



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

General Situation and Response

Update number 15

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This update provides a snapshot of the UNHCR response to the influx of Syrians into Iraq. The response is led by UNHCR, and is undertaken in full coordination with the Government of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, UN agencies as well as international and national NGOs.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- An estimated 15 families and 100 singles continue to enter the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR) and approach DDM and UNHCR for registration on a weekly basis. A decrease in the number of Syrian new arrivals compared to last week was witnessed during the reporting period. 324 new arrivals were registered, compared to 581 last week. 35 families comprising 140 individuals and 180 singles are awaiting registration.
- Under the lead of UNHCR and WFP, training on Joint Assessment Needs was conducted in Erbil on the 28th of June and the JAM exercise started in Domiz camp on the 1st of July.
- The residency Directorate has granted residency permits valid for six months to 280 families, comprising 1,280 individuals, in Domiz camp. On instruction of the Ministry of Interior, Syrian new arrivals are relocating from Erbil and Suleimaniya to Duhok Governorates in order to acquire a residency permit. It was observed that new arrivals do not intent to settle in Domiz camp; rather they intend to stay with families and friends, whereas seeking temporary relocation to Domiz camp for the sole purpose of acquiring residence permits.



II. Situation Overview

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As per information from Iraqi government, the on-going unrest in Syria has so far resulted in some 7500 Syrian nationals having crossed into Iraq since February 2012. The total number of Syrians registered with UNHCR and DDM in the KR has reached 6,163. The arrival trend suggests that with sustained unrest in Syria, combined with an open door policy of KRG, UNHCR will continue to register on average 1,200 Syrians per month.

The camp population in Domiz has reached 2,338 individuals, among them 300 families, comprising 1,738 persons, while the number of singles has reached 600 singles. Among the singles, 400 have relocated to small tents in a temporary site pending the construction of additional tent foundations, latrines,

bathrooms and cooking areas. In the meantime, 200 singles continue to live nearby the camp in a mosque and the big tents.

Following training by UNHCR, DDM continues to conduct screening interviews for singles. So far 300 singles have been interviewed including 57 army deserters. The majority of the singles interviewed were found to be young men who were subjected to compulsory military service; they had served beyond the required period and were not released by the regular army given owing to the security situation prevailing in Syria. When given the opportunity for a short leave, they fled Syria and entered the KR illegally and without proper documentation, except for the military identity card. The deserters were found to have genuinely renounced to military activities, and the majority of them

were soldiers who were not involved in violence. Following the screening, DDM considered many as civilians in need of international protection, while decisions for others are yet to be made.



OVERALL GOAL: Emergency Protection Including Assistance -STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Fair protection process and documentation

1.1. Administrative institutions and practice: overall practice:

In line with the Ministerial Note from the Ministry of Interior, the Residency Directorate in Duhok, started the process of granting 6 months temporary residence to the Syrians living in Domiz camp. So far, 280 families comprising 1,280 individuals have been provided with residence permits valid until the end of the year. The permit grants its bearer free access to public services.

UNHCR continues to conduct protection monitoring in the camp, raising awareness and conducting group discussions. UNHCR has successfully intervened to resolve the situation of single Syrians who faced employers' exploitation and were denied payments for their work, in addition to their identity cards having been confiscated. UNHCR's intervention has resulted in them having received their payments and

recovered their documents. Similarly, UNHCR has reinforced its registration capacity by increasing the number of registration personnel and protection monitors. The Office is stepping up its efforts to register the entire camp population on ProGress.

UNHCR has secured the release of three Syrian singles who had been arrested on account of their crossing the border illegally, through Rabeea border crossing point. They were released from detention and relocated to Domiz camp.



1.2 Quality of Registration and Profiling

As of the 1st of July, UNHCR in Erbil, and DDM in Duhok and Suleimaniya have registered an accumulative total of 6,163 Syrians of Kurdish origin. Among these are 584 families, comprising 2,374 individuals, and 3,789 singles. In Erbil, 4 families, comprising 19 individuals, were registered during the week, bringing the number to 62 families, comprising 246 individuals. Also 20 singles were registered, bringing the total to 629 singles. In Suleimaniya, there was no new registration of families; the number continues to

be 21 families, comprising 67 individuals. Similarly, the number of singles remains without change, namely 311. In Duhok Governorate, 501 families, comprising 2,061 individuals, and 2,849 singles were registered so far. 35 families, comprising 140 individuals and 180 singles are waiting to be registered in the three governorates, bringing the total number of Syrian new arrivals to 6,483.

