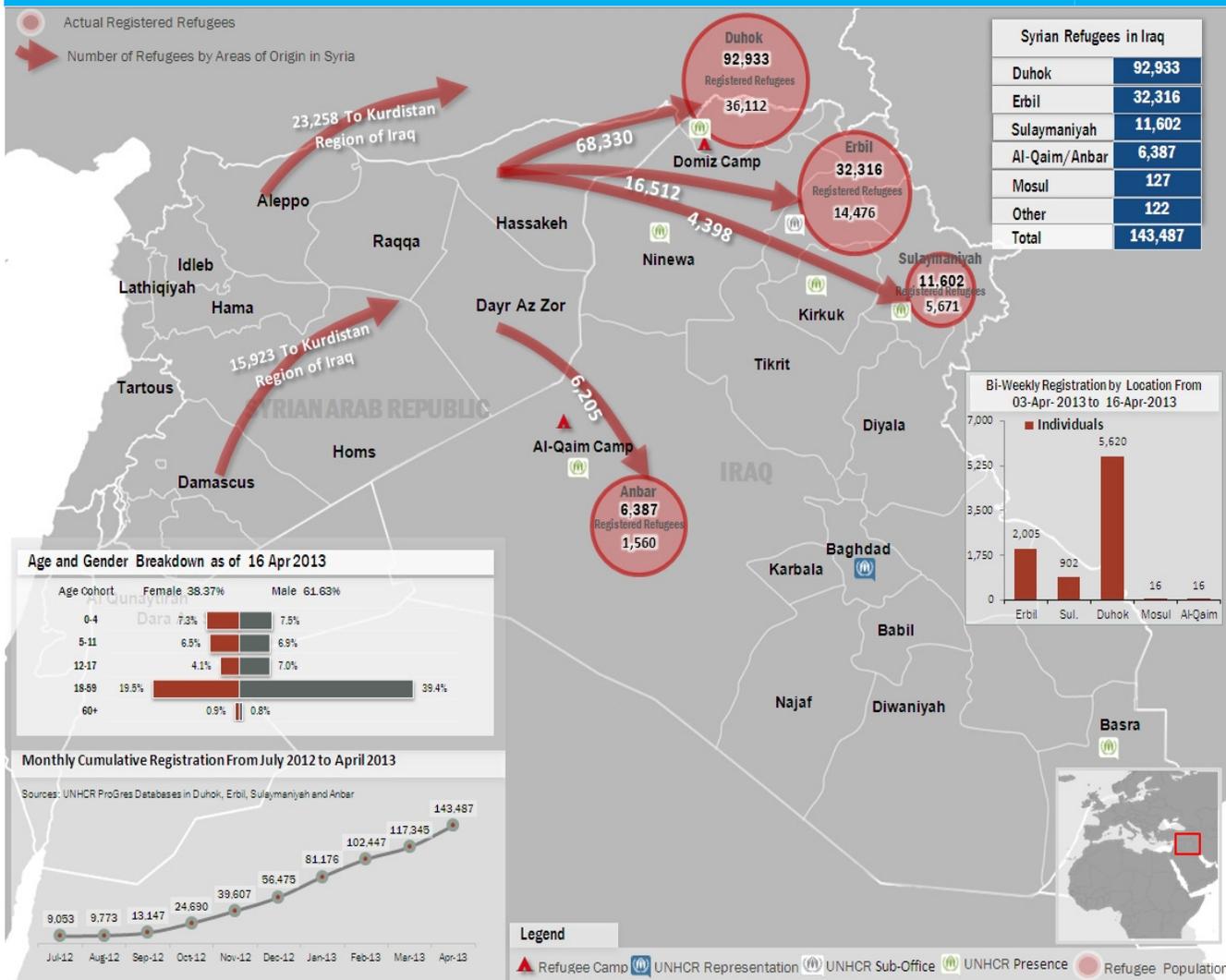


Syria Situation

Bi-Weekly update No. 41

17 – 30 April 2013



To date the following donors have contributed to the Regional Response Plan Jan-June 2013:

