

IRAQ

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE - SYRIA

1 – 15 September 2014

KEY FIGURES

632

Individuals completed the biometric registration at the UNHCR Registration Centres in Kawergosk, Qushtapa, Darashakran, and Basirma camps

9

Unaccompanied minors were assisted in Duhok

64

refugees were assisted to obtain birth and marriage certificates in Erbil

7

cases of SGBV were identified and referred to the relevant agency for follow up

125

people were provided with psychosocial support in Duhok

FUNDING

USD 474, 040, 412

requested by agencies for the Iraq response through RRP 6

26%

funded (USD 122,222,799) for 2014 (RRP6)

PRIORITIES

- Advocacy with KRG on residency permit requirement for granting of civil documentation
- Winterization of camps and shelters (i.e. replacement and repair)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The results of protection monitoring in Erbil and Duhok governorates indicate a new wave of urban Syrian refugees arriving in camps due to economic pressures and a reduced coping capacity to meet increased living costs, largely attributed to the increased IDP population.
- Available space in the camps hosting Syrian refugees is of concern. UNHCR continues negotiations with the Erbil Refugee Council (ERC) on the expansion of existing camps to accommodate new arrivals.
- School year start up is postponed in various locations in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) due to the presence of IDPs sheltered in school buildings.
- The World Food Program has announced that funding shortfalls are forcing cuts in food support for Syrians in-country and for refugees.
- UNHCR is closely following up with partners and relevant authorities on the recently introduced requirement for residency permits as a prerequisite for the issuance of civil documentation, such as birth and marriage certificates.
- During the seventh session, members of the provincial council were unable to agree on electing a new governor for Sulaymaniyah.

Population of concern

A total of **214,372** people of concern (see page 10 -11 for more detailed information)



A young Syrian girl undergoes biometric scanning at Domiz refugee camp in Iraq's Duhok governorate. The scans provide quick and effective identification of Iraq's refugee population. UNHCR/Ivor Prickett

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

In the light of the recent formation of a National Unity Government led by Prime Minister Haydar al-Abadi, the political situation in Iraq has seen some progress. The cabinet was formed within its constitutional timeframe of 30 days after the Iraqi President Fuad Masoum tasked Mr. al-Abadi. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), the political situation is also progressing, despite continuing negotiations on the formation of the local government in Sulaymaniyah.

The security situation remains tense in many parts of Iraq, mainly in Ninewa Governorate and across much of central Iraq. The continuing conflict between the Iraqi army and armed groups in Anbar and Salah din governorates has impacted on operations as restrictions of movement continue in these locations. In the north, clashes continue between the Kurdish forces (Peshmerga) and armed groups, and while the situation within KR-I cities remains calm, ongoing concerns over security are evident.

The humanitarian crisis in the country, namely the estimated 1.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), is putting enormous pressure on authorities and host communities, particularly with regard to access to basic services. Many schools in Duhok Governorate are occupied by displaced people, and the start of the academic year has been delayed. One major challenge is to make shelter available for the displaced people living in the open and in schools.

Since 10 June 2014, only the Peshkabour (KR-I) and Semalka (Syria) border crossings remain open for returns to Syria; no Syrians crossed into KR-I through these border crossing points during the reporting period.

The number of Syrian refugees in Al Obaidy Camp is 247 cases (1,048) individuals, including 217 unregistered individuals (47 cases). UNHCR has no direct access to Al Qa'im/Al Obaidy, and remotely monitors the two partners that are operational there (ISHO and UIMS).

During the reporting period, a total of 2,368 Syrians, (2,027 individuals registered asylum-seekers and 341 non-registered Syrians), returned to Syria from KR-I via the Peshkabour crossing point, bringing the total number of returnees since the beginning of January 2014 to 25,501 individuals.

A total of nine registered unaccompanied minors were successfully reunited with their families in Syria, with the cooperation of Syrian and KR-I border officials.

Families continue to return to Gawilan camp from Domiz camp after Gawilan was vacated on 6 August due to security concerns.