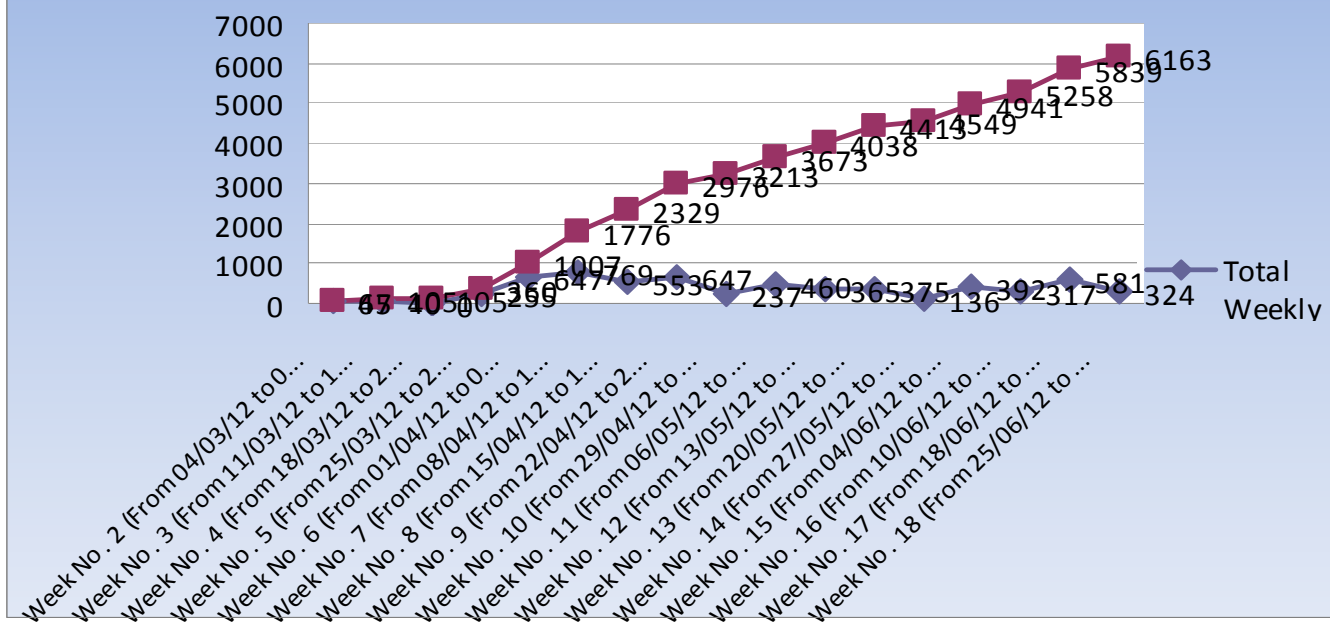
Among the registered persons all over the Kurdistan region, 31 are unaccompanied

minors and separated children under the age of 18, of which 7 are single females living with other families. Duhok remains host to the largest number of Syrian new arrivals, with 4,910 individuals, followed by Erbil with 875 individuals and then Suleimaniya with 378 individuals as indicated below.

