

KEY FIGURES

During reporting period:

5,561

Individuals completed the biometric registration at the UNHCR Registration Centres in camps in Erbil

116

Cases of unaccompanied/separated minors arriving from Kobani identified in Duhok

264

Residency documents were issued for non-camp Syrian refugees in Erbil governorate

19,000+

Syrian new arrivals mainly from Kobani in the KR-I (4,547 during the reporting period)

FUNDING

USD 474, 040, 412

Requested by agencies for the Iraq response through the RRP6

32%

Funded (USD 151,637,253) for 2014 (RRP6).

Priorities

Winterization of camps: distribution of winter kits (shelter and supplementary personal items)

Assistance to new arrivals fleeing Kobani

POPULATION OF CONCERN

225,373 Syrian refugees

IRAQ

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE - SYRIA

1-15 November 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

Syrian arrivals from Kobani

- A total of 4,547 Syrians have reached the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) through Ibrahim Khalil Border crossing point during the reporting period, bringing the total number who have arrived in the KR-I since 25 September to 19,099 individuals. All are now being received in the four refugee camps in Erbil governorate (Basirma, Darashakran, Kawergosk, Qustapa).

Winter preparedness

- 3,002 kits out 3,123 winter items kits have been distributed as of 13 November in Domiz, Gawilan and Akre camps. The remaining 121 kits are to be distributed on 16 November.

- Preparations for distribution of phase two winterization items (heating stove and jerry can for kerosene) are underway in the four camps in Erbil governorate. Camp management partners ACTED and DRC are in the final stages of procuring kerosene and plastic jerry cans. Kerosene heaters have been prepositioned for distribution.

- YAO distributed kerosene to the 225 newly arrived Syrian refugee families in Arbat camp. In total, 22,500 litres were distributed in Arbat.

- UNHCR organized a participatory assessment both in camps and non-camps for the Syrian caseload. In refugee camps, the participatory assessment has been conducted jointly with all implementing partners working in refugee camps. The assessment will support the 2015 detailed planning exercise expected to be completed in November.
- There is a shortage of Syrian teachers in both camp and non-camp schools. This is due to the increased numbers of students, especially in Sulaymaniyah, due to new arrivals from Kobani, and lower teaching capacity as a result of ongoing issues with teachers' contracts.



YAO distribution of kerosene in Arbat camp. YAO

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

SYRIAN ARRIVALS FROM KOBANI TO THE KR-I: 4,547 Syrian refugees entered the Kurdistan region of Iraq through the Turkish-Iraqi border checkpoint (Ibrahim Khalil) during the reporting period – an average of about 380 individuals per day. 85 per cent were in families, and 15 per cent were singles. The majority were from Kobani, and the refugees were admitted into camps and collective centres in Erbil Governorate, bringing the total number of new arrivals from Kobani to 19,099 individuals, for the period 25 September to 15 November.

The Reception Centre at Ibrahim Khalil border has been winterized by UNHCR, and a capacity was built to accommodate new arrivals for overnighting prior to next day transport via IOM buses, which transport them to existing refugee camps. During the reporting period, the four Erbil camps (Kawergosk, Darashakran, Basirma and Qushtapa) continued to receive the arriving refugees. Of these, some 238 families are accommodated in family tents and 167 families continue to be housed in communal places in the camps. The rest of the arrivals preferred to leave the camps to either rent houses and or join family members in urban areas.

All refugees receive mattresses and blankets upon arrival to the camps. Those families who remain in the camps also receive a tent and other core relief items. These include kitchen sets, hygiene kits and plastic sheeting. The continued arrival of refugees poses challenges in terms of providing an effective response, including shelter, provision of food and WASH facilities, given the limitations in existing camps. However, the joint efforts of various actors on the ground have thus far enabled adequate reception as well as provision of assistance and services to the new arrivals.

