

KEY FIGURES

4,832

Individuals were registered in urban areas in Erbil governorate

2,194

Individuals were registered in the four Erbil camps

23,835

Syrian new arrivals mainly from Kobani in the KR-I (1,865 during the reporting period)

FUNDING

USD 474,040,412

Requested by agencies for the Iraq response through the RRP6

36%

Funded (USD 172,349,303) for 2014 (RRP6).

PRIORITIES

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

Assistance to new arrivals fleeing Kobani

POPULATION OF CONCERN

231,843 Syrian refugees

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE – SYRIAN REFUGEES IN IRAQ

01-15 December 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

Syrian arrivals from Kobani

- A total of 1,865 Syrians (displaced from Kobani) were admitted into the KR-I, bringing the total number of new arrivals in the KR-I since 25 September to 23,835 individuals.
- UNHCR continues to coordinate the process of reception at the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing point, supporting local authorities. Convoys have started departing border points earlier in the day so that refugees arrive at their destination during daylight.
- As the capacities of Basirma and Kawergosk camps have been exhausted, all new arrivals to Erbil governorate were directed to Qushtapa and Darashakran camps.
- The authorities decided to cancel the construction of Qushtapa 2 camp, further aggravating refugee shelter limitations.

Winter preparedness

- In Duhok governorate, DMC distributed water tanks to 800 families, which will be used to heat water for shower units.
- In all four refugee camps in Erbil governorate, distribution of various winterization items including insulation kits, kerosene, stoves, and additional blankets has been continuing.
- In Sulaymaniyah governorate, YAO completed distribution of insulation kits to 455 refugee families in Arbat camp.



34 year old Esam from the eastern Syria city of Derek keeps his son Rawan warm at Basirma refugee camp near Erbil on the day when UNHCR partner DRC distributed tent insulation kits to camp residents. UNHCR/N. Colt

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational context

- The recent negotiations between the central and KR-I governments on a number of outstanding issues including the disputes over oil management and the budget resulted in an agreement between the two sides which is considered a milestone for political stability.
- The security situation remains tense in many parts of the country; the Iraqi security forces continue making limited advances in Salahadin and Anbar governorates. In Diyala governorate, the Kurdish Peshmerga captured Tel Anwar and continue advances against armed groups.
- The economic situation remains stable despite security challenges in the country. Following the recent agreement between the central and KR-I governments, many civil servants in the KR-I received salaries which injected capital into the local market.
- The humanitarian situation remains tense for the more than 2 million internally displaced Iraqis and more than 230,000 refugees. Humanitarian access to IDPs remains a challenge in many parts of the country, particularly in Anbar and Nineveh governorates. However, the capture of Zumar and Sinjar allowed establishment of a humanitarian corridor to assist the displaced, especially those still on the Sinjar Mountains.

Achievements



Protection

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF and its partners provided psychosocial services to a total of 552 children (330 girls and 222 boys) in **Duhok**, **Erbil** and **Sulaymaniyah** governorates, bringing the total for 2014 to 8,338 children (4,393 girls and 3,945 boys).
- Over the past two weeks 200 children (girls 127 and boys 73) received specialized services from frontline workers. Cases referred included children impacted by psychosocial disorders, child labour, gender-based violence and disabilities.
- UNICEF and its partners identified seven new cases of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) that now brings the overall total of identified cases to 326 UASC (28 girls and 298 boys). Most of the children were living with extended family members and/or have relatives in the KR-I, hence not requiring their referral to alternative care arrangements.
- The Barzani Charity Foundation organized a welcoming party for the newly arrived children in Basirma camp in Erbil governorate. Syrian refugees, who work as music teachers in the CFS run by the Department of Labour and Social Affairs (DoLSA) in the same camp, participated in the musical performance at this event. The event brought together over 200 children and their parents/care givers.
- In **Duhok** governorate, the validity of residency cards issued to refugees there has now been officially increased from six months to one year.
- Following UNHCR's intervention with officials in Duhok, the latter agreed to defer the deportation of a Syrian refugee on humanitarian grounds (his spouse's pregnancy). Despite UNHCR's continued monitoring and intervention, the deportation of the refugee and his family may still occur. There has been a regular pattern of asylum seekers or refugees summoned and interrogated by the officials, and eventually deported, despite UNHCR's advocacy.
- Spontaneous and individual arrivals of Kobani refugees to Arbat camp in **Sulaymaniyah** governorate were witnessed from Duhok and Erbil during the reporting period.

