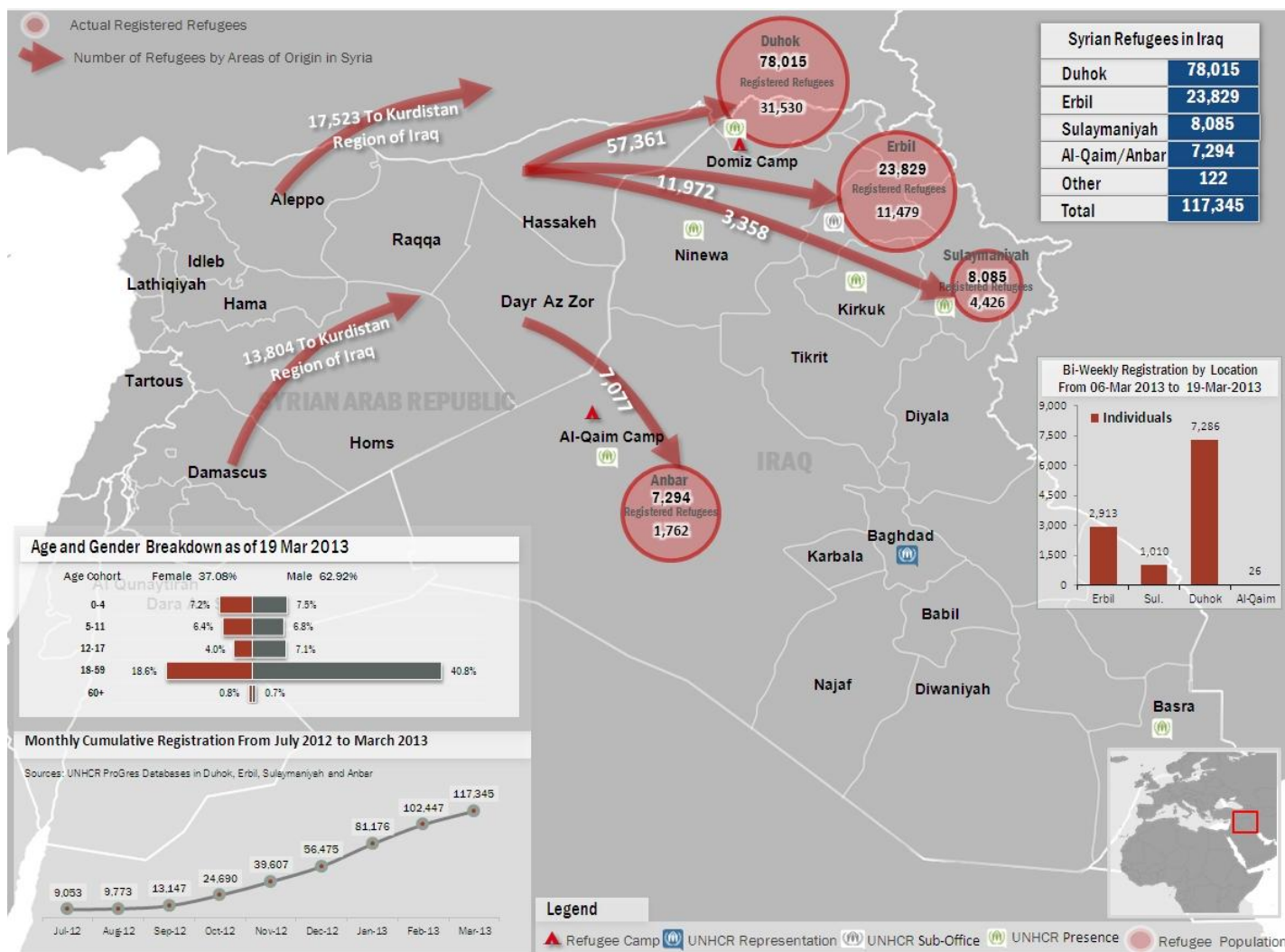


Syria Situation

Bi-Weekly update No. 38

6 - 19 March 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 |

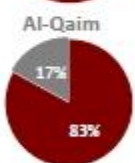
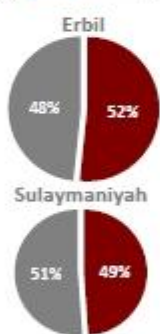
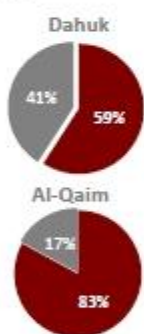
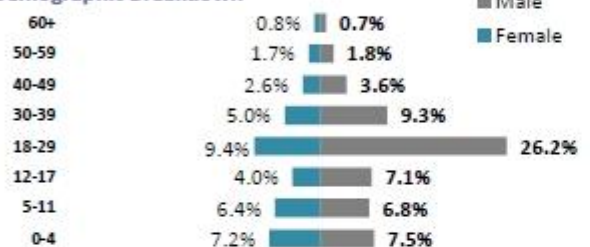
UNHCR Registered

■ Total Active Syrians (as of the end of each month)



Demographic profile based on 117,223 proGres registered persons

Demographic Breakdown

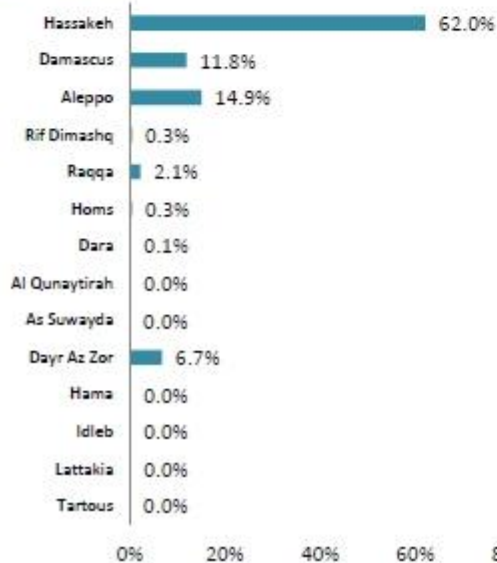


■ Women and Children
■ Adult Males

Localisation of the Registration



Place of origin



Governorate Persons House holds % Total

| Governorate | Persons | House holds | % Total |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Dahuk* | 78,015 | 31,530 | 66.5% |
| Erbil | 23,829 | 11,479 | 20.3% |
| Sulaymaniah | 8,085 | 4,426 | 6.9% |
| Anbar | 7,294 | 1,762 | 6.2% |
| Other | 122 | 64 | 0.1% |
| Total Iraq | 117,345 | 49,261 | 100.0% |

* Includes Syrians registered in Domiz Camp

Camps Persons House holds

| Camps | Persons | House holds |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Domiz** | 69,535 | 27,192 |
| Al-Qaim Camp1 | 1,841 | 411 |
| Al-Qaim Camp2 | 2,540 | 555 |

** 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 35,000.

1. Syrian response in Iraq: highlights

- A total of **117,345 Syrian refugees** are now registered in Iraq; 110,347 are in the Kurdistan Region
- There continues to be **800 new Syrian arrivals daily**, 11,209 in the KR during the reported period
- Domiz camp continues to be critically overcrowded with thousands of families sharing tents
- Two plots of land in Sulaymaniyah and Erbil had been assessed jointly with the KRG
- In Erbil the KRG agreed to a more in-depth assessment while in Sulaymaniyah UNHCR is still negotiating with the government to approve the land plot
- Camp 3 in Al Qa'im can accommodate 5,000 additional refugees yet the border remains closed
- There are around 25 families reportedly at the Al Qa'im border hoping to access Iraqi territory

2. Sector updates

2.1 Reception, Registration and Protection

Baghdad

UNHCR Baghdad strengthened the registration of scattered urban refugees mainly present in Baghdad, Najaf and Karbala. UNHCR advocates with relevant authorities for residency and freedom of movement rights to both the urban and camp-based refugees. Identification of particularly vulnerable cases is ongoing so as to provide assistance, including cash, on a case by case basis.