- The humanitarian situation remains precarious for the estimated 1.9 million internally displaced Iraqis, in addition to the over 225,000 refugees, including nearly 20,000 new arrivals from the Syrian city of Kobani. As the winter season is approaching and the temperatures are beginning to fall, some areas in the KR-I have already dropped below zero degrees Celsius. The challenge of access into some parts of the country remains for humanitarian aid organizations due to the security situation. In addition to that, gaps in resources also pose a challenge to provide assistance, particularly with regard to the urgent need for kerosene.
- The political situation between the central Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) is progressing as negotiations continue between the two sides. The Iraqi oil minister visited Erbil and met with the Kurdistan Regional Prime Minister to reach an agreement on the issue of oil. As a result of their meeting, Erbil agreed for Baghdad to manage the sale of 150,000 barrels of oil per day to the international market. In return Baghdad agreed to pay 500 million USD to KRG for its civil servant salaries. In Suleimaniyah, the political situation remains stable as negotiations continue on the formation of a local Government.
- The security situation remains tense in many parts of Iraq, with the Iraqi Security Forces advancing against ISIL-led armed groups in Beiji, the oil refinery city of Iraq. In the Salah-ad-Din and Anbar provinces, the Iraqi Security Forces are engaged in heavy fighting against ISIL-led armed groups. In the north, the Kurdish forces made advances against the ISIL-led armed groups, recapturing Zummar from the militants. The Kurdish forces, supported by US airstrikes, continue their attacks on the ISIL-led armed groups in the north.
- The economic situation remains stable in light of the recent agreement between the central and the KRG on oil management, despite security instability in the country.

Achievements



Protection

- 116 UASC (32 unaccompanied and 88 separated children) were identified at the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing point. As observed by the partners, all of the UASC are with their extended family members and/or have relatives in the KR-I, thus have not required referral to alternative care arrangements. They have been provided with counselling at the reception centre, and all were referred for case management and assistance.

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF, in co-operation with its implementing partners, provided psychosocial services (PSS) to a total of 7,718 children (3952 girls and 3766 boys) in the Duhok, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates. In total, 480 children received specialized services from front-line workers (152 girls and 328 boys). The cases referred included children with psychosocial disorders, early marriage, child labour, physical abuse, gender based violence and disability.
- A total of 378 Syrian registered cases of 701 Individuals and 199 non-registered returnee individuals were counseled by UNHCR at the Bajed Kandala registration centre to ensure the voluntary nature of their return before they eventually crossed back to their area of origin in Syria.
- 308 Syrians were provided with protection and registration counseling and underwent full registration at Domiz registration centre, including family reunification. UNHCR renewed asylum seeker certificates for 1,286 individuals.
- UNHCR, Handicap International and DoH are currently making outreach visits to Domiz camp to identify and assess infants or children with disabilities. More than 45 children have been assessed so far.
- A total of 485 cases with specific needs were identified and assisted in Gawilan camp with a winterization package, cash assistance, registration procedures, and psycho-social and medical referral.
- During the reporting period, registration centres in all four Syrian camps processed a total of 2,245 cases comprising 5,561 individuals. Kawergosk Registration Centre registered 178 cases/478 individuals of Syrian origin, including 119 cases of update and transfer and 59 cases of new registration. 236 individuals from Kobani were registered in the Kawergosk camp, whereas approximately 25 cases have been screened and are awaiting clearance by the security (Asayesh) authorities.
- Basirma Registration Centre registered a total of 433 individuals as Syrian refugees. 197 Syrian refugees were issued with the residency documents in Basirma.
- In Basirma camp and Harir Youth Centre, Terre des Hommes promoted activities in child-friendly spaces (CFS) among the newly-arrived families from Kobani with the aim of enrolling these children into the ongoing educational and recreational activities.
- Qushtapa Registration Centre registered 663 individuals of Syrian origin, and Darashakran Registration Centre registered 120 cases of Syrian origin.
- The PARC/Qandil legal team continued to support refugees in obtaining marriage and birth certificates. During the reporting period, a total of 32 marriage certificates and 21 birth certificates were issued for refugees in the camps.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR facilitated a mission of the NGO "Clowns Without Borders" to Erbil. The mission visited both the refugee and IDP camps in Erbil. Many children from Qushtapa, Kawergosk and Darashakran refugee camps enjoyed a performance by the NGO. At the field level, the mission was coordinated in close collaboration with the Child Protection actors Save the Children and Terre des Hommes (THD) Italy.
- 950 individuals were registered in Arbat camp. An increasing number of Syrians without documents were observed seeking registration in the camp.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 15 registered unaccompanied minors were successfully reunited with their families in Syria, with the coordination/cooperation of Syrian and KR-I borders officials.

