

Syria Situation Weekly Update No.26 8- 14 November 2012



Topics

1 Overview

2 Statistics

3 Sector Updates

4 Syrian Refugees/Iraqi Returnees

5 Coordination

Syrian Refugee Brief

Location	Total
Duhok	33,280
Erbil	8,221
Sulaimanyah	2,538
Al-Qa'im/Anbar	8,364
Other Governorates	74
Total	52,477



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>

iraqpi@unhcr.org

1. Overview

Syrian Refugees

During the reporting period, the number of new Syrian arrivals increased and as of 14 November 2012, 52,477 Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq.

In Kurdistan Region, 3,437 new Syrian arrivals entered the region during the week. The number of the new arrivals into this region increased slightly compared to the previous two weeks. An average of 491 (370 in Duhok) new arrivals arrived in Kurdistan Region daily bringing the total number of the Syrians in this region to 44,039 refugees.

Al-Waleed and Rabi'a border crossing points remain open. Al-Qa'im border crossing point is still kept closed for Syrian refugees due to the current capacity of Al-Qa'im camps to receive additional refugees. The Iraqi border guards promise to allow the entrance of Syrian refugees on emergency cases and upon increasing the capacity of the existing camps. Several Syrian cases were allowed to enter Iraq through Al-Qa'im on exceptional bases.

Iraqi Cross Border Movement

According to UNHCR's Border Monitoring reports, during the past week some 1,767 Iraqis crossed into Iraq from Syria. All three border points (Al-Waleed, Rabi'aa and Al-Qa'im) remained open for Iraqi returnees. Al-Waleed continued to receive the largest number of returnees (1,262).

As of 14 November, the total number of Iraqis crossing the border into Iraq since 18 July 2012 is 54,350 including 5,997 by air. A total of 27,285 crossed back to Syria since. This number includes returnees who are registered with Syria and those who are not. It also includes individuals who crossed the border for their private related reasons on a daily basis. During the same period, some 1,408 Iraqis crossed back into Syria.

The majority of returnees continue to indicate Baghdad, Anbar and Ninewah as their final destinations.

