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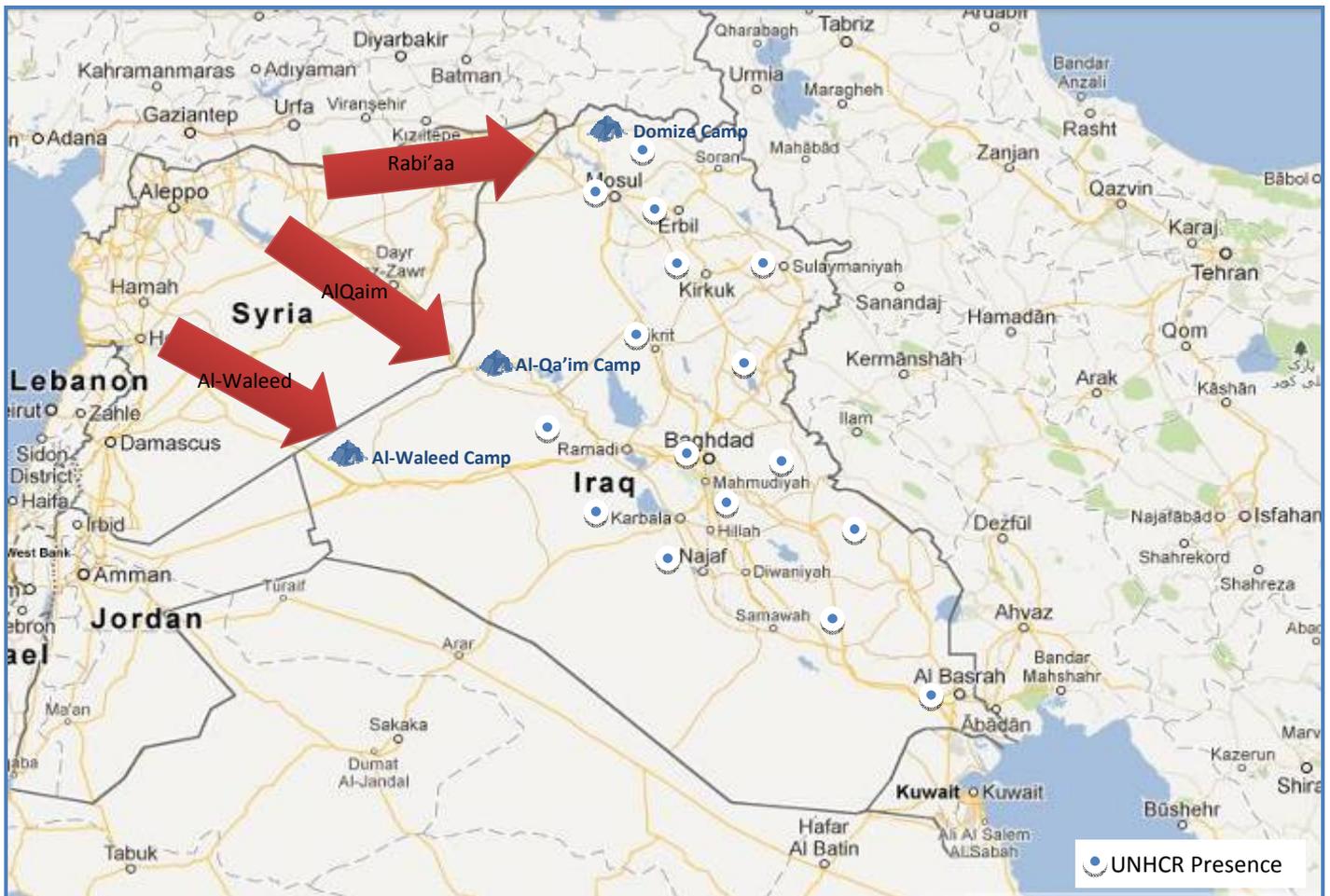
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Syrian Refugee Brief

Location	Total
Duhok	26,702
Erbil	5,709
Sulaimanyah	1,655
Al-Qa'im/Anbar	7,889
Total	41,995



Iraqi – Syrian Border Points

MoDM/DDM/Local Authorities
Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM
NGOs: IRW | Qandil | ISHO | IRC | HARIKAR | CDO

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

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1. Overview

Syrian Refugees

The influx of Syrian refugees into Iraq has continued this week due to the current situation in this country. All three border crossing points (Al-Waleed, Rabiaa and Al-Qa'im) remain open.