Al Qa'im

In Al Qa'im, Anbar governorate, the Syrian refugee population is 7,294, representing a reduction from the previous reporting period due to return to Syria and refugees who received sponsorship and left the camp. Interviews among new arrivals, mainly from Al Bukamal, indicate the reasons for flight are general insecurity and reported abuses coupled with the deteriorating living conditions, the loss of livelihood opportunities and the absence of almost all basic services.

The border at Al Qa'im remains closed except for emergency medical cases and family reunification, which is limited to spouses with a maximum number of three cases per day. Syrians in need of medical attention are admitted for day-care provided at the health unit established at the border.

The number of new repatriation cases is 547, bringing the total number of Syrian returnees to 3,483. Reasons for return as cited mainly as lack of freedom of movement and livelihood opportunities as well as reportedly improved conditions in Al Bukamal. UNHCR continues to counsel those expressing interest in returning but is not facilitating or encouraging repatriation given the lack of conditions conducive to a stable return. Counselling is conducted to ensure the process is voluntary and the applicants are fully informed of the strict government policy not permitting re-admission into Iraqi territory.

UNHCR interventions led to the successful release of a number of five refugees accused of illegal entry into Iraq or unauthorised departure out of the camp. The five refugees were relocated to Al Qa'im Camp.

UNHCR was notified of the suspension of granting Iraqi nationality to Syrians who are eligible as per the set criteria. UNHCR is following up with relevant bodies for more details on the reasons of suspension and the expected duration of the suspension. Furthermore, temporary sponsorship, which is usually granted for few days out of Al Qaim camp, has also been suspended by the Iraqi Army.

UNHCR signed sub agreements with ACTED and IRC. The former will carry out a mapping exercise for both urban and camp refugees in Al Qa'im. IRC will be implementing protection monitoring/SGBV relevant activities in Al Qaim camp including opening and running two women listening centres, a community hall and protection monitoring unit. Two lawyers (1 female) will be hired.

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 11,209 new arrivals which comprises of 1,837 families (8,987 individuals) and 2,222 singles.

- Erbil: 539 families (2,024 individuals) and 889 singles
- Sulaymaniyah: 168 families (792 individuals) and 218 singles
- Duhok: 1,130 families (6,171 individuals) and 1,115

A total of 110,347 Syrian refugees are registered in the KR. Of these, 418 are still pending registration as a result of the closure of the registration office during the recent Newroz holidays in the region. The UNHCR/KRG registration process is completed within two weeks from the moment the new arrivals approach UNHCR at the Registration Centres until they receive the Residency Permit from the KRG.

Most new arrivals are Kurds and mainly from Qamishli city with others from Hassakeh, Aleppo and Damascus. The number of single new arrivals has decreased whereas families continue to arrive with their dependents and extended family members.



Newroz celebrations in Domiz camp

The Listening Centre for Syrian Women in Dohuk is ready and functional. Training was provided by IRC and HARIKAR for the facilitators. UNHCR, with joint efforts by other partners and service providers, is putting in place the mechanism to prevent, identify and assist SGBV survivors.

2.2 Security

Al Qa'im

The overall security context in Al Qa'im, located in Iraq's Anbar Governorate remains tense. Spill over of hostilities from the Syrian side, though isolated, have occurred in addition to a present potential of civil unrest. Demonstrations have been going on in Anbar Province for the last three months, at times cutting off the traffic on the main road between Baghdad and Al Qa'im. Movement restrictions, especially for international staff members are considerable and impact access to Al Qa'im.