- UNHCR identified eight children in need of child protection case management and psychosocial support, and referred them to the implementing partner for child protection for urgent follow up.
- The Erbil Registration Centre registered 3,879 individuals of Syrian origin.
- The urban Residency Department processed a total of 315 cases of Syrian asylum-seekers; 264 cases were issued with a residency card.
- The PARC/Qandil Protection Team visited 60 Syrian asylum seeker families inside Erbil. Most of these families are living in unfinished dwellings in sub-standard conditions. Out of 60 families, 35 included individuals with specific needs such as disability and serious medical conditions. As a result of another monitoring visit to Touraq, a total of 26 households were assessed and 14 families/individuals were identified to have specific needs. To alleviate the hardship and address immediate protection needs, these families/individuals will be proposed for the cash assistance programme.
- UNHCR reviewed and approved cash assistance forms for 662 Syrian refugee households. Out of a target of 1,000 households, the remaining number to be identified and served is 338 households. Qandil has thus far distributed cheques for 142 households. Other beneficiaries will receive their cash assistance payment within one week.



Durable Solutions (Refugee Status Determination and Resettlement)

Achievements and Impact

- Pre-assessment screening was undertaken for 71 cases, mainly from Duhok Governorate, out of which 35 cases were prioritized and 36 deprioritized. Only two cases were received as internal referrals in the reporting period, both of which were prioritized. Case Identification interviews were conducted in 22 cases in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates. Fifteen cases were reviewed, of which twelve were prioritized and three deprioritized.
- Eight initial RSD/RST interviews were conducted in Erbil and Duhok Governorates. Numerous complementary interviews for RSD/RST were also conducted to obtain more information for the purpose of potential submission to the USA. The following cases are pending with the Regional Resettlement Hub for submission to various countries: two cases (five persons) to Australia; five cases/24 persons to the USA; and one case (seven persons) to Denmark. One case (one person) departed on resettlement to France together with family members who were travelling under a different arrangement. One case (eight persons) was withdrawn from submission to Sweden due to difficulties in processing a Swedish visa for the Iraqi spouse; the case will be resubmitted to the USA.



Education

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- With the start of the new school year, current enrolment figures show 8,653 Syrian students are attending schools in Duhok governorate; in the Arbat camp there are 760 students in schools, including new arrivals from Kobani; in Erbil there are 1,217 students in the Qushtapa camp, with 14 new teaching staff to increase overall teaching capacity; there over 1,800 students in the Kawergosk camp where the school works in 3 shifts to accommodate all the students, and 821 students are registered in the Basirma camp.
- In the Basirma camp school, UNICEF supported the procurement of two fuel tanks (1,500 litres each) for storing kerosene, as part of efforts to keep schools ready to serve students during the colder winter weather ahead.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Overall, there is a shortage of the Syrian teachers in both camp and non-camp schools. This is due to the increased numbers of students, especially in Suleimaniyah due to new arrivals from Kobani, and lower teaching capacity due to ongoing issues with teachers' contracts. Schools in **non-camp** locations are also facing a shortage of teachers.

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Medical consultations remained stable and no outbreaks of communicable diseases occurred. The consultation rate/person/year increased to an average of 4.2 and is slightly above the expected range of 1 – 4 consultations/person/year. The increase is largely related to the influx of new refugee who sought initial treatment in the camp health facilities, as well as due to an increase in upper respiratory infections with the onset of winter.
- Up to 7,874 persons with acute, chronic and mental health conditions have benefited from the health services provided in the Domiz, Gawilan and Akre camps. In addition, preventive health services including EPI, growth monitoring and reproductive health are provided by DoH with support of UN agencies. The Health Information System has been expanded to the Akre refugee settlement; all health facilities are now part of the regular reporting.
- In the Gawilan camp, PU-AMI has increased its team to provide medical services to the new arrivals in cooperation with a mobile medical team from DoH Bardarash.



A Syrian boy receives medical attention from UIMS in Al Obaidy camp, photo: UIMS.

