



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

General Situation and Response 16

This update provides a snapshot of the UNHCR response to the influx of Syrians into Iraq. The response is led by UNHCR, and is undertaken in full coordination with the Government of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, UN agencies as well as international and national NGOs.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- More than 40 families and around 200 singles entered the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR) and approached DDM and UNHCR for registration during the week. An increase in the number of Syrian new arrivals compared to last week was witnessed; 384 new arrivals were registered, compared to 324 last week.
- A JAM exercise started in Domiz camp and in the outskirt of Duhok governorate on the 1st of July and took place in Erbil on the 5th of July while it is planned to take place in Suleimaniya on the 10th of July.
- DDM had distributed 100 refrigerators and air coolers to 100 families living outside the camp in Duhok governorate, 23 families had relocated to the camp as a result of the camp` expansion and the increase of assistance and services.
- The residency Directorate has granted residency permits valid for six months to 2,077 individuals, which constitutes the third of population. On instruction of the Ministry of Interior, Syrian new arrivals are relocating from Erbil and Sulaimaniya to Duhok Governorates in order to acquire a residency permit. The ministerial note number 15064 and dated 11th June 2012 instructed the residency directorates to provide residency permit only in Domiz camp, the procedures applied consists in the registration with the security unit (Asayish), DDM and is endorsed by UNHCR. The Syrians approach the residency directorate in Duhok governorate where the permit is issued the same day.



UNHCR NFI storage provided by DDM

II. Situation Overview

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As per information from the KRG, the on-going unrest in Syria has so far resulted in some 8,000 Syrian nationals having crossed into Iraq since February 2012. The total number of Syrians registered with UNHCR and DDM in the KR has reached 6,547. The arrival trend suggests that with sustained unrest in Syria, combined with an open door policy of KRG, UNHCR will continue to register on average 1,600 Syrians per month.

The camp population in Domiz has reached 2,338 individuals, among them 323 families, comprising 1,900 persons, and a number of 557 singles. Among the singles, 420 have relocated to small tents in a temporary site pending the construction of additional tent foundations, latrines, bathrooms and cooking areas. In the meantime, 137 singles continue to live nearby the camp in a mosque and the big tents. 23 families have relocated to Domiz camp during the week, the relocation of the families

is the result of the expansion of the camp and the increase of assistance provided.

Lack of job opportunities and any other activities in the camp, the singles are moving to Erbil and Suleimaniya seeking better life conditions. The number of singles in the camp had decreased comparing to 600 last week. According to information collected from the singles, 15 among them attempted to return to Syria during the last week. The reasons of return varies, some had concerns over their family members who faced harassment at the hand of the Syrian security elements, while others could not stay in the camp with no activity or source of income, during this attempt, it was reported that three singles were shot dead by the security forces at the border and were buried in Zakho district. This information is yet to be confirmed by the security unit in Duhok.

Number of singles do not join Domiz camp for registration, and had instead sought refuge in the Peshmerga camps, where they re-

ceive shelter and assistance. Those singles visit their family members in the camp on an irregular basis.



OVERALL GOAL: Emergency Protection Including Assistance -STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Fair protection process and documentation

1.1. Administrative institutions and practice: overall practice:

The Residency Directorate in Duhok continues the process of granting 6 months temporary residence to the Syrians living in Domiz camp. So far, 2,077 individuals have been provided with residency permits valid until the end of the year. The permit grants its bearer free access to public services. UNHCR conducts awareness campaigns to inform the Syrians new arrivals on the procedures required to acquire residency and the residency directorate had observed flexibility to grant the permit identify document remains the only requirement.

UNHCR continues to conduct protection monitoring in the camp, raising awareness and conducting group discussions. The major concern among the camp population remains the work exploitation of the Syrian workers. Employers aware of the vulnerability of the Syrian arrivals, recruit cheap hand work among the Syrians in the camp, however it was reported that the latter are paid less than a Kurdish Iraqi would receive, and more often the Syrian workers are denied salaries. Among the Syrian head of households and singles are doctors, teachers and engineers, while the majority are skilled labourers, university students and very few are unskilled. The lack of job opportunities and the exploitation when job is available had negatively impacted on the living conditions.