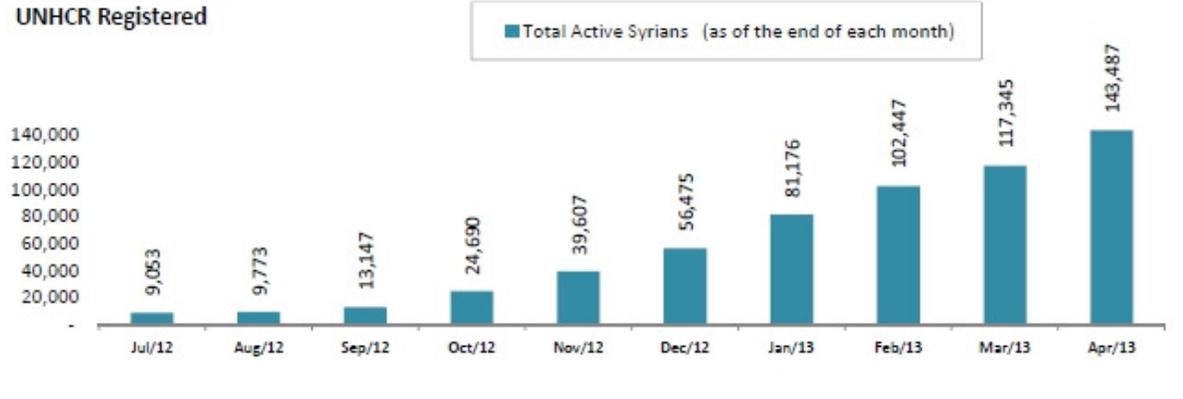


<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/>

iraqpi@unhcr.org

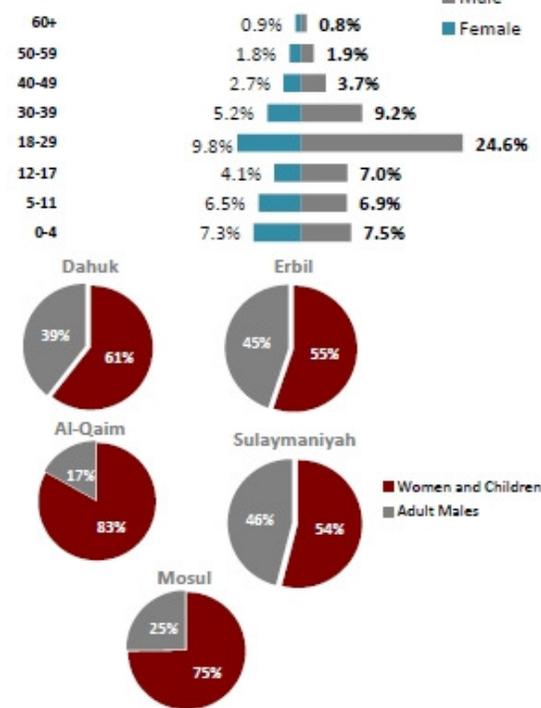
MOMD | DDM | DGC | Local Authorities
 Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM
 NGOs: IRW | Qandil | ISHO | IRC | HARIKAR | CDO | RIRP | ACTED | Save the CHILDREN | NRC | Muslim Aid | IKL | CDO | CAPNI | Rabin | Asayeesh | MSF | Oxfam | Afkar | Caritas | UPP |

UNHCR Registered



Demographic profile based on 143,487 proGres registered persons

Demographic Breakdown



Localisation of the Registration



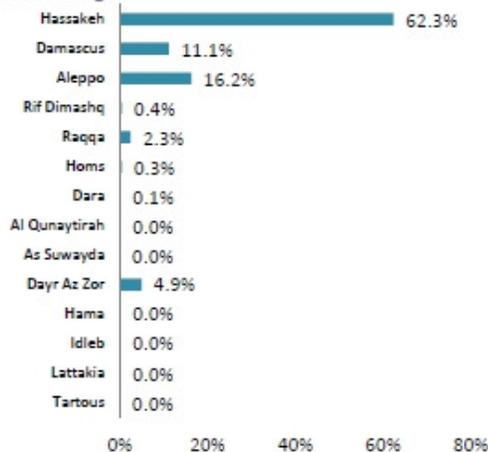
Governorate	Persons	House holds	% Total
Dahuk*	92,933	36,112	64.8%
Erbil	32,316	14,476	22.5%
Sulaymaniah	11,602	5,671	8.1%
Anbar	6,387	1,560	4.5%
Mosul	127	38	0.1%
Other	122	64	0.1%
Total Iraq	143,487	57,921	100.0%