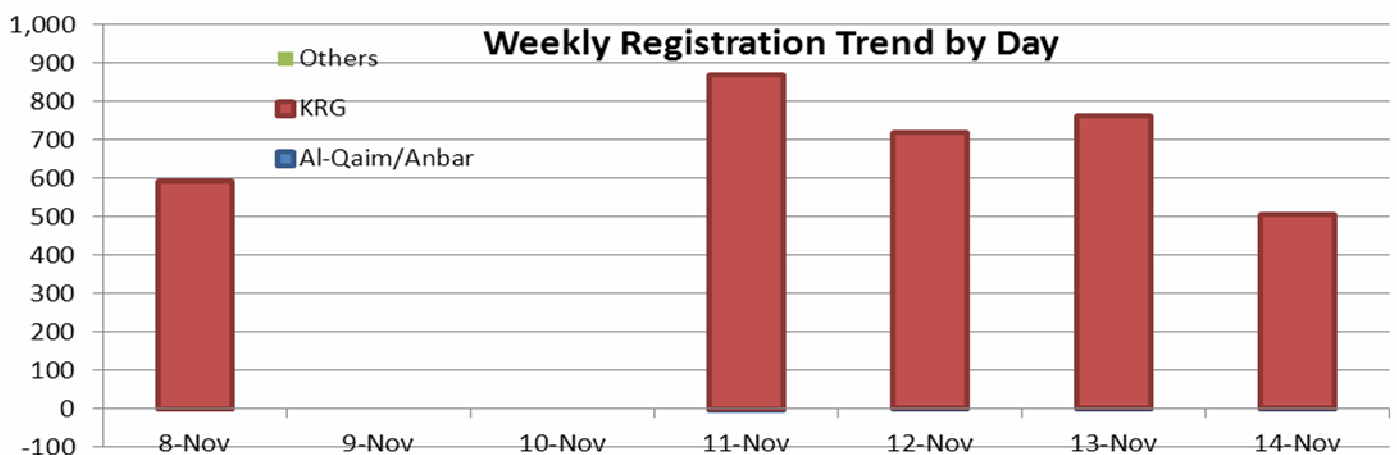
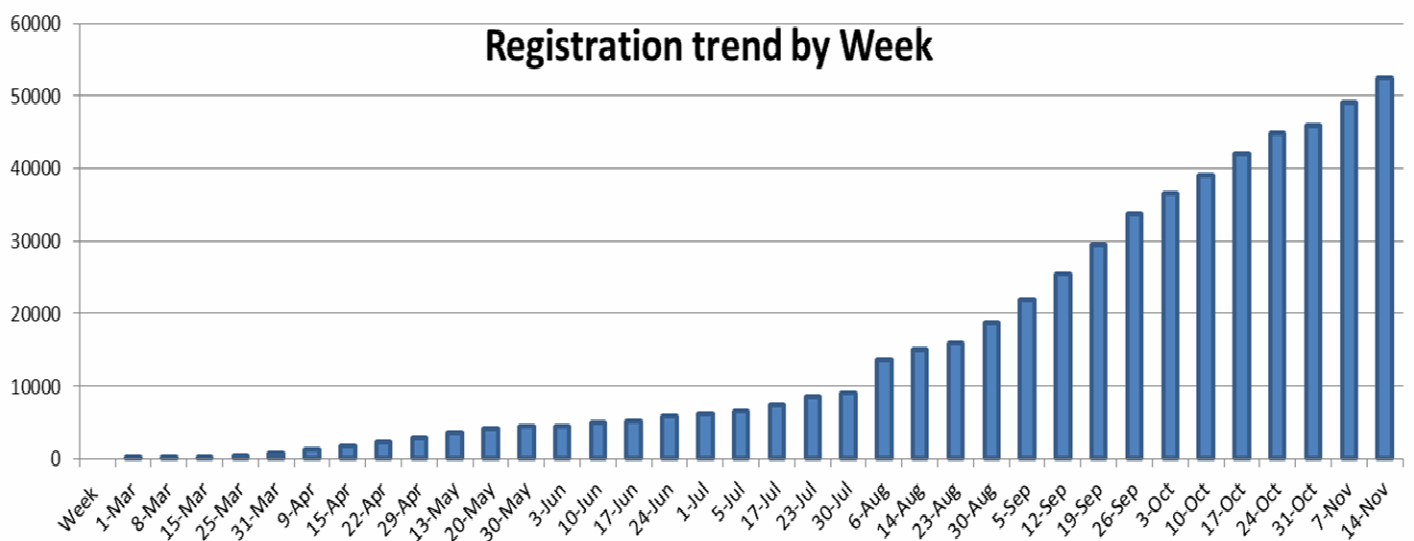
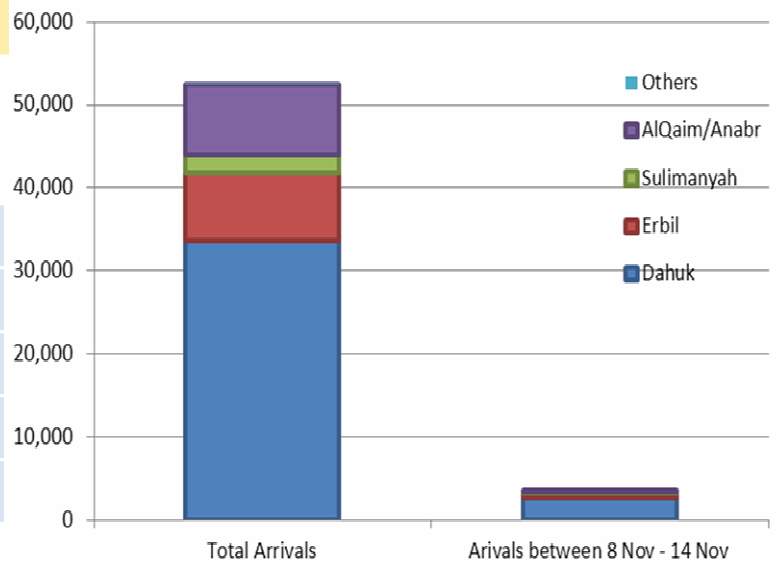