- The number of persons with specific needs, especially those with mental and physical disabilities, approaching UNHCR in Sulaymaniyah governorate has recently increased. As the public health sector cannot provide the necessary care, they receive cash assistance and donations, which however, are not sufficient.
- The refugees from Al-Obaidi camp in **Anbar** governorate who were arrested by armed groups have been released, except for one female refugee who has reportedly been killed. The released refugees returned to Syria, as instructed by the armed groups.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- While movement of refugees in and out of Arbat camp in **Sulaymaniyah** governorate is generally allowed, increased checks have been imposed by the security not to allow refugees from the outside to occupy plots/tents without coordination by the camp manager and UNHCR field staff. Security will be engaged in a continued dialogue to avoid any negative impact on the refugees residing inside the camp.
- UNHCR advocated for the case of a minor in Arbat camp in Sulaymaniyah governorate who wanted to go to Duhok to visit his sister, but who security kept from leaving the camp. UNHCR will advocate and facilitate the minor to enable him to visit his sister in Duhok.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In **Erbil**, the campaign on 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence was celebrated in all four Syrian refugee camps and in urban areas. A number of celebratory events were carried out, focussing in particular on elimination of violence against women, persons living with disabilities and human rights.
- In **Sulaymaniyah** governorate, Asuda is implementing a GBV project for urban refugees. In the past four months, Asuda has received 70 GBV cases in four areas of Sulaymaniyah. During these four months, Asuda also conducted 600 seminars for women and girls from both the refugee and host communities. Each seminar was attended by approximately 35 women (total reach close to 20,000 people).
- UNHCR continues to facilitate and refer individuals with no civil documentation to PARC lawyers for assistance in obtaining the necessary documents, which is a pre requisite for obtaining residency permits. The lack of documentation is a persistent problem for refugee children, especially those who were born shortly before their arrival to the KR-I.



Durable Solutions (Refugee Status Determination and Resettlement)

Achievements and Impact

- Pre-assessment screening was undertaken for 185 cases covering eleven locations across the KR-I, of which 151 were prioritized and 34 deprioritized. The main profiling categories are women at risk and medical needs. The main reasons for deprioritization at this stage of the procedure were lack of interest in resettlement, and changes in family composition such as women whose spouses or relatives have joined them in Iraq since registration.
- Interviewing missions took place in Qushtapa, Basirma, Darashakran and Kawergosk camps in **Erbil** governorate, as well as in Domiz and Gawilan camps in **Duhok** governorate. Case identification interviews were conducted in 21 cases, and 28 cases were reviewed. Thirteen initial RSD/RST interviews were conducted, as well as numerous complementary interviews. Medical assessments were requested in two cases, and six completed medical assessment forms were received.
- Eleven cases (63 persons) were submitted to resettlement countries.
- One case (one person) was accepted for resettlement by Denmark, one case (five persons) was rejected by the UK, and one case (three persons) departed for resettlement to Sweden.



