

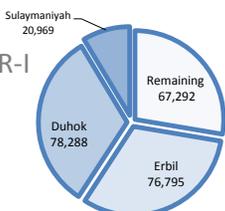


JULY HIGHLIGHTS:

Syrian refugees who are originated from the different conflict areas such as Aleppo sub-districts (Kobane, Tel-hasil, Tel-aran), Al-Raqqa and other areas continue to arrive through the Peshkhabour border which is open to all new arrivals since the closure of the Ibrahim Khalil border in March 2015. However, UNHCR noted since 2 June a strong decrease in the number of new arrivals, possibly due to the impact of new departure procedures introduced in Syria and restrictive entry criteria whereby the protection or humanitarian needs of refugees are assessed on Syrian territory in close coordination with the KR-I border officials. The total of new arrivals since January 2015 stands at 36,991 individuals, with 4,214 new arrivals in July 2015. Since January 2015, UNHCR has recorded **9,821 new asylum applications** from those new arrivals. Refugees are provided with a 30 day visa, which allows them to register their asylum application in all KR-I provinces thus enabling refugees to choose their place of residence and join family members as applicable. Refugees **spontaneously