- In the Domiz camp in Duhok, UNICEF and its partners screened a total of 535 children under five in the camp's growth monitoring unit, and provided adequate management for identified malnourished children.
- UNICEF supported the opening of a 'Baby Hut' unit in the Akre camp in Duhok. The Baby Hut program includes growth monitoring for infants and counselling on breastfeeding for pregnant and lactating women.
- In the four camps in Erbil governorate a total of 7,025 primary health care consultations were conducted including 270 consultations for mental health care. IMC deployed its mobile medical team to support medical treatment for newly arriving refugees in camps in Erbil governorate.

- In the Syrian refugee camps in Erbil, trained volunteer nurses visited a total of 2,000 tents. Nurses followed up on 69 newborn children to check vital signs, and conducted regular visits to 100 pregnant women during the reporting period.
- In the Arbat camp in Sulaymaniyah governorate, a total of 1,100 patients received treatment for acute and chronic health conditions during the reporting period. Community Health Workers are visiting new arrivals tent by tent to inform about available health services. A total of 38 pregnant women received antenatal care. Of these, 23 received special attention from camp medical staff, due to their having experienced complications such as caesarian sections, abortions or other complications in previous pregnancies.
- In the Al Obaidy camp in Anbar governorate, health services continue to be provided by UNHCR's implementing partner UIMS. A total of 142 patients received treatment for acute and chronic health conditions.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The health status of newly arriving refugees needs to be closely monitored. Prevention of communicable diseases outbreaks remains a key priority. Access to safe delivery in Erbil hospitals needs to be enhanced.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- IMC and PU-AMI continue to provide health awareness campaigns to Syrian refugees living in impacted communities in Erbil governorate.
- UNICEF continues to provide health support services to newly arrived Syrians from Kobani with a fixed immunization unit at the border. In the reporting period, the unit vaccinated 2,029 children aged 0-15 years against polio, and 1,913 children aged 9-15 years against measles.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The current IDP crisis has an impact 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 of humanitarian actors. While humanitarian actors are able to mobilize resources to cover gaps in medicines in refugee camps, populations in urban settings have to purchase medications increasingly in public or private pharmacies.



Food Security and Nutrition

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- WFP, through its partners, distributed food to refugees in all camps. Distribution included the first group of new arrivals from Kobani, while those who arrived recently continued to be provided with food by Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF), further supported by Save the Children.
- The WFP voucher system (Vouchers Distribution Area & the Food Market) in Darashakran camp has been made ready and all necessary facilities have been put in place. In the Kawergosk camp, WFP completed construction of the Voucher Distribution Area and commenced construction of the Food Market.
- UNHCR, through ISHO, completed the monthly distribution of the complementary food assistance to all camp families (IQD 17,500 = \$ 15 USD for each family).



Water and Sanitation

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF continues to meet ongoing hygiene requirements for refugee families in Erbil camps and in Sulaymaniyah (Arbat camp), distributing 6,867 hygiene kits in the reporting period.
- UNICEF continues to strengthen existing sanitation provision for Syrians, with 384 individual household sanitation structures and a sewage network under construction in the Qushtapa camp in Erbil; and in the Arbat camp, the Directorate of Sulaymaniyah Surrounding Water began drilling 3 boreholes with pump house construction with

UNICEF funding. The new boreholes will improve access to safe water for camp residents. In the same camp, the Qatar Red Crescent newly completed water network is supplying 256 households.

- In the Domiz camp, UNICEF and NRC have increased the water storage capacity available to refugees in the camp through the completion of 20 new holding tanks. NRC has constructed 100 latrines for vulnerable Syrians, including those with disabilities, and is rehabilitating 70 bathing facilities.
- The Directorate of Erbil Surrounding Water finalized the establishment of a water network in the Kawergosk refugee camp, covering 512 blocks.
- Relief International (RI) distributed 1,922 hygiene kits. In the next few weeks, RI is planning to train 122 refugees to fix WASH facilities.
- ACF has been instrumental in putting up WASH facilities for the new arrivals in the Darashakran and Basirma camps. They are in the final stage of rehabilitating WASH facilities for the PHCs and have also started a pilot project for the provision of hot water in refugee camps.
- KURDS completed the sewage network system for three blocks in the Arbat camp.

