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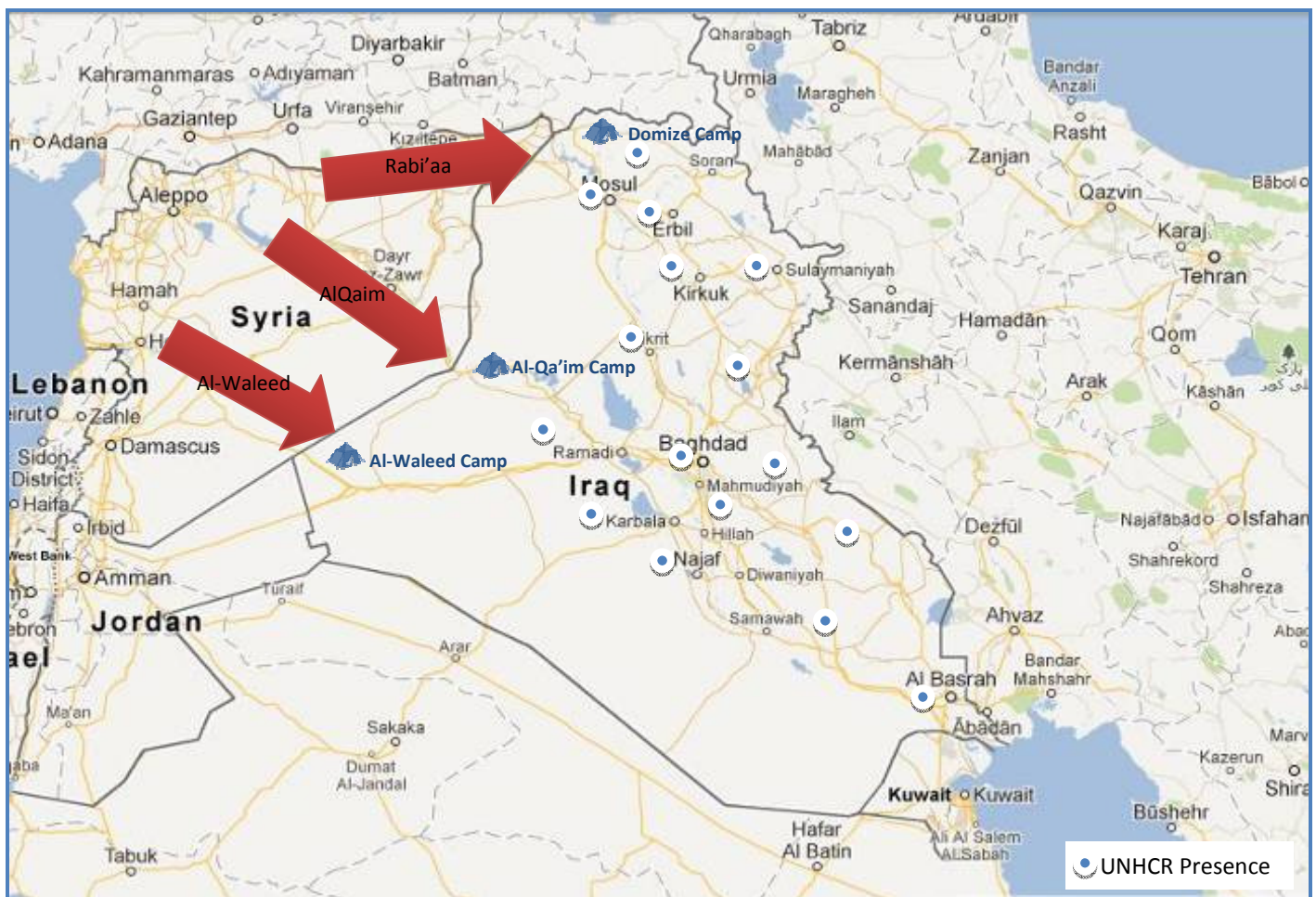
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Syrian Refugee Brief

Location	Total
Duhok	40,362
Erbil	11,181
Sulaimanyah	3,007
Al-Qaim/Anbar	8,852
Other Governorates	94
Total	63,496



Iraqi – Syrian Border Points

MoDM/DDM/Local Authorities

Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM

NGOs: IRW | Qandil | ISHO | IRC | HARIKARI | CDO

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

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1. Overview

Syrian Refugees

The number of Syrian refugees arriving in Iraq has reached 63,496 as at 5 December 2012.