Education

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Qushtapa camp in **Erbil** governorate, children moved from tents to 12 newly constructed classrooms which increased the number of children attending school to 1,266, comprising 634 girls and 632 boys.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The school in Darashakran camp in **Erbil** governorate currently operates in three shifts and classroom sizes vary from 50 to 78 children, requiring urgent expansion of the school infrastructure. A recent UNHCR assessment has also found that the capacity of teachers needs to be improved to ensure protection of children from verbal abuse, bullying and corporal punishment.
- In **Sulaymaniyah** governorate, the lack of a high school in Arbat camp continues to be a problem for the refugee students, who cannot continue their education beyond grade nine. As a result, some girls are wed at a young age while the boys work to help provide for their families.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In **Duhok** governorate, UNESCO literacy classes targeting female adults in non-camp areas are on-going. Despite a project extension into 2015, the teaching hours are still not sufficient to enable participants to obtain a DoE literacy certificate.
- In **Erbil** governorate, the limited number of places within primary schools teaching in Arabic, transportation costs and material hardship experienced by the Syrian refugee families living in urban areas present a key obstacle for children in accessing education. Approximately 95-98 per cent of new arrivals from Kobani have not placed their children in school.



Health

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In **Duhok** camps, a total of 255 children under five years of age were vaccinated against polio, 95 against measles, and 85 received vitamin A.
- In Domiz camp in Duhok governorate, growth monitoring and screening took place for a total of 418 children under five years of age. Of these, 65 were identified as malnourished (wasted, stunted, under weight or overweight). Where appropriate, children received nutritional support through supplementary food.
- Pregnant women and females of child-bearing age in Gawilan camp in Duhok governorate received nutritional supplements such as ferro folic and folic acid, via antenatal care clinics supported by UNICEF and its partners.
- In Arbat camp in **Sulaymaniyah** governorate, 64 children under five years of age were monitored for their growth and nutritional status. Of those monitored, three children were malnourished and treated with nutrition supplements. Twenty-five pregnant women accessed antenatal care services and, where required (in cases where the pregnancy was three months advanced or more), were provided with ferro folic tablets.
- In **Duhok** governorate, up to 6,752 persons with acute, chronic and mental health conditions have benefited from the health services provided in Domiz 1/2, Gawilan and Akre camps. In addition, preventive health services including immunization, growth monitoring and reproductive health are provided by the DoH with support of UN agencies. The new health post building in Domiz 2 has been completed and handed over, curative care is now provided in the expanded facilities.



A Syrian child is being immunized in the vaccination unit in Qushtapa camp in December. UNICEF/F. Wadi

- An outbreak of lice was reported in Gawilan camp in Duhok. DMC and PU-AMI are distributing anti-lice shampoo and counsel parents on usage and additional measures needed. In Akre camp in Sulaymaniyah, PU-AMI mobilizers conducted an awareness-raising campaign against lice and have distributed anti-lice shampoo to 280 families.
- In the four camps in **Erbil** governorate a total of 7,230 curative consultations have been conducted, including 229 consultations for mental health care. IMC deployed its mobile medical team to support medical treatment for newly arriving refugees in camps in Erbil governorate. No serious health conditions were reported during consultations with newly arriving refugees.
- In Arbat camp, **Sulaymaniyah** governorate, a total of 1,022 patients received treatment for acute and chronic health conditions during the reporting period.
- In Al-Obaidi camp, in **Anbar** governorate, health services continued to be provided by UIMS. A total of 143 patients received treatment for acute and chronic health conditions, including by paediatric, gynaecological, internal and dental specialists.



A Syrian refugee is receiving treatment in the medical clinic run by UIMS in Al-Obaidi. UIMS/Ali

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to heavy rains in the reporting period, leakages in the pre-fab units housing clinics in some of the refugee camps temporarily reduced the health services available to camp residents.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- DoH **Duhok** is providing ambulances at Ibrahim Khalil border crossing to conduct first aid treatment to newly arriving refugees. Patients are referred to the nearby hospital in Zakho as needed. DoH Duhok is also vaccinating all new arrivals below the age of 15 against measles and polio, reaching 896 children during the reporting period.
- IMC and PU-AMI continue to provide health awareness campaigns to Syrian refugees living in impacted communities in **Erbil** governorate.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

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

Water and Sanitation

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF continues work to improve the sanitation facilities available to Syrians in the camps in the KR-I. In Qushtapa camp, **Erbil** governorate, 96 households' sanitation facilities including sewage systems were completed.
- In Erbil governorate, WASH improvement works at the primary health centres in Darashakran and Kawergosk camp have been completed.
- In Al-Obaidi camp in **Anbar** governorate, ISHO has successfully addressed the water shortage. One water pump station is again operational, ensuring that sufficient water is available in the camp.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Darashakran camp, **Erbil** governorate, the drainage of grey water continues to be an issue. UNICEF and additional camp actors are working to solve this concern.