During the past week, an additional 2,919 Syrian refugees arrived in Iraq. According to UNHCR border monitors, the country has now registered a total of 41,955 Syrian refugees and they are being accommodated in **Domiz Camp in Kurdistan Region** and **Al-Qa'im Camp 1 and Camp 2**, communities and other public buildings. As of today, a total of 34,066 Syrians are hosted in Kurdistan Region, 2,203 among them have arrived during the week. Duhok remains host to the largest number of Syrian refugees, with 26,702 persons, followed by Erbil, with 5,709 and Suleimaniya with 1,655.

In Al-Qa'im, the arrival of Syrian refugees has continued during the reporting period. The newly-arrived refugees are registered and accommodated in the existing two camps erected by UNHCR and MoDM (Ministry of Displacement and Migration). However, restrictions exist and only 120 refugees are allowed to enter Iraq through Al-Qa'im border crossing point.

The number of new arrivals into Kurdistan Region has decreased slightly over the past weeks, despite the continuing deterioration of the security and economic situation in Syria. During September, the figure dropped from an average of 100-120 families and 350-400 singles per day, to 60-80 families and 150-200 singles at the end of the month. During the reported period, an average of 215 new arrivals arrived in Duhok daily. There is no indication that refugees are being denied access to Iraqi territory in that region.

Refugees originate mainly from Hassaka, Qameshly, as well as Kurds who were living in Damascus, Reef Damascus and Aleppo. The refugees reported severe power cuts and closure of food stores resulting in the lack of essential livelihood resources.

Iraqis Cross Border Movement

During the reporting period, the arrival of Iraqi returnees from Syria has been recorded and 1,909 were registered. All border crossing points are used by returnees. Last week, returnees returned through Al-Waleed – 1,287, Al-Qa'im – 78 and Rabiaa – 544. As of 17 October, 47,052 returnees have been registered in the country since 18 July 2012. As of today, only a total of 1,099 returnee households received MoDM 4mIn Iraqi Dinars Grant. Protection centres continue to assess the situation of the Iraqi returnees from Syria. The latter are systematically registered with MoDM and DDM (Department of Displacement and Migration) offices in all governorates, however only few among them had received cash assistance.

The majority of returnees indicated Baghdad and other governorates as their final destinations. At the same time, 21,928 Iraqi returnees crossed the border to Syria. Only 1,451 individuals crossed the border to Syria last week.