Domiz

General security measures have increased in the camp. The DMC informed that they will prevent unauthorized vehicles accessing the camp that are not entering from the main gate. All agencies working in the camp should inform DMC about their vehicles accessing Domiz in order for DMC to issue special entry permits. In addition, the DMC increased the police inside Domiz with 10 additional officers, bringing the total number to 37 officers that are regularly monitoring the camp.

2.3 Assistance Update

Shelter / infrastructure

Al Qa'im

Construction in Camp 3, Al-Obaidy, is complete with some remaining installations related to electricity and external lighting. Completed works include the drinking water connection to the main source; (wash water is not yet connected); the installation of the bakery equipment; and, the school fence was also completed.

Domiz

On 16 March, a heavy wind storm affected the camp population. UNHCR immediately evoked a needs assessment to identify the damage; around 300 families were affected. UNHCR, through Qandil, provided

tents to the families who lost their shelters as well as plastic sheets and blankets/mattresses for the families whose shelters were partly damaged.

According to initial information by the DMC, 113 shelters were damaged and 18 persons were admitted to the hospital (mainly with asthma from the dust as well as cuts and wounds due to falling structures). A new born baby died. According to DMC, the DoH has not yet reported the cause of the baby's death.

Police also reported that around 40 families temporarily left the camp to live with their relatives/friends in Dohuk. However, the families returned back to the camp after the storm.

On 17 March, the acting mayor of Sumeil District, Mr. Qadir Yossin and Khalid Hussein Qasim of the DMC, held a press conference with local media on the situation. UNHCR was also invited to be present at the press conference. There were several reports on national TV channels about the situation. The DMC stated that the cause of death of the new born baby is not yet confirmed by the DoH. The media asked why there were self-made shelters which collapsed, to which the DMC stated that the camp is overcrowded and it is difficult to cope with shelter needs. DMC stated that government and UNHCR are following up on the issue.



Reception Centre Area and MSF clinic affected by the 16 March wind storm

During the wind storm some tents in the new Reception Centre, which is still under construction, collapsed (see photo above). UNHCR, through its partner Qandil, is following up with the construction company recruited for the installation of the Reception Centre tents in order to ensure proper installation and prevention to avoid recurrence of the event in similar situations; Dohuk is subjected to strong winds in the spring.

A Child Friendly Space (CFS) is being built in Phase 5. The construction is expected to finish by end of April 2013 and will facilitate recreational and cultural activities for 200 boys and girls, and adolescent refugees living in Domiz, (12 to 18 years). ACTED will run the CFS that is funded by ECHO.



Construction of a Child Friendly Space in Domiz Camp, (between UNHCR and Kar schools)

Phase 5:

All 1,000 plots have been distributed to refugees. Graveling of internal roads in Phase 5 is ongoing.

Reception Centre:

Construction work is ongoing for the new reception centre that will accommodate a total of some 420 individuals in 15 tents (28 individuals in each tent of 7x14 metres capacity).

Transit 7:

Qandil started the bidding process for the selection of a contractor for the development of Transit 7. Due to the increasing number of daily arrivals, 222 tents were irregularly erected by the refugees in the area. However, they have been relocated by the DMC to other areas in the camp to ensure the construction works can continue. The DMC started the construction of a cultural centre and a bakery in Transit 7.

Land Allocation for New Camps in the KR

Since January 2013, UNHCR has been coordinating with the KRG (MoI and Governors of Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah) to identify suitable land for additional camps. Various technical missions have taken place in Sulaymaniyah and Erbil in order to assess two new potential sites. The camps will provide space for an estimated capacity of 25,000 individuals. However, a technical review and understanding of livelihood opportunities at the site is required. The assessment of the site in Sulaymaniyah has been made in conjunction with other sister UN agencies (UNICEF, WFP) and ACTED as the mapping focal agency. The same agencies are also fully engaged in the general assessment process in Erbil.

Water and Sanitation**Al Qa'im**

Supplements of water continue in Camp 1 and Camp 2 from the water compact unit. UNICEF and partners are following up with the required maintenance for the water network. In Camp 3, the internal water network has been completed and will be connected to the main source soon.