The Al-Qaim border crossing point remains closed, with only emergency cases or family reunification cases being permitted access. During the reporting period, 17 Syrians entered Iraq through Al-Qaim. The Al Waleed and Rabi'aa border crossing points remain open: to date only few numbers of Syrians have entered through Al Waleed and Rabi'aa.

Registration is still on-going in Al-Qaim for families outside the camp to get the Asylum seekers certificates, also during the week 210 Syrians closed their cases with UNHCR and voluntary repatriated back to Syria

In the Kurdistan Region (KR), there was a slight decrease in the number of Syrian arrivals during the past week, with 2,770 persons recorded, an average of 300 to 500 new arrivals daily.¹ This brings the total number of Syrian refugees in the KR to 54,550 individuals.

Among the 63,496 Syrian, there are 11,481 who finished level 1 registration and are waiting to be registered in UNHCR specific registration database (ProGres) while the rest (52,015) are registered in ProGres.

The winterization plan is ongoing. See table last page.

Iraqi Cross Border Movement

According to UNHCR's Border Monitoring reports, during the past week 1,389 Iraqis crossed into Iraq from Syria. All three border points (Al Waleed, Rabi'aa and Al-Qaim) have remained open for Iraqi returnees. Al-Waleed continued to receive the largest number of returnees (915).

As at 5 December, the total number of Iraqis crossing into Iraq since 18 July 2012 is 58,213 including 5,997 by air. This number includes returnees who were registered with UNHCR in Syria and those who were not registered. It also includes individuals who cross the border for their private related reasons on a daily basis. During the same period, 1,269 Iraqis crossed back into Syria.²

Statistics collected at the border continue to indicate that Baghdad is still the governorate receiving the largest number of Iraqi returnees, followed by Anbar and Ninewa.

In contrast, 1,269 Iraq individuals crossed the border to Syria, bringing the total number of Iraqis who crossed the border to Syria to 30,770 individuals since July 18, 2012. Some interviewed Iraqis' indicated that they are temporarily visiting Syria to get UNHCR Syria monthly cash assistance, food basket and 80% coverage of their medical expenses. Some other Iraqis temporarily go back to Syria to sell their property or to obtain their kids school certificates which is required by the Iraqi Ministry of Education.

Border authorities at Al-Qaim and Al Waleed are taking more arrangements to secure the borders. Report indicated that Iraqi authorities are preparing t-walls to block the borders in case things get worse at the Syrian side.

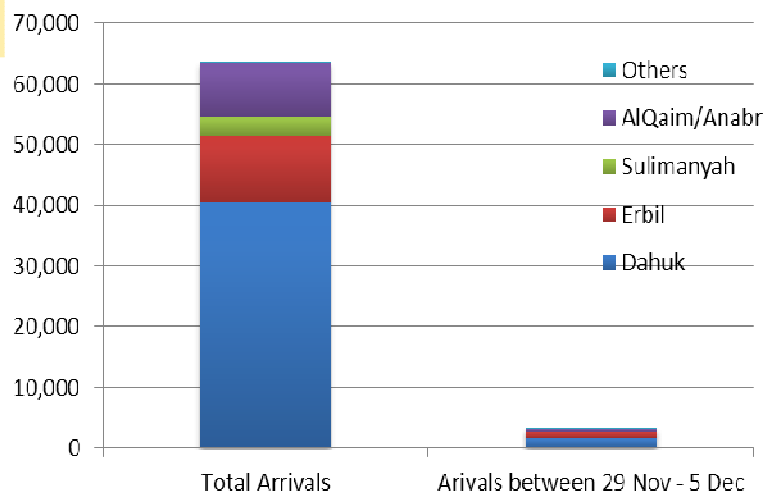
¹ In comparison, 3,278 new arrivals were recorded during the period 22 – 28 November, between 600 and 1,000 persons daily (see Syria Situation Update No 28).

² This number also includes persons crossing into Syria for daily business.

