

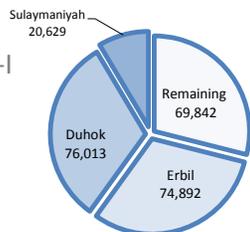


JUNE HIGHLIGHTS:

Syrian refugees from Aleppo sub-districts (Kobane, Tel-hasil, Tel-aran) and other areas continue to arrive through the Peshkhabor border which is open to all new arrivals since the closure of the Ibrahim Khalil border in March 2015. However, UNHCR noted since 2 June a strong decrease in the number of new arrivals, possibly due to the impact of new departure procedures introduced in Syria and restrictive entry criteria whereby the protection or humanitarian needs of refugees are assessed on Syrian territory in close coordination with the KR-I border officials. The total of new arrivals since January 2015 stands at 32,898 individuals, with 4,283 new arrivals in June 2015. Since January 2015, UNHCR has recorded **11,671 new asylum applications** from those new arrivals. Refugees are provided with a 30 day visa, which allows them to register their asylum application in all KR-I provinces thus enabling refugees to choose their place of residence and join family members as applicable. IOM continues to assist with transportation of unaccompanied children for registration in Gawilan refugee camp. Refugees **spontaneously departing** for Syria since the beginning of the year is 7,001 individuals (2,393 in June). They claim improved security and access to Kobane (27%), family reunification, access to medical care, attending family events, and the high cost of living in the KR as their main reason for departure.

Iris-Scan in KR-I

71% enrolled
29% remaining



Biometric registration and verification is nearly completed in Erbil with mobile registration and verification conducted in Koya and Taq Taq in conjunction with the residency department who issued approximately 300 residency permits. The regularization of refugees with 15-days passes, readmission cases and illegal entries in Duhok remains suspended.

In a recent court decision, it was decided that there will be a mandatory waiting period of 12 months between filing for divorce and the actual divorce decision. As a result of the decision, 3 legal interventions in divorce cases had to be suspended, possibly compromising the protection situation of women. During the reporting period protection monitoring for refugees in urban areas across the KR-I was expanded.

Child protection actors, led by UNICEF, focused on improved case management, psycho-social support services, and prevention of family separations. BID/BIA train the trainers workshop was conducted in Duhok for UN and NGO staff from KR-I. UNICEF supported the expansion of community based child protection committees in Duhok Governorate.

SGBV: Safety audits in were conducted in Erbil refugee camps: Lack of lighting especially in WASH facilities and the absence of female doctors was repeatedly highlighted as a major concern for women in camps. Further, GBV IMS is being rolled out: UN, NGOs, and local authorities were trained in a workshop organized by UNFPA and UNHCR.

Resettlement identification and referrals of the most vulnerable refugees, especially refugees with medical needs which cannot be attended to in the KR-I continue to be referred to resettlement countries. During the reporting month 52 refugees were referred, and 22 refugees have departed on resettlement.

Protection activities in Al-Obaidi refugee camp, Anbar Governorate, remain suspended since June 2014; it has been reported that there are 117 unregistered refugees in the camp. There is no information about the faith of some 2,800 urban refugees in Al-Qaim.

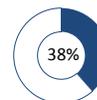
Leading Agencies: UNHCR Jacqueline Parlevliet, parlevliet@unhcr.org



Commemorating World Refugee Day 2015, refugee, IDP and host communities participated in a food festival to pay tribute to the experience of exile and the spirit of hospitality among the communities, given the power and nature of food in bringing people and cultures together! World Refugee Day, June 2015. Duhok KR-Iraq. UNHCR/ R. Rasheed



\$51.44 million required in 2015
\$19.79 million received by June 2015



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

A registration and operational data-management support mission from Amman and Geneva is expected in July 2015 following the analysis of the gaps that have been identified in the challenges and the capacity to complete the verification and registration exercise within the set time frame. In collaboration with WFP, UNHCR is preparing proGRES database to support food targeting and the roll out of RAIS in Iraq. The criteria for food targeting are being developed, as well as standard operating procedures in support of the process. Responses to refugees in out of camp areas and the further analysis of the challenges are planned for in conjunction with the inter-sector coordination group and the authorities in July and August 2015.

Access to safety, and access to asylum remains a concern with changes in exit procedures and admission procedures into the KR-I. Although the KR-I authorities request support for developing humanitarian admission criteria, most refugees from conflict areas are currently receiving 30 days visas which allows for asylum applications, whereas other persons with international protection needs receive 15 days visas. There is a concern that persons with international protection needs are not able to access safety nor are permitted to submit asylum applications. Discussions with border authorities are ongoing to understand better the "screening" processing which are implemented inside Syria.

The lack of youth activities continues to be of great concern to child protection partners, especially since access to education is limited, especially in out of camp areas, and there are concerns that child recruitment may take place through social media. There is a need to further analyse the impact on the well-being of children and the negative coping mechanisms amongst the youth. Evidence-based advocacy in relation to concerns for child recruitment need to be developed.

The capacity of CFS/YFS in Domiz and Waar city is well over capacity potentially compromising the quality of the services.

The situation in Al-Obaidi refugee camp remains of great concern, with the protection partner having withdrawn all staff due to security concerns, and the inability to deliver food assistance to refugees.

IRAQ RESPONSE INDICATORS: JUNE 2015