Domiz

Kurds reported that they finished the design for drainage (phases 1-5). Once the revised design is approved by the KRG, it can be brought to the WASH working group for consideration.

The DMC appealed to the agencies in the camp to consider support for increasing the number of trucks for cleaning septic tanks, as the current number cannot provide proper services. The allocated dumping site is far, and it takes time for trucks to reach the site, offload and return, plus the population in the camp is larger than the camp can manage, which is why cleaning is a critical priority..

DMC appealed to agencies to start summer planning, which will bring high temperatures to the Domiz area.

NFIs**Al Qa'im**

UNHCR is currently providing families with fans who have not received them due to the forthcoming hot weather. UNHCR also received 60 wheel chairs from WHO to be distributed for refugees with disabilities.

Save the Children have been distributing dust masks for the entire camp population as well as diapers, shoes (1-18), underwear, and t-shirts for ages (3-18), jumpers for ages (1-2), sanitary napkins, child suits and coats, and blankets for children attending the CFS.

Shams Al-Rafidain charitable NGO, funded by the Charitable Qatar Assembly, distributed items NFI's as well as food items (216 blankets, 100 sheets, 200 cans of food), as well as 100 hygiene kits, 100 kitchen sets and 100 baby kits. The items were distributed to 94 female widows and babies less than 6 months.

Domiz

UNHCR continues to distribute NFIs, mainly to refugees living in the transit areas. DMC also distributed among other items, carpets and kerosene to families.

Kurdsat TV / UNHCR Campaign

On 5 March the UNHCR distributed items in Erbil and in Sulaymaniyah that were collected during the Kurdsat campaign. The targeted population group were vulnerable Syrian families living in urban areas in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah and were prioritized based on their vulnerability and immediate needs.

The donations were distributed among the refugees equally and according to the number of persons within each family. The food and hygiene items were delivered in accordance with the Iraqi Public Distribution System (PDS). A total of 1,359 refugee families in towns, districts and sub-districts around Erbil received the donations and in addition 197 single refugees received UNHCR blankets in Koya town. A total of 818 refugee families in Sulaymaniyah received the donations.

The distribution process was transparent with the presence of all associated committee members including the representatives of the Governors of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, Kurdsat TV, DDM and refugee representatives.

| Families of five in Erbil | Families of seven in Erbil | Families in Sulaymaniyah |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rice 5 kilos• Cooking oil 3 litters• Sugar 5 kilos• Salt 1 kilo• Beans 1 kilo• Flour 10 kilos• Tomato paste 1.6 kilo• Milk-Powder 2-kilos only families with children over 2 years old• Washing up tide 1 kilo+ 1 detergent• Baby nappies 12 only for families with children under 3• Soup 2 + 1 wiping tissues | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rice 7.5 kilos• Cooking oil 4 liters• Sugar 7 kilos• Salt 1.5 kilos• Beans 1.5 kilos• Flour 15 kilos• Tomato paste 2.4 kilos• Milk-Powder 2 kilos-only for families with children over 2 years old• Washing up tide 1.5+ 1 detergent• Baby nappies 24- only for families with children under 3• Soup 4+ wiping tissues | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rice: 15 kilos per family• Flour: 50 kilos per family• Vegetable oil: 6 liters per family• Dried- peas: 2 kilos per family• Tomato paste: 2 kilos per family• Chick peas: 2 kilos per family• Liquid milk: 2 liters per family• Spread cheese: 3 packs per family• Blanket: 1 per person• Baby diaper: (1-4 years only) 1 pack of 30 pieces per family• Pickles: 1 kilo per family• Jam: 250 grams per family |

The distribution process was widely covered by local journalists and Kurdsat TV.



A Syrian refugee child receiving the donations from the Kurdsat/UNHCR campaign in Sulaymaniyah



Food

Al Qa'im

The UNHCR cash food assistance will resume for both camps and will cover the period from 15 March to 15 April; this is a result from the MoMD who are experiencing budgeting delays.

