appropriate protection counselling prior to repatriation.

#### Kurdistan Region

Syrian refugee families and singles continue to approach the UNHCR office in Duhok (including Domiz camp), Erbil and Suleimaniya. During the last two weeks, UNHCR recorded 2,164 new arrivals comprised of 380 families (1,616 individuals) and 548 singles. New arrivals include:

- Erbil: 49 families (187 individuals) and 116 singles
- Suleimaniya: 16 families (61 individuals) and 29 singles
- Duhok: 315 families (1,368 individuals) and 403 singles

UNHCR completed the verification of Syrians who entered the KR since 2012. All Syrians are now registered in the UNHCR database and have been issued the requisite documentation. In Erbil, 2,490 refugees have appointments for registration, which are expected to be completed by 15 January. In Suleimaniya and Dohuk, new arrivals are registered on the same day of their arrival.

Several refugees continue to report that they have to pay armed entities on the Syrian side of the border prior to entering the KR. Some refugees reported to UNHCR that armed entities started forced youth deployment into combat in the outskirts of Damascus. Physical abuses and harassments are also being reported.

Syrians already in the KR continue to return to Syria to bring family members left behind, it is reported that their UNHCR certificates are being confiscated at the border by the armed entities or are being destroyed by the refugees themselves for fear of being harassed.

Refugees from Raqa'a reported recent clashes in the area of Tal-Abyad and Bab. Many civilians were reportedly killed or injured and houses destroyed.

Some professionals among asylum seekers; i.e. doctors (neurologist, entomologist, general surgeon) and bank managers from Hasaka City attributed their flight into the KR to fear of abduction for ransom reportedly perpetrated by unidentified armed groups. Child abduction is also being reported.

UNHCR met with UNICEF to raise concerns over increased numbers of unaccompanied minors arriving in the KR and the subsequent response and reporting mechanism such as integrating children into national programs.

## **Iraqi Returnees**

During the reporting period 155 Iraqi returnee households (930 individuals) registered with the MoMD. To date, a total of 6,057 Iraqi returnee households (36,342 individuals) have been registered with MoMD since 29 July 2012. There are considerable delays in distributing the four million Iraqi Dinars (IQD) grant, particularly in the governorates. Thus far, only 2,944 households out of the registered returnees have received the grant.

The number of Iraqi returnees that received the one-time cash assistance during the reporting period (\$400 per family and \$200 for singles), which was launched in November 2012, is 389 households (2,334 individuals). The total number of Iraqi returnee households who received UNHCR cash assistance is 2,834 households (17,004 individuals).

## **3.2 Security**

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

Security in the camps and in the city of Al Qa'im remained stable with no reported incidents during the reporting period. Likewise, there are no reports of the presence of government or Free Syrian Army (FSA) forces in the immediate vicinity of Albu Kamal (Syrian side of the Al Qa'im border crossing).

### **Domiz**

The overall security in Domiz Camp and in the KR is stable. People in military uniform are being observed on a regular basis in the camp and this has been brought to the attention of camp management and the governorate office.

## **3.3 Assistance Update**

### **Shelter / infrastructure**

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

Construction works are ongoing in Camp 3, Al-Obaidy, by the Iraqi Salvation and Humanitarian Organisation (ISHO) and Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW).

Completed works include the sewage system for all 85 toilets; all 94 kitchens were installed and all 44 septic tanks were completed. Also, the installation of UNHCR and WFP rub halls was completed.

Ongoing works include the installation of:

- 520 tents out of 872 installed thus far,
- Installing of steel water tanks and steel stands for latrines,
- 20 water tanks still not installed,
- The registration and admin caravans in the admin area are being installed,
- The outer chain link fence is complete and work is ongoing for the chain link in the admin area,
- Pouring concrete for the school foundation and area is ongoing,
- Laying graveling in the camp is at 35 per cent completion.



The water network installation being supported by UNICEF has not yet started. Additionally, sand barriers for camp security, electricity, and internal roads have not commenced and are being managed by the MOMD.

## **Domiz**



Heavy daily rains continue to impact camp living and is delaying the progress on much of the construction works. Several roads are affected by stagnant storm water in different areas making them impracticable for either walking or driving.

Works at transit site 4 resumed after the holidays. Installation of latrines and showers, excavation of septic tanks and connections is ongoing. The installation of 500 tents to relocate families is ongoing.