Food Security and Nutrition

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- WFP successfully transitioned from in-kind food to voucher assistance in Darashakran and Akre camps in **Erbil** and **Duhok** governorate, respectively. Voucher distributions began on 8 and 14 December respectively and have almost been completed in both camps. In total, some 76,000 people in three camps (including Domiz) will be assisted with vouchers this month.
- WFP commenced the distribution of in-kind food assistance in Basirma and Kawergosk camps in Erbil governorate and in Arbat camp in **Sulaymaniyah** governorate.
- In Al-Obaidi camp, **Anbar** governorate, ISHO continued to distribute two pieces of bread per person per day.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Gawilan camp in **Duhok** governorate, there is still no clear system for food voucher distribution in place, so that WFP continues food parcel distribution. This matter has been brought to the attention of WFP on numerous occasions.



Food distribution by DMC in Gawilan. UNHCR/B. Amin

Shelter and CRIs

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In **Erbil** governorate, the authorities decided to cancel the construction of Qushtapa 2 camp. With only two camps in Erbil able to accommodate new arrivals due to lack of space, this decision further aggravates the already existing space constraints.
- In Darashakran camp an additional 20 tents have been erected for Kobani refugees, bringing the total number of tents erected for refugees from Kobani to 141. In addition, 33 latrines and seven showers have been installed, increasing the total number of latrines and showers installed since the beginning of the influx from Kobani to 51 and 21 respectively. Furthermore, one reception centre has been constructed.
- In Qushtapa camp, eight additional tents have been erected for refugees from Kobani, bringing the total number of tents erected for refugees from Kobani to 97.
- In **Duhok** governorate, in Domiz camp, NRC and FRC distributed hygiene kits for refugees as part of their regular monthly distribution, each in its respective areas of the camp. FRC also distributed wheelbarrows for their areas of responsibility (Ashti, Azadi, Rezgari, Farashine and Zozan) as a support for the refugees for various purposes such as construction of their shelters and cleaning the neighbouring areas. Four shelters share one wheelbarrow.
- In Gawilan camp in Duhok governorate, Qandil



Distribution of hygiene kits in Akre. UNHCR

distributed hygiene kits to 793 families.

- In Akre camp in Duhok governorate, Qandil distributed hygiene kits to 269 families and continued regular distribution of baby diapers to 186 children (0-1 year of age) and 334 children (1-2 year of age) in both Gawilan and Akre camps.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In **Duhok** governorate, some 19 families were identified in need of additional plastic sheets to reinforce their shelters, which will be provided by DMC and UNHCR.
- Distribution of sanitary napkins remains a gap in both Gawilan and Akre camps in Duhok governorate.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In **Duhok** governorate, the rehabilitation of shelters in Faida has been completed through a UN Habitat project.

INTER-AGENCY WINTERIZATION EFFORTS

Achievements and Impact

- In **Duhok** governorate, DMC has distributed water tanks to 800 families, which will be used to heat water for shower units. Complementing this, PWJ and DMC have started distributing mini kerosene to help heating the water.
- In all four refugee camps in **Erbil** governorate, distribution of various winterization items including insulation kits, kerosene, stoves, and additional blankets has been continuing. In Kawergosk camp, each family received 100 litres of kerosene in two phases.
- In Sulaymaniyah governorate, YAO completed distribution of inner liner insulation kits to 455 refugee families in Arbat camp and trained IDP representatives on the correct installation and use of these kits.