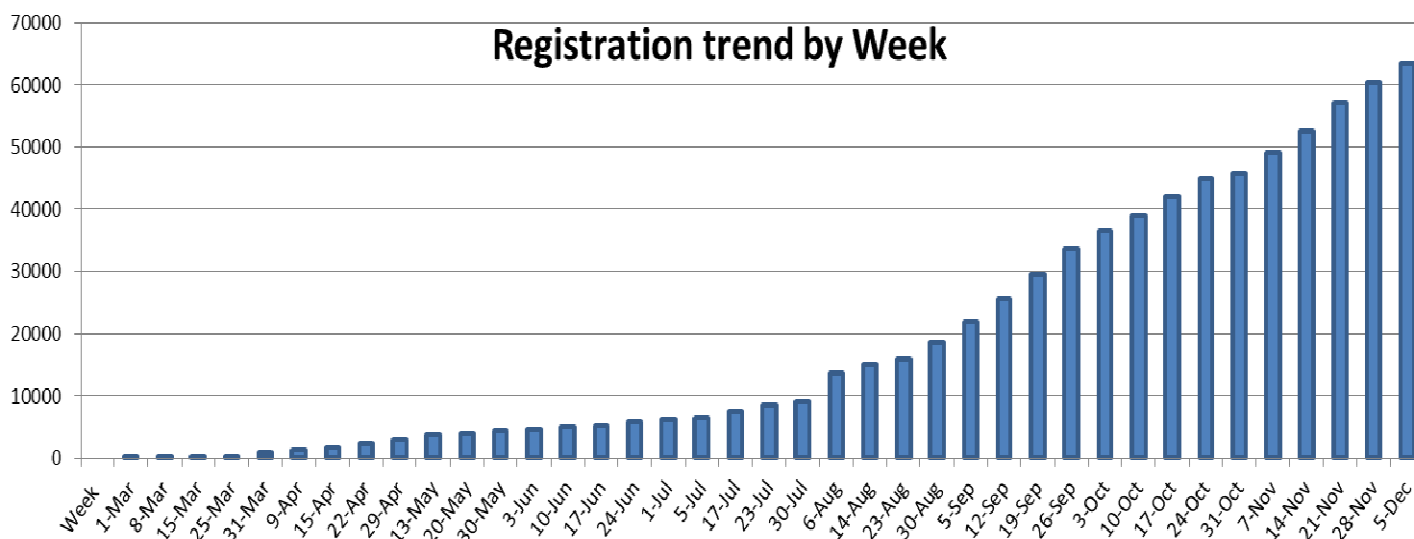
2. Statistics

2.1 Syrian Refugees

Location	Syrian Arrivals between 29 Nov – 5 Dec	Total Arrivals
Duhok	1,722	40,362
Erbil	921	11,181
Sulimanyah	127	3,007
Al-Qaim/Anbar	408	8,852
Other Governorates	11	94
Total	3,189	63,496