Achievements



Protection

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, 226 cases comprised of 632 individuals completed the biometric-based registration at the UNHCR Registration Centres in Kawergosk, Qushtapa, Darashakran and Basirma camps.
- UNHCR PARC/Qandil legal teams assisted a total of 64 Syrian refugees to obtain birth and marriage certificates. The team has also identified and followed up on a total of 34 (new) camp-based cases that require civil documentation in Erbil camps. The protection monitoring carried out in the area revealed that both camp-based and urban refugees encounter difficulties with accessing civil documentation procedures in Erbil due to extensive delays. UNHCR embarked on an evidence-gathering exercise to advocate with authorities.

- Issuance and renewal of residency documents for Syrian refugees continues in four camps and urban areas. During the reporting period, a total of 956 residency documents were issued for the Syrian refugees residing within the operational area. Inconsistencies in the issuance of residency (time, scope and modalities) have been noted between the camps, and follow-up with the central Erbil authorities continues.
- The Women's Listening Centre volunteers initiated four community mobilization visits inside Gawilan camp and conducted information sessions on early marriage for 20 young females.
- UNICEF continued providing child protection services to children in refugee camps across the KR-I. At Darashakran camp, UNICEF in cooperation with its implementing partner reported seven newly identified cases requiring child protection, including children with physical and learning disabilities, health-related issues and separated children. A total of 295 cases were identified and referred to special service providers.
- Three cases of SGBV (2 domestic violence cases and 1 early marriage case) were identified in Darashakran refugee camp and referred to NRC social workers for follow up.
- In Akre camp, psychosocial service providers reported 156 children receiving psychosocial support, and are providing follow up care for another 43 cases.
- A fire safety awareness activity, complemented by a fire safety campaign, took place at Basirma camp, organized by UNICEF in cooperation with its implementing partner TDH. The campaign was conducted using a tent-to-tent approach with the aim of increasing the general understanding of fire hazards and safety instructions in the camp.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Erbil, 849 cases comprised of 1,965 individuals were registered, including new registration, updates and transfers to Erbil from other camps/urban areas. Following the resumption of the issuance of residency documents for urban refugees in Erbil, the urban Registration Centre observed an increase in registration of those PoCs who had remained unregistered within the urban areas of Erbil. UNHCR-issued asylum-seeker certificates remain one of the key requirements for acquiring a residency permit.
- Since the beginning of September, 456 residency documents were issued in Erbil for Syrian refugees living in urban areas. The process was launched on 18 June 2014, and thus far 1,150 residency documents have been issued. There are 2,878 applications submitted for final approval by the Asayesh prior to the issuance of residency permits. The residency issuance process was affected by resource constraints facing Asayesh staff, most of whom have been deployed to assist in emergency response operations at the KR-I frontiers.
- 46 households (100 individuals) were registered in the Sulaymaniyah urban areas.
- UNHCR identified and referred one SGBV case to the Women's Listening Centre (WLC) in Domiz.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A meeting with PARC Qandil was held to discuss improvements in the SGBV case identification system, in particular in urban areas. It was agreed that PARC would enhance their outreach activities, strengthen awareness among communities on prevention of and response to SGBV, and improve their capacity to systematically refer identified cases to the specialized services.

Education

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Back to School Campaign: Despite challenges that arose due to the events in northern Iraq in August, UNICEF and its partners mobilized resources and brought all children back to the camp schools that opened on 10 September. So far, the total enrolment of Syrian refugee students is 9,500 in the Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah refugee camp schools. It is increasing on a daily basis. Following a decision by the Department of Education (DoE), the curriculum in Gawilan and Akre has been changed from Arabic to standard Kurdish.

