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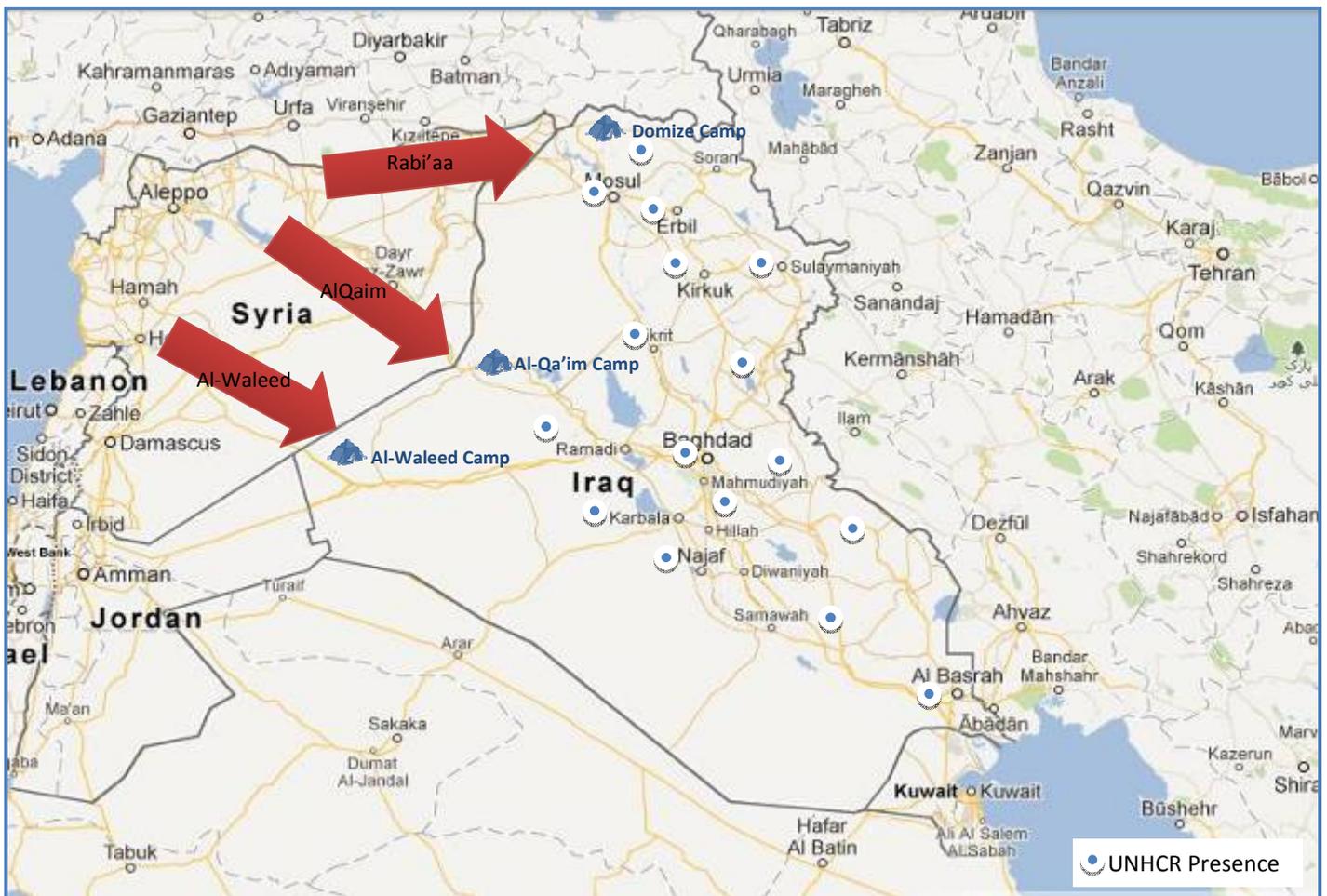
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Syrian Refugee Brief

Location	Total
Dahuk	28,099
Erbil	6,477
Sulaimanyah	1,846
Al-Qaim/Anbar	8,350
Total	44,772



Iraqi – Syrian Border Points

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

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

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1. Overview

Syrian Refugees

During the reporting period 2,777 new Syrian refugees arrived in Iraq. New arrivals are being accommodated in Domiz and Al-Qaim camps. The total number of registered new arrivals in the country is **44,772** and among them **36,422** is hosted in Kurdistan Region.