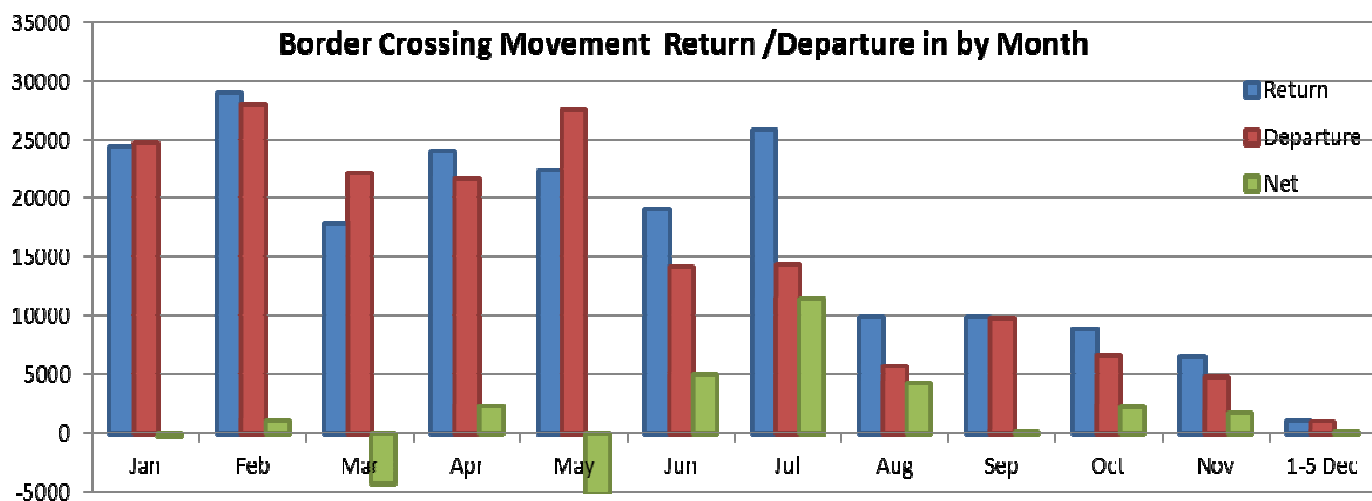
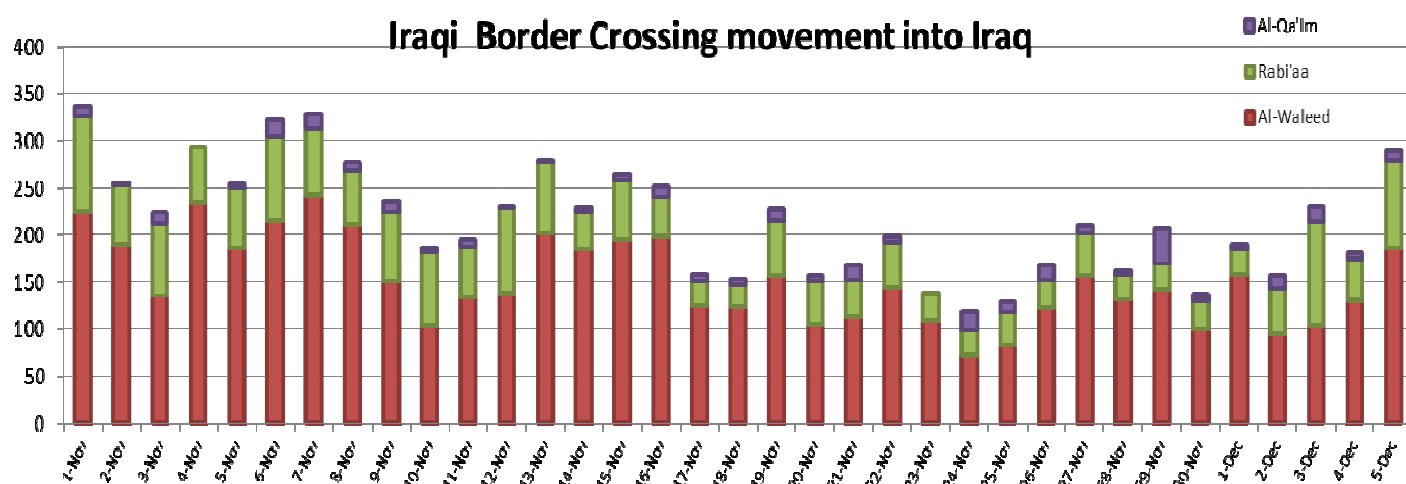
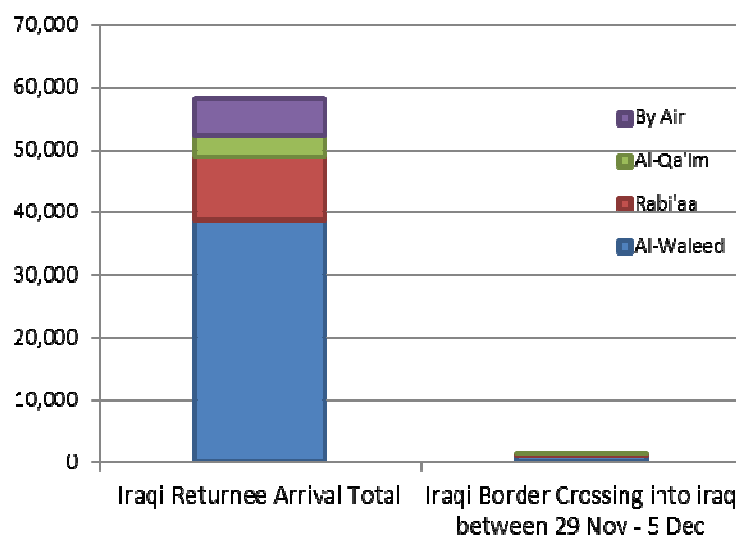


Registration trend by Week



2.2 Iraqi Returnees (Cross Border Movement)

Border Point	Iraqi Returnees (cross border) between 29 Nov – 5 Dec	Total Arrivals Since 18 July
Al-Waleed	915	38,764
Rabi'aa	378	10,217
Al-Qaim	96	3,235
By Air	0	5,997
Total	1,389	58,213



3. Sector updates

3.1 Reception, Registration and Protection

Al-Qaim

As at 5 December, a total of 7,080 Syrians are residing in Al-Qaim: - 3,097 persons in Camp 1 and 3,983 in Camp 2. During the reporting period 3 persons were accepted into Camp 1 for family reunification purposes and 1 person in Camp 2.