- In Darashakran camp, UNESCO completed its summer courses for about 100 teachers, of whom 90 per cent are female. However, the Erbil government has not signed contracts with these newly trained teachers. Follow-up continues.
- 583 children (345 girls and 238 boys) benefited from three-month long non-formal education activities provided in the CFS at Kawergosk camp, run jointly by UNICEF and its implementing partner PAO.
- Arbat Camp (Sulaymaniyah): Under the auspices of the General Director of DoE and in the presence of government counterparts, the new 12-classroom school constructed by UNICEF opened. Currently 612 refugee students are enrolled and attending classes.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- While UNICEF continues to support the provision of teaching and learning materials to existing schools, providing Arabic-language medium materials to the KRG will require additional resources *inter alia* for the provision of textbooks.
- Continuous delays have been experienced with regard to the roll-out of the Back to School campaign in refugee camps within Erbil. Schools remained closed in all the camps pending completion of the teacher training and catch-up classes.
- After the suspension of the UNICEF partner agreement, there is no clear view of who will take responsibility for providing education to the Syrian refugees in Al Qa'im town and Al Obaidy Camp.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Duhok, the start of the school year has been postponed in non-camp areas due to the presence of IDPs in school buildings.
- Following a field visit to Koye town and a subsequent meeting with the Erbil DoE, UNHCR was able to enroll 70 new students in schools in Koye.
- Back to School Campaign: In non-camp schools, UNICEF and its partners mobilized resources and have enrolled 500 Syrian refugee students in Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah non-camp schools.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The influx of IDPs into the KR-I has had a major effect on the start of the school new year, scheduled to begin on 10 September. The payment of teacher salaries and contracting by the MoE remains an issue that has an ongoing impact on the ability to address the needs of out-of-school Syrian children in urban areas.



Health

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Medical consultations have remained stable, and no outbreaks of communicable diseases have been reported. The consultation rate/person/year remained stable at an average of 3.2. This is within the expected range of 1 – 4 consultations/person/week.
- The national mass polio vaccination campaign for September started, targeting all children under 5, including Syrian refugees. In addition, a mass measles vaccination campaign started in Duhok governorate that will be conducted during the whole month of September, targeting all children aged between 9 months and 5 years.
- Duhok governorate: Up to 3,919 persons with acute, chronic and mental health conditions have benefited from the health services provided in Domiz camps 1 and 2 and in Gawilan.
- Preventive health services including EPI, growth monitoring and reproductive health are provided by DoH with the support of UN agencies. In Domiz camp, a maternity ward opened in August with the support of MoH/DoH, UNFPA,

and MSF. Between 25 and 30 deliveries are conducted per week, the facility caters also for an increasing numbers of Syrian women from the surrounding communities.

- In the four camps in Erbil governorate, a total of 5,903 primary health care consultations have been conducted, including 269 consultations for mental health care. Renovation works continued in all Public Health Centres (PHCs) to upgrade the WASH facilities and ensure accessibility to the PHCs for persons with disabilities (PWDs).
- In Arbat camp, 449 patients received treatment for acute and chronic health conditions during the reporting period. Renovation works to upgrade the WASH facilities are also ongoing to ensure accessibility to PHCs for PWDs.
- In Al Obaidy camp, health services continue to be provided by UIMS. 353 patients received treatment for acute, chronic and mental health conditions. Referrals to nearby facilities are expected to restart, which would ensure access to secondary health care services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Diarrhea cases have increased in one camp over the past weeks. Health and hygiene promotion campaigns have been stepped up in all camps, and cholera preparedness plans need to be completed.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Assessments for the rehabilitation of three health facilities under Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) were conducted, while rehabilitation of other facilities is ongoing. Implementing Partner PU-AMI expanded its activities to cover Syrian refugees living in impacted communities. The project will focus on linking Syrian refugees to government PHCs through information campaigns that address current knowledge gaps on service availability, and enhancing health knowledge through behaviour change communication.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The current IDP crisis has impacted on access to health care for all population groups, including refugees. Shortages of essential medicines occur frequently in public health facilities, despite large medicine donations from humanitarian actors. While humanitarian actors are able to mobilize resources to cover gaps in medicines in refugee camps, the populations in urban settings increasingly have to purchase medications in public or private pharmacies.