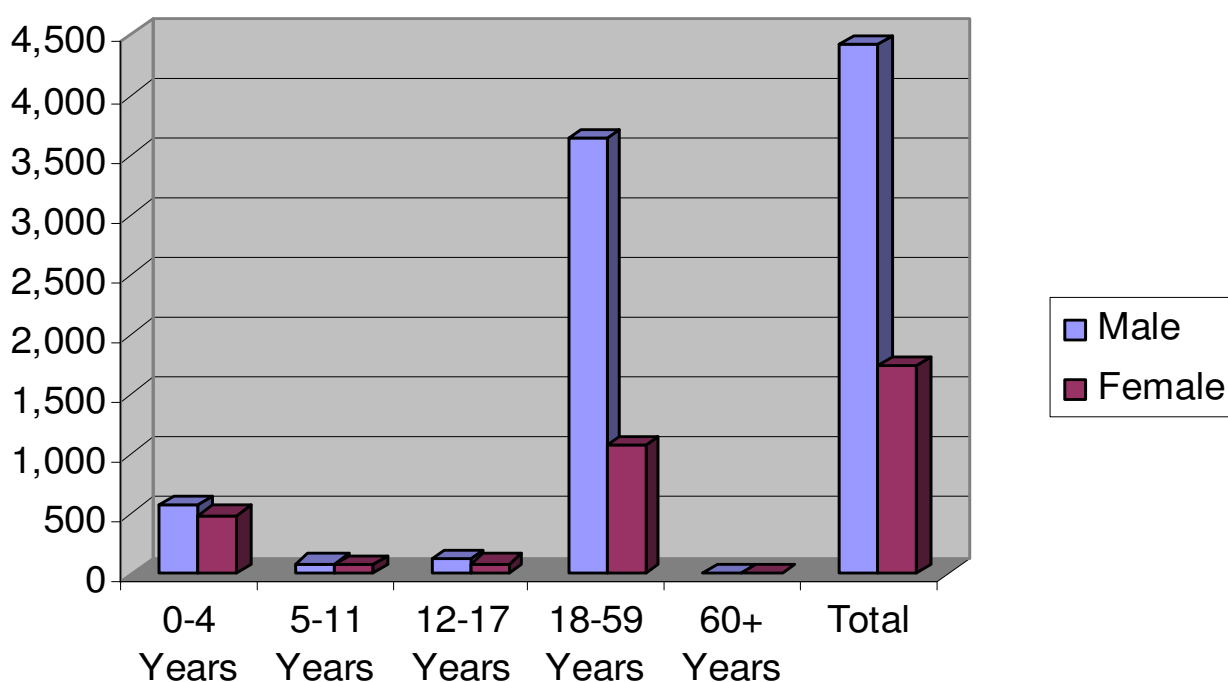
Reporting period	Families	Individuals in families	Singles + UAMs	Total Registered	Pending registration	Total arrivals
As of 31st March	21 families	79	281 including 15 UAMs	360	400 individuals	760
As of 8th April	147 Families	604	636 singles including 15 UAMs	1,240	1,000 individuals	2,240
As of 15th April	198 Families	803	973 Singles including 15 UAMs	1,776	600 individuals	2,376
As of 22 nd April	240 Families	979	1,350 Singles including 27 UAMs	2,329	800 individuals	3,129
As of 29th April	312 Families	1,269	1,701 Singles including 27 UAMs	2,970	300 individuals	3,270
As of 06th May	330 Families	1,341	1,830 Singles including 27 UAMs	3,171	315 individuals	3,486
As of 13th May	389 Families	1,563	2,110 Singles including 27 UAMs	3,673	270 individuals	3,943
As of the 20 th May	427 Families	1,711	2,327 Singles including 30 UAMs	4,038	243 individuals	4,281
As of 30th May	468 Families	1,872	2,541 Singles including 30 UAMs and SCs.	4,413	425 individuals	4,838
As of 3 rd June	479 Families	1,912	2,637 Singles including 30 UAMs and SCs.	4,549	450 individuals	4,999
As of 10 th June	501 Families	2,044	2,897 Singles including 30 UAMs and SCs.	4,941	465 individuals	5,406
As of 17 th June	528 Families	2,141	3,117 Singles including 30 UAMs and SCs.	5,258	460 individuals	5,718
As of 24th June	562 Families	2,278	3,561 Singles including 31 UAMs and SCs.	5,839	347 individuals	6,186
As of the 1 st of July	584 Families	2,374	3,789 Singles including 31 UAMs and SCs.	6,163	320 individuals	6,483

Bellow is a table showing the registration trends per month from the period of 26th February up to the 1st of July 2012, and shows the steadily increasing numbers approaching UNHCR to register. Also is presented an age/gender breakdown of the registered Syrians. It is to note that the below table does not reflect or takes into consideration the number of asylum seekers who fled Syria prior to the violence.