Syrian new arrivals report that lack of activity during days is of major concern. UNHCR and DDM in a joint effort to remedy to this situation is seeking to create an office in the camp that would register the skilled individuals, liaise with employers and provide job opportunities while avoiding exploitation. Registration for university studies will also be pursued. Similarly People in Need NGO had submitted a proposal to UNHCR and envisage establishing a community centre to provide recreational activities and vocational training.

DDM continues the screening of the single deserters who fled the regular army in Syria and sought protection in the KR. Among the 350 single screened 62 were army deserters who had genuinely renounced to military activities and are unwilling to take part in hostilities.

UNHCR continues the second phase of registration on ProGress, the rise in registration figures can be explained by the tireless efforts of the registration team, the accelerated registration process, and the dedicated teams who raised awareness through the KR to prepare Syrian persons of concern for registration in Domiz camp. So far 222 families among the camp population comprising of 776 individuals and 58 singles were registered and provided with documenta-

tion. It is anticipated to complete the registration of the camp population within two weeks. The same process is on going in Erbil and Suleimaniya.

In terms of border crossing; UNHCR had received information about two Syrian singles that were denied entry to the territory in Chabana area, Sehela sub district. The two singles of Arab origin were notified with a return order on the 4th of July, they continue to live with a Syrian family in Sehela. UNHCR is looking at securing their access to the territory.



1.2 Quality of Registration and Profiling

As of the 5th of July, UNHCR in Erbil, and DDM in Duhok and Suleimaniya have registered an accumulative total of 6,547 Syrians of Kurdish origin. Among these are 632 families, comprising 2,561 individuals, and 3,986 singles. In Erbil, 4 families, comprising of 7 individuals, were registered during the week, bringing the number to 66 families, comprising of 253 individuals. Also 16 singles were registered, bringing the total to 645 singles. In Suleimaniya, two single new arrivals were registered, there was no new regis-

tration of families; the number continues to be 21 families, comprising of 67 individuals and the number of singles is 313. In Duhok Governorate, 545 families, comprising 2,241 individuals, and 3,028 singles were registered. The number of Syrians waiting for the registration is unknown, however according to DDM 8,000 individuals had entered the Kurdistan region and had registered with the Asayish security unit and would need registration with UNHCR. 1,453 individuals according to DDM remain unregis-

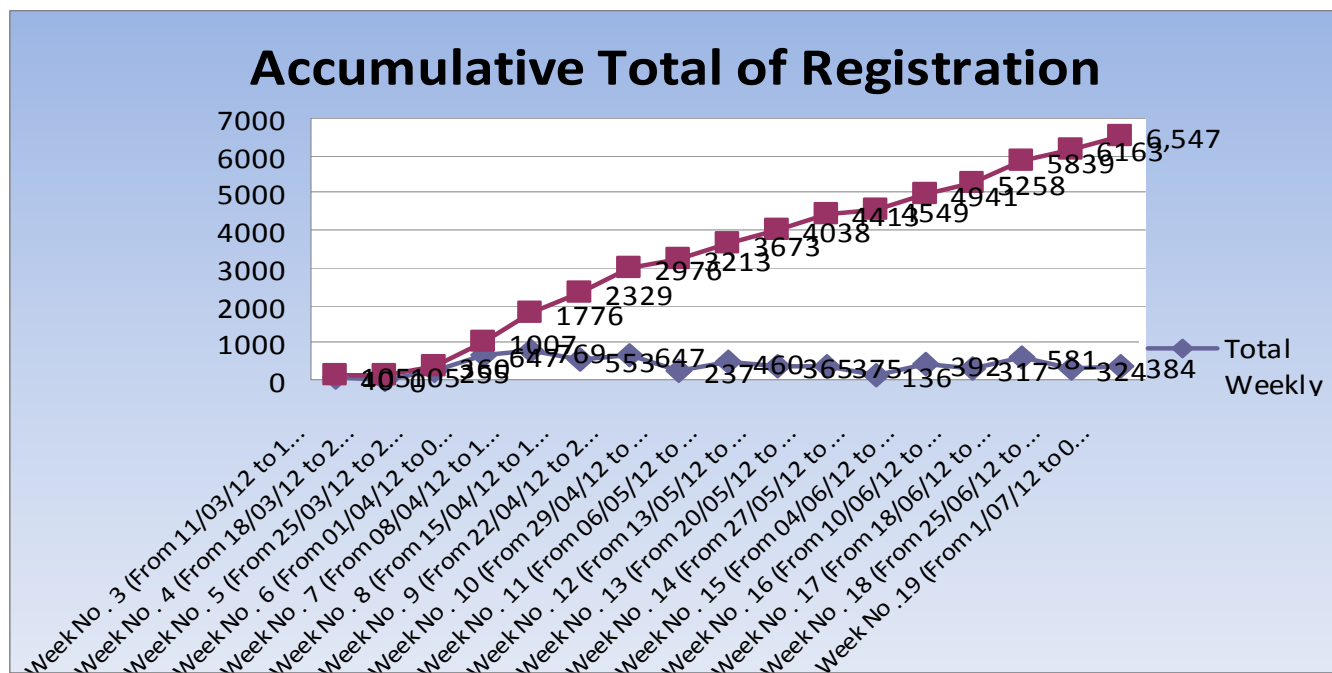
tered.