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 the reporting period, an average of 200 new arrivals arrived in Dohuk daily. There is no indication that refugees are being denied access to Iraqi territory in Kurdistan region.

In Al-Qaim, the newly-arrived refugees are registered and accommodated in the existing camp number 2, established by UNHCR and MoDM (Ministry of Displacement and Migration). Since 21 October the Al Qaim crossing point has been closed for Syrian refugees, reportedly due to the lack of space in the camps. Only urgent medical cases and wounded individuals have been allowed to enter.. Since 22 October, the border is closed and only women and children are allowed to enter Iraq through Al-Qaim border crossing point.

Iraqis Cross Border Movement

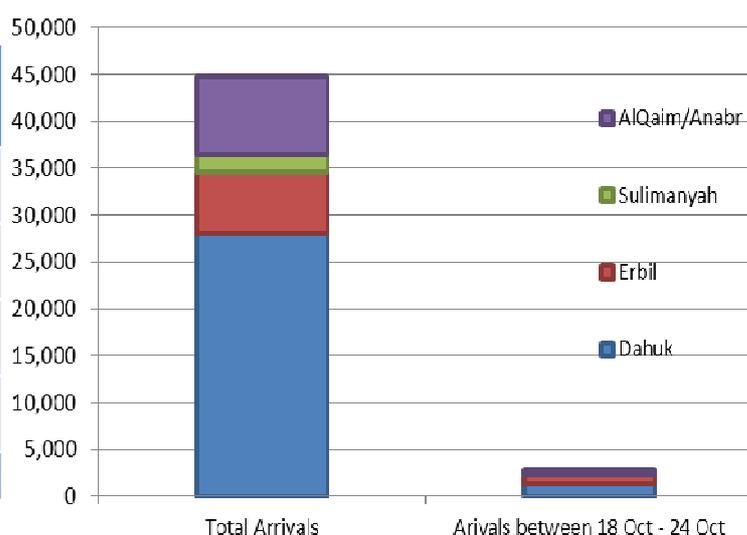
The arrival of Iraqi returnees continued this week and 2,158 crossed Iraq-Syrian border through Al-Waleed and Rabiaa border crossing points. As of today the total number of returnees reached 49,210 including 5,997 by air since 18 July 2012.