Distribution and installation of inner liner insulation kits for tents in Arbat camp. YAO

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Arbat camp in **Sulaymaniyah** governorate, UNHCR and IRC are jointly preparing the election of refugee representatives.
- Refugee committees have been taking an increasingly active role in issues and activities affecting refugees with the identification of employment opportunities (Domiz), a campaign against child abuse (Akre), and project proposals for the "Youth Initiative Fund".

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In **Sulaymaniyah**, REACH continues to conduct self-reliance and livelihood activities for Syrian refugees in camp and urban settings. So far, 188 refugees have benefited from vocational trainings such as sewing, computer literacy, operating a beauty salon, barber training, and literacy courses.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR, in close coordination with UNDP and other partners, has finalized the Iraq country plan for the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2015-2016 in response to the Syria Crisis.
- As UNHCR and most partner staff do not have access to Al-Obaidi camp in **Anbar** governorate for security reasons, providing support to the camp population has become increasingly difficult. The absence of a mobile network in the region has further exacerbated this problem, making communication with local partners even more difficult, as the only means of communication that remain available are Skype or other similar applications.

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:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
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| ■ Finland | ■ Switzerland |
| ■ France | ■ United Kingdom |
| ■ Germany | ■ United States |

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CFS	Child Friendly Space
CRI	Core Relief Items (formerly known as non-food items/NFIs)
DMC	Development and Modification Centre
DoE	Department of Education
DoH	Department of Health
DoLSA	Department of Labour and Social Affairs
GBV	Gender-based violence
KR-I	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
PARC	Protection Assistance Reintegration Centre
RSD	Refugee status determination
RST	Resettlement
UASC	Unaccompanied and separated children

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 200,000 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 25,000 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."



Syrian refugees who fled from Kobani through Turkey arrive in Qushtapa refugee camp outside Erbil. Between late September and mid-December some 23,000 refugees from Kobani arrived in Iraq. UNHCR/N. Colt

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 upon 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 meagre belongings, and drive off with relatives to find temporary shelter in a nearby city.

By Ned Colt and Bathoul Ahmed

Contacts:

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

Karoline Gerber, External Relations Officer, gerberk@unhcr.org, Cell +964 (0) 770 494 5866