* Includes Syrians registered in Domiz Camp

Camps	Persons	House holds
Domiz**	84,622	31,789
Al-Qaim Camp1	1,498	341
Al-Qaim Camp2	1,991	426

** Note that this figure reflects the number of refugees registered in Domiz Camp. However, a substantial number of refugees relocated out of the camp. The camp population is estimated to be 40,000.

Place of origin



1. Syrian response in Iraq: highlights

- As of 30 April 2013, total of **143,487** Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq; **136,851** were in the Kurdistan Region (KR).
- The number of refugees from Syria continues to increase, with an **average of 700-750 new arrivals** entering KR **on a daily basis**.
- **Issuing/renewal of residency permits** for Syrian refugees in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah remains **suspended** (permits are still being issued in Domiz camp).
- **Young people** of 15-29 y.o **represent about 40 per cent** of Syrian refugees registered in KR. They are constantly exposed to risks and serious **psycho-social disturbances**.
- Domiz camp in KR is now home to some **40,000** Syrian refugees. The camp remains **critically overcrowded** with nearly half of the refugee families sharing tents due to the **lack of space and land**.
- **Third basic education school** with capacity for 1,440 children opened on 21 April **in Domiz**. With the opening of the new school some **3,600 children in Domiz now enrolled in basic education**.
- On 22 April **a reception centre opened in Domiz camp** to temporary accommodate new arrivals.
- UNHCR, jointly with authorities of KR, embarked on the **preparation of the new Dara Shakran camp** for Syrian refugees in Erbil governorate on 21 April. The new camp will accommodate up to 12,000 with possibility of expansion.
- As of 28 March, the **Al Qa'im border is closed even for family reunification** with some exceptions for females and minors less than 15 years old.
- In contrast with the Kurdistan Region, the **number of refugees in Al-Qa'im is constantly decreasing** with some **4,600 having returned to Syria**.
- **The UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner (AHC) for Operations visited Baghdad and KR** from 20 to 24 April to review implementation of the Regional Response Plan for Syrian refugees in Iraq. The AHC met with the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

2. Sector updates

2.1 Reception, Registration and Protection

Al Qa'im

In Al Qa'im, Anbar governorate, the Syrian refugee population is 6,387 with 1,494 in Camp 1 and 1,992 in Camp 2 as well as 2,901 individuals living outside the camps. This represents a reduction from the previous reporting period due to return to Syria. An analysis of the reasons for return reveals both pushing and pulling factors; the former relates to the refugees' ever increased frustration over conditions in which they are living with no freedom of movement, no access to the labour market or any other source of income, inability to visit relatives in Al Qa'im area; as to the latter, the main pull-factor seems to be perceived improvement of the security situation in the Abu Kamal town and its vicinity.

In the period of 17-30 April, 466 refugees returned to Syria, bringing the total number of Syrian returnees from Al Qa'im to 4,645. Due to the prevailing volatile security situation in Syria, UNHCR neither promote nor facilitate these return movements. Nonetheless, UNHCR and its partner monitor these movements and provide individual counselling to ensure that potential returnees are fully informed of the strict government policy not permitting re-admission into Iraqi territory. Previously UNHCR was informed by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) that the daily quota for return to Syria was 50 people; however, at end of April the quota was abolished and no limitation on a number of daily returns is being applied.

UNHCR and IRC are following up on the case of a Syrian national arrested for illegal entry into Iraq; the case has been referred to the criminal court.

UNHCR also intervened and followed up on the case of a refugee woman who experienced domestic violence. She was relocated together with her children from Camp 1 to Camp 2, close to her brother to ensure protection from the violence. UNHCR protection team referred the case to the IRC lawyer for legal response.