Winterisation Plan – 2012/2013

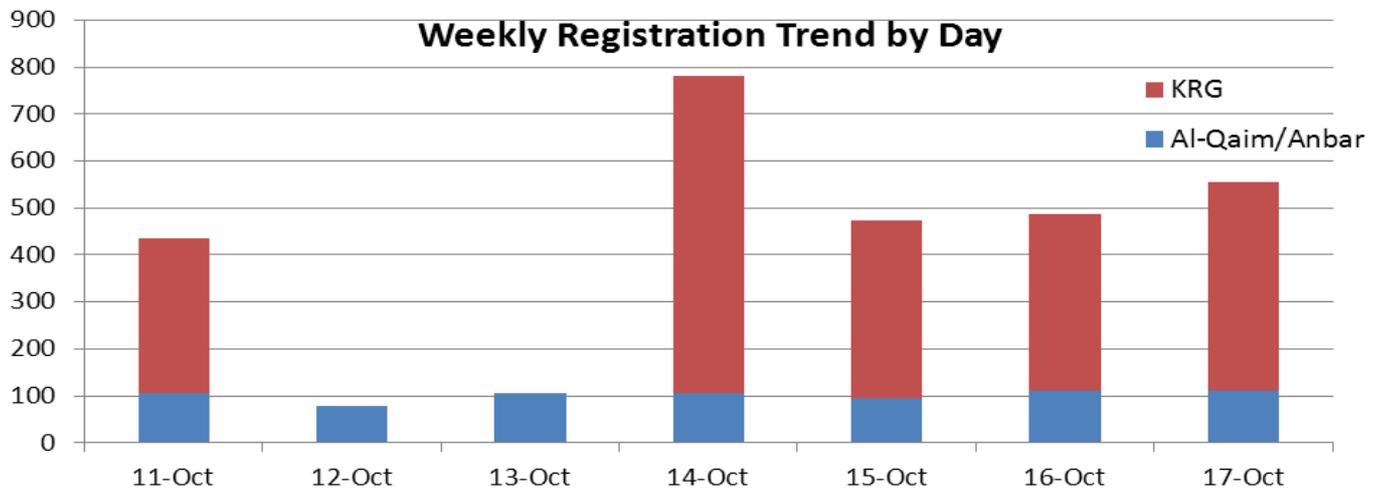
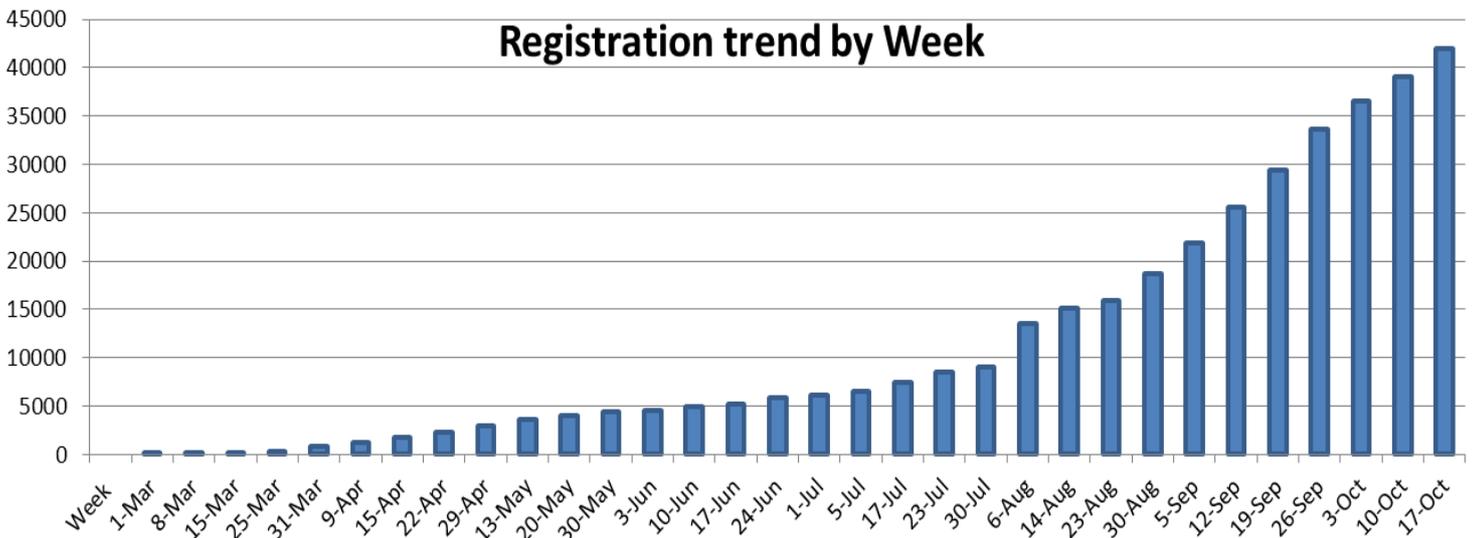
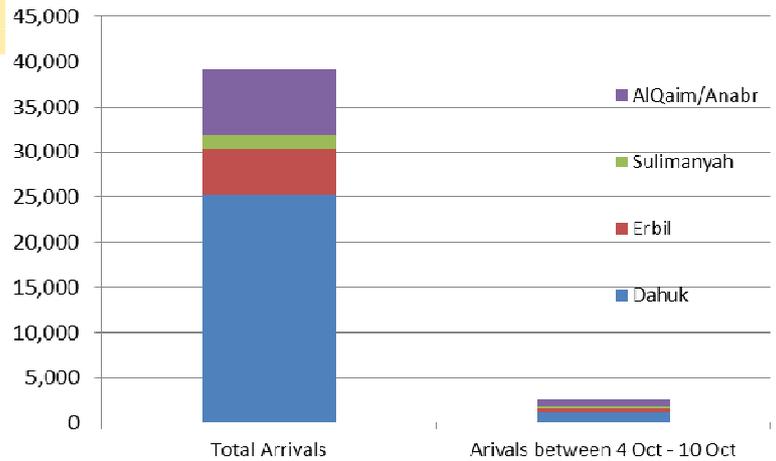
Taking into account climatic conditions, upcoming winter season and increasing refugees' needs, UNHCR Iraq has designed its winterisation plan, which consists of several elements, particularly replacing currently used light-weight tents by family tents, providing refugees with heaters, kerosene, thermal blankets and quilts. Moreover, to ensure warmer environment for children, it is planned to replace education tents with prefabricated classrooms with electrical heating systems.

The UNHCR’s winterization plan will cover all refugees living in camps as first priority. Vulnerable host communities and families will be covered by this plan, but subjects to the availability of funds.