Food Security and Nutrition

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- The World Food Program has announced that funding shortfalls are forcing cuts in food support for Syrians in-country and for refugees. One example of the broad humanitarian impact can be gleaned by cuts at Iraq's Domiz refugee camp, where, starting next month, the voucher value for the 70,000 refugees living there will be cut from US\$31 to US\$25. Food assistance for the 33,000 recipients in other camps is expected to be maintained. School feeding for some 12,000 children has already been halted. According to UNOCHA, "In October, WFP will be able to deliver 60% of what they have been delivering. In November it will be down to 40%."
- WFP distributed 2,849 monthly food rations to 590 refugee families in Arbat, including 105 single persons.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- At Al Obaidy camp, the WFP food parcel was not distributed during the reporting period; ISHO distributed complementary food assistance to 1,023 refugees.



Water and Sanitation

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- NRC completed the cleansing of 65 pits following the relocation of families to Domiz 2.

- FRC completed the construction of a sewage holding tank in Domiz 2 to resolve overflowing and drainage pipe problems.
- At Gawilan camp, PU-AMI continued to deliver water for the latrines, PHC clinic and office, six days a week for eight hours a day.
- In Qushtapa camp in Erbil, a water supply network funded by UNICEF is under construction. When finished it will supply water to 379 families.
- In Erbil governorate, UNICEF commenced work on water networking for the 384 concrete slabs constructed by UNHCR through DRC. UNICEF continues to supply 50 litres of water per person per day for drinking and cooking. UNHCR and partners conduct hygiene awareness among the refugee population.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The lack of water treatment technology, specifically water treatment plants, on the local market in the KR-I remains an ongoing challenge for WASH operations in the Syrian refugee camps.
- Some areas of service delivery to refugee camps have been impacted by ongoing displacement within KR-I as a result of events in other governorates of Iraq.



Shelter and CRIs

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

Domiz:

- During the reporting period, the public garden in Domiz 1 was completed and ready for handover; DMC will provide water for irrigation of the grass and trees that are already planted.



Public garden completed in Domiz Camp 1. UNHCR/ S. Gammah

- A total of 201 families were relocated from the Domiz irregular areas and accommodated in Gawilan camp.
- A total of 500 families were relocated from Domiz 1 to Domiz 2, and 500 families were relocated from Domiz to Gawilan.
- The 12-classroom school in Arbat permanent camp has been completed and handed over to the DoE authorities.
- YAO distributed CRI packages to 31 newly arrived refugee families in Arbat permanent camp.



YAO Distribution of CRI packages in Arbat permanent camp. UNHCR / K.Ali

- At Gawilan camp, 10 newly arrived families from Domiz were provided with full CRI kits, including baby diapers and packages of sanitary napkins.
- With the winter season approaching, UNHCR has been receiving numerous requests from the refugees in all four camps in Erbil for the replacement of their tents. In some cases, such as in Qushtapa camp, the need for replacement of 200 tents has been confirmed. In other location, a house-to-house needs assessment will be carried out by the third week of September.
- Kerosene was distributed to all refugees in Al Obaidy camp: 50 litres per family.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- At Domiz camp, IRC conducted a home based nursing training and a first aid course for community service committee members.
- Handicap International started a project to set up activities for PWDs in Domiz camp, and conducted a first session on raising awareness for PWD needs, stressing the importance of community based protection when working with them.
- IOM continues to identify and select beneficiaries for potential vocational training, reaching a total of 200 beneficiaries in Domiz camp, of whom 89 are approved to start next week in training - including computer skills, English language, tailoring, hairdressing, barbering, book-keeping, sweet making, plumbing, welding, mobile phone repair, and roofing.
- UNHCR intervened to prevent the relocation of 12 elderly female headed households (FHH) and one family with a serious medical condition from Domiz to Gawilan, so that they would not lose their community support network and the medical care they have been receiving.
- Following the deterioration of the security situation, ACF strengthened its psychosocial support through its mobile teams, making visits to irregular tents. Refugees have reported the sound of fighter jets and bombs from the surrounding areas as sources of stress.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Transportation to and from medical treatment for non-camp refugees remains an issue due to the poor operating condition of the buses. There is also no proper transportation within the camp.