Kurdistan Region

Syrian refugee families and singles continue to approach the UNHCR office in Duhok (including Domiz Camp), Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. During the reporting period, UNHCR recorded 8,527 new arrivals which comprises of 1,352 families (6,905 individuals) and 1,622 singles.

- Erbil: 341 families (1,422 individuals) and 583 singles
- Sulaymaniyah: 163 families (721 individuals) and 181 singles
- Duhok: 848 families (4,762 individuals) and 858 singles

The majority of new arrivals are Kurds from Hasaka, Qamishlu, Aleppo and Damascus. Security concern is the main motive triggering the flight. Moreover, recent problems between Kurds and Arabs in Hasaka and Rasul Ain increased the tension. Refugees also report about clashes between Arabs and Kurds in Terbaspy town.

According to some of new arrivals, mainly Christians, kidnapping for ransom is increasing in north Syria. Doctors, engineers and other professionals are being targeted. The new arrivals also state that they come to KR to look for job opportunities and do not have intentions to go back to Syria.

Saleha and FeshKhaboor remained the entry points for the new arrivals. Refugees pay 1,000 Syrian Lira (some 10 USD) per person for each adult at the Syrian side to be allowed to cross the border. Some families had to sell their belongings to be able to pay the border crossing fee. According to refugees, security personnel at KR side of the border inform refugees that those who go back to Syria will not be allowed back to KR.

UNHCR partner UPP conducted orientation to 177 families comprising of 292 individuals through its field workers. 300 orientation materials including UNHCR information brochure were distributed in the camp and at the border. In addition, 5,000 orientation materials were distributed to army personnel for further distribution to the new arrivals at the border. OCHA funded activities of UPP has come to the end and UNHCR is considering funding their activities in the camp, including awareness in the border areas of FeshKhaboor.

The child friendly spaces and youth friendly spaces in the camp are functional since 29 April. Sensitization campaigns on services available and the opening date of the spaces were conducted targeting 1,600 families. So far 300 children are registered to make use of the services provided by the centers. The centers are expected to serve 500 children and youth on a daily basis.

2.2 Security

Al Qa'im

During the reporting period, the security situation in Al Qai'm and other districts of Anbar governorate was unstable due to recent incidents which took place throughout the country. Military patrols increased across the governorate and particularly in Al Qai'm because of its close proximity to the Syrian border. People of Al Qai'm demonstrated to condemn the incident which took place in Kirkuk but the army forced them to end demonstration and an interim curfew was imposed. Several security incidents took place. In particular, two bombs exploded in Al Baghous village. Also, Iraqi Security Forces attacked smugglers who tried to cross the border.



Embroidery Training Course in Al Qai'm Camp. Afkar for R&D/Akeel

2.3 Assistance Update

Shelter / infrastructure



Installation of the generator in Camp 3 in Al Qa'im. IRW/Wissam

Al Qa'im

In Al Obaidy Camp, Camp 3 in Al Qa'im, the non-potable water (washing water) system is still not connected with the main source. UNHCR and UNICEF met with Mayor of Al Qai'm to ask for his support in this respect. The installation of external lights is still pending. IRW provided a generator allocated to admin area and it has been installed. The works on a heliport in the 28th Brigade have started and will be completed by mid-May.

Domiz

Transit 7:

The transit 7 is being finalized to receive first 200-300 refugee families.

UNHCR/DMC/Sector leaders met on 25 April to proceed with verification of families. 45 vulnerable cases have been identified by Community Services staff. In addition, NRC referred 45 families who are in need of relocation due to the fact that they are currently living in communal latrines in Phase 1 or in the areas where emergency latrines need to be installed in Phase 1-2 and Transit 1-2.

Some families are reluctant to relocate because by living close to the camp "centre" they feel being closer to the points where assistance and information is being disseminated. It should be noted that these families have been living along the road for many months in very poor conditions. Moreover, due to lack of sanitation facilities, these families have constructed their own improvised latrines, which affect the state of internal roads in the camp. UNHCR and DMC will discuss further with the families their relocation.

