

Update 15
Iraqi Refugee Returns/Syrian Refugees
Syria Situation
4 August 2012

1. Overview:

Iraqi return figures dropped to total 267 arrivals on 3 August, recording a 50% decline compared to 2 August returns. Al-Qa'im border point saw the lowest number of 11 returnee arrivals while Rabi'aa and Al-Waleed observed 75 and 181 returns respectively. Since 18 July 2012, a total of 21,434 Iraqis returned from Syria, among them 5,222 Iraqis who returned by air. Returnees interviewed by UNHCR teams at the border reported intense fighting still raging between the opposition free army and the government troops, preventing many Iraqi families, mostly in Damascus, from risking the trip back home.

An equally low number of 35 Syrian arrivals was recorded, mainly through Al-Qa'im border crossing which has alone received 3,440 Syrian refugees since 21 July. This brings the total number of Syrians who have crossed the three border points since the outbreak of Syrian violence to 3,447. Another 9,053 Syrian refugees are in Kurdistan, making up a grand total of 12,500 Syrian refugees across Iraq.

With only 10% covered by the present sponsorship programme, Syrians may opt not to come to Iraq where they might be denied free movement. The Government is yet to respond to a request from local authorities in Al-Qa'im to include the second and third-kin relatives in the programme.

UNHCR Protection team today registered 79 more Syrian families (374 individuals) in Al-Qa'im. A total of 283 Syrian families (1,372 individuals) has been registered so far.

Among those registered were two Syrian families that arrived in Al-Qa'im yesterday, coming from Al-Waleed. They have now been accommodated at the health centre in Karabla district.

As agreed with Al-Qa'im Emergency Cell, registered Syrians are provided with a copy of the refugee card per family rather than per individual.

UNHCR team in Al-Qa'im has learnt from security sources that there are 50 other Syrian families (250 individuals) in Rawa town, Ramadi, some staying at school and others with relatives. The local authorities have requested UNHCR to register these families and provide them with refugee cards.

There have been reports of a Syrian soldier in police custody in Al-Qa'im after being detained by Iraqi army for entering Iraq illegally through Al-Qa'im district. The soldier is to be referred to a court in Ramadi to face trial.

A network of coordination established with the Emergency Cell across Anbar has enabled UNHCR to receive regular updates from the authorities on the in and out movement of Iraqis and Syrians across the border.

At the camp site, the ground leveling and compacting have completed today and construction of the sanitation units, manholes and septic tanks has started. One hundred and eighty-five tents have so far been installed at the location. Preparation of the site plan and layout for the second camp location is under way.

3. Statistics

3.1 Iraqi returnees

Border point	Number of arrivals 3 August 2012
Al-Waleed:	181
Total Al-Waleed: 13,048	
Rabi'aa:	75
Total Rabi'aa: 1,475	
Al-Qa'im:	11
Total Al-Qa'im: 1,689	
Total returnees on 3 August 2012:	267
By air: 5,222	
Grand total (since 18 July 2012):	21,434*

3.2 Syrian refugees

Border point	Number of arrivals 3 August 2012
Al-Waleed:	0
Total Al-Waleed: 5	
Rabi'aa:	0
Total Rabi'aa: 2	
Al-Qa'im:	35
Total Al-Qa'im: 3,440	
Total arrivals since 21 July: 3,447*	
Total arrivals in Kurdistan since March 2011:	9,053
Grand total:	12,500

4. UNHCR arrangements

Al-Qa'im:

- 185 tents installed at the new camp location.
- Ground levelling and compacting of the 1st camp location completed.
- Construction of sanitation units with septic tanks started.
- BRC fence ready for installation with the main gate
- 250 more tents will be delivered to Al Qaim tomorrow for the second camp location.

Al-Waleed:

- NFI items stored in Al-Waleed rub-hall: 1,800 mattress, 1,800 blankets, 208 heaters, 204 plastic sheets, 138 water tanks, 296 kitchen sets, 300 fans and 300 hygiene kits.
- 120 tents installed.
- Water, sanitation, electricity ready to be installed.

* Figures updated as at 12:00 am, Friday, 4 August 2012
Sources of information: Border Immigration Offices/BIAP

Rabi'aa:

- Erbil stockpile is ready to support Rabi'aa with tents and NFIs.

Baghdad:

- Another round of NFI distribution planned through Baghdad's six RICCs to Iraqi returnees.

Domiz camp (Duhok):

- A total of 432 tents erected in the family section and 144 in the single section.
- Work in progress to build individual sanitation units and closed sewerage for families in sectors 1 and 2 and in single the singles.
- Work is under way to construct tent foundations, walls, cooking areas and sanitation units for 214 family plots in sector 2.
- 100 tents, cooking areas and sanitation units for singles being established.
- 48 tents with 24 sanitation units for newly arrived families being installed for the transit area.
- 44 NFI packages distributed and 43 tents erected for 176 singles. 50 NFI packages and 100 pallets stored at Domiz Rub-hall and 100 NFI packages and 100 canvas tents at the DDM/UNHCR warehouse.

5. Returnee/refugee needs

Needs for NFIs, water network/tanks, generators with fuel and tents have been identified at locations set to receive Syrian refugees in Al-Qa'im and Al-Waleed.

Returnees' needs, however, stretch from documentation, including PDS cards, Jensiya (national ID) document, to shelter (for some), food, health care and cash as well as employment, based on a rapid assessment conducted by UNHCR staff both at the border and at the disembarkation point.

6. Coordination

UNHCR is collaborating closely with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoDM), MoL-PC, and Governorate Offices. In the meantime, the Office has engaged in a coordination process with various humanitarian actors/stakeholders, including the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) consisting of agencies and NGOs, to ensure necessary support to the Iraqi Government's efforts to respond to the returnees' immediate needs.