2. Statistics

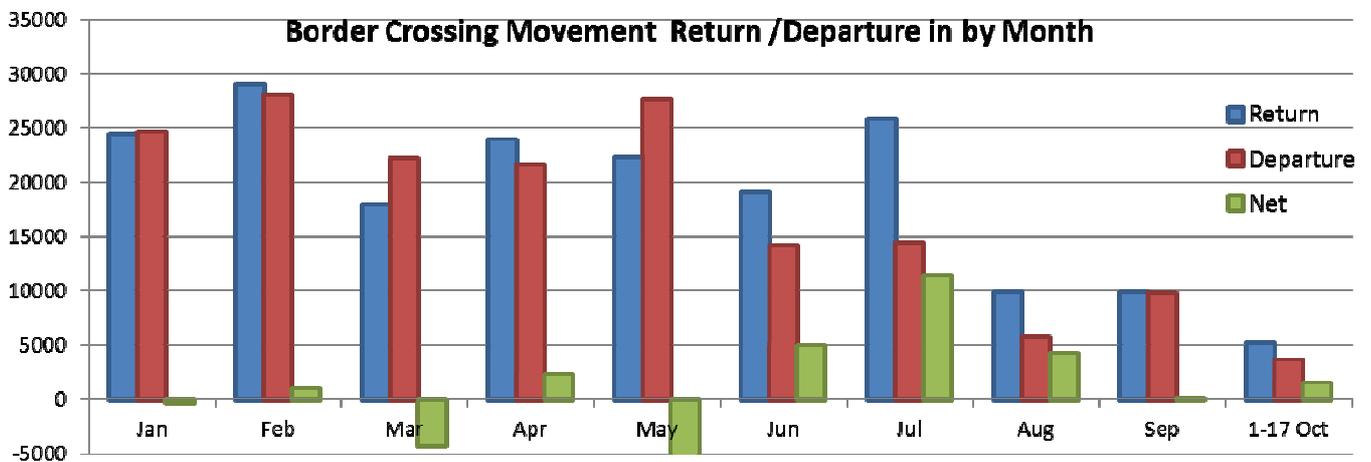
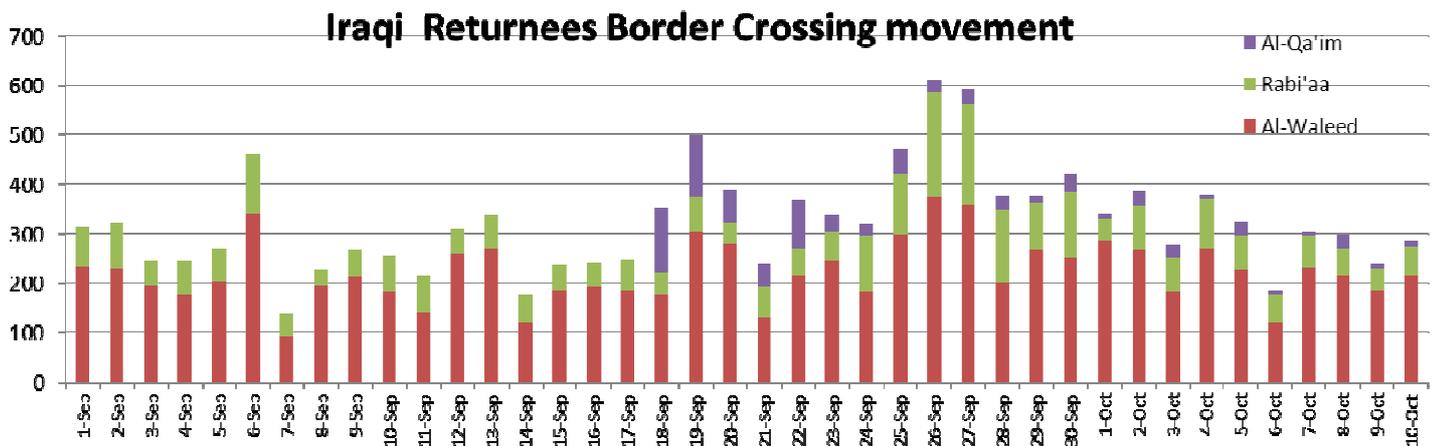
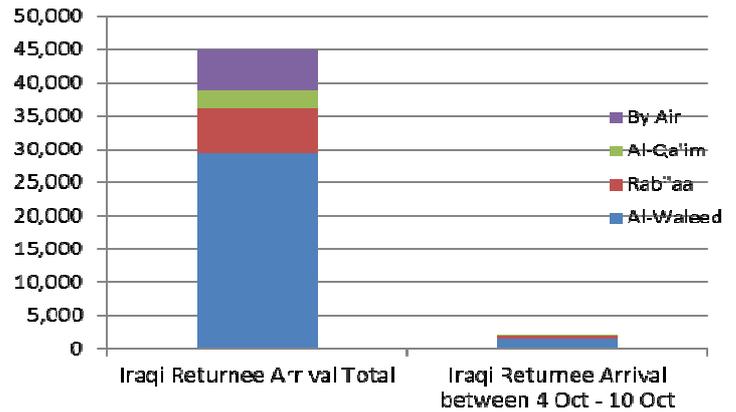
2.1 Syrian Refugees