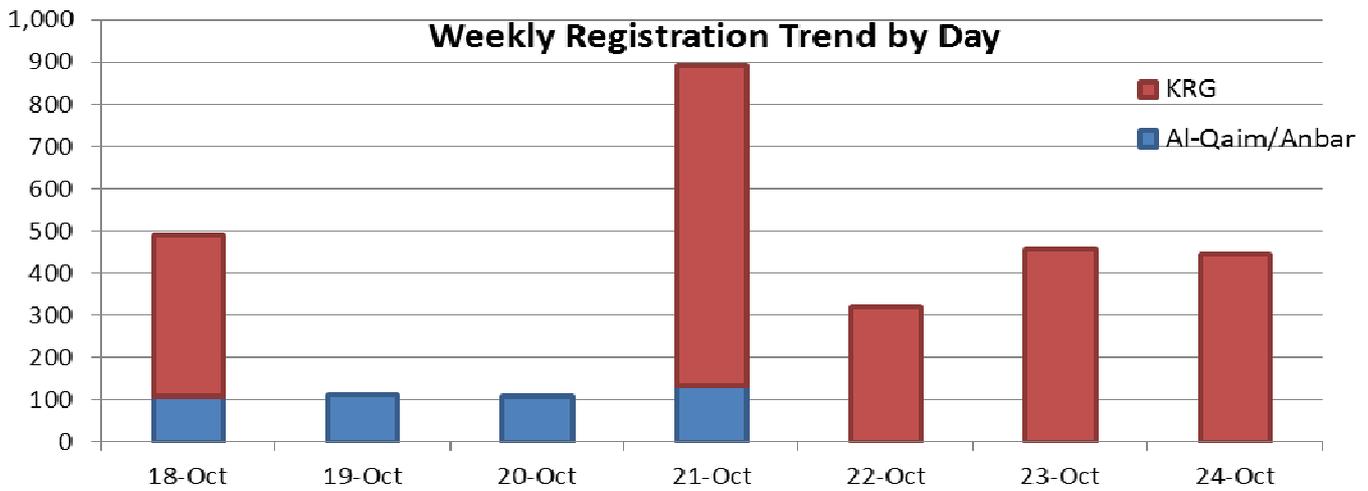
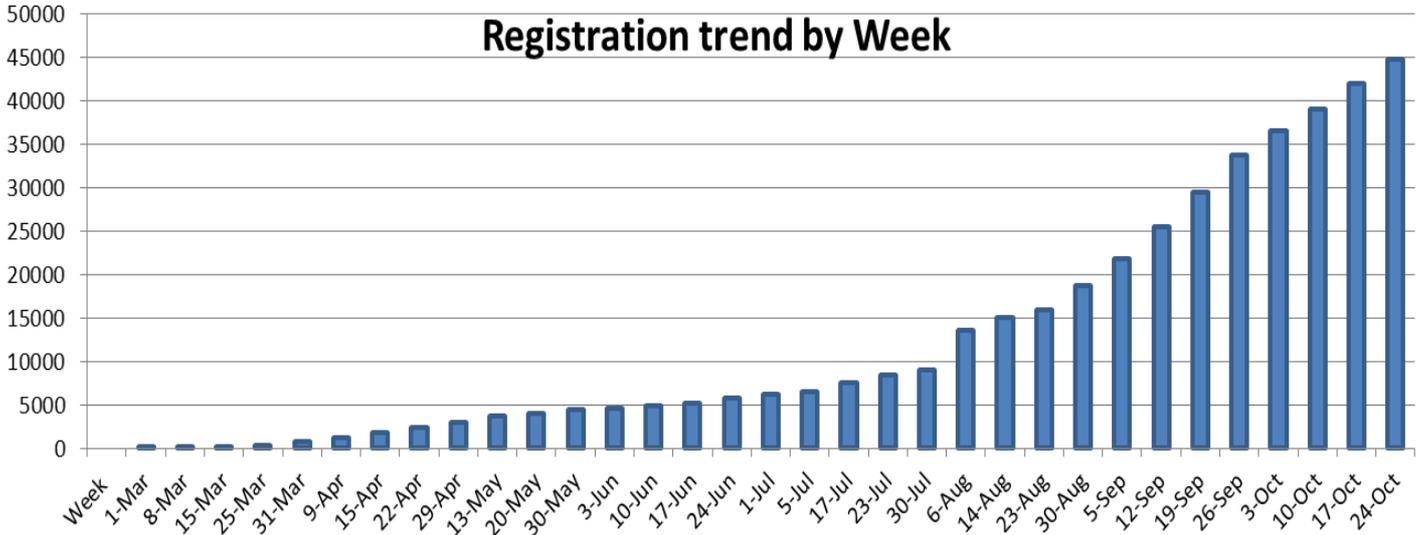
The majority of returnees indicated Baghdad, Anbar, Diyalya and Basrah as their final destinations. In addition, border monitors report that 1,032 Iraqis crossed the border to the Syrian side (Al-Waleed – 806, Rabiaa – 226).

2. Statistics

2.1 Syrian Refugees

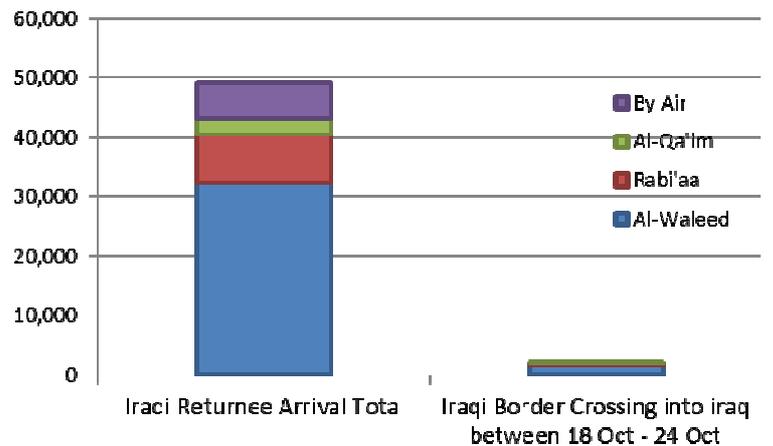
Location	Syrian Arrivals between 18 Oct – 24 Oct	Total Arrivals
Dahuk	1,397	28,099
Erbil	830	6,477
Sulimanyah	129	1,846
AlQaim/Anabr	461	8,350
Total	2,817	44,772