Shelter and CRIs

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- All communal tents in the old transit site in Gawilan are now empty; the families were relocated to the permanent site. All empty family tents have been stored at the school. DMC has already removed some 785 tents.
- Qandil distributed baby diapers to 298 children in the Gawilan camp, and to 103 children in the Akre camp.



Distribution of core relief items in Gawilan. UNHCR/ B. Amin

- At the Basirma camp, the MoMD (Ministry of Migration and Displacement) completed the site preparation for 200 shelter plots, and construction of concrete slabs has started.
- At the Qushtapa camp, site development work is in progress by UNHCR. The camp layout is prepared and has been shared with key stakeholders, to be finalized by 18 November.
- 238 tents have been erected to accommodate new arrivals in the existing camps in Erbil governorate, with the rest of the families still accommodated in public places, such as schools, PHCs, mosques and caravans. Due to the limited space to pitch new tents, relocation of refugees from public places has been delayed, exposing families to challenges related to the lack of privacy. As an example, 14 families have been at the Harir Youth Centre for more than two weeks now.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Implementation of shelter assistance for the vulnerable refugees in Duhok governorate, through UN-HABITAT, is in progress at 80 per cent completion. The project has so far reached 350 families/186 shelter units with improvements and repairs to the basic living conditions. UN-HABITAT is making efforts to address the issue of threats by the owners for rental increase or eviction.

INTERAGENCY WINTERIZATION EFFORTS

Achievements and Impact

- Distribution of winterization kits is ongoing, with vulnerable families receiving 503 winterization kits distributed in both the Gawilan and Akre camps. Each kit is comprised of five blankets, one plastic sheet, one water jerrycan, and one kerosene heater. Coordination with camp managements and community leaders in Gawilan is ongoing before starting phase 2 of the winterization plan.
- 965 students (from grades 1 to 12) in Gawilan were provided with winter boots through the Ariana Charity Cultural Organization of Erbil. The assistance was donated by the people of China. 100 students from Kobani in Gawilan were provided with winter coats donated from the people of Switzerland.
- The Akre camp management distributed 20 litres of kerosene per family to 282 families/1,330 individuals, including 24 singles, from last year's stock balance.
- Preparations for distribution of phase two winterization items (heating stove and jerry can for kerosene) are underway in the four camps in Erbil governorate. Camp management partners ACTED and DRC are in the final stages of procurement of kerosene and plastic jerry cans. Kerosene heaters have been prepositioned for distribution.

Access to Energy

Achievements and Impact

- Procurement of kerosene for the camp refugees in Duhok has now been completed and DMC will start distribution in the Domiz Camp on 17 November. All 8,200 families in the Domiz 1, Domiz 2, Gawilan and Akre camps will be provided with 200 litres. However the quantity is half their total needs of 400L for the winter season.
- YAO distributed kerosene and kerosene barrels to 225 newly arrived Syrian refugee families in the Arbat camp. In total, 22,500 litres were distributed to the families. YAO also distributed polystyrene foam (insulation for floor) to 520 newly arrived Syrian refugee families in the Arbat camp.
- As part of UNHCR's winterization initiative, kerosene was increased from 50 litres per family to 100 litres as of November 2014. The distribution of Kerosene was completed during the reporting period.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Two vocational training sessions on hair dressing and sewing were carried out for 20 extremely vulnerable women.
- A total of 82 persons in the Domiz camp with specific needs, including two from the host community, were selected for potential small business opportunities through DRC.
- UNHCR organized participatory assessments both in camps and non-camps settings for the Syrian caseload. In refugee camps, the participatory assessment has been conducted jointly with all partners working in the refugee camps, such as REACH, Qandil, PAO, Triangle, as well as some community-based structures and Syrian NGOs. In camps, focus group discussions were mainly organized on the topics of livelihoods and community mobilization; and in non-camps, discussions were organized on numerous topics, including registration and documentation.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR conducted vocational training for 15 non-camp Syrian refugees from Domiz town and surrounding areas.
- REACH started a three month sewing and language vocational training for 30 beneficiaries aged 18-30 years. By the end of the training, trainees will be supplied with sewing sets and tools. Another round of vocational training by the

same organization will start on 1 December. Beneficiaries are identified and recommended in collaboration with UNHCR to ensure that the most vulnerable families benefit from these opportunities.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- The final draft of the 3RP 2015 Refugee Response and Resilience Plan was forwarded to the Regional Office on 11 November. Government officials will be invited to attend a Regional 3RP Steering Committee meeting to be held in Amman on 24 November.
- The second round of the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) is due to start within the next two weeks. The assessment will provide data on trends in the situation of the refugees by comparison with the first MSNA conducted in April and May 2014.