Although UNHCR is not promoting returns to Syria, a coordination mechanism is in place with the authorities in Al-Qaim to register persons wishing to return. During the past week, a total of 53 persons voluntarily returned to Syria from Camp 1 and 136 from Camp 2. Reasons cited for return include frustration at the lack of freedom of movement and services, as well as for family reunification purposes.

The registration team in Al-Qaim is now focusing on registration of Syrians residing outside of the camps.

Registration Summary: Total number of verified cases: 1,941 (8,852 individuals).

Camp 1 – 658 cases (3,097 individuals), Camp 2 – 845 cases (3,983 individuals). Outside the camps – 438 cases (1,772 individuals).

Protection monitoring and community mobilisation activities are on-going in Al-Qaim. SGBV prevention and response remains a priority for protection actors, with training, awareness-raising sessions and focus group discussions planned for the coming weeks.

Kurdistan Region

During the week, UNHCR recorded 2,770 new arrivals, comprising of 425 families (1,613 individuals) and 1,157 singles.

- New arrivals in Erbil: 120 families (467 individuals) and 454 singles.
- New arrivals in Suleimaniya: 19 families (66 individuals) and 61 singles
- New arrivals in Duhok: 286 families (1,080 individuals) and 642 singles.

The total camp population is currently estimated at around 23,500 individuals

3.2 Security

Al-Qaim

Iraqi security forces continue to be responsible for providing security in both camps. A fire was reported in a tent in Section A on 5 December, which was contained without any harms to refugees. The location of the tent was cleaned immediately and the family was provided with NFIs.

Domiz

No particular concerns were reported from the camp during the reporting period.

3.3 Assistance Update

a- Shelter / infrastructure

Al-Qaim

The construction works are going on in Camp 3 in Al-Obaidy. Works are still on-going in all 85 latrines and 30 toilets ready for roofing. Construction is continued in all 44 septic tanks, 37 were fully completed. Out 94 kitchens, which are under construction 45 are ready for roofing. Works of the chain link fence in the camp still on-going and, the work progress ratio is about 60%.

UNICEF provided 28 solar boilers to Camp 1 to provide warmth to children during the cold winter months. Forty-two Syrian refugee hygiene mobilizers (50% female) from Camp 1 and 2 received UNICEF supported training to carry out daily hygiene promotion in the camp. The camps encounters with difficulties of water supply due to the frequent power cut-off there.

UNICEF is finalising a partnership agreement to construct water and sanitation facilities in Al-Qaim Camp 3, which will benefit 5,000 Syrian refugees, with implementing Partner (ISHO).

Domiz

Phase 4

Families moving to the Phase 4 erected 282 tents, around 276 families moved to their new plots. Several refugees are re-constructing their plots into full-fledged houses. Government started the construction of the internal road in the Phase 4, where KURDS already finished with the water project-related works.

Phase 5

ISHO continued the works in the Phase 5. Per the agreement with UNICEF, ISHO completed the demarcation of 327 sanitation units, completed the wooden forms for 300, casted the base for 278, and built the walls for 196. Roof was made for 1. ISHO also completed the excavation of 141 septic tanks and built the walls for all of them. The Government is installing the poles for the electricity in the Phase 5.

Transit area 3

Electricity is supplied fully. Works continue with provision of latrines and showers (105 in total).

New transit area 4

ISHO-as agreed with UNHCR- did the demarcation for the tents installation (120 tents) in the extension of the area, approximately half of the land previously levelled is now demarked.

Works continued on the installation and connection of the missing showers and latrines in the new transit area. As of 4 December, 9 latrines and 23 showers were connected to the septic tanks.

Tent-to-tent hygiene promotion campaign continues in Domiz camp and will last until the end of December. Current focus continues on hepatitis prevention via hygiene practices.

*Phase: A section in the camp whereby a number of refugees reside and where services (water and sanitation, etc.) are being provided. The term Phase is preferred to Zone because is related to the progressive expansion of the camp.