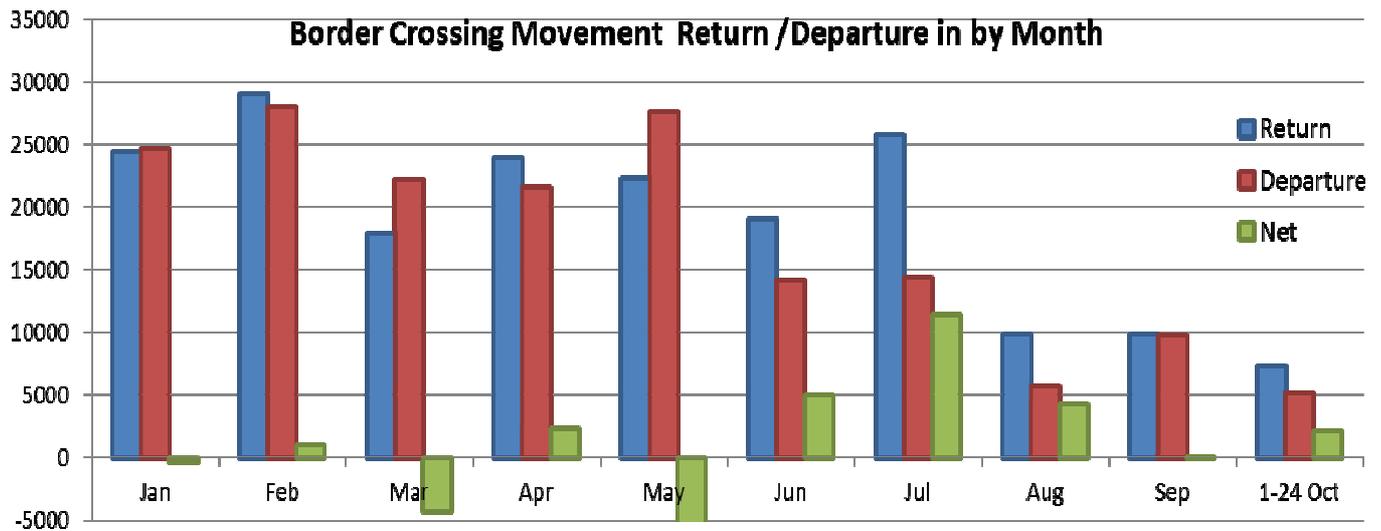
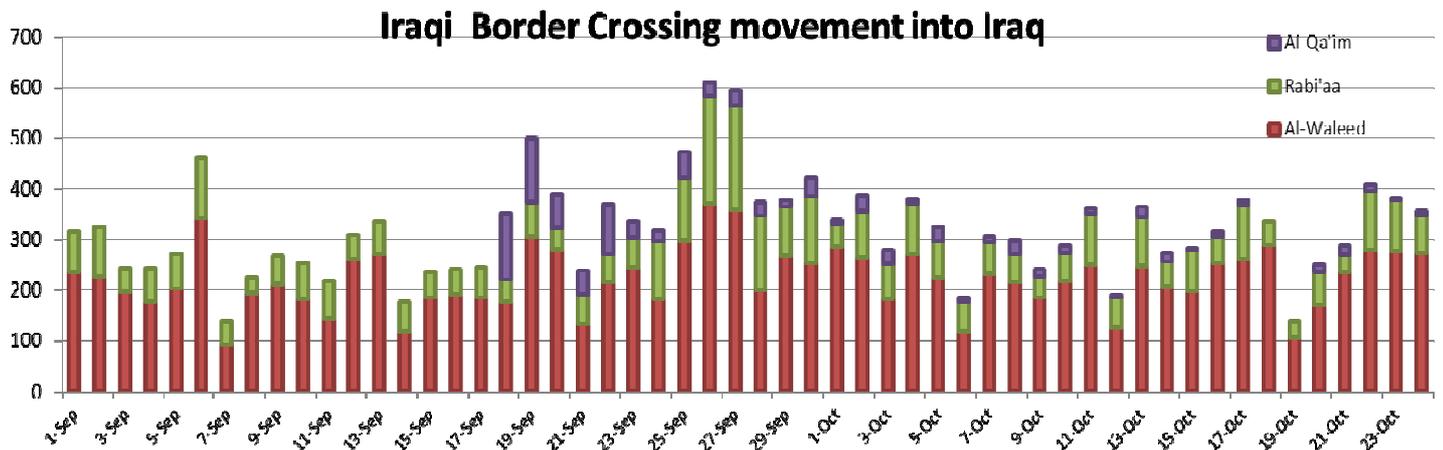