Following assessment of UNHCR, 21 children in the camp are separated children and 10 are unaccompanied. UNHCR is conducting a best interest determination to assess their situation. Duhok remains host to the largest number of Syrian new arrivals, with 5,269 individuals, followed by Erbil with 898 individuals and then Suleimaniya with 380 individuals as indicated below.

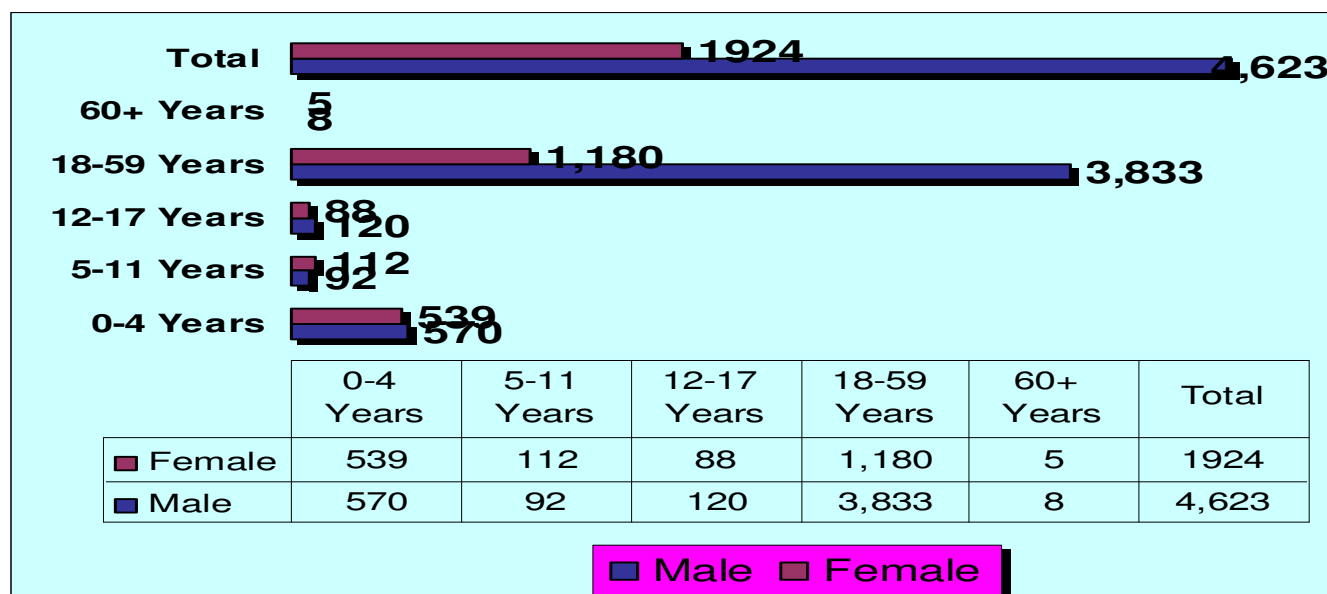
Reporting period	Families	Individuals in families	Singles + UAMs	Total Registered	Pending registration	Total arrivals
As of 31st March	21 families	79	281 including 15 UAMs	360	400 individuals	760
As of 8th April	147 Families	604	636 singles including 15 UAMs	1,240	1,000 individuals	2,240
As of 15th April	198 Families	803	973 Singles including 15 UAMs	1,776	600 individuals	2,376
As of 22 nd April	240 Families	979	1,350 Singles including 27 UAMs	2,329	800 individuals	3,129
As of 29th April	312 Families	1,269	1,701 Singles including 27 UAMs	2,970	300 individuals	3,270
As of 06th May	330 Families	1,341	1,830 Singles including 27 UAMs	3,171	315 individuals	3,486
As of 13th May	389 Families	1,563	2,110 Singles including 27 UAMs	3,673	270 individuals	3,943
As of the 20 th May	427 Families	1,711	2,327 Singles including 30 UAMs	4,038	243 individuals	4,281
As of 30th May	468 Families	1,872	2,541 Singles including 30 UAMs and SCs.	4,413	425 individuals	4,838
As of 3 rd June	479 Families	1,912	2,637 Singles including 30 UAMs and SCs.	4,549	450 individuals	4,999
As of 10 th June	501 Families	2,044	2,897 Singles including 30 UAMs and SCs.	4,941	465 individuals	5,406
As of 17 th June	528 Families	2,141	3,117 Singles including 30 UAMs and SCs.	5,258	460 individuals	5,718
As of 24th June	562 Families	2,278	3,561 Singles including 31 UAMs and SCs.	5,839	347 individuals	6,186
As of the 1 st of July	584 Families	2,374	3,789 Singles including 31 UAMs and SCs.	6,163	320 individuals	6,483
As of the 5 th of July	632 Families	2,561	3,886 Singles including 31 UAMs and SCs.	6,547	1,453 individuals	8,000