Replacing current tents with family tents in Al-Qa'im

2. Statistics

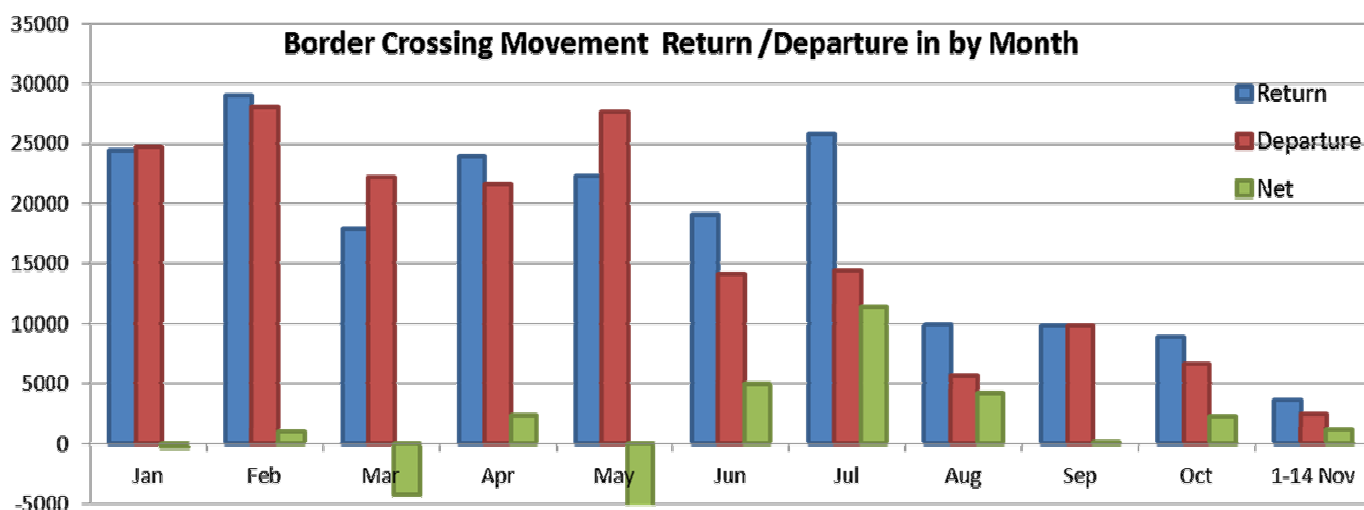
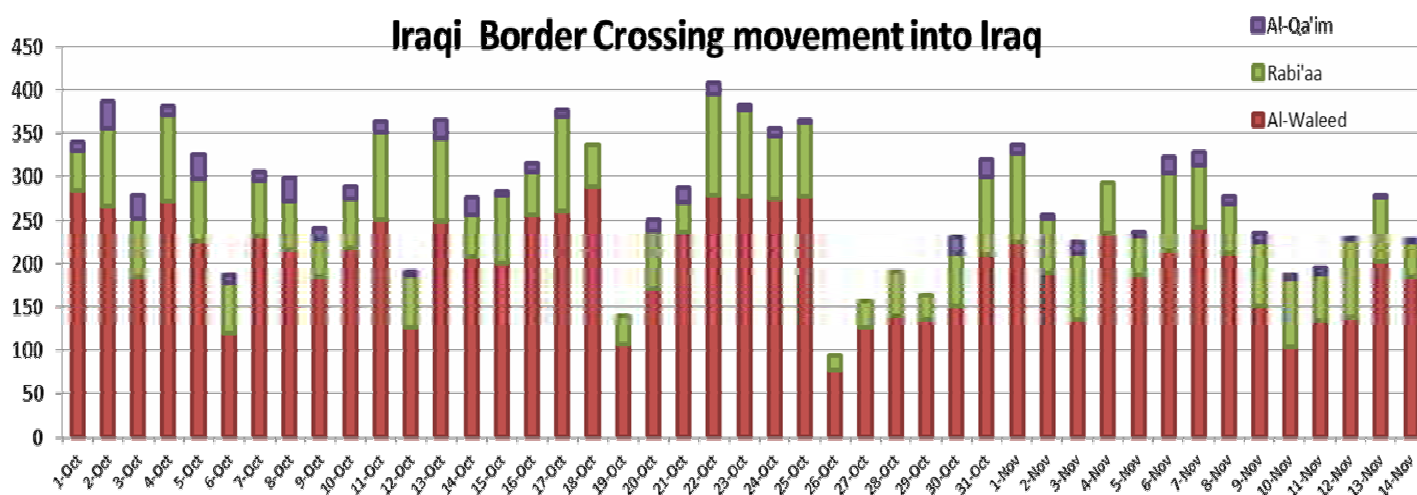
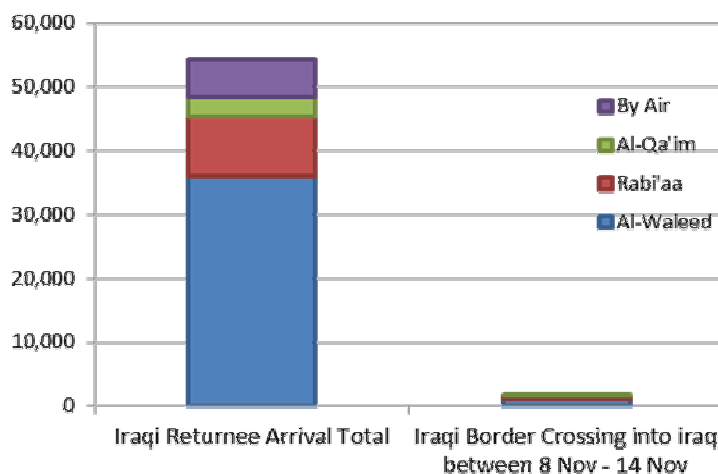
2.1 Syrian Refugees