2.2 Iraqi Returnees (Cross Border Movement)

Border Point	Iraqi Returnees (cross border) between 18 Oct – 24 Oct	Total Arrivals Since 18 July
Al-Waleed	1,631	32,386
Rabi'aa	471	7,965
Al-Qa'im	56	2,862
By Air	0	5,997
Total	2,158	49,210





3. UNHCR Assistance Update

3.1. Administrative institutions and practice

In Al Qaim refugees still do not have not freedom of movement. The expansion of the sponsorship program allowing families to live in the community remains under consideration by the central Government.

3.2. Protection, Registration and Profiling

Al-Qa-im

As of 24 October 2012, the two camps accommodate 7,184 Syrian individual refugees: Camp 1 – 3,084 and Camp 2 – 4,100. A total of 25 individuals are hosted by communities in Al-Bert village of Al-Ubaydi. Sponsorship Programme covers 643 individuals. Registration has been completed in Camp 1 and Camp 2's registration process has been implemented by 40 per cent.

UNHCR Registration Team has continued to register all refugees in Al-Qaim camps and 1,113 cases (4,662 individuals) have been registered at the level 2, ProGres data base. 620 certificates have been distributed among refugees.

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 2,356 new arrivals, which comprises of 335 families (1,299 individuals) and 1,057 singles.

- New arrivals in Erbil: 98 families (375 individuals) and 455 singles.
- New arrivals in Suleimaniya: 12 families (52 individuals) and 77 singles.
- New arrivals in Duhok: 225 families (872 individuals) and 525 singles.

A fast track appointment slip was distributed among the unregistered camp population in order to accelerate the registration into ProGress. With enhanced registration capacity in place, UNHCR is ensuring that the total camp population in Domiz is registered. The registration capacity had reached 3,100 persons during the reporting period.

As of 24 October, an estimated figure of 15,000 individuals (some 2800 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.

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 150 persons per day and with new personnel, it will increase to 200.

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.

The 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.

On 20 October, UNHCR met with the Directorate of residency in Erbil and agreed to provide six months residency permit for the urban Syrian refugees in Erbil. The head of the residency also agreed to provide three officers to work at PARC to facilitate and speed the process.

UNHCR provided the Bio-data of the Syrian registered persons in KR to the MoDM in Baghdad as requested by the Government in order to plan for future assistance.

UNHCR is increasing protection monitor visits to the Syrians living in the host communities to inform them on available services, such as legal assistance, resident permits, free access to education and health and winterization assistance.

Some new arrivals decide to relocate from Domiz and Dohuk to Erbil or Suleimaniya for several reasons, including better job opportunities, reunification with friends or relatives and limited services in Domiz camp.

3.3. Security for refugees

Al-Qa'im Camp

During the reporting period, no incidents related to security were registered in the camps and security is being provided by Iraqi security forces.

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.

A team from the Ministry of Human Rights in Baghdad visited Domiz camp on 18 October. The aim of the visit was to assess the human rights situation of the Syrians in the camp. The mission was based on instruction of the Prime Minister in Baghdad to conduct monthly visit to the camp in order to assess and monitor the situation.