Reception Centre/Accommodation for New Arrivals

Since its opening on 22 April, 142 persons (19 families and 9 singles) are being accommodated in the Reception Centre. UNHCR through Qandil finalized installation of community kitchens and water tanks as well as established a waiting area. DMC committed to provide carpet covering for the big tents and supplied the water tanks with water (both drinking and for latrines/showers).

A newly arrived family is settling in the Reception Centre for a few days before they will be able to find accommodation inside the camp. It may be difficult for the family with many children to find a host family in the camp as the existing facilities in the camp are already overcrowded.
UNHCR/G.Gubaeva



364 blankets, 364 mattresses and 14 family water tanks were provided by DMC to the Reception Centre. UNHCR is following up the electricity connection for the reception centre to be provided by the DMC.

DMC will arrange for provision of cooking stoves and will provide families with dry food items for the families to cook.

Phase 6

UNHCR held a meeting with DMC regarding developments for Phase 6. The DMC has completed the levelling works and will provide water network connection.

UNHCR is supporting the DMC in developing the overall plan and coordination with other partners for developing of Phase 6.

Dara Shakran: new camp in Erbil governorate

On 18 April, the Governor of Erbil and other KR authorities met UNHCR, partner UN agencies and NGOs to discuss roles and responsibilities regarding the establishment and running of the new camp, which will accommodate 2,000 families (some 12,000 individuals) with potential for further extension.



On 21 April, a joint team, led by the Mayor of Khabat went to Dara Shakran to officially start the construction works. Following the ground breaking ceremony on 21 April, the construction work and site preparations in the camp are well in progress. Site clearing, ground levelling, demarcation of internal roads have been completed. In coordination with the Erbil Department of Water (DoW) UNHCR and partners are working on a potable water system and a sewage networking. UNHCR, UNICEF and DoW are in the process of establishing disposal areas for the waste water.

The Mayor of Khabat, UNHCR and other KRG authorities in the new camp in Erbil. UNHCR/H. Abdulla

The basic services and infrastructure, including a school, health centre, market areas etc, is estimated to be completed in six weeks.

On 23 April, following the meeting of the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for operations and the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Region, the PM advised the Ministry of Interior and other line ministers to closely coordinate with UNHCR the development of the new camp for Syrian refugees with UNHCR.

Water and Sanitation

Al Qa'im

Community leaders in Camp 1 complained about continuous lack of water supply, especially in past few days, whereas no problems were reported in Camp 2. According to UNICEF, the shortage of water is caused by continuous electricity cuts in the water compact. Necessary maintenance of the system will be done in May 2013.

Domiz

Norwegian Refugee Council is planning to start a 4 month project funded by UNICEF on essential WASH activities in targeted areas of the camp. The activities have been coordinated with MSF and the WASH Working Group members. Below are main activities that will be undertaken in a period of 4 months, starting April 2013:

- Installation of high capacity water storage tanks (25 units) in the target areas
- Install 150 emergency latrines
- Repair 50 emergency latrines
- Provide 300 latrine cleaning kits
- Provide 200 sanitation tools
- Erect 300 bathing facilities
- Rehabilitate 8 communal latrines in Phase 1
- Construct 2 communal latrines in Phase 1 and Phase 2
- Operation and maintenance for 3 months

Islamic relief has been engaged by UNICEF to conduct hygiene promotion in coordination with DOH.

DMC reported that during the week of 21-25 April 348,500 litres of clear water were provided by 9 water tankers on daily basis. 30 family water tanks were provided by DMC to the families residing in irregular areas.

8 trips of garbage trucks are taking place in the camp on daily basis.

Non Food Items

Al Qa'im

UNHCR, in collaboration with Rebuild Iraq Reconstruction Program (RIRP), distributed non-food items (NFIs) to refugees who did not previously received NFIs or missed the distribution. Also, UNHCR's partner Al Ta'akhi Humanitarian NGO, Anbar Branch distributed 2,679 kits, consisted mainly of clothes and infant formula/milk.