Location	Syrian Arrivals between 8 Nov – 14 Nov	Total Arrivals
Duhok	2,591	33,280
Erbil	614	8,221
Sulimanyah	232	2,538
Al-Qa'im/Anabr	8	8,364
Other Governorates	0	74
Total	3,445	52,477



2.2 Iraqi Returnees (Cross Border Movement)

Border Point	Iraqi Returnees (cross border) between 8 Nov – 14 Nov	Total Arrivals Since 18 July
Al-Waleed	1,123	36,051
Rabi'aa	467	9,299
Al-Qa'im	38	3,003
By Air	0	5,997
Total	1,628	54,350



3. Sector updates

3.1 Reception, Registration and Protection

Al-Qa'im

As of 14 November 2012, camps 1 and 2 in Al-Qa'im accommodate a total of 7,398 Syrian refugees:

Camp 1 – 3,298 individuals. Last week the number was 3,342, but 4 refugees left the camp after they were recognised as Iraqi nationals. Camp 2 – 4,100 individuals.

Registration is on-going in Camp 2. A total number of 2,714 individuals (592 families) have been registered lately.

Total verified cases stand at 1,725: Camp 1 - 705 cases (3,290 individuals) and Camp 2 - 808 cases (3,746 individuals). Outside the camps: 212 cases (887 individuals). Overall, 7,923 individuals have been verified.

UNICEF and UNHCR raised the issue of providing birth certificates to new-borns with health authorities. The Iraqi government will follow up this issue at local and national levels.

The total number of persons benefiting from the sponsorship programme is 643 individuals.

Kurdistan Region

During the week, UNHCR recorded a number of 3,437 new arrivals, comprised of 451 families (1,788 individuals) and 1,649 singles.