NON-CAMP

- UNHCR approved the 62 cash assistance forms for vulnerable Syrian refugee families which were submitted by CDO, based on vulnerability and needs criteria. Bank cheques will be distributed to the respective beneficiaries.
- During the reporting period, UN Habitat continued to improve shelters for vulnerable families in Domiz and Fayda villages.
- PARC assessed 225 vulnerable cases of Syrian refugees in the north and western quarters of Duhok district and its city centre, including Gizhaberan, Geli, Khebat, Kani Mehmadke, Kani Khishmana, Bazar, Nohadra, Birayeti, Shele, Shehidan, Grebase, Ashti, Mazi, Shakhike, Botan, Behdinan and Mazi.



Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- Pre-assessment interviews were conducted for 167 Syrian cases residing across the KR-I, of which 79 were prioritized and 88 non-prioritized. Most of the interviews were conducted based on the profiling of cases with potential women at risk.
- Case identification interviews were conducted for 19 cases. Fifteen cases were reviewed at this stage, out of which six were prioritized for further RSD/resettlement consideration. One case was referred for medical assessment and five other cases were referred to other UNHCR functional units for further assistance.
- Merged RSD/RST interviews were conducted in six cases. Two linked cases of two individuals were referred to the Hub for submission. Two emergency cases and one urgent case (9 persons) were accepted by Sweden.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There has been a considerable drop in the number of case-identification interviews and RSD/RST interviews in contrast to the increase in the pre-assessment interviews conducted. This is the result of one RSD/RST Officer having recently left the operation. Selection of a replacement has been initiated.

Working in partnership

- UNICEF organized a one-day workshop in Duhok on case management of unaccompanied and separated children. Representatives of the three governorates (Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok) and of child protection NGOs gained knowledge of Information Management System (IMS) software, along with other tools. The necessary resources (computers with the software and servers) will be made available to the network of case management organizations along with more specific training on managing data and cases. MOLSA expressed its commitment to lead the process of identifying potential foster care families that will get the necessary guidance and support from the government.
- A meeting with UNHCR and the Youth Committee has been organized in Qushtapa refugee camp to discuss ways of diversifying recreational activities in the camp and initiating targeted vocational training for young people.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operation.

Donors who have contributed to the operation:

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| ■ Australia | ■ Iraq |
| ■ Austria | ■ Italy |

- Canada
- Denmark
- European Union
- European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Japan
- Kuwait
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- United States

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------|--|
| AFS | Adolescent Friendly Space |
| CFS | Child Friendly Space |
| CRI | Core Relief Items (formerly known as non-food items/ NFIs) |
| DDM | Department of Displacement and Migration |
| DMC | Development and Modification Centre |
| DoE | Department of Education |
| DoH | Department of Health |
| HOFO | Head of Field Office |
| HOSO | Head of Sub Office |
| ISF | Iraqi Security Forces |
| KR | Kurdistan Region of Iraq (or KRI) |
| MOMD | Ministry of Migration and Displacement |
| PARC | Protection Assistance Reintegration Centre |
| PHC | Primary Health Centre |
| QIPs | Quick impact projects |
| YFS | Youth Friendly Space |

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Links:

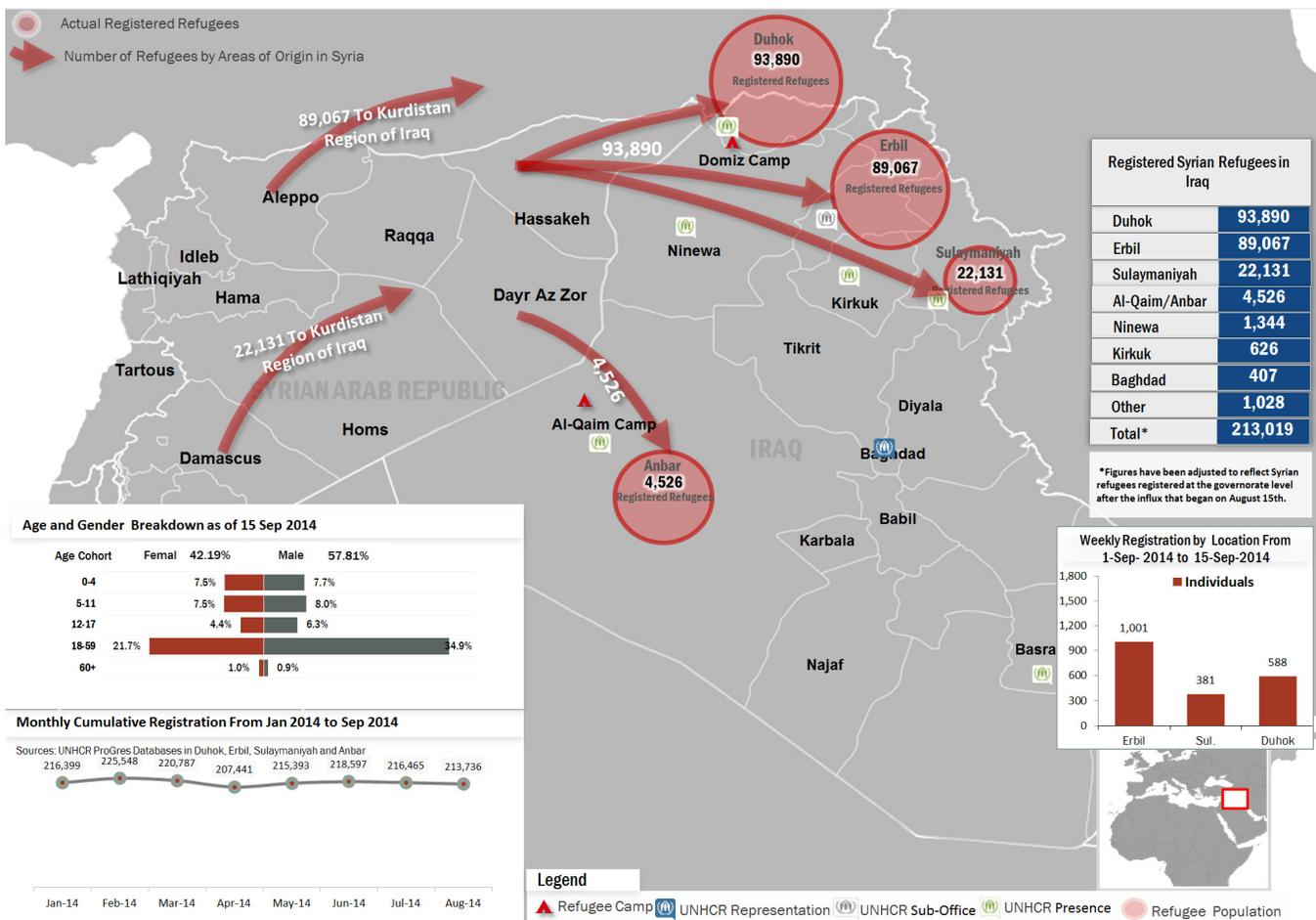
For information related to the Regional Response Plan (RRP6) please click on <http://www.unhcr.org/syriarrp6/>
 For information related to UNHCR's supply pipeline, please click on <http://data.unhcr.org/iraq/supply/>

Announcements of all sector meetings along with respective agendas and minutes, and other information reporting sector-wide progress such as 3Ws, dashboards and camp profiles, are available on the inter-agency information sharing portal at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

For more information on the work of UNHCR and our partners in Iraq, please follow us on Twitter at @unhcriraq and on Facebook at "UNHCRinIraq"