Domiz

The DMC, UNHCR and other partners continue to distribute non-food items to new arrivals in the camp. UNHCR in particular continues the distribution of sanitary napkins and baby diapers for girls/women aged 11-50 years and babies aged 3 and younger.



Distribution of baby diapers and sanitary napkins in Domiz camp. UNHCR/G. Gubaeva



Distribution of food and non-food items to 1,362 Syrian refugee families in Sulaymaniyah town. UNHCR/A. Kamaran

Food

Al Qa'im

4,436 food parcels were distributed to Syrian refugees. Post distribution mentoring (PDM) has been conducted after completion of distribution of WFP food parcels. The distribution of biscuits in schools is still going on daily basis in a smooth way and students are very happy to receive them.

Domiz

In April, WFP provided food assistance to 43,820 refugees, mainly those residing in Domiz camp, who received food vouchers valued at US\$1.35 million. Some extremely vulnerable Syrian refugees from urban communities come to the camp to receive the food vouchers as well. In May WFP is planning to assist 45,000 Syrian refugees with food vouchers.

WFP completed the construction of the waiting area of the voucher distribution point to ensure protection of beneficiaries, especially women and children waiting for their vouchers. The caravan for the distribution point was provided by UNHCR.

WFP Iraq received an allocation of \$3.5 million from the Kuwaiti contribution which will be sufficient to cover the food needs of camp refugees until July 2013.

Health

Al Qa'im

UNHCR negotiated with Al Qaim Hospital and Chief of police to send patients in need of urgent surgery to Ramadi hospitals but later it was discovered that all ambulances were withdrawn by MoH due to security situation. UNHCR noted the severe shortage in medicines in both clinics. Follow up meetings with IRW and MoH on provision of medicines were organized. IRW committed to provide medicines.

Domiz

The Health Centres in Domiz provide an average of 4,000 consultations per week, mainly for upper respiratory tract infections and diarrhoea.

MSF-CH started reproductive health activities with antenatal care and post natal care.

Together with the WASH and Health Promotion Team, a mapping of diarrhoea cases started. This data will facilitate follow up on the cases and allow concerted efforts in affected sections of the camp.

The second round of polio vaccination for all under five (U5) children in Domiz camp along with the national campaign for all U5 children in Iraq will be conducted by DOH Duhok on 5 – 10 May. UNICEF will support social mobilization activities in coordination with DOH Duhok, to ensure that all U5 children (some 3,500) are vaccinated.

The routine vaccination activities are on-going in the existing health centre in Domiz camp. UNICEF supported the vaccination teams with food allowance, transportation and cold chain supplies.

UNICEF has provided Nutrition Research Institute from Ministry of Health in Baghdad with F-75 and F-100 therapeutic milk for treatment of malnourished children. The supplies have passed the government's quality control checking and part of it has been transferred to DOH Duhok for treatment of detected malnourished children.

WHO-Iraq office together with the MOH-Iraq organized a two day training workshop for the partners from the government, NGOs and UN organizations, who implement health activities in the camps and in refugee settlements on Epidemic Diarrhoeal Diseases Preparedness and Response in Duhok/KRG.

Dara Shakran

On 25 April, UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR met with the General Director of Directorate of Health in Erbil and agreed that the DoH will support the establishment of a Primary Health Centre in the new camp and will recruit the medical staff needed. The DoH requested partners to provide additional support in the management of the centre.

Education

Al Qa'im

Below is an overview of the current situation in each camp:



***Youth Friendly Space in Al Qa'im Camp 2
Save the Children/Muhanad***

- Attendance of Camp1 School/Primary Classes is 41.7% out of 250 students for boys and 66.2% out of 211 students for girls.
- Attendance of Camp1 School/ Intermediate Classes is 91.4% out of 21 students for boys and 81.3% out of 30 students for girls.
- Attendance of Camp2 School/Primary Classes is 65.5% out of 277 students for boys and 84.6% out of 205 students for girls.
- Attendance of Camp2 School/Intermediate Classes is 61.1% out of 36 students for boys and 66.7% out of 56 students for girls.
- Reasons for the low rate of attendance are the return movement to Syria and the lice outbreak.
- School registration lists have been updated.