- New arrivals in Erbil: 79 families (287 individuals) and 327 singles.
- New arrivals in Suleimaniya: 21 families (64 individuals) and 168 singles
- New arrivals in Duhok: 351 families (1,437 individuals) and 1,154 singles.

An average of 700 individuals is registered daily in Domiz. The total camp population is currently estimated at around 18,500 individuals.

In addition to the new arrivals coming from Syria on a daily basis, some urban refugees are also relocating to the camp due to the lack of job opportunities during winter and the expensive life in main KR cities.

The Residency Directorate reinforced its presence in both Erbil and Suleimaniya to accelerate the process of issuing the residency permit, while it had temporarily suspended its activities in Domiz Camp which is now resumed. There are increased numbers of camp residents crowding daily seeking the permit. UNHCR is jointly working with DDM and DoH to ensure the management of the process. DDM and Directorate of Residency agreed that the blood sampling unit in Domiz will daily serve 300-350 persons. DDM, UNHCR and DoH agreed to coordinate to improve measures for better crowd control- including relocating the blood sample unit outside the administrative quarter.

In Rabia`a, Syrians who illegally enter continue to be arrested at the border. To date around 14 individuals are in detention, among them two women and one child. The authorities in Rabia`a informed UNHCR that no Syrians would be allowed to live in urban settings and release of the detained Syrians would be allowed only when the latter are registered and relocated to Kasak Camp, which is still under construction.

3.2 Security

Al-Qa'im

Iraqi security forces are taking care of guarding both camps in Al-Qa'im. Issues related to providing security of the camps are discussed during regular meetings with partners.

Domiz

Crowd control remains a major challenge particularly at the government-run facilities, i.e., residency department. The issue has been re-raised with relevant authorities and measures are introduced for better management. Poor coordination on ad hoc in-kind assistance resulted in tension among camp residents, which was controlled by police to avoid further escalation. Police is provided with additional cabins to enable increase of its staff.

UNHCR met police and Assayish to discuss security practices and address gaps identified with regards to access control and crowd control.

3.3 Assistance Update

Shelter / infrastructure

Al-Qa'im

The replacement of current tents with family tents completed in Camp 1 and works are on-going in Camp 2 by IRW and Syrian refugees are also involved in the construction works. Kerosene distribution has also been completed in Camp 1 and is continued in Camp 2. The distribution of jerry cans is going on in Camp 2 by UNHCR.

Water trucks are being used. However, there is still a shortage. The first set of 14 solar boilers was delivered to Camp 1 as part of winterization measures. An eight-day training to enhance the capacity of 20 operators from different water projects within Al-Qa'im was organized.

The CFS in Camp 1 is operating with regular recreational activities led by Syrian volunteers and a UNICEF Child Protection facilitator. Syrian volunteers are being mobilized in Camp 2 to assist with the implementation of child protection interventions. The lack of adequate space to establish a CFS is being discussed with the MoDM; 400m² is expected to be allocated for the operation of child-friendly activities.

Domiz

UNHCR provided 26 cabins for general support in the camp and coordinated with DDM in order to identify location for cabins and land levelling. Cabins are utilized as follows: 7 for the HC, 6 for admin block for UN agencies, 1 for CFS, 2 for police, 1 for IOM vocational training, 5 for community centres (phases 1 to 5) and 4 for the new single site/camp.

KURDS NGO completed the connection of a water tank provided by IOM with water network in single area and completed the test of pump in well No. 2 (production is 57 gallons per minute). KURDS also completed 50 m length of water network in Phase 3.

- Phase 4

UNHCR identification of beneficiaries to be relocated to Phase 4 is on-going. 284 family plots are currently being finalised. UNHCR tents will be installed in the Government constructed Phase 4 area, so that 284 families can be relocated by next week. Water works are yet to be commended by UNICEF/KURDS. Residents will be provided with water tanks and daily supply of potable water in the interim.