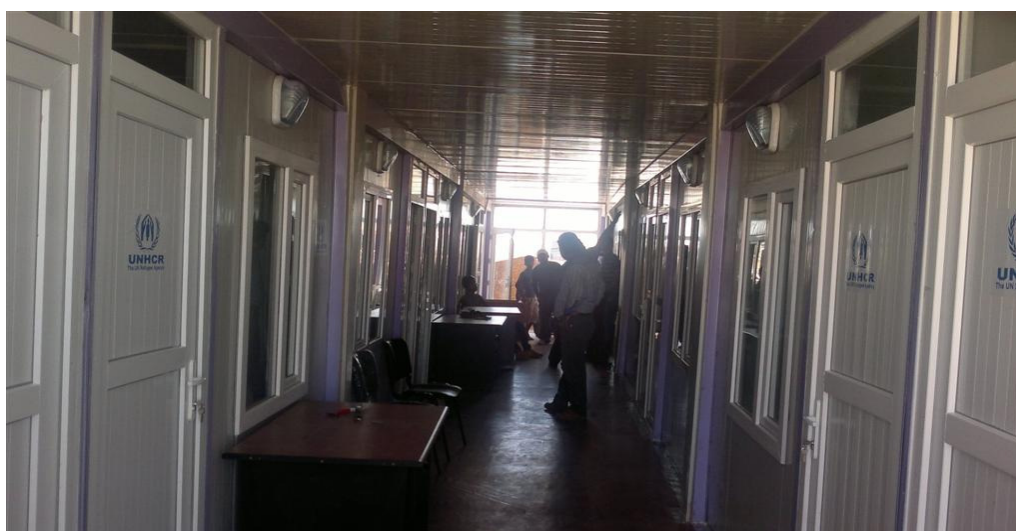
Accumulative Total of Registration



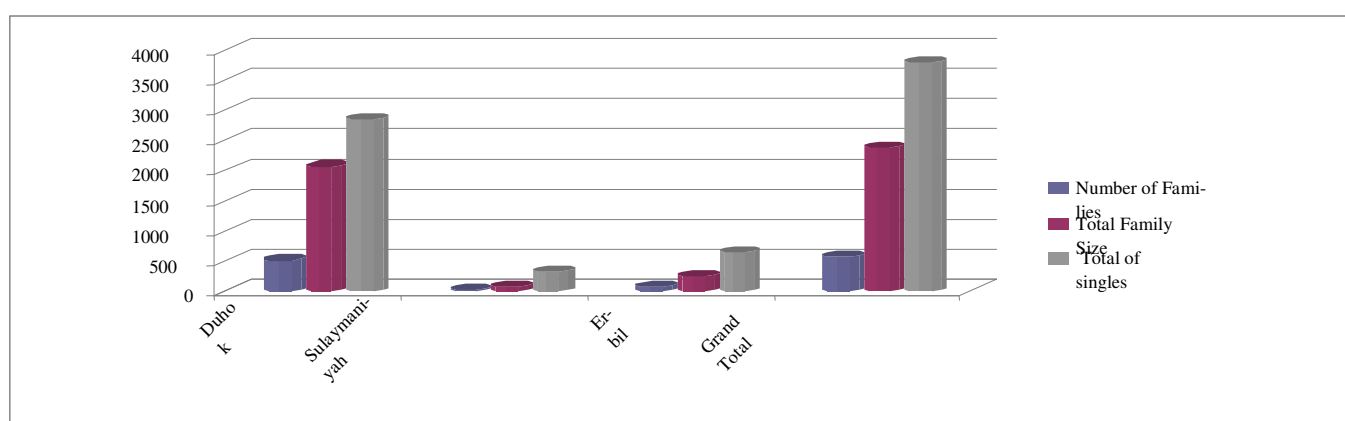
Age Breakdown



In terms of demographics, out of the 6,163 registered individuals, 28, 18% are females and 71, 81% are males. Of the total population, 61,47% are single males, with the remaining made up mostly of head of families. With regards to the reason of flight of the Syrian new arrivals, 48% have fled following participation in demonstrations, hence being wanted by the Syrian authorities, 31% are draft evaders, who have fled owing to fear of participation in the ongoing violence, while 13% had deserted the regular Syrian army.