Bellow is a table showing the registration trends per month from the period of 26th February up to the 5th of July 2012, and shows the steadily increasing numbers approaching UNHCR to register. Also is presented an age/gender breakdown of the registered Syrians. It is to note that the below table does not reflect or takes into consideration the number of asylum seekers who fled Syria prior to the violence.

Graph 1



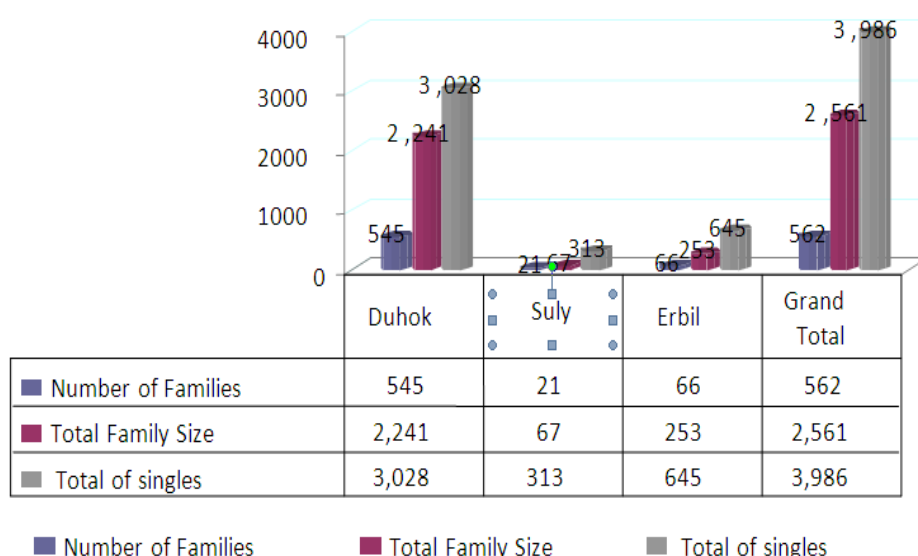
Graph 2



In terms of demographics, out of the 6,547 registered individuals, 29,38% are females and 70, 61% are males. Of the total population, 59,35% are single males, with the remaining made up mostly of head of families. With regards to the reason of flight, 48% have fled following participation in demonstrations, hence being wanted by the Syrian authorities, 31% are draft evaders, who have fled owing to fear of participation in the ongoing violence, while 13% had deserted the regular Syrian army.