- Phase 5

The casting of 900 tent foundations and 430 kitchen foundations has been completed. 346 kitchen walls were erected to the roofing level. 767 wooden forms for tents foundations were installed (cumulative). Demarcation of 874 tent foundation and 750 kitchen foundations have been completed.

- New transit area

Total number of tents installed is 300 tents. Majority of tents got connected to sanitation units whilst works are underway to install a total of 500 tents and ensure provision of latrines and showers to all. A list of 500 families is already compiled and allocation is done as per priority/vulnerability.

- Singles' Site

Pending the approval of funds, the KRG has confirmed the commitment to develop the site for singles for some 4,000 persons situated 2km from Domiz Camp.

NFIs

Al-Qa'im

Distribution of the NFI kits with carpets for tents floor was completed in Camp 1 and this activity will be started in Camp 2 next week. IOM is responsible for this activity.

Special needs for pregnant women and young children were raised with UNHCR and DoH while child protection partners plan to distribute clothes and newborn kits.

Domiz



Distribution of clothes for Syrian newly-arrived refugees in urban areas, Sulaymaniyah

A total of 50 families (201 individuals), all living in the camp and 13 groups of singles (52 persons) received the NFIs. UNHCR conducted the registration for the NFIs distribution for 70 newly arrived families (275 individuals), and 8 groups of singles (32 individuals).

DDM distributed cash assistance – donated by local community – to 141 families (603 persons), with total 8,885,000.00 Iraqi Dinars (around USD 7.6 mln).

DDM distributed 330 blankets- donated by local community- (one per person).

Food

Al-Qa'im

MoDM distributed baby milk powder and potable water in camps 1 and 2 in close coordination with IRW staff.

UNICEF will train doctors and health workers on the management of severe malnutrition cases.

Domiz

In total, since the beginning of the distribution on 22 October, 9,468 persons (out of 10,000 prepositioned rations) have received their food rations. The distribution started 3 weeks ago.

Depending on available funding, DDM will distribute food rations for the further 5,000 refugees. UNHCR has prepared the list of new arrivals and will issue food tokens to those residing in the camp to get the food from WFP/DDM. WFP will do the verification with the list of those who have already received food ration to avoid double distribution.

WFP has plans to introduce the food voucher system during the next December food distribution.

Health

Al-Qa'im

As it was previously reported, 5,170 people were vaccinated against seasonal influenza. A joint UNICEF/MoH mission to Al-Qa'im assessed the health situation and service delivery. Regular health services are available to refugees in Camp 1 with 117 children vaccinated within the routine immunization programme; health services will be expanded to Camp 2.

A new PHC centre with MCH and immunization units will be established by MoH in Camp 2 as agreed with the MoDM.

Save the Children NGO conducted hygiene kits distribution in Camp 2 on 13 and 14 November 2012.

In Camp 1, inflammations and cleaning awareness campaign conducted by UNICEF Hygiene Promotion Team (Female & Male Syrian from Camp 1).

Hygiene mobilizers (50% female) are being selected from Camp 2 to carry out daily hygiene promotion activities in both camps.

Domiz:

The land levelling for the new Health Centre has been finalised and 12 cabins have already been placed in site. The HC will have the capacity of 14 rooms to accommodate a larger number of patients.

The current medical facilities in the camp are as follows:

- The Health Centre is open 24 hours and is being run by DoH (8 am to 1 pm daily shift) and by the MSF (1 pm to 8 am daily shift). The HC has a dispensary and a pharmacy.
- ASB primary health care clinic established in Phase 5 is open from 10 am to 10 pm daily. The clinic opened on 6 November and will be operating in the camp for seven weeks.
- A temporary dental support unit operated by the South Korean government.

In addition, a 24 hours ambulance service is available within the camp. Urgent cases, including child delivery, are referred to the Duhok Hospital where medical treatment is provided free of charge.

On 8 November, UNHCR met with Director Residency Department in Duhok to ensure that asylum-seekers with HIV and HBs are not be subject to any discriminatory medical treatment. DoH did the fumigation of 240 tents against insects, scorpions and snakes.