Domiz

The total number of beneficiaries of WFP food Voucher (Cycle 3) from 3 March to 19 March is 23,066 individuals (31 USD per person with total monetary value to date of 715,046 USD). An additional list of approximately 12,000 new refugee arrivals (during the reporting period) was shared by UNHCR with WFP to be immediately included in the food voucher distribution.

WFP has funding resources for the food voucher programme until the end of April. The agency continues to mobilize additional resources and organized a media mission from 11 to 13 March accompanied by the Syrian Regional Emergency Coordinator. The members visited Domiz camp and met with some urban refugees as well in order to witness the living conditions of the refugees and their current challenges. The participants also met with UNHCR and other UN agencies and NGOs in Domiz and Erbil. The mission was widely covered by international media.

A second food shop in Domiz camp is expected to open by the end of March in order to enhance services for the refugees.

UNHCR is constructing an area for WFP voucher distribution in order to decongest the reception/registration area where WFP distribution is currently taking place.

The Government continues to provide new arrivals with vegetable oil, rice, biscuits, bread and diapers.

Health

Al Qa'im

WHO delivered a shipment of 10 Interagency Emergency Humanitarian Kits (IEHK), and 1 safety box at the Al Qa'im Primary Health Care Centre.

A mobile clinic managed by MSF has been established at the border point in Al Qa'im. WHO has provided MSF with basic kits.

Due to a lack of data on the nutrition status of Under-five Syrian children in Al Qa'im camp, UNICEF will support the Nutrition Research Institute of the Ministry of Health to train six teams, each consisting of two health workers, to conduct a rapid five day nutrition assessment in the Al Qa'im camps over the coming days.

As a result of UNICEF supported awareness raising efforts, immunization coverage of routine services for children under five years inside the two Al Qa'im camps reached 96 per cent.

Domiz

In the KR, Syrian refugees have been granted free access to health care at all levels free of charge. Syrian refugees have similar access to health care as does the local population. However, the influx of new arrivals is placing pressure on the Directorates of Health (DoH) where there are large clusters of refugees, for example in Dohuk. There is dire need to increase human resources, drugs, materials, and training of MoH health facilities.

The Primary health centre in Domiz camp supported by MSF-CH and MoH is receiving an average of 2,500 to 3,000 consultations per week.

222 positive cases of Measles were identified in the camp with no reported fatalities. As a response to the outbreak, DoH Dohuk is providing MMR vaccine to new arrivals between 6 months and 25 years and intensifying routine vaccination in the camp.

WHO has handed over to UNHCR a total of 123 wheel chairs in Baghdad, 63 of which will be used by Syrian refugees in the KR. WHO also delivered a shipment of 20 Interagency Emergency Humanitarian Kits (IEHK), 3 diarrheal kits and 2 safety boxes to Domiz camp.

WHO continues to build the capacity of camp health personnel on Tuberculosis case management. Awareness raising has also taken place with camp residents, particularly women, on TB preventive measures among the refugee population and in host communities. In addition, a football game was organized as an opportunity for health education with key messages on TB prevention. Promotional materials such as T-Shirts were distributed to Syrian refugees.

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health to conduct periodic supervisory visits and on-the-job training to health workers.

UNICEF continues to advocate for the MoH to provide therapeutic milk for children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition with complications. As a result, a batch of therapeutic milk was sent to the Dohuk Hospital.

Education

Al Qa'im

Additional space for a school in Camp 2 has been secured with the Directorate of Education in Al Qa'im agreeing to open an intermediate school for grades 7 and 8. Religious and community leaders were mobilized to encourage families to register their children in school. At present, 248 children have been registered, including 127 girls.

The safety and security of girls while moving between Camps 1 and 2, remains a concern. UNICEF organized a meeting with schools principals, teachers, the head of the Al Qa'im teachers syndicate, and parents to agree on measures to ensure the safety of girls.