The table below illustrates the rate of arrivals to the different Governorates in the KR (Erbil- Suleimaniya and Duhok). The KR's borders remain open to Syrian nationals fleeing unrest in Syria.



2-Basic needs and essential services (Duhok)

2.1 Shelter and Infrastructure



As of the 1st of July, 300 families comprising of 1,738 persons are residing in Domiz camp, in the family's section, and 500 singles are residing in the singles' section. A total of 340 tents have been erected. Some 16 families living in several districts in Duhok governorate have relocated to the camp; UNHCR through its partner Qandil has started the construction of additional 70 tent' foundations for the families as well as bathrooms, latrines and cooking areas in sector 2 of the camp' expansion. So far some 36 tent walls of 60 cm height have been completed. Meanwhile, 136 individual cooking areas have been completed under.

Four contractors have been engaged for the construction of bathrooms, latrines, tent foundations and cooking areas, including closed sanitation for some 214 tents planned in sector 2; Also in the single site, another contractor was tasked to construct additional 44 tent foundations, latrines, bathrooms, cooking areas, fence and closed sanitation. In sector 1 two contractors were engaged for the fixation of bathrooms, latrines and closed sanitation,

UNHCR through Qandil excavated 345 meters length of open drainage channel to discharge surface water.

100 singles continue to live nearby the camp in the mosque and the big tents. However, this represents less than 16% of the total number of the singles registered in Duhok, which has reached 2,641 persons. While the family' tents have been provided with electricity and planned to be provided with individual family latrines, the tents for the singles are still lacking these facilities. UNHCR has approached the Department of Electricity and DDM to address the needs and to speed up the process of the electricity installation. During the reporting week, UNHCR planned to establish a transit site of 50 tents for newly arrived families. The identified site is not ready yet. The singles living under the big tents will be relocated to the single site, which is under construction. 5 emergency bathrooms and 5 latrines are in preparation for the singles' relocation.

The installation process of the Rub-Hall (10*24 meters)

is almost complete; the latter will be used as a warehouse for storing the NFIs and will serve as UNHCR NFIs' distribution point. During the reporting period, UNHCR has distributed 48 NFIs packages to 48 families (204 individuals) and 24 NFIs packages to 96 singles; moreover, some 57 light weight tents have been distributed to 48 families and 21 tents distributed to 84 singles. In order to have additional space for storing UNHCR' NFIs in DDM warehouse, UNHCR Dohuk field staff continued re-arrangement of DDM' warehouse, some of UNHCR NFIs have already been stored in this space.

The registration centre has been completed and is operational; furniture and other required equipment have been provided, while UNHCR/Qandil Admin cabin is under fabrication.

DDM has distributed 50 air coolers and 50 refrigerators to 50 families who have relocated recently to the camp. Havkar local NGO distributed 80 cradles with their sets to 80 children.

2.2 Health Status

The medical unit established in the camp by DoH continues to provide daily health services to an average 40 -50 cases per day. No major health concerns were reported during the reporting week. However, owing to the dusty environment, many children suffer from skin disease and eyes allergy. In addition several concerns were reported among the population over the lack of medicines in the camp and the need to purchase medicines from private pharmacies, while the population has no source of income, lack of maternal care unit, unavailability of doctors during week ends, and the need for vaccination, which has only been conducted once. The mentioned concerns will be discussed during the upcoming health coordination meeting and UNHCR will look at covering Domiz camp with medical fees' reimbursement.

DoH conducted a nutrition survey among children in the camp. The survey lasted for 5 days, and its results will be disseminated on Tuesday 3rd of July.