Domiz

A third basic education school constructed by UNHCR (called Jiyan) officially opened on 21 April during the visit of the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations. The school is staffed with 24 teachers, 1 assistant head master (all of them qualified refugees) and 1 head master assigned by the Duhok Department of Education. The Jiyan school has a capacity for 1,440 children. So far the registration has been done for 1,334 children. It will continue in the coming days until the capacity is reached.

According to the DDM, there are 1,430 students in Qamishlu and 720 students in Kar schools (the other two schools in the camp). Therefore, Domiz camp will have a total of 3,590 students enrolled in basic education in three schools. Each school is running two shifts.

UNHCR, through the partner Harikar, is estimating some 10,000 school age children in the camp. UNICEF, UNHCR and the DDM are discussing the ways to address solutions for the unrolled students.

4 Refugees' voice

LM is a father of eleven children, seven girls and four boys. The oldest one is eighteen years old and the youngest one was born just a month ago in Domiz camp. The family used to live in Al-Malikyia town in Syria. Following tensions between Kurds and Arabs, the family fled the country. Since the beginning of the conflict they experienced harsh living conditions, public health and education quickly deteriorated as well.

“As a mother of such big family, I face challenges in providing for my kids, especially the diapers and cleaning materials are needed as the water is barely enough for my large family”, says the wife of LM. That is why the mother was happy to receive baby diapers and



Recipients of baby diapers in Domiz camp. UNHCR/G. Gubaeva

napkins for three of her small children from the DDM and UNHCR. The woman also noted the need in basic sanitary supplies. "If it is possible to provide some washing powders, soap or shampoos, our life will become much better since those basic washing items run out so quickly in my big family".

5 Coordination

Al Qa'im

- Protection Working Group meeting was conducted on 25 Apr 2013.
- Education Working Group meeting was attended by UNHCR team of Al Qaim 29 Apr 2013.
- UNHCR team met with army officers on 29 Apr 2013

Kurdistan Region

On 20-22 April UNHCR facilitated a visit of **Radio France International** to Domiz Camp. The well-known reporter Patrick Cohen made a live broadcast with UNHCR and with some French speaking refugees living in the camp. UNHCR office in Paris sent a letter to the Editor-in-Chief of the Radio France International to express its gratitude for an impressive high-quality programme in support of the UNHCR humanitarian work. The program can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.franceinter.fr/recherche/key%3DDomiz>

On 21-22 April, **ECHO mission** visited Domiz camp to monitor the implementation of ECHO-funded activities, in particular in WASH sector. A special meeting of the WASH Working Group was conducted.

On 24 of April, **UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Operations**, Janet Lim, completed a three day



visit to Iraq, in which she visited Baghdad, Erbil, and Duhok to review the international humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee emergency and the search for solutions for internally displaced Iraqis.

The Assistant High Commissioner held talks with the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Displacement and Migration, as well as the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), Governors of Duhok and Erbil, amongst others. She expressed UNHCR's deep appreciation for Iraq's generosity toward Syrians at a time that the country continues to face internal challenges on a number of fronts.

UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations (on the right), UNHCR Representative in Iraq (in the middle) and Head of UNHCR Erbil open the third school in Domiz camp. UNHCR/ J. Seregni

In her meeting with the authorities, Ms. Lim reiterated UNHCR's request for the Iraqi authorities to allocate additional land for Syrian refugees. In this regard, Prime Minister Barzani committed an additional US\$ 10 million for new camps in the Kurdistan region while supporting the continued issuance of residence permits and calling for high-level talks between UNHCR and the authorities on service provision in urban areas, particularly education and health.

6. Acronyms and abbreviations

DDM	Department of Displacement and Migration
DMC	Development and Modification Centre
DoH	Department of Health
HOFO	Head of Field Office
HOSO	Head of Sub Office
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
Ips	Implementing Partners
KR	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
MOMD	Ministry of Migration and Displacement
PARC	Protection Assistance Reintegration Centre
PHC	Primary Health Centre