Education

Al-Qa'im

The limited area of Camp 2 remains a challenge. MoDM agreed allocate about 800m2 for a school but UNICEF is still discussing with the camp management to lay the concrete layer foundation in order to install the school tents. Children in Camp 1 moved from the tent-school into the new prefabricated classrooms (10 classrooms + 1 room for administration). The existing school works in two shifts.

Totally, 957 students are being covered in two shifts. For teaching positions, 8 Syrian refugees from the camps and 4 Iraqi teachers have been involved. In addition, each shift has 4 social workers (females) from Save the Children and 10 volunteers from the camps (Syrian females) are works with students.

Domiz

Over 2,000 school going children (5-17 years) are residing in the camp as a result of a UNICEF survey. However, more than 1,000 children have arrived during the lasts weeks.

Two additional schools (1 provided by local donation and 1 by UNHCR) to accommodate further 1200 children each, are under construction.



Construction of school by a local company in Domiz Camp

4. Syrian Refugees/Iraqi Returnees

Syrian Urban Refugees

UNHCR continue to conduct protection monitoring of the situation of Syrians living scattered in Erbil, Duhok and Suleimaniya. The protection networks reported that the majority of the Syrians do not live with relatives but in rented houses, which they are unable to continue to pay. Several families are threatened with eviction as their resources have exhausted in the initial three months following arrival in Kurdistan Region.

Currently, most Syrians are unemployed or semi-employed; protection monitoring revealed that most of the Syrians are unemployed and around 90% are in debt. As the number of arrivals increases resources of the host community are also exhausted making it difficult to support additional arrivals, several families are at current risk of eviction by the land lords if rent is not paid.

This had impacted the living conditions of the family members; children dropped out of school in order to support their families and due to the lack of income, others reported about the distance between the isolated villages they live in and the nearest schools. Access to health services is also challenging, several family members suffer disabilities and are unable to enjoy specialized health treatment. Single female head of households are increasingly facing challenges to provide food and support to their family members.

S. is a female head of household and a mother of four children. Following her divorce in Syria and fleeing the general violence in Qamishli/Hassaka, she arrived in Erbil where she sought protection for her children. In addition to violence, S fled the abuse of her ex-husband who also arrived in Kurdistan Region and threatened to kill her and to take her children. S was helped by a Syrian man and found a job, however given the low income she was unable to pay for her rent, she was physically abused by the man who hosted her and escaped an attempt of rape. Fearing again for her safety, S went to live in Suleimaniya where the UNHCR's protection centres assisted her to be admitted into the government shelter. Few days later, S left the shelter as reportedly, the place was overcrowded and S relocated finally to Domiz Camp where she was assisted and prioritized for a shelter unit.

Iraqi Returnees

During the reporting period, 132 Iraqi returnee households (738 individuals) registered with the MoMD. To date, a total of 5,045 Iraqi returnee households (30,270 individuals) have been registered with MoMD since 29 July 2012. Out of this number, 1,535 households have received the 4 million IQD grant. Of the registered Iraqi Returnees, 65% are females and 35% males.

Iraqi returnees from Syria are facing huge challenges reintegrating into a country with high rates of unemployment, limited basic services and on-going sectarian violence. UNHCR Iraq, through its returnee assistance centres and border monitoring programmes observed that the majority of returnees are leaving behind their personal and household belongings. Based on needs, UNHCR Iraq started distributing a one-time cash grant of \$ 400 per family and \$ 200 for singles to Iraqi returnees to meet immediate and short-term needs.

During the reporting period, 181 families (1,086 individuals) received the UNHCR cash assistance bringing the total number of households who received UNHCR cash assistance to 348 households (1,568 individuals).

Many of the Iraqi returnees interviewed by UNHCR have continued to request UNHCR assistance in providing medical assistance and shelters, since many of them departed Iraq since 2006 and sell their properties and quit their jobs.