Location	Syrian Arrivals between 11 Oct – 17 Oct	Total Arrivals
Duhok	1,511	26,702
Erbil	483	5,647
Sulimanyah	209	1,717
Al-Qa'im/Anabr	716	7,889
Total	2,919	41,955



2.2 Iraqi Returnees (Cross Border Movement)

Border Point	Iraqi Returnees (cross border) between 11 Oct – 17 Oct	Total Arrivals Since 18 July
Al-Waleed	1,547	30,755
Rabi'aa	544	7,494
Al-Qa'im	78	2,806
By Air	0	5,997
Total	2,169	47,052



3. UNHCR Assistance Update

3.1. Administrative institutions and practice

Advocacy has been continued to respond to the needs of Syrian refugees through separate meetings with key partners and local authorities in all governorates of the country.

UNHCR Registration teams work in the field for the timely registration of the refugees. Registration would assist in counting the real number of refugees in need of support, particularly accommodation and food.

In close collaboration with other key partners both from national and international relief agencies, UNHCR continues its advocacy efforts to expand Sponsorship Programme for refugees as one of the ways of assistance.

UNHCR has formed a permanent refugee committee to advocate the freedom of movement of refugees and returnees in Iraq.

3.2. Protection, Registration and Profiling

Al-Qa'im

During the reporting period, Al-Qa'im camps continued receiving Syrian newly-arrived refugees. As of today, Camp 1 accommodates 3,086 and 3,637 individual refugees are in Camp 2. A total of 58 individual refugees are hosted in community and public buildings. As of today, a total of 643 individual refugees have been covered by Sponsorship Programme in **Al-Qa'im**.

As it has already been highlighted above, UNHCR Registration Team continues its work. The number of registered individuals in the ProGress reached 4,903 (1,096 cases). A total of 788 cases have been verified so far and 444 Asylum Seeker certificates have been distributed.

Two minibuses are available now for the transportation of families from Camp 2 to the registration office.

Kurdistan Region

Syrian refugee families and singles continue to approach UNHCR office in Duhok (including Domiz camp), Erbil and Suleimaniya. During the week, UNHCR recorded an additional 2,203 new arrivals, which comprises of 309 families (1,231 individuals) and 972 singles.

- New arrivals in Erbil: 67 families (270 individuals) and 213 singles.
- New arrivals in Suleimaniya: 19 families (72 individuals) and 137 singles.
- New arrivals in Duhok: 223 families (889 individuals) and 622 singles.

With enhanced registration capacity in place, UNHCR is accelerating the registration capacity to ensure the total camp population in Domiz is registered. The registration capacity had reached 1,693 persons during the week and is expected to cover the entire population by 25 October. Similar efforts are deployed in Erbil and Suleimaniya.

As agreed with the directorate of the residency, UNHCR staff is being deployed to the protection assistance center in Erbil in order to accelerate the process of receiving residency permits. Current daily capacity is 100 persons per day and with new personnel, it will increase to 200.

As of 16 October, 9,128 Syrians received the residency permit in Duhok. UNHCR Registration Certificate is a pre-requisite for the issuance of the residency permit and UNHCR is ensuring that no delay is observed in the registration and documentation of the new arrivals.

Residency Department in Erbil had instructed the security services to halt from arresting any Syrian citizen at check points and to allow freedom of movement within governorates.

In Erbil, the security services had identified 200 undocumented Syrian new arrivals. They were transported to Domiz Camp and provided with temporary assistance.

As of 10 October, an approximate figure of 14,000 individuals (some 2700 families) is residing in Domiz camp. New arrivals, changing trends and population movement coupled with the registration backlog preclude accurate figure count. UNHCR conducts regular head count/physical verification for an appropriate estimation of camp population.

3.3. Security for refugees

Al-Qa'im Camp

Iraqi security forces provide the security in the camp; no specific incidents were reported during the reporting period.

Domiz Camp

Six guards have been hired among the Syrian singles to provide security for the camp during the relocation of families into the new allocated areas. Additionally 16 social monitors and guards are recruited among the refugees by DDM acting as the camp management agency in Domiz and additional guards were hired to guard the registration centres.

3.4. Assistance by Sectors

a) Shelter and infrastructure:

Al-Qa'im

Construction works are continued in both camps. The construction of road connecting camps 1 and 2 has been completed. The planned child-friendly space is now ready to be used by children living in the camps.

