IRAQ MONTHLY UPDATE - MARCH 2016 PROTECTION

3RP REGIONAL REFUGEE & RESILIENCE PLAN 2015-2016 IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIA CRISIS

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- 3,114 Syrians arrived in KR-I through Peshkabour border and were admitted on a 15 day visa for either visits or for medical reasons. Family reunification applications were allegedly subjected to similar restrictions, and reportedly imposed by Syrian officials at Semalka border. None of the new individuals were permitted to register an asylum application.
- 970 Syrians seeking return to Syria were counselled by UNHCR to ascertain the voluntary nature of their return and advised on re-admission policies.
- UNHCR and partners commenced data collection exercise for all verified Syrians aimed at updating their individual proGres records on education, occupation and "relatives living abroad".
- Following the issuance of new Assayish regulations on regularization and verification of Syrian refugees, information campaigns commenced across the KR-I. Unregistered Syrians, re-admission cases and those who did not report for verification are provided an opportunity to present themselves to the authorities and UNHCR for registration or re-activation of their cases.
- 488 refugees were reached during protection monitoring exercise through a new monitoring tool launched in Erbil. The exercise will be progressively rolled out in other governorates.

Community-Based Protection

- Ongoing efforts to strengthening community based protection networks and community mobilization approach in and out of camps.
- In coordination with Refugee Camp Council and Refugee Committees on Women and Youth, awareness sessions on early marriage, child labour and out of school children for 150 out of camp refugees have taken place.
- UNHCR and CDO conducted 2 awareness sessions on legal rights for Syrian refugees in Arbat Camp.

Child protection

UNICEF organised a UASC case management and referral pathway meeting in which SOPs were finalised.

- A community mentorship project for UASC has been rolled out in Sulaymaniyah. UNHCR hosted a webinar for partners to introduce the project and shared a toolkit through the CP Sub Working Group.

SGBV

- 1,003 people accessed SGBV services. Men and boys increasingly access SGBV services, further analysis is required.
- 7,376 refugees were reached in SGBV awareness raising campaigns
- UNHCR, partners and refugees celebrated IWD in all the refugee camps.

SD/RST

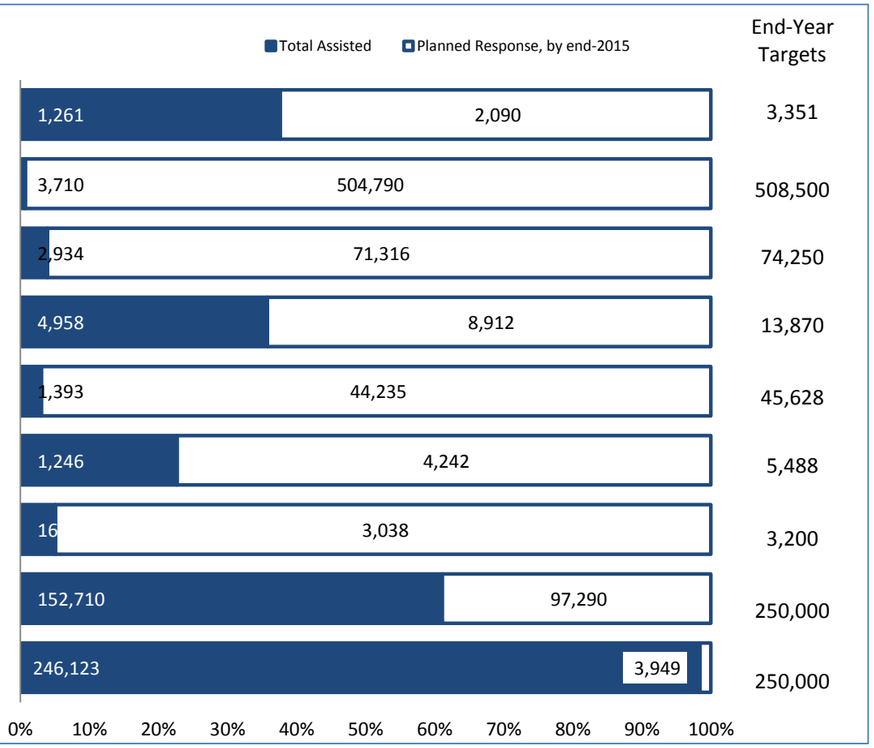
- Resettlement country selection interview missions from USA and Australia visited Erbil. USA adjudicated 31 cases comprising 103 persons while Australia adjudicated 3 cases of 10 persons.
- UNHCR carried out screening and assessment interviews for 45 cases of which 8 cases of 35 persons were submitted for resettlement consideration. Resettlement counselling was provided for 168 cases. Resettlement departures increased with 86 persons. Fewer decisions from resettlement countries were received during the reporting period. 13 cases comprising of 46 persons were accepted for resettlement.

Cash Assistance for vulnerable families. Chamchamal,Sulaymaniyah, non-camp refugees, 2016

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

In Sulaymaniyah, refugees expressed inability to pay the high fees (30,000 IQD per individual) for blood tests required prior to issuance of residency permits. The issue has been brought to the attention of MoH with the request to apply a waiver to the test. Refugees are additionally required to pay 8,000 IQD per person for each renewal of residency permit thereby bringing the total cost for residency permit to 38,000 IQD per person.
The increase of men and boys accessing the SGBV services brings forth the need to have gender appropriate community spaces where they can access these services.
265 persons are awaiting decisions by resettlement countries following their submission for resettlement consideration in 2015 whilst 132 persons accepted for resettlement in 2015 are pending departure. 6 persons were rejected by USA during the reporting period.
The capacity building of service provider's staff on SGBV remains low, with only 3 female staff and 1 male trained on SGBV.

IRAQ RESPONSE INDICATORS: MARCH 2016



Planned response is based on full funding of 3RP for an expected direct beneficiary population of 250,000 Syrian refugees and 1.5 million members of impacted local communities by end-2016. By 31 March 2016, 246,051 Syrians are registered by UNHCR: 39% live in 10 camps and 61% out of camps. From the total Syrians, about 97% = 237,710 live in Kurdistan Region-Iraq (KRI): in Erbil (114,423), Duhok (93146) and Sulaymaniyah (30141) and about %3 = 8413 live in other places in Iraq.

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