Some interviewed returnees indicated that Iraqis who are still living in Syria and relocated from Damascus districts or suburb to safer locations like Gramana, could no longer eager to stay due to the increased rent costs, which become double or triple the normal price.

5. Coordination

Al-Qa'im



On 12 November 2012, a conference was conducted in Al-Qa'im with the participation of representatives from UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, IRW, ISF, MoDM, Al-Qa'im Health Directorate, EC members, NGOs, Al-Qa'im tribes' leaders and Syrian asylum seekers. The conference participants discussed the situation of Syrian refugees in Al-Qa'im camps.

During the conference, representatives from Syrian refugees requested to improve health services, to open the border, to provide access to education and to create job opportunities.

On 14 November, UNHCR, UNICEF, IRW and camp community leaders held their weekly meeting to discuss latrine maintenance, supplying water to the camp and improving its quality in the camps, security issues, management and coordination issues.

Domiz

On 12 November, a UNHCR Public Information and photography mission from HQ arrived in Iraq to support in generating greater public awareness on the increasing influx of Syrians in the country.

The mission members visited Syrian urban refugees in Erbil and proceeded to Domiz to visit camp facilities and discuss with few vulnerable individuals. The participants will further proceed to visit Al-Qa'im Camp during the week. UNHCR invited Al-Jazeera to produce a live report/interview in the camp that was broadcasted on 14 November live globally.



Al-Jazeera interviewing live UNHCR in Domiz Camp

UNHCR met with IRC group to discuss on availability of new funds they received to run community services related activities in the camp, i.e., child protection and women protection centres. UNHCR requested synopsis on each project to enable better coordination and introduction to other actors.

UNHCR met UN HABITAT representatives to discuss the later engagement in technical related issues at the camp, such as shelter and infrastructure works.

UNHCR met representatives from MSF for general update. The later informed of the expected arrival of "WATSAN"/ WASH expert to be deployed to the camp for 2 months, as well as 3 staff who will be conducting a survey among camp residents. UNHCR requested the questionnaire to be shared.

UNHCR met with DDD, Assaiysh and police to reflect on access control and crowd control issues.

Glossary

ABS - Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (Workers' Samaritan Federation) German NGO
CFS – Child Friendly Space
CS – Community Services
DDM – Department of Displacement and Migration
DFR – Department of Foreign Relations
DoE – Directorate of Education
DoH – Department of Health
DT Vaccine – Immunization shot against diphtheria and tetanus
DVAW – Directorate of Tracing Violence against Women
EVI – Extreme Vulnerable Individuals
GoD – Governorate (Governor) of Duhok
HC – Health Centre
HoSO – Head of Sub-Office
HoFO – Head of Field-Office
IDPs – Internally Displaced Persons
IOM – International Organization for Migration
IRC – International Rescue Committee
IRW – Islamic Relief Worldwide
KR – Kurdistan Region
KRG – The Government of Kurdistan Region
MAG – Mines Advisory Group (NGO)
MCH – Maternal and Child Health
MMR Vaccine - Immunization shot against measles, mumps and rubella
MoDM – Ministry (Minister) of Displacement and Migration
MoE - Ministry (Minister) of Education
MoH – Ministry (Minister) of Health
MoHE – Ministry (Minister) of Higher Education
Mol – Ministry (Minister) of Interior
MSF – Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) French NGO
NFI – Non- Food Items
NGO – Non-Governmental Organization
OPD – Out-patient Department
PARC – Protection Assistance and Reintegration Centre
PoP – Persons of Concern
RC – Registration Centre
RICCS – Registration and Integration Community Services
RRP – Regional Response Plan
SP – Special Envoy
SFHH – Single Female Head of Household
SGBV/GBV – Sexual Gender Based Violence
SRRP – Syrian Rapid Response Plan
TD Vaccine - Immunization shot against Tetanus
UNESCO – United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund
WASH – Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
(UN) WFP – World Food Programme
(UN) WHO – World Health Organization