Kasak Camp

Construction in Kasak camp for Syrian in Mosul is on-going. Site Levelling and land division to sectors are completed. In addition, outer fence, kitchen, main gate and installation of 50 tents are completed.

b- Water and Sanitation

Currently the water supply is mostly brought from the well outside the camp with the water carriers. According to the DDM, on 3 December water carriers made 73 journeys to the camp. This should have brought to the camp around 833,000 litres of water, which is not enough to cover the existing need. In response to this, the Government proposed to use other two wells for filling of the water carriers, and dedicate the well outside the camp for the water project in the Phases 1, 2 and 3.

The 2 wells in the camp are connected to water storage tanks and ready for use when connected to the electricity. UNHCR confirmed its readiness to provide generators as back up for electricity supply. KURDS started the construction of the storage tanks base construction at the Phase 4, at the moment of the report about 1,5 MH constructed. For the water project in Phase 4, KURDS excavated 820 ML and connected 800 ML of the pipes of different diameter, 700 ML of pipes covered with sand and soil. The implementation of water network and storage tank in phase four has reached 70%.

c- NFIs

Al-Qaim

Following the Winterisation Programme, MoDM has provided blankets and distribution is on-going. In addition, ACTED through its local NGO Al-Masara distributed clothes in both camps for refugees targeting ages 3 – 60 males and females.

NGO Qandil also distributed NFI kits for boys, girls and secondary school students in the camp. A total of 1,773 kits were distributed so far. The distributed kits contain school dresses, shirts, jackets and sneakers. The students were also given stationary kits.

Domiz

UNHCR started the distribution of the winterisation packages comprising of one quilt and one blanket per individual, one plastic sheet, one jerry can and two fleece blankets per family.

With the increased capacity of the NFI distribution team, 2,336 families received the winterization kit until 5 December. All households are checked against their progress registration number, distribution records are generated every day.

UNHCR distributed 282 tents to the families moving to Phase 4.

DDM distributed 1000 kerosene barrels, provided the kerosene for 24 families (150 litres/family) and distributed 1046 gas cooking stoves and for the families.

UNHCR received 5000 pcs of thermal blankets to the Rub-hall in Domiz.

d- Food

Al-Qaim

Syrian refugees are provided with three times a day food by MoDM. UNICEF procured 36 tons of high protein biscuit to be provided to children under-five and pregnant women in the camps. Also, the local government in Kerbala distributed 5 kg of rice, 2 bottles of vegetables oil and 2 cans of tomato paste to each tent.

Domiz

WFP started distribution of food vouchers on 29 November. Despite the fact that vouchers have term of validity, many refugees preferred to convert them into food immediately, creating the queues at the shop. WFP distributed food vouchers to 6,827 beneficiaries during the week.

Red Crescent reported its contribution of 2000 food packages (2 sacks of pasta, 1kg lentils, 0.450 kg tea, 1kg white beans, 1lt vegetable oil, 1kg sugar, 1 can of tomato paste, 2 kg rice), per family. Distribution of packages will be done by DDM in coordination with UNHCR.

e- Health

Al-Qaim

UNICEF provided the Al-Qaim District with 10 ice-lined cold boxes and 10 vaccine carriers. UNICEF also supported the visit of the EPI national programme manager to Al-Qaim, who provided on-the-job training to the Al-Qaim EPI Team, which has facilitated the availability of immunization services for Syrian refugees. A total of 262 children have now benefitted from routine immunization. The national measles campaign began on 2 December, 2012, and will target 1,044 children from six months to 5 years in Camps 1 and 2.

Two prefabricated caravans were installed in Camp 2 in order to establish a PHC. Eighteen health workers have been appointed from the DoH and will be trained by UNICEF to operate the PHC, which will be officially inaugurated next week.

Referrals to Anbar Central Hospital have been postponed to next week by the hospital management due to planning reasons. Hepatitis is continued to be registered and the number of registered cases is increasing. During the reporting period, 50 cases were registered in Camp 1 and 75 cases in Camp 2. Construction works are on-going in new clinic in Camp 2 and a new male doctor has already been assigned for the clinic. A vaccination campaign against measles was completed in both camps by Al-Qaim Health Directorate.

Domiz

UNHCR met with the general director of Health Department in Duhok who paid a visit to the camp in order to assess the overall health situation, particularly issues pertinent to new outbreak of Hepatitis "A" and the need to enhance the WASH situation.