ANNEXES

Refugees by Areas of Origin in Syria



UNHCR Registration Trends for Persons of Concern

UNHCR Registration Trends for Syrian Persons of Concern 15 Sep 2014



Registration Unit

Total Persons of Concern

214,372

Individuals

214,372

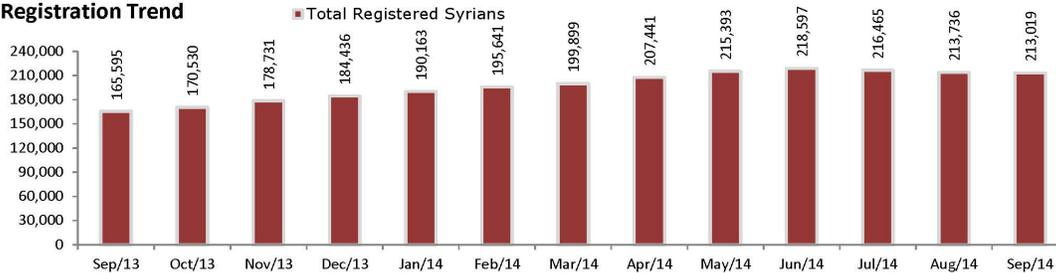
Households

76,474



The UN Refugee Agency
Iraq

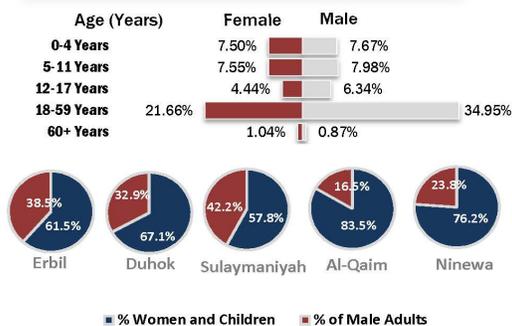
Registration Trend



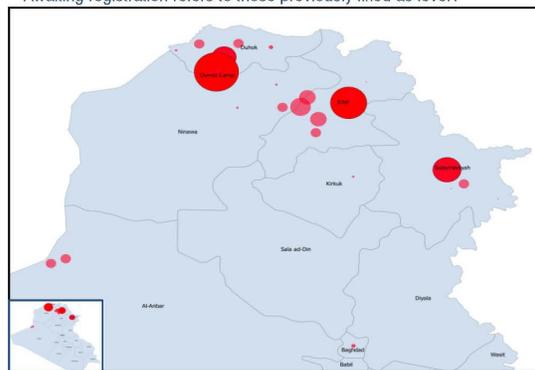
This profile is based on **213,019** and **1,353** The total is **214,372**

proGRES registered individuals
Awaiting registration *
individuals

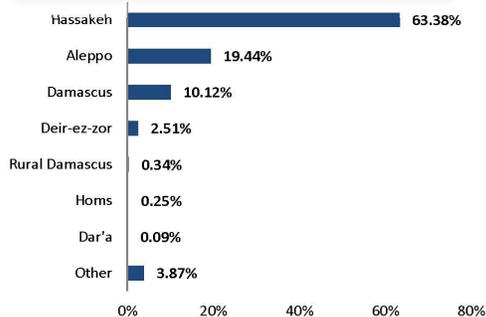
Age and Gender Breakdown



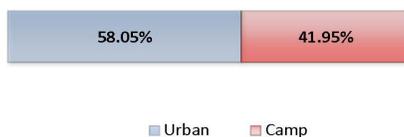
* Awaiting registration refers to those previously fixed as level1