The table bellow illustrates the rate of arrivals to the different Governorates in the KR (Erbil- Suleimaniya and Duhok). The KR's borders remain open to Syrian nationals fleeing unrest in Syria.

Graph 3



1.3 Training and capacity building

During the reporting period, UNHCR has carried out a training targeting border and security officers of different ranks, Department of Displacement and Migration and residency officers. The training focused on international Refugee Law and the Iraqi national law dealing with refugees and asylum seekers. It also focused on article 33 and *non-refoulement* of a refugee which is present in both the refugee Iraqi law and the constitution. The training also discussed the code of conduct (COC) in dealing with persons of concern as well as the police COC with focus on the SG' bulletin for sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as SGBV.

The Protection Sub Working Group was organized in the Governorate Council of Duhok on the 2nd of July; it was chaired by UNHCR and attended by the Deputy Governor, representatives of DDM- UNICEF, Harikar, ACTED, the department of Social Affairs, department of mental health and a number of NGOs from the Governorate. A range of protection and child protection issues were discussed, among which the situation of children, persons with specific needs and SGBV.

2-Basic needs and essential services (Duhok)

2.1 Shelter and Infrastructure

As of the 5th of July, 323 families comprising of 1,900 persons are residing in Domiz camp, in the family's section, and 420 singles are residing in the singles' section while 137 continue to reside in the big tents and the mosque. A total of 379 tents have been erected in the family' section and 110 in the singles' section. Some 23 families living in several districts in Duhok governorate have relocated to the camp during the week.

137 singles continue to live nearby the camp in the mosque and the big tents. However, this represents 4,52% of the total number of the singles registered in Duhok, which has reached 3,028 persons.



2.2 Health Status

The medical unit established in the camp by DoH continues to provide daily health services to an average 40 -50 cases per day. No major health concerns were reported during the reporting week. However, owing to the dusty environment, many children suffer from skin disease and eyes allergy. The maternal care unit started operating in the camp and a presence of a doctor is ensured over the week ends. According to statistics shared by MSF, 1,166 cases were received during the month of June; the major cases were related to bronchitis (67 cases); tonsillitis (179 cases); pharynges (75 cases); diarrhoea (100 cases); conjunctivitis (23 cases); skin allergy (54 cases); and food poison (32 cases). MSF had reported the dire need for transportation of persons suffering from chronic diseases; the latter are deprived from treatment available in the public hospitals and have reported the lack of transportation fees. The urgent need to provide transportation to those persons in need of consultation in hospitals is observed.

2.3 Supply of potable water

Additional 372 nos. of galvanized water tanks of 1,000 ltr each, were distributed recently to families and singles; The water supply project that will hook up each family in phase 1 & 2, including the singles sector, to a sustainable water supply system (funds by UNHCR) is being implemented by KURDS (NGO under the supervision of Qandil and the Dohuk Water Department). This project will replace the currently still ongoing daily water trucking by the local authorities and will be completed tentatively by end of July. The planning for the water supply project for the phases 3 & 4 is in process.

Waste water disposal in phase 1 is proceeding under aggravating circumstances because this sector is occupied by families and their belongings have to be moved and relocated in order to get access, besides the water supply project is going on simultaneously, thus the coordination of all activities even though time consuming are progressing well. Nevertheless, families have access to services. Work in phase 2 is also ongoing and all of the above may be completed between mid and end of July. The planning for phases 3 & 4 is also in process.

2.4 Nutrition

DDM continues the provision of three hot meals a day to the single males, and dry food rations to the families who have kitchen facilities. DDM will continue the distribution of food rations until WFP is able to take over by the end of July. The results of the nutrition survey are yet to be issued, however, WFP preliminary report following the JAM records no signs of mal nutrition..