DONOR INFORMATION

Agencies are 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 |
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| ■ Germany | ■ 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

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

QUSHTAPA REFUGEE CAMP, Iraq

Tarifa shepherds her hungry and tired family after they arrive by minibus at this refugee camp in northern Iraq more than two weeks after fleeing their home in the Syrian city of Kobani.

More than 190,000 Syrians from Kobani have escaped to neighbouring Turkey since the ISIS group launched an offensive to capture the border city in September. Of these, close to 20,000 refugees, including 40-year-old Tarifa and nine relatives aged three months to 60 years, have continued on to Iraq's Kurdistan region. They join some 215,000 others who have arrived there since the start of Syria's civil war in 2011.

Tarifa is on one of 11 minibuses, packed with Syrian Kurds, that arrive two hours after nightfall at the Qushtapa Refugee Camp in Erbil governorate. Many of the new arrivals appear dazed and confused as they follow directions amplified through a megaphone. Children cry in their mothers' arms.

Staff from the Danish Refugee Council, which manages the camp for UNHCR, are there to greet them along with UNHCR protection staff. The new arrivals register to receive blankets, mattresses, pillows, soap, toothbrushes and paste, and plastic sheeting. They are then directed to a large communal tent, where most will spend the night.

Tarifa and her family cram everything into four sacks. They are wearing mostly donated clothes because they had only had time to grab their ID documents and a few small belongings in their rush to leave Kobani. "We didn't even have time to lock the front door," says Tarifa's sister-in-law Nawroz. "We are exhausted, but we are more fortunate than most. Our entire family is safe."

The oldest member of the family, 60-year-old Luqman, had to be carried across the Syria-Turkey border because he was ill. Like so many others who chose to move on to Iraq rather than staying in Turkey, the family has relatives in northern Iraq's Kurdistan region, and there's the added attraction of legally being allowed to work in Iraq.

It is one reason why many of those arriving in Iraq from Kobani are not staying in refugee camps. They frequently spend one night on arrival, then depart the next morning to stay with family or friends, or to move to a city where work is available.

Less than an hour after arriving at Qushtapa, Tarifa and her family are settling into their family tent for the night. A motor tricycle pulls up with two immense pots filled with steaming rice and tomato stew. The family members sit on plastic sheeting and tuck into their second hot meal in Iraq since their arrival at the border this morning. A doctor and nurse enter the tent and check on Tarifa, who complains of a cough.

"It's going as well as we can hope," says Whycliffe Songwa, a senior UNHCR field coordinator. "We have enough space for the current arrivals, but we are concerned that if their numbers should increase dramatically, shelter could become an issue."

In addition to the population movements from Syria, conflict has left some 2 million Iraqis displaced by internal conflict since January. More than half have come to the Kurdistan region. With this new influx from Syria, contingency plans for refugee arrivals include the expansion of at least one refugee camp.

Like almost half of the new arrivals, Tarifa and her family haven't planned on staying in a camp. "I'm still in shock from all that has happened," she says. "I can't yet think about making decisions. God willing, we will go back to Syria." But by midnight, just as another nine buses arrive from the border, a decision is made. They pack up their meager belongings, and drive off with relatives to find temporary shelter in a nearby city.