Road construction is being completed through Phases 1 to 4 as well as internal roads in transit areas 3 and 4.

## **Water and Sanitation**

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

High turbidity in the Euphrates remains problematic and trucking continues in Camp 1 to ensure that a safe and adequate supply of water is available for the refugee population. UNICEF and partners are exploring options including advocating for a trunk pipe to Camp 1 from a nearby main line.

Water network installation is on-going in Camp 3. However, the layout for Camp 3 water lines is being reviewed to ensure optimal capacity and access to storage tanks.

### **Duhok**

On 8 December, UNHCR met with UNICEF Erbil to discuss progress made so far with WASH works in phase 5 as well as water project in phase 4.

UNHCR observed that in one specific area camp families are being provided with water that is contaminated by mud in the water system. The issue was brought to the attention of the Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM) in order to contact the Water Department for immediate action.

Some families, particularly living in “scattered” tents in some areas of the camp receive water irregularly from the carriers. A systematic and sufficient water supply is in process of being monitored for further verification.

## **Electricity**

The problem of the uncovered electric power circuit in various cabins was brought to the attention of the government electricians for immediate repair due to the hazard entailed and further exacerbated by the heavy rains.

UNHCR informed DDM about 50 families in transit area 4 that require immediate connection to the electricity system.

## **NFIs**

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

All families residing in Camp 1 received camp stoves from the MOMD and 604 (non food items) NFI kits were distributed. All new arrivals are also provided with NFI kits upon entering to the camp. In coordination with

camp management, the MOMD team is also distributing monthly baby kits (baby dippers, infant's milk powder, and bottle of potable water) targeting children under 2 years old. Additionally, the NGO Muslim Aid and UNHCR provided electric ovens for bread making. Not only will the ovens ensure fresh bread on a daily basis for the refugee community, they will also encourage employment and community self-reliance.

In terms of assistance for urban refugees in the Al Qa'im area (refugees living outside the camp), IOM distributed a total of 450 NFI kits, of which 350 were distributed in Hussaiba and 100 in Rawa.

## Domiz

UNHCR completed the winterization distribution in the camp. DDM continues with distribution of electrical heaters, kerosene heaters, and winter blankets among other basic NFIs, particularly to the most vulnerable families. DDM is also providing diapers for children. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) distributed NFI packages to 800 children (hats, jerseys, tracksuits).

## Urban Communities in the KR

UNHCR started the distribution of NFI's in early December. The kits are comprised of one plastic sheet, one thermal winter blanket per person, a kerosene heater, a jerry can, a kitchen set and a water can per family plus 220 litres of kerosene for each family and a barrel.

During the reporting period, the UNHCR distributed non-food items to 89 vulnerable Syrian families (urban refugees) including 35 families living in make-shift shelters in the Arbat sub-district. Meanwhile, kerosene was distributed to 200 vulnerable urban Syrian families in Sulaymaniyah. In addition, 1,419 winterization blankets were distributed (total of 3,120, therefore 1,701 remaining).

Of the 1,125 Syrian refugee families living in Erbil, some 350 families are living in unfinished houses without roofs, windows and doors in near freezing temperatures. Sulemanya has over 100 highly vulnerable families in the urban communities and UNHCR is currently identifying the most vulnerable out of a total of 897 families in Dohuk urban areas. Around 30 individuals relocated to Kirkuk governorate seeking job opportunities and better living conditions. UNHCR's protection centres continuously monitor their situation and identify the most vulnerable to ensure their eligibility for NFI distributions.



## Food

### Al-Qa'im

WFP provided food rations to the camp community, which was complemented by the MOMD who provided other commodities.



UNICEF supported the MoH and the National Nutrition Research Institution teams to conduct a field visit in Al-Qa'im to assess the quality of nutrition and MCH services and to identify gaps. The results will be used to guide future nutrition interventions in the camp.

## **Domiz**

WFP started food distribution for the month of January 2013 aiming to cover all camp residents registered in the UNHCR ProGres database.

UNHCR will physically verify the presence of some families who claimed to have not received food in the camp, after which WFP will distribute food vouchers.

WFP completed the December food voucher distribution for 25,000 refugees. They have current funding to complete two more months. At this stage there are no plans to assist the Syrians in urban environments.