2.5 Sanitation and Hygiene

Fayda Municipality is conducting irregular garbage collection in Domiz camp. Concerns over the lack of garbage cleaning in the camp are growing. There is also a need to conduct a health awareness campaign among the population. UNHCR community service staff together with

2.6 Services for persons with specific needs

UNHCR continues its daily field visits to the Syrian families and singles in order to assess the needs and identify possible gaps. Lack of job opportunities remains the major concern; DDM had suggested creating an office for the recruitment of the Syrian new arrivals, and with the support of UNHCR/IOM, will liaise with employers to recruit the skilled among them. This initiative needs to be implemented as a matter of priority.

UNHCR` community services team has liaised with the Directorate of violence against women in Semel district; the latter had shown readiness to conduct an awareness session on domestic violence in the camp. UNHCR Erbil also contacted UNFPA to visit the camp and conduct an awareness campaign on SGBV cases particularly among singles. The UNHCR team in liaison with the registration team is conducting a best interest determination to the separated and unaccompanied children identified during the registration process; the team is similarly following up on the needs of the single female heads of households. ICRC has already interviewed the the girls who are already with their extended families.

The Refugee Committee` election took place in Domiz camp on the 5th of July; two representatives among men, women and the singles were selected. A large number of the camp` residents participated in the elections, the ballots were screened and the results will be announced on the 8th of July. The refugee committee will be crucial in linking up with camp residents and other partners in the camp, particularly on camp management and community services issues. and ensure participatory approaches.



2.7 Education and psycho-social support

A meeting was held on the 4th of July at the Directorate of Education to discuss the school based remedial education classes for the school age children during summer school holidays. The Department of Education “DoE” requested to use the local curriculum for the two months studies and also for the next year as the Syrian curriculum is not relevant to the context according to DoE. Agreement was reached to use the local curriculum but in Arabic language and teachers are to be selected among the camp population. The education sub working group led by UNICEF is planned for the 8th of July to launch the summer school classes. 136 primary and intermediate age children in the camp will be able to attend the classes which will start from 11 July 2012. UNHCR already provided six class room caravans and IOM provided with ACs and furniture whereas Barzani foundation provided school stationery items. Children will be well prepared to start classes from tomorrow. UNHCR will also cover the incentives for the teachers for two summer months. The start of education activities has been delayed due to the difficulties faced by UNICEF in obtaining the Syrian Curriculum from Syria.

3. Security

The Asaayish security staffs are available in the camp to ensure the security of the camp and the surrounding area. UNHCR through Qandil has relocated the security cabin to a new location identified by UNHCR in the middle of sector 1 and 2 while DDM cabin remained in the current location nearby the registration cabins. Cases of robbery were reported in the camp and the Asaayish team is increasing the police surveillance, particularly of the singles. However it is to note that the major concerns reported during the joint assessment mission according to the preliminary interviews among the population were the security concerns raised by women and children due to the presence of an important number of singles in the camp.

4. Coordination and Partnership

The Protection Sub Working Group was organized in the Governorate Council of Duhok on the 2nd of July; and focused on child protection, persons with specific needs and SGBV. On the same date a coordination meeting was held at the residency directorate and discussed the procedures for granting residency to the Syrian arrivals in the Kurdistan Region living outside Domiz camp.

A coordination meeting was organized with the director of DDM and UNHCR on the 4th of July and discussed the gaps in terms of camp management, and the situation of the single deserters.

A coordination meeting with the Directorate of Education was held on the 4th of July and discussed the action plan to launch the summer school education program for children in Domiz camp.

Another coordination meeting took place in Domiz camp between UNHCR and MSF and discussed the health situation of the residents of the camp.

The Shelter, Water & Sanitation (WatSan), and Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) Sub Working Group was held at the Governor’s office on the 5th of July. Chaired by UNHCR, the meeting discussed the expansion of Domiz camp development to phase 3 and 4, the water and sanitation situation and the camp management.

HOSO Erbil, met with the Minister of Interior on 05 July to discuss the identification of the contingency camp site in Duhok. As advised by the Minister HOSO together with heads of UN agencies will meet with the Governor of Duhok this week to discuss allocation of the additional site in order to be prepared for accommodating new arrivals.

Upon the kind follow up of MoI on the issue of availability of drugs for chronic diseases in Domiz, HOSO met with the Minister of Health on 08 July to raise the concern. MOH contacted DG Health in Duhok and ensured that ample stocks are available.