Replacing current tents by new family tents are near to complete in Camp 1, sections E and F. Distribution of blankets and tents remain part of winter preparation activities. Replacing works are continued in section G. Syrian refugees are among workers.

Domiz Camp

Pending the completion of phases 4 and Domiz II, self-erected tents remain installed in phases 1, 2 and outside the camp parameters. Although a new transit area has been set up with a capacity of 220 family tents, the congestion persists with more than 1000 tents erected on ad hoc manner, hence generating an overload on services delivery, camp infrastructure, sanitation and WASH facilities.

The current camp structure is as follows: Phases 1-4, singles' area, and phase 5. Other phases will include phase 7 (once singles have been relocated), phase 6 (new single area), and phases 8 & 9. These phases are currently being surveyed by the respective governmental departments.

Phases 1, 2 and 3 are completed. Phase 4 is currently being constructed by the Government (DDM) and is expected to be completed by end of October. Demarcation of 200 tents and excavation and construction of 50 septic tanks is ongoing; and 60 tent foundation form work were completed. Planning of the water supply and waste water disposal project is underway. WASH works will be simultaneously implemented by UNICEF.

In order to accommodate the increasing number of new arrivals two transit areas have emerged in addition to a large number of new arrival families scattered within the camp.

A new singles area will be constructed by the government. Land situated 2 km from Domiz has been allocated, whereby a number of 4,000 singles are expected to be hosted.

Prioritized beneficiaries living in the transit centres and awaiting accommodation started the relocation to their new allocated plots in phase 3 after individual notification was given by DDM and UNHCR.

The Government agreed with UNHCR request to provide additional electricity for inside the tents, cooking areas, bathrooms and latrines. UNHCR provided the Government with the designed plan for phases 3, 4, 5 and for the area for singles.

Kasak Camp (Ninewah)

On 24 September, the construction works for the new Kasak refugee camp started in order to accommodate the increasing number of Syrian new arrivals into the North of Iraq. The camp is located 50 km from Mosul City in the Ninewa Governorate. The camp could accommodate some 100 families with the possibility of further extension. The date for opening the camp is yet to be confirmed.

UNHCR is among other things, responsible for constructing latrines and kitchens, installing fences, providing tents and NFI and establishing internal electricity. Local authorities will be responsible for providing water on daily basis and establishing caravans to be used as administration offices. Food, electrical generator and medical services will be provided by IRCS while UNICEF will be responsible for establishing water tanks and other sanitary installations.

b) Water

In **Al-Qa'im**, water testing is conducted on daily basis; UNICEF and Al-Qa'im Health Directorate are taking care of this issue. Water is provided to the camp and available in both camps.

In **Domiz**, phases 1 and 2 are connected to the water project implemented by UNHCR. Non-regular tents erected are being supplied by DDM using tankers. Water project for phase 3 started by Kurds.

Water is being tested at source and chlorine added. Additional tabs are provided to families by DoH.

c) Food/Nutrition

Al-Qa'im

Food distribution is continued by MoDM (Ministry of Displacement and Migration) for all refugees. MoDM proposed to distribute refugees with vegetables and meat and WFP would be responsible for distributing raw food taking into account the required standards. MoDM suggested another option of food distribution to provide the refugees with cash for vegetable and meat. MoDM is preparing a detailed proposal for possible implementation of the above-mentioned suggestions.

Domiz Camp

WFP is planning food distribution for over 10,000 refugees living in the camp by the beginning of the coming week. The agency started receiving 162 Mt of food purchased from Turkey, and is currently undergoing government clearances at the border before being off-loaded in Domiz. UNHCR is providing the camp with a storage space.

The voucher programme is underway. WFP confirmed that the current available funding for the voucher programme could support 10,000/15,000 refugees till the end of November.

d) Sanitation/Hygiene

Al-Qa'im

During the reporting period, UNICEF distributed hygiene promotion kits in Camp 1. WCs and bathrooms are cleaned on daily basis by service team. For cleaning works, Syrian refugees have been hired to have chance to get daily income. Maintenance works are on-going.

Domiz

The sanitation situation in the transit area of the camp remains below the required standards. In an effort to address the issue, the Government installed 120 emergency latrines; out of which 55 have been installed in the new transit area. UNICEF is exploring the feasibility of recruiting incentive workers to regularly clean the communal latrines facilities and thereby improve their use.

Waste water drainage is also a source of concern since soils capacity to absorb water is limited.

In order to find a solution for the uncollected garbage, DDM and Artush Company reached an agreement for proper removal of garbage disposal in all phases of the camp as on 1 October. Extensive discussions with the relevant government departments, Fayda Municipality, and particularly with DDM and the Sewerage Department have been held. Surveys in phase 1-4 are currently on-going to address the drainage in due time in these areas, such as the sewage, grey water and storm water.

The tent-to-tent hygiene promotion campaign, launched by UNICEF and DoH is on-going.

e) NFI Assistance

Al-Qa'im

Tribal Leader in Anbar governorate donated 200 blankets for refugees. IRW (Islamic Relief Worldwide) distributed NFI packages for all newly-arrived Syrian families in Camp 1 and Camp 2. A total of 300 NFI kits, 600 blankets and 200 family tents have been received and are ready for distribution among Syrian refugees living in the camps.

Domiz

NFI distribution was resumed, limiting it for camp residents only and other options e.g. one-time cash assistance will be considered for refugees living in the urban host communities. A number of 419 packages were distributed to 398 families of 1,704 individuals and 21 groups of singles of 62 individuals.

There is a plan to combine WFP voucher system with the cash assistance for urban refugees. UNHCR is also coordinating with KRG for addressing the needs of Syrian refugees residing in the host community, particularly for ensuring access to education and health services.

f) Health

Al-Qa'im

Al-Qa'im Health Directorate is providing medical assistance to the refugees living in Al-Qa'im camps. A vaccination campaign was started on 14 October 2012 and will be continued in three stages. Vaccination campaign will be conducted against measles, polio and flue. Al-Qa'im Health Directorate is covering vaccination expenses.

During a meeting in Al-Qa'im between UNHCR, Health Directorate and UNICEF, UNICEF has expressed its readiness to contribute to the vaccination campaigns on needs.

MSF (Medecins Sans Frontieres) also visited the camps and was familiarized with the camps. It is preparing its full plan of activities related to providing medical support to refugees in the camp.

UNHCR and UNICEF continue advocacy to improve health service in camps 1 and 2. A job interview was conducted with an Iraqi paediatrician doctor who graduated from Damascus, lived in Al-Bokamal for 15 years. He crossed the border on 13 October and settled in Al-Qa'im.

Domiz

Due to the rapidly increasing refugee population in the camp, the health centre is overcrowded with an average of 300 patients are attended on daily basis. Most of cases suffer from upper respiratory tract diseases and acute watery diarrhoea. Patients in need of secondary and tertiary as well as those with chronic diseases are referred to various hospitals in Duhok for evaluation and management.

The UNICEF/DoH joint campaign for MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) and DT (diphtheria and tetanus) for people from 7 - 24 years continued and 1269 people received MMR vaccine and 1,360 the TD vaccine, reaching a cumulative figure of 2,470 for MMR and 2,703 for TD.

An outbreak of cholera was declared by the Department of Health in Sulaimaniya Governorate with 254 cases and 4 deaths reported by 15 October. No cholera cases were detected in Domiz.

Data from Domiz camp suggests that up to 30% of outpatients are due to acute watery diarrhoea.

UNHCR started the process of finding a contractor to build a new health centre in Domiz camp in order to accommodate a larger number of patients. The construction process of the health centre is done in collaboration with the MoH.

g- Education

Al-Qa'im

Schooling started last week. Students were registered, employees are hired and stationaries have been distributed. The distribution of text books is planned for next week. The current school (tent) will be transferred near to a mosque on temporary base until the caravan is installed. Materials for the installation of caravan, have reached the camp on 17 October.

A total of 885 students will be covered by school. Another school will be opened by UNICEF.

Domiz

Around 4,200 school-aged children are estimated to be residing in Domiz. As a special measure to ensure the enrolment of the refugee children for the current school year, the Minister of Education extended the enrolment deadline to 15 October. UNICEF and NGO Harikar are holding a two-day training on 21 – 22 October in preparation to carry out a school enrolment drive in the camp.

The work to re-organize the camp school and expand it to 24 classrooms in the first unit to accommodate 1200 students in two shifts has been completed with funding from UNICEF. UNHCR is paying 50% of teachers' incentives (25 teachers).

In order to facilitate access to education to all Syrian students in Domiz, the Government allocated a new land of 11100 Sq meters for the construction of two additional schools of 24 classrooms each. The facilities will accommodate some 2,000 students. UNHCR is providing furniture and 24 cabins for the school.

Sulaymaniyah

UNHCR officially requested the Governor of Sulaymaniyah to allocate a piece of land for constructing a prefab nine-classroom school for Syrian refugee children.

4. Interview with Syrian Arrivals / Iraqi Returnees

Those refugees, who were interviewed in Al-Qa'im, voiced their concern over issues related to pending cases for Sponsorship Programme and also to facilitate in entering their husbands to Iraq through the border.

A group of interviewed refugees say they are eager to continue their study at Iraqi educational institutions as they reportedly missed about a year of study due to fleeing their homes due to unstable situation in Syria.

During interviews, refugees who departed their country mentioned that they could work upon providing job opportunities and implementing small projects in the camps. By providing with employment, refugees can satisfy their food demand.

Individual stories: Syrian arrivals

A. is a 16 year's old girl who has recently arrived in Erbil from Syria. She fled with her parents following heavy bombardments which destroyed their home in Aleppo. A. said that since they left their country she misses her friends and her other family members. She wants to continue to go to school but she is afraid because of language barriers since she does not speak Kurdish. The family went to Domiz Camp when they first entered KR, but preferred to go to Erbil because they did not like to live in a refugee camp. A. lives in a small apartment with other 15 fellow Syrians; she said that rent is expensive and that parents could not find a job. She misses her home but mentioned that is afraid to go back because of shootings in the streets.

5. Coordination

Al-Qa'im

UNHCR is monitoring the administration and the management of the camps. Emergency Cell conducted a meeting to discuss coordination issues.

Representatives from Al-Qa'im Health Directorate and UNICEF visited the camp and met camp management team to discuss ways to improve health services for refugees in the camps. During a meeting, Al-Qa'im Health Directorate raised the issue of establishing a primary health care centre in the camps. A proposal will be sent to UNHCR for reviewing the above-mentioned suggestion.

During coordination meetings and joint visits, the shortage of medical experts has been highlighted and Al-Qa'im Health Directorate agreed to send a mobile medical team to support the existing clinics in the camp.

Kurdistan Region

Daily inter-agency coordination meetings are taking place in Domiz Camp in order to address the increased coordination needs in the wake of continuous daily influx.

During a meeting with Ministry of Education, it was agreed that UNHCR will provide 80 school cabins for Syrians living in the host communities as additional classrooms to be placed in the existing public schools. The Ministry will cover all additional associated costs i.e., furniture, teachers' salaries, and electricity. Respective governors from KR will provide UNHCR a list of the schools which have refugees/IDPs and where gap exists.

On 14 October a Blackstar Group NGO delegation visited the camp in order to provide support to WASH facilities. They distributed and installed 200 water filters in the transit areas in coordination with the DDM.

On 15 October, Head of Sub-Office of WFP in Erbil visited Domiz to meet with the cooperating partners and with some refugees who requested urgent food needs.

On 15 October, the Canadian Counsellor for Iraq visited Domiz to familiarize with the current camp situation and challenges.

On 16 October, a delegation with members of Refugees International visited Domiz Camp and UNHCR/PARC offices in Erbil to familiarize with Syrian refugees and their living conditions in KR.

PLAN OF WINTERISATION 2012/2013

The below listed activities to be covered through the available resources during October – November 2012:

a. Replacement of Light Weight Tents by **Family tents** – 1 tent per family of 6 persons and provision of **light carpet**

- Al-Qa'im 1 – 730 units – start date 10 October 2012 – IRW and ISHO
- Al-Qa'im 2 – 500 units – start date 20 October 2012 - MoDM

b. Distribution of **NFI packages** (including Hygiene kit) in the camps for all new arriving families – UNHCR

c. Distribution of **Cooking Stoves**

- Al-Qa'im 1 and 2 – 1 stove per family – UNHCR (2,000 units) – start date 05 November 2012.
- Domiz 1 – 1 stove per family – IOM (3,000 units)

d. Distribution of **Kerosene**

- 50 liters of Kerosene per family per month in all camps – UNHCR (additional 50 liters will be supplemented by MoDM, DDM) – start date 20 October 2012. In KR, the authorities will complemented with 170l/month/family.

e. Distribution of **Thermal Blankets**

- Distribution of 2 Thermal blankets per person in all camps – start date 05 November 2012.

f. Distribution of **Soap**

- Distribution of 1,5 kg of soap per family every 2 months in all camps – start date 01 November 2012.

g. **Replacement of UNICEF School Tents by School caravans** with heaters in Al-Qa'im 1 – Deadline 20 October.

Urban refugees

UNHCR intends to extend the winterization project to cover 10-12,000 vulnerable urban refugees, through distribution of 2 thermal blankets per person and 50 liters of kerosene per month for three months.

Host communities

Subject to the availability of funds, UNHCR is also planning to support some 2500 host families through the distribution of cash for 100 litres of kerosene per family per month for three months.

Note: The items distributed with the Winterisation plan are in addition to NFI assistance provided to Syrian refugees upon arrival