Fumigation of tents by the DoH against snakes, scorpions and mosquitoes is on-going.

f- Education

Al-Qaim

The CFS in camp one is functioning on a daily basis with around 45 new children registered during the reporting period (16 boys/ 29 girls); daily attendance reaches up to 150 children. Three shifts operate with multiple recreation and psychosocial activities.

UNICEF partner Save the Children met with the camp community to raise awareness on the importance of the CFS to the well-being of children, care and protection manuals were distributed to the families. Eighteen CFS volunteers have been trained on CFS guidelines and principles by Save the Children.

School is regularly operating in Camp 1 with a steady attendance rate. Fifteen prefabricated classrooms with WASH facilities will be installed in Camp 2 in the coming weeks. Teachers were identified for the school in Camp 2 (Iraqi and Syrian) with UNICEF support. Teacher training on psychosocial teaching methods for teachers in Camp 2 will be conducted next week before the school opens.

Totally, 1,773 students are being covered by school in two shifts. Morning shift: 372 male students and afternoon shift 337 female students.

Domiz

Second school donated by a private company and third one funded by UNHCR remain under construction.

Reach in Duhok started the process of distributing caravans according to the list agreed with DoE. 9 caravans in 5 schools in Sumel district (Bahadar mixed secondary school, Dost and Baroch primary schools), and Manesh sub-district (Mangesh secondary school and Sabna primary school) were installed.

Education section provided financial support to Ministry of Education to print and provide textbooks for additional 3000 children at Domiz camp covering grade 1-9. This will ensure students in unit 2&3 will have newly printed textbooks.

ACTED contract with UNICEF has ended therefore the Child Friendly Space (CFS) is still under the process of handing over to Government representative in Domiz camp, to the DDM and the Directorate of Social Affairs (DoSA) in Duhok Governorate. The DoSA – Semel branch will be running the current CFS.

The previous (7) volunteers of CFS will continue to work under the new management of the CFS by the DoSA, in addition to new staff being provided by DoSA (2) - social workers and three teachers for music, sport and art. A new schedule for receiving children and programs will be prepared and shared by DoSA. The CFS will be working officially after 3 days of handover process completion, until required materials will be purchased and provided to the current CFS.

4. Interviews with Syrian Refugees/Iraqi Returnees

Syrian Refugees

Syrians who recently arrived in Al-Qaim have reported that the situation in Abu Kamal is extremely poor. Severe damage has been reported to the infrastructure, including hospitals, with a lack of medication, no water and no electricity. A number of families are believed to be waiting for permission to enter Iraq; exact numbers are unclear.

In the KR, Syrians residing in urban areas are reportedly arriving from Hassaka and Al-raqqa. Given the lack of capacity of Domiz camp to host additional families, Syrians living in urban locations opt to rely on the support of the host community to rent houses and to access informal job opportunities. Daily challenges are continuing to be faced, including enrolment in schools, given that the school year has already commenced. In all the KR governorates, there are limited Arabic schools and when available are overcrowded. Particular difficulties are faced by persons with vulnerabilities, many of whom are unable to provide for their families and report cash assistance as their major need.

Iraqi Returnees

During the reporting period, 103 Iraqi returnee households (618 individuals) registered with the MoDM. To date, a total of 5,409 Iraqi returnee households (32,454 individuals) have been registered with MoDM since 29 July 2012. Out of this number 2,029 households have received the 4million IQD grant. No grant distributed yet in Basra, Kirkuk, Salah Aldin and Muthana due to the lack of fund and logistic related issues. Registration is slow in the some of the southern governorates due to the background check conducted by the Ministry of Interior.

Distribution of UNHCR's one-time cash grant has continued. The grant of \$400 per family and \$ 200 for singles is being provided to Iraqi Returnees to meet immediate and short term needs.

During the reporting period, 539 families (3,234 individuals) received the UNHCR cash assistance bringing the total number of households who received UNHCR Cash Assistance to 1,643 households (9,858 individuals).

Many Iraqi returnees interviewed have continued to indicate that the sustainability of their return remains fragile. Financial challenges (in the form of employment, income and access to property) are the main obstacles in addition to the improved but still uncertain political/security environment. 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.