DDM is distributing a supportive food package containing vegetable oil, rice, tomato paste cans, bulgur, and sugar to vulnerable individuals, which are mainly new arrivals.

## **Health**

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

As temperatures continue to drop, more children are attending the Primary Health Care Centres (PHCC) with acute respiratory infections and flu. In addition, 35 children were treated for diarrhoea. Routine immunisation is on-going in the camp health centre on a weekly basis.

A National Measles Campaign was conducted from 2 to 20 December in which Camps 1 and 2 were included in the campaign; 782 children under five and 812 children aged 6-18 years were vaccinated.

## **Domiz**

Fumigation of tents against snakes and insects by DDM through Duhok Health Prevention Department is ongoing.

The Artush Company continues to collect garbage in the camp.

## **Education**

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

School in Camp 1 is operating well for Grades 1 to 6. The quality of learning and teacher capacity is well perceived, although a decrease in attendance has been identified on rainy or cold days. Access to Grades 7 to 9 remains an issue due to lack of space, qualified teachers, and financial resources (incentive for teachers). The current number of children in school in Camp 1 is 688 (339 girls and 349 boys). The number is decreasing due to the return of families to Syria, while no new arrivals registered as a result of the continued border closure.

In Camp 2, the installation of 15 prefabricated classrooms supported by UNICEF is almost complete, and the overall project stands at 95 per cent completion. Desks were delivered on 30 December, and stationery and school bags are stored with the Directorate of Education (DoE) of Al-Qaim, to be distributed during the inaugural session in the coming weeks.

Training of teachers on psychosocial care and education in emergencies was conducted by Afkar NGO, UNICEF's implementing partner, in Camp 2 from 16 to 20 December 2012. Training manuals developed by the Ministry of Education, with support from UNICEF, were used. 25 teachers drawn from the Syrian refugee population, as well as retired Iraqi teachers, participated in the training.

## Domiz

The two new schools funded by private sector and UNHCR respectively have been completed. UNHCR is liaising with DoE to ensure all logistics are in place for the schools to be operational, including recruitment of teachers and administration staff. Among the 80 prefab classrooms, 12 were delivered to the five most overcrowded schools in Suleymania city hosting Syrian urban refugees and children from the local community.



UNHCR brought to the attention of the DoE the need to conduct another enrolment campaign in the camp. Discussions about potential special classes for “late comers” to enable recently arrived children to catch up with the academic year were also held.

UNICEF informed that 2,060 students have been registered for enrolment in the newly constructed schools. UNICEF requested UNHCR to provide the list of

trained teachers to DoE from refugee community for employment.

## Urban communities

UNHCR completed the distribution and installation of 80 prefabricated classrooms in the urban communities in KR (Erbil, Dohuk and Suleymania) to support Syrian refugees as well as local population in overcrowded public primary schools.

## 4. Interviews with Syrian Refugees/Iraqi Returnees

NTR

## 5. Coordination

### Al-Qa'im

A coordination meeting was held on 8 January with the MOMD, UNHCR, other UN agencies (UNICEF, IOM) and implementing partners to collaborate on ongoing camp activities. Distribution of NFIs and other winterisation efforts were highlighted.

### Kurdistan Region

#### Erbil

The UNHCR Head of Sub Office (HOSO) met with the Mol on 7 December to discuss on the current situation of the Syrian refugees in the region, particularly assistance to the vulnerable in the urban communities. The HOSO informed the Mol about the ongoing winterization assistance for Syrian refugees in urban communities and implementation of the Urban Assistance Strategy which will greatly facilitate their integration and access to basic services than in a camp situation.

On 8 December, UNHCR HOSO met with ICRC and shared info on the ongoing winterization assistance and UNHCR Urban Assistance Strategy. ICRC expressed willingness to support with ICRC food parcels to the winterization assistance package for the very vulnerable families in KR.

## **Domiz**

Aljazeera English from Baghdad and Aljazeera Arabic from Erbil visited Domiz camp on 6 and 7 January respectively. They reported on the general situation of the camp and UNHCR activities highlighting ongoing winterisation efforts.

During the reporting period, UNHCR met with the DoE to discuss the preparation for the opening the two new schools. UNHCR also met with IOM who advised on their plan to distribute six motorbikes to be used by identified refugees working as street vendors. Progress made with respect to vocational training..

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