

**Update 19**  
**Iraqi Refugee Returns/Syrian Refugees**  
**Syria Situation**  
8 August 2012

**1. Overview:**

According to August 7 statistics, a total of 453 Iraqis returned from Syria through the border points of Al-Waleed, Rabi'aa and Al-Qa'im. Al-Waleed is still recording the highest figures with 315 more returnees, followed by Rabi'aa with another 127 returns. The number was far lower at Al-Qa'im border which saw only 11 returnee arrivals. This brings the total number of Iraqi returnees since 18 July to 23,228, including 5,222 by air.

Al-Qa'im, the main border crossing for Syrians into Iraq, received 87 more Syrian refugees, which makes up a total of 3,802 Syrian arrivals through this border point alone. No cross-border refugee movement was observed in Al-Waleed or Rabi'aa on 7 August.

Up to this date, a total of 3,814 Syrians entered Iraq, among them 5 through Al-Waleed, 2 through Rabi'aa and 5 by air. With 9,773 more Syrian refugees hosted in Kurdistan, the grand total of Syrian arrival across Iraq reaches 13,587.

All Syrian arrivals in Kurdistan are registered with UNHCR and the Kurdistan Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM). In Al-Qa'im, a total of 591 families (2,668 individuals) have been registered by UNHCR Protection team so far. An international registration mission is currently in Erbil to conduct further training to UNHCR staff on the Pogres registration system.

UNHCR is coordinating closely with the local authorities and other actors in Al-Qa'im to ensure all works at the camp site are properly completed and services provided before the first refugee move into the location

UNHCR IP ISHO erected 105 more tents at the second camp location out of planned 250 tents. The fencing around the two camp sites is continuing. Today, the Ministry of Displacement and Migration, which heads the Emergency Cell, supplied the camp with 2,500 concrete blocks that will be used as stands to fix the air coolers.

The local authorities sent a videography crew to film the 60-tent sector being prepared as a model to be shown to the refugees in schools and public centres where they now live. Representatives from the refugees will also visit this sector well before the relocation.

## 2. Statistics

### 2.1 Iraqi returnees

Border point	Number of arrivals 7 August 2012
Al-Waleed:	315
Total Al-Waleed: 14,326	
Rabi'aa:	127
Total Rabi'aa: 1,938	
Al-Qa'im:	11
Total Al-Qa'im: 1,742	
Total returnees on 7 August 2012:	453
By air: 5,222	
<b>Grand total (since 18 July 2012):</b>	<b>23,228*</b>

### 2.2 Syrian refugees

Border point	Number of arrivals 7 August 2012
Al-Waleed:	0
Total Al-Waleed: 5	
Rabi'aa:	0
Total Rabi'aa: 2	
Al-Qa'im:	87
Total Al-Qa'im: 3802	
By air: 5	
Total arrivals since 18 July: 3,814*	
Total arrivals in Kurdistan since March 2011:	9,773
<b>Grand total:</b>	<b>13,587</b>

## 3. UNHCR assistance

### Al-Qa'im:

- 105 more tents installed. Total tents erected: 355
- Two caravans transferred from Al-Waleed to be used by UNHCR team in Al-Qa'im for accommodation.
- UNHCR to purchase 200-KV generator to be purchased to supply the camp with electricity. Other 200-KVA and one 50-KVA generators to be bought through IP IRW.

### Al-Waleed:

- Adequate NFI stock at rub-hall ready for distribution whenever needed.
- Water, sanitation, electricity ready to be installed.

\* Figures updated as at 12:00 am, Sunday, 8 August 2012  
Sources of information: Border Immigration Offices/BIAP

Rabi'aa:

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

Centre/South Governorates:

- 110 NFI kits distributed to returnees from Syria through UNHCR's six RICCs in Baghdad.
- 25 NFI kits to be distributed to returnees in Fallouja tomorrow.

Domiz camp (Duhok):

- Assistance ongoing

#### **4. 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.

#### **5. Interviews with new arrivals**

- UNHCR staff at the six Return, Integration and Community Centres (RICC)s in Baghdad have identified during their interviews with returnees 11 resettlement cases that need UNHCR follow-up.
- Al-Waleed border team interviewed some Iraqi returnees from Aleppo and Homs who reported legal documentation needs, having lost all their documents after fleeing their towns and cities that were scene of military operations.
- In Najaf, only three families returning from Syria approached MoDM branch office for registration. A similar number of returnee families consisting of 18 individuals applied for registration with MoDM branch office in Hilla. Fourteen other families of returnees comprising 49 individuals requested MoDM registration in Wassit.

#### **6. Coordination**

UNHCR is collaborating closely with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoDM), MoI-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.