5. Coordination

Al-Qaim

On 2 December 2012, a delegation from Kerbala local authorities led by Deputy Chairman of Kerbala Provincial Council visited the camps to familiarise with the situation of Syrian refugees and to discuss plans to distribute food and NFI items for refugees. During meetings and discussions, the issues of coordination in terms of distribution of food and NFI items were discussed. The avoidance of distribution duplication was among the discussed issues.

Domiz

On 29 November, a camp coordination meeting took place in Domiz with the presence of the Duhok Governorate Office/Head of Development Department, UNAMI, IRC, NRC country director, and from Erbil WFP and UNICEF. Main highlights of the discussion were: winterization needs, coordination of all assistance efforts in the camp and importance of keeping commitments given earlier by the organizations. Government

partners informed about expansion of the governmental presence in particular through placing a camp coordinator with a technical team.

On 2 December, UNHCR Duhok had a meeting with the director of Red Crescent, governorate Office and DDM administrator. Red Crescent advised on their intended contribution of 1000 food basket and 500 emergency relief items; i.e blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits. UNHCR agreed with Red Crescent to utilize their food baskets-normally sufficient for few days-among new arrivals while waiting for more sustainable food security; i.e. enrolled in WFP distribution system. NFIs emergency relief items will be used for the same purpose, while distribution will be coordinated with the camp management (DDM).

On 4 December, UNHCR met with NRC since the latter will be operational in Domiz camp as of next week and will mostly concentrate on the preparation for the distribution of the clothing for children.

On the same day, UNHCR also met with UNFPA (Baghdad and Amman offices) and IRC to discuss their planned intervention in the camp.

Erbil

On 2 December, UNHCR met the Minister of Interior to discuss assistance to urban refugees in the KR, the Minister was in favour to provide assistance to the most vulnerable and requested the continuous support of UNHCR.

On 3 December, UNHCR organized a meeting jointly with the Government stakeholders to operationalize the urban policy in the KR, the meeting was chaired by the Governor of Erbil and UNHCR, a follow up meeting will be organized with line Ministries to further discuss the implementation of the urban policy towards Syrians living in urban cities.

Winterisation: see last page.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WINTERISATION PROGRAMME as at 5 December 2012						
Al-Qaim						
Item	Standard	Total Requirement	Responsible Agency	Quantity	Camp 1	Camp 2
Tent	1/fam	1,700	UNHCR	1,700	Completed	Completed
Quilt	1/Ind		UNHCR	8,000	Completed	Completed
Plastic Sheet	1/fam	1,700	UNHCR	1,700	Completed	Completed
Fleece Blanket	2/fam	3,400	UNHCR	3,400	Completed	Completed
Carpet	1/fam	1,700	IOM	1700	Completed	Completed
Extra Kerosene Jerry Can	1/fam	1,700	UNHCR	1,700	Completed	Completed
Heating Stove	1/fam	1,700	IOM	1,700	Completed	Completed
Winter Clothes	100% of ages: 3 - 60		ACTED	4,543	Done on 5/12	started on 5/12
Clothes Kit			Qandil	1,773	1,248	525 and on-going
Kerosene	50 L/ month		UNHCR	80,000	On-going	On-going
Cooking Stove			MoDM	950		Completed
DOMIZ						
Thermal blanket	1/person	40,000	UNHCR	40,000	Ongoing	
Quilt	1/person	40,000	UNHCR	40,000	Ongoing	
Fleece Blanket	2/fam	7,000	UNHCR	7,000	Ongoing	
Plastic sheet	1/family	4,000	UNHCR	4,000	Ongoing	
Jerry Can	1/family	4,000	UNHCR	4,000	Ongoing	
Kerosene Metal Barrel	1/fam	3500	UNHCR/Government /Governorate Office	3500	Ongoing	
Gas Stove and Cylinder	1/fam	3,500	Government /Governorate Office	3,000500	Ongoing	
Kerosene	150L/ month	4,000 fam	Government /Governorate Office	4,000 family	On-going	
Winter Clothes	Under age 5		UNICEF		Pending	
Winter Clothes and Shoes	1/per child	6,000 (4,000 preschool, 2,000 school)	NRC		Under Procurement	
Winter Clothese and Shoes		children	Qandil	1660	Completed	
Gloves for children			Qandil	780		
Shelter Box(1 tent, 5 blankets and solar lamp)			ShelterBox	500	Completed	
Blanket	1 per person	15,000	DDM	14,200	Ongoing	