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/>

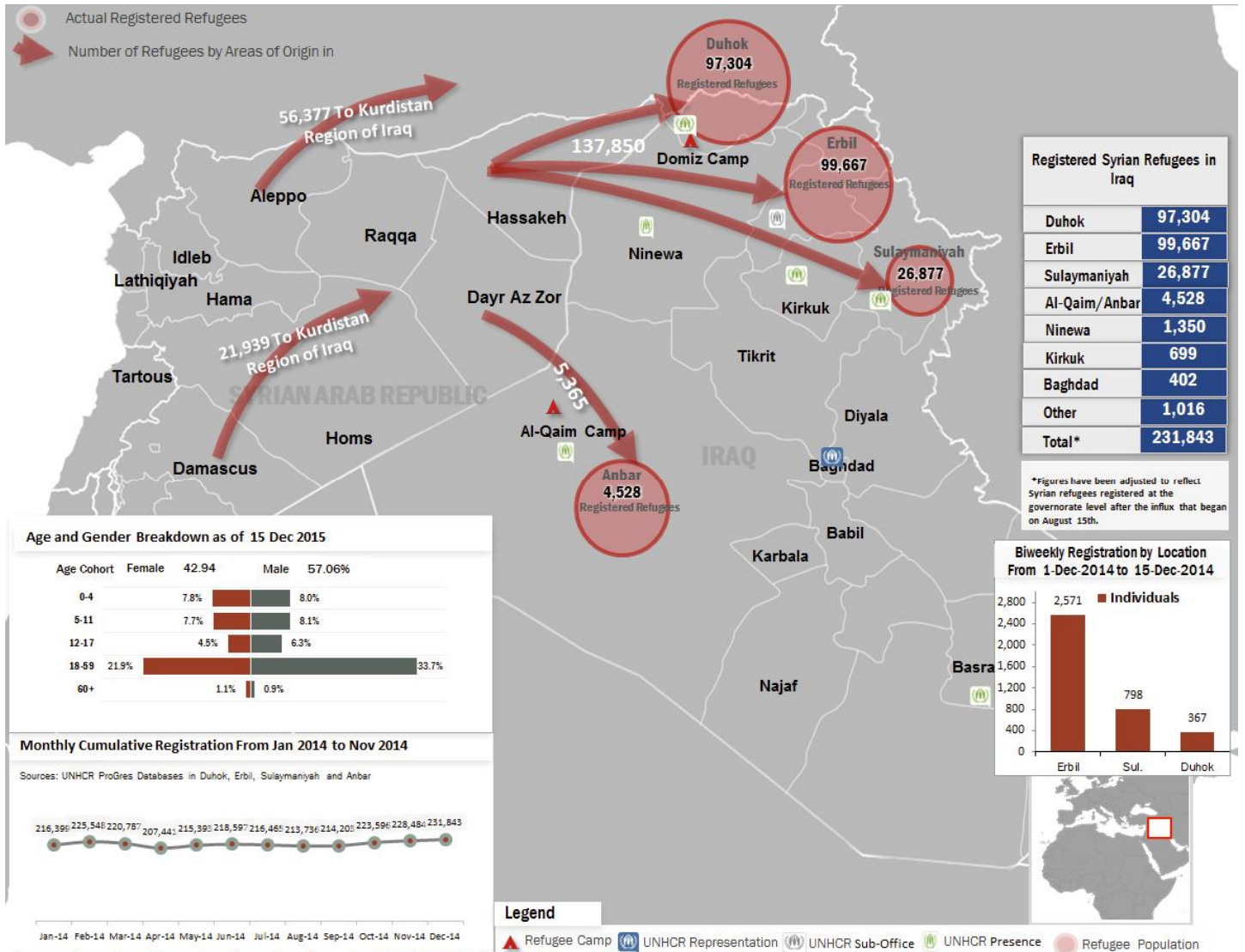
Announcements of all sector meetings along with respective agendas and minutes, and other information reporting sector-wide progress such as 3Ws, dashboards and camp profiles, are available on the inter-agency information sharing portal at