By Ned Colt and Bathoul Ahmed



Syrians who fled fighting in Kobani arrive at Qushtapa refugee camp. UNHCR/N.Colt

Contacts:

Russell Fraser, Reporting/External Relations Officer, fraser@unhcr.org, Cell +964 (0) 771 994 5708

Jessica Hyba, External Relations Officer, hyba@unhcr.org, Cell +964 (0) 780 109 9776

Links:

For information related to the Regional Response Plan (RRP6) please click on <http://www.unhcr.org/syriarrp6/>

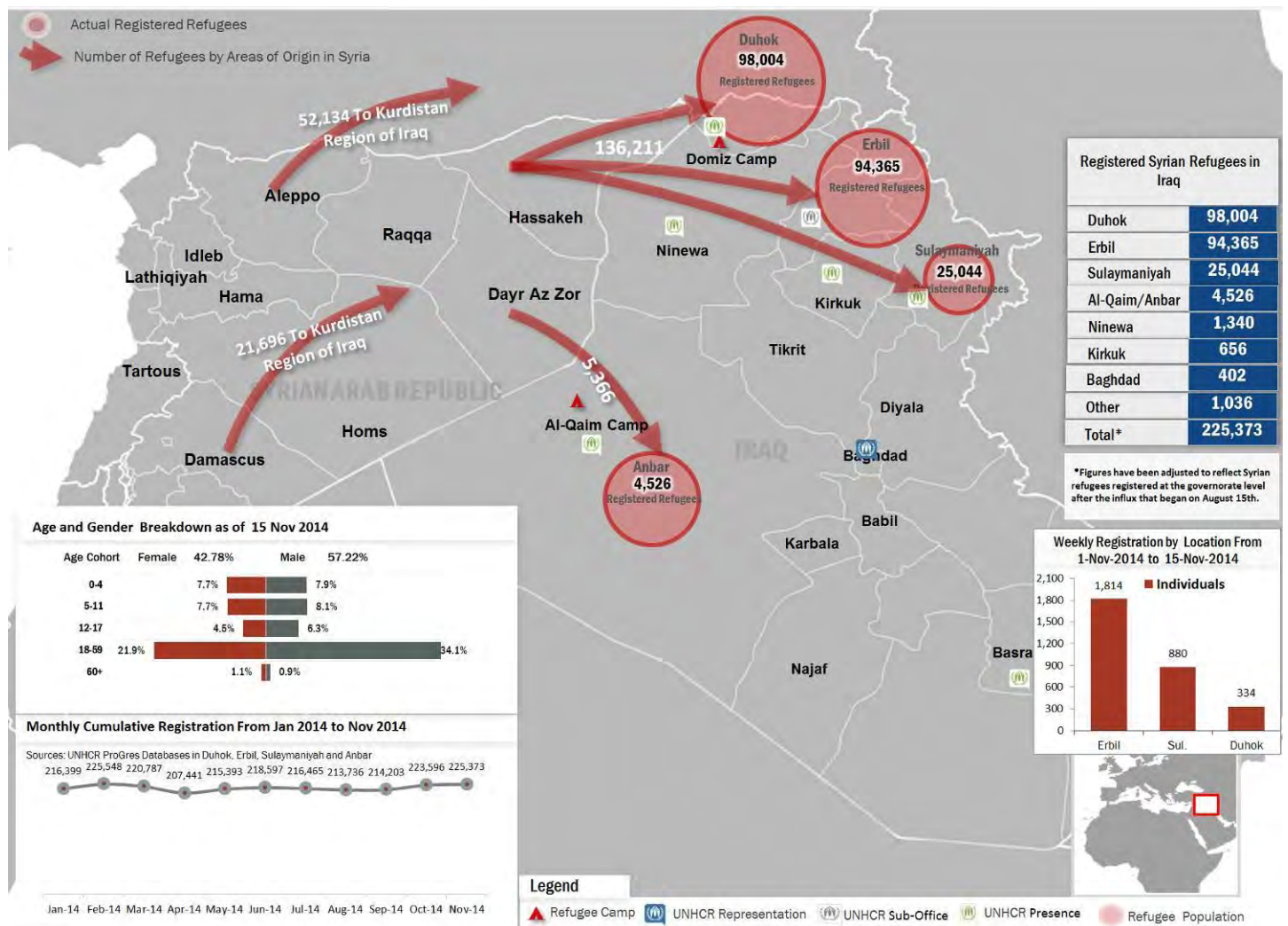
For information related to UNHCR's supply pipeline, please click on <http://data.unhcr.org/iraq/supply/>

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