Place of Origin



Camp and non-camp population comparison



| Governorate | Individuals | Households | % Total |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Duhok | 93,890 | 29,369 | 44.08% |
| Erbil | 89,067 | 34,456 | 41.81% |
| Sulaymaniyah | 22,131 | 9,782 | 10.39% |
| Anbar | 4,526 | 1,149 | 2.12% |
| Ninewa | 1,344 | 439 | 0.63% |
| Kirkuk | 626 | 220 | 0.29% |
| Baghdad | 407 | 225 | 0.19% |
| Other | 1,028 | 455 | 0.48% |
| Total Iraq | 213,019 | 76,095 | 100% |

| Camps Registered Population | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Camp | Individuals | Households | % Total |
| Al-Obaidi Camp | 1,536 | 322 | 1.72% |
| Akre Settlement | 1,412 | 342 | 1.58% |
| Bajrd Kandala Transit Camp | 73 | 13 | 0.08% |
| Domiz Camp | 56,398 | 17,518 | 63.11% |
| Gawilan Camp | 2,531 | 631 | 2.83% |
| Basirma Camp | 3,347 | 796 | 3.75% |
| Darashakran Camp | 8,022 | 1,695 | 8.98% |
| Kawergosk Camp | 9,200 | 2,438 | 10.30% |
| Qushtapa Camp | 4,739 | 1,180 | 5.30% |
| Arbat Camp | 2,102 | 565 | 2.35% |
| Total | 89,360 | 25,500 | 100% |

** From 16 June 2014, as Al-Obaidi Camp became inaccessible to UN agencies and other humanitarian staff, the camp registered population figure is not updated.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Making a Difference for Syrian Refugees

Qushtapa, Erbil governorate, Iraq

It's the first day of English class and 40 year old Khabat calls on her students to come to the chalkboard and write letters of the English alphabet. Her class is comprised of some 20 Syrian refugee women in their late teens. Khabat, who was a journalist back in Syria, says her class is extremely popular. "They want to learn English," she says. "It's the language of jobs." They'll start with the alphabet, but move on to reading, grammar and conversation.

In another classroom next door, four other refugee women are speedily working knitting needles with colorful balls of yarn. They're making baby booties, scarves, and mobile phone holders. This too, is a class aimed at expanding refugee knowledge and skills. The programs are run by UNHCR partner INTERSOS, an Italian aid agency. INTERSOS team leader Hemin Mohamed says the classes serve multiple purposes. "There are not only benefits in terms of learning, but these particular classes provide an opportunity for women to meet, talk, and create friendships. It's empowering for them."

Qushtapa is one of nine camps for Syrian refugees in Iraq's northern Kurdistan region. Due to the camp's proximity to Erbil, there are more opportunities for work outside the camp than at many others. That's another reason why the classes are so popular.

For more than a year, Qushtapa has been home to some 4,700 Syrian Kurd refugees. This Autumn, that number is likely to rise by another 1,000. UNHCR installed concrete tent foundations and block-walled kitchens last Spring; all that the refugees are waiting for now is to have water, sewer and electric lines laid. Then new arrivals will finally be able to move in to better housing, and UNHCR and its partners will start improvements on another section of the camp.

Education is a key component of UNHCR's work with refugees living both in and out of camps in Iraq's Kurdistan region. Iraq's neighbor Kuwait has generously provided funding to support more than 16 projects to support both Syrian refugees and host communities in Iraq's Kurdistan region. The projects promote rehabilitation and expansion of access to basic services such as health and schools for both populations. At camps like Qushtapa, the support includes winterization, like the 200 new concrete tent bases and concrete block kitchen areas. The aid includes kerosene for heat in winter, and fans to help cool tents in the summer. Lastly, Kuwaiti funding is being used to provide new infrastructure for government authorities, as well as for health centres and psychosocial support in refugee camps.

For teen-aged refugee Joza Ahmed Suleyman, it's all about her English language education. "When I learn English, it will open doors for me," she says. "It will develop my skills and help me get a job." Life in a refugee camp is difficult and uncomfortable, for some at Qushtapa, there can also be opportunities. Qushtapa, Ned Colt.



English class at Qushtapa refugee camp outside Erbil. UNHCR partner INTERSOS leads classes in language, weaving and sewing at the camp. UNHCR / Ned Colt