<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 Dec 2014



Registration Unit

Total Persons of Concern

231,843

Individuals

231,843

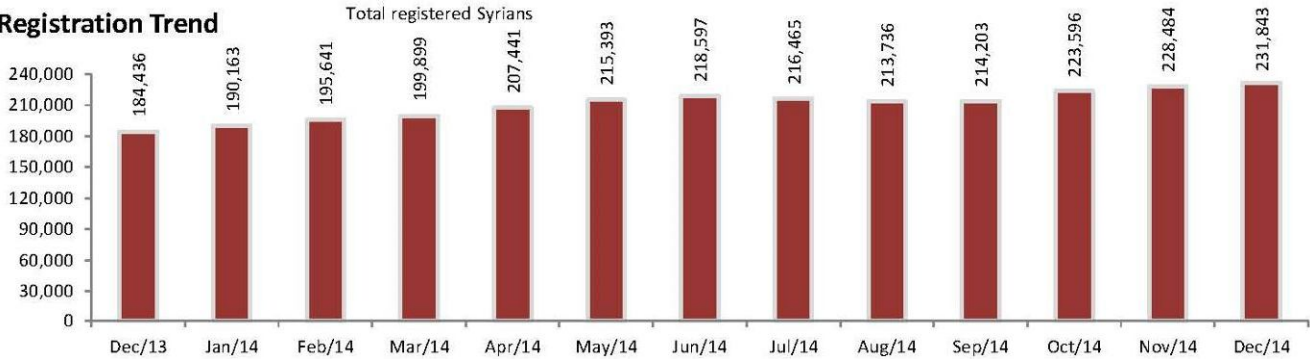
Households

81,185



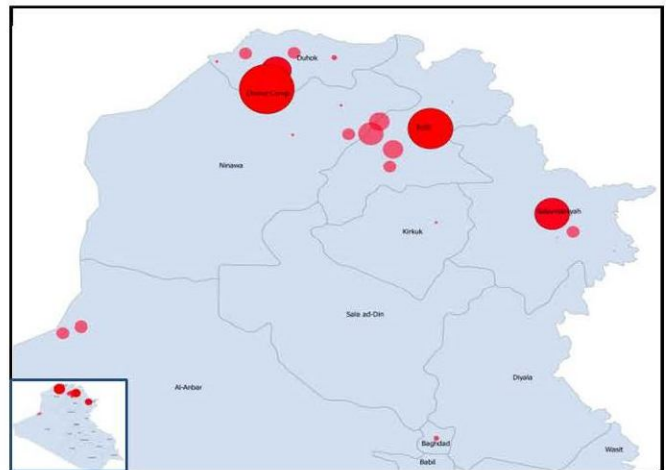
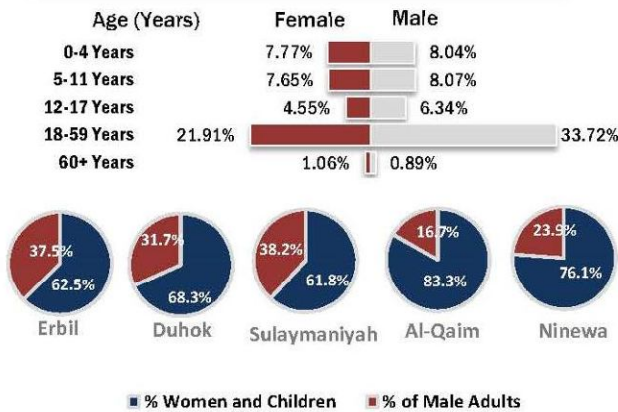
UNHCR
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Iraq

Registration Trend

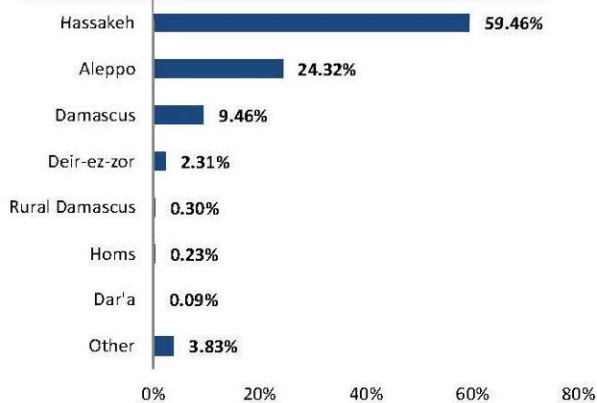


This profile is based on **231,843** proGres registered individuals

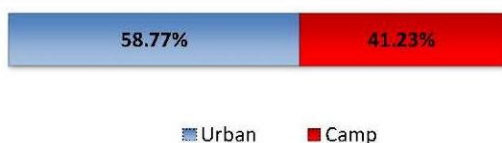
Age and Gender Breakdown



Place of Origin



Camp and non-camp population comparison



Governorate	Individuals	Households	% Total
Duhok	97,304	29,813	41.97%
Erbil	99,667	37,896	42.99%
Sulaymaniyah	26,877	10,964	11.59%
Anbar	4,528	1,150	1.95%
Ninewa	1,350	439	0.58%
Kirkuk	699	236	0.30%
Baghdad	402	225	0.17%
Other	1,016	462	0.44%
Total Iraq	231,843	81,185	100%

Camps Registered Population			
Camp	Individuals	Households	% Total
Al-Obaidi Camp	1,536	322	1.61%
Akre Settlement	1,394	321	1.46%
Domiz Camp	52,013	16,108	54.41%
Gawilan Camp	7,475	1,927	7.82%
Basirma Camp	3,562	858	3.73%
Darashakran Camp	8,761	1,860	9.17%
Kawergosk Camp	9,840	2,644	10.29%
Qushtapa Camp	5,560	1,444	5.82%
Arbat Camp	5,446	1,440	5.70%
Total	95,587	26,924	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.