Domiz

Currently students are on vacation, school will resume on 24 March.

The UNHCR School is not opened yet although 450 students are registered as of 11 March. The KAR School has 720 students.

International Woman's Day

ERBIL

To embrace women's achievements, the UNCHR office in Erbil, the Kurdistan Regional Government, and Qandil arranged an evening event at the Royal Mall on 7 March 2013. UNHCR HOSO gave a speech to highlight the UNHCR activities in KR related to the IWD.

The event was lighted with various activities and exhibitions, including hand painted portraits, local music and traditional dance by refugees. Syrian refugee and IDP women and local media were also present during the event.

Other governmental authorities were also present during the day and delivered their speech, such as Her Excellency, Ms. Assos Najib, KRG's Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Tahir Abdullah, the deputy Governor of Erbil, and Rezgar Abdullah, Mayor of Khabat.



***UNHCR, KRG and partners
address the importance of
women's day in the Kurdistan
Region***

AL QA'IM

International Women Day's was also celebrated in Al Qa'im camp on 7 March. The celebration was held in Camps 1 at the Child Friendly Space. About 500 women and men attended with their children, which included an exhibit of artefacts, poetry, song and dance, and a seminar.

A short speech was delivered by UNHCR Community Services staff congratulating all Syrian women for their perseverance. To mark the occasion group performances took place with songs and dancing.

A seminar was given by psychologist, Dr. Hanaa from Anbar College of Education where she teaches psychology and child protection. The doctor discussed the role of women in their families, and highlighted the importance of a safe environment for all family members. She reiterated that safety is not possible when there is violence in the home. Dr. Hanaa addressed gender based violence, encouraging survivors to approach UNHCR or other offices to seek help.



Syrian women performing songs and dances as well as reciting poetry from their homeland to mark the occasion of International Women's Day. The poems talked of love for their mothers and their country.



3. Interviews with Syrian refugees

S.K is a 26 year old Syrian refugee originating from Al Hasseke town/Qamilshlo and is currently employed by UNHCR in Domiz camp as a translator in order to assist and facilitate Syrian refugees living in the camp. S.K. is married with two daughters and is currently pregnant.



"I left my town because of the threat to my life and my two daughters' lives. My life was very good before the war broke out inside Syria. I am a graduate from Aleppo University and I was working as an English teacher in Al Hasseke secondary school. I had my car, my house and my husband had his own shop in the town. The main reason why we left Al Hasseke was because of the threat of being kidnapped by unknown groups, since recently my brother in law was kidnapped and my father in law had to pay a big ransom for his release."

"Life was very hard when we arrived in December 2012. We rented a house for \$400 per month in Duhok governorate, my

husband did not have a job, I did not have a job, my five year old daughter was always crying as she is missing her friends in Al-Hasseke town. I am always thinking about my parents living in Syria, my father is 70

years old. I do not have any brothers to look after my parents, living in Syria is getting worse every day and I am afraid for my parents. Now, I am happy with my new job as I help my people. As a refugee, I am part of the work I do, but I feel very sad and I cry when I see refugees facing many challenges, especially the new arrivals.”

4. Coordination

Al Qa'im

The protection working group, led by UNHCR, held its bi-weekly meeting on Al Qa'im with the participation of UNICEF, WHO and IRC. Agency updates were shared and action points identified as applicable.

Kurdistan Region

The DMC reminded all agencies to coordinate all their delegations and media visits with them in order to ensure proper security and support from the government.

On 14 March, Norwegian Red Cross facilitated a short visit of the Norwegian Ambassador to Domiz camp.

On 18 March, UNHCR met and briefed a delegation from Refugees International. They issued a brief report after their mission that can be visible at:

<http://refugeesinternational.org/blog/photo-report/iraqi-camps-overwhelmed-syrian-arrivals>

5. Acronyms and abbreviations

| | |
|------|--|
| DDM | Department of Displacement and Migration |
| DMC | Dohuk 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 |