2.3 Supply of potable water

Fayda Water Department continues the provision of potable water by tankers with a capacity of 200,000 litres per day. In addition, DoH continues the distribution of chloride tablets for family's water storage tanks every three days. The quantity of water has improved during the reporting period as a result of the expansion of the camp. The population in the camp reported, however, that water in the communal latrines is lacking and this has is raising hygiene concerns.

UNHCR, through Qandil, has provided 26 water tanks (of 1000 litres capacity each) to 26 families, in line with the expansion of the camp. The Office has also contracted KURDS local NGO to start the implementation of water project in sector 1 and 2. The project includes extension of water network, installation of water storage tanks and drilling a well with a generator room and submersible pump.

2.4 Nutrition

DDM continues the provision of three hot meals a day to the single males, and dry food rations to the families who have kitchen facilities. DDM distributed one month share of dry food items to 60 families during the week and will continue the distribution of food rations until WFP is able to take over by the end of July.

2.5 Sanitation and Hygiene

Fayda Municipality is conducting irregular garbage collection in Domiz camp. Concerns over the lack of garbage cleaning in the camp are growing. There is also a need to conduct a health awareness campaign among the population.

2.6 Services for persons with specific needs

UNHCR continues its daily field visits to the Syrian families and singles in order to assess the needs and identify possible gaps. ACTED has started working in Domiz camp daily and with two age groups (6 to 11) in the morning and (11-15) in the evening had organized a Child Friendly Space Program funded by UNICEF. The program consists of various activities such as (sport, English and Mathematics lessons, games, and paintings). Cases of children with psycho-social needs were identified, children find it hard to survive in the camp and find the living conditions extremely difficult

Lack of job opportunities remains the major concern; DDM had suggested creating an office for the recruitment of the Syrian new arrivals, and with the support of UNHCR/IOM, to liaise with employers to recruit the skilled among them.

The Protection and Assistance and Reintegration Centre (PARC) is conducting protection monitoring in Domiz camp to identify and follow up on the protection concerns of the population. The PARC, along with UNHCR` community services team, has conducted a legal and SGBV awareness session to the singles and has planned another session for the families. UNHCR` team has also liaised with the Directorate of violence against women in Semel district; and agreed with the latter to conduct an awareness session on domestic violence in the camp.

UNHCR CS team has finalized preparations for the Refugee Committee` election process in Domiz camp, posters, leaflets and stickers regarding the election process were completed, and two days awareness sessions were organized with the camp population.



2.7 Access to Education

Several steps have been taken to secure education for the school age children during summer time. However during the sub working group for education held on the 28th of June, the Department of Education “DoE” changed the initial approach and requested to use the local curriculum for the two months studies and also for the next year as the Syrian curriculum is not relevant to the context according to DoE, in addition to the fact that the text books are not available, DoE also mentioned that the two months studies will not be considered as a pass school year, and teachers will be selected from DoE and not from the camp population. UNHCR reminded DoE that the curriculum in an emergency period should begin with structured activities and that any formal curriculum should be based on what the students used before displacement, based on the memory of their teachers and any educational materials they had brought with them. It was agreed to discuss further with the children` parents. Another meeting is scheduled to take place on the 5th of July to reach a conclusion.

IOM already provided the caravans with cooling units to be used as classrooms, however electricity remains a concern and UNHCR will discuss with DDM to ensure the installation.

3. Security

The Asaayish security staffs are available in the camp to ensure the security of the camp and the surrounding area. UNHCR through Qandil has relocated the security cabin to a new location identified by UNHCR in the middle of sector 1 and 2 while DDM cabin remained in the current location nearby the registration cabins. Cases of robbery were reported in the camp and the Asaayish team is tightening the security in the camp, however given the growing number of the singles it is becoming difficult to ensure a complete security.



4. Coordination and Partnership

On the 28th of June, UNHCR team in Duhok attended the monthly IDP and refugee coordination meeting organized by DDM; the meeting focused on the needs of Syrian new arrivals in Domiz, Syrian Asylum seekers in Moquble and the situation of the returnees in Sheladize.

On the same date, the sub working group on education met, but given the change of approach of the DoE the SWG did not agree on the starting date for the education activities for the children. A follow meeting is scheduled to take place on the 5th of July.