3.4. Assistance by Sectors

a) Shelter and infrastructure:

Al-Qaim

Following the plan of winterisation approved by UNHCR, the process of replacing light-weight tents by family tents have been completed in sections E, F, G in Camp 1. Overall, the implementation of replacement plan totals about 85 per cent.

UNICEF will start the implementation of a child friendly space in the coming two weeks after UNHCR will allocate a space in Camp 2.

Domiz Camp

Pending the completion of phases 4 and phase 5, 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, hence generating an overload on services delivery, camp infrastructure, sanitation and WASH facilities.

Phase 4 is currently being constructed by the Government (DDM) and is expected to be completed by end of October. The phase will have the capacity to accommodate 284 families. Planning of the water supply and waste water disposal project is underway. WASH works will be simultaneously implemented by UNICEF.

In phase 5, construction work has now commenced, following delays due to last minutes changes of the lay out by the authorities. The area should have the capacity to accommodate 1,000 families. UNICEF is responsible for WASH facilities.

b) Water

In **Al-Qaim**, water is provided for both camps and water quality and safety is being tested by UNICEF in close collaboration with Al-Qaim Health Directorate.

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 network for phase 3 started by Kurds and is in progress while for the area for singles is completed.

Construction of three water tank concrete bases reached plastering stage. A borehole drilled to 220 meters depth is completed and a further borehole excavation reached 180 meters depth; planned depth is 220 meters depth.

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

c) Food/Nutrition

Al-Qa'im

IRW has distributed food items for families living in Camp 1. A joint visit was made by UNICEF and the Anbar DoH to the camp to assess the nutritional status and need to include high energy biscuit for mild and moderate cases malnutrition (14 cases of malnutrition were reported). Support also included referral of severe cases to the Al-Qaim hospital. UNICEF will also support training doctors in Al-Qaim on management of severe malnutrition immediately after Eid-al Adha.

Domiz Camp

WFP received the second consignment of food commodities (88 MT) in Domiz camp.

Food distribution to Syrian refugees in Domiz Camp has started on Monday 22 October and as of 24 October, 2707 refugees received their food ration.

Islamic Relief has completed the assessment of the shops for the voucher programme and they finalized the lists of the food commodities which will be covered by vouchers. The voucher will be for 31 USD per person.

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

Hygiene kits were distributed for all families in Camp 1 by IRW. Children and their families in Al-Qaim UNHCR camp have access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices. Additional hygiene supplies including soap, disinfection and sanitary napkins were delivered and distributed to 725 families. A total of 41 hygiene mobilizers (48% female) carried out daily hygiene promotion activities in Camp 1 and 30 hygiene mobilizers

(50% female) will be selected to be trained by two doctors to carry out daily hygiene promotion in Camp 2.

Save the Children distributed 750 hygiene packages for families in Camp 1 on 23 October. UNHCR Team in Al-Qaim requested from Save the Children hygiene packages also in Camp 2 in order to keep equal level of assistance in both camps.

Domiz

The sanitation situation in the transit area of the camp is in the process of being upgraded. 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.

Various water drainages, such as grey water and storm water, are being reviewed and planned jointly with the Sewerage Department of the KRG.

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

e) NFI Assistance

Al-Qa'im

IRW distributed NFI for newly-arrived Syrian families in Camp 2. A total of 200 mattresses and 60 blankets were distributed among those families, which suffered from floods in some tents in Camp 1 due to heavy rainfall on 22 October.

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.

f) Health

Al-Qa'im

Primary health services are available to refugees and for the host community. UNICEF continued to support the MoH to mobilize outreach teams and provided the required equipment, vaccine carriers and ice lined refrigerators to maintain the cold chain system. The camp was included during the National Polio campaign and children were vaccinated against measles and MMR. A decision was taken to vaccinate all refugees with seasonal flu (influenza) before winter. 10,000 doses of seasonal flu vaccine will be sent to Al-Qaim to start a campaign has already been started in Camp 1 and will be extended to Camp 2.

Domiz

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.

ASB German NGO had agreed with DoH and DDM to provide health screening services in Domiz camp. UNHCR will identify a place in the camp for ASB to install a temporary tent for the health screening pending the finalization of the new health centre.

g- Education

Al-Qa'im

The school in Camp 1 is operating with regular attendance and is using the Iraqi curriculum. Two shifts are implemented due to the increasing number of registered children. The total number of school children in Camp 1 (as of October 18th) is 697 (350 boys; 347 girls) with 185 children registered in the intermediate school. Stationery and school bags were distributed to all the children by UNICEF. UNHCR, in coordination with UNICEF, is currently shifting the school tents from Camp 1 to Camp 2 and is replacing them with 10 pre-fabricated classrooms and one administration office. The MoDM will build the concrete foundation for the new school in Camp 2 and UNICEF will install the tents and set up an office for registration as well as provide school supplies. UNICEF is supporting Al-Qaim DoE with the incentive/transportation allowance for educational staff until the Gol steps in.

Domiz

UNICEF concluded a two days training to a group of 40 volunteers on “Awareness creation on education and enrolment drive in Domiz Camp”. The activity is implemented by Harikar in collaboration with the DoE with funding and technical support from UNICEF. The campaign started on 23 October and concluded on 25 October.

The MoE informally visited the existing school that was recently expanded by UNHCR in Domiz on 20 October. An official opening ceremony in the camp will soon take place.

4. Interview with Syrian Arrivals / Iraqi Returnees

During interviews, some Iraqi returnees who returned from Syria confirmed that some of the returnees cannot return due to current security in Syria and difficulties in arranging their assets. Most of Iraqi families fled from Saida Zainab District in Reef Damascus due to on-going military operations between Syrian Army and Free Syria Army.

A group of returnees say not all of Iraqi refugees may come back to their home country as their children study at Syrian educational institutions. Some of them are reportedly waiting for the results of their resettlement cases in Syria.

Most of returnees requested UNHCR and MoDM to facilitate in accelerating the process of reviewing their cases related to 4mln Iraqi Dinars grant to allow them to start a new life after they return to Iraq.

5. Coordination

Al-Qaim

A joint inter-agency mission to Al Qaim took place during the reporting period, comprising of representatives from UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO. The purpose of the mission was to assess the situation in the existing two camps in Al-Qaim and to discuss issues related to the opening of a new camp in Al-Ubaydi Area, which is located 12kms from the current camps. The mission members met border and local authorities in Al-Qaim.

A meeting was held with Mr. Samir Al-Nahi – representative of MoDM to discuss coordination issues related to the camp. During the meeting, MoDM requested to install additional 50 tents in the camp to increase the capacity of the camp and to continue receiving refugees.

A meeting was held between UNHCR representatives and MoDM in Al-Qaim, focusing on coordination, management and administration issues related to Camp 2. MoDM representatives suggested UNHCR to jointly take over the responsibility of administration management of Camp 2. MODM has no enough staff and expenses. The suggestion will be discussed in Baghdad.

A group of reporters from Al-Sharqia and Baghdad TV channels visited the camp and met camp management for information about the camp and refugees.

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.

On 21 October, the DFR organized a meeting in Erbil with the donor community and UNHCR in order to discuss and examine the situation of Syrian refugees in Kurdistan. The meeting focused particularly on the needs of the Syrian new arrivals in Domiz camp.

On 22 October, a Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) delegation visited the Domiz camp and met UNHCR to discuss on potential areas of support, including, among other things, on the possibility of supporting UNHCR winterization campaign with clothing items.

On 22 October, UNHCR Dohuk had a meeting with Barazani Foundation and ShelterBox NGO (UK-based) in order to finalize details of receiving and installing the ShelterBox in-kind donation of 200 Winter-Boxes. The actual installation is envisaged to start on 24 October. A further consignment of 300 winter-boxes will be installed on 27 October. Each shelter box contains one winterized tent, 6 thermal blankets, 4 sets of gloves, socks and scarves (2 for adults and 2 for children), thermal liner and two solar lamps. UNHCR will design and install the tents as part of the rehabilitation and expansion plan for the transit centre.

On 24 October, the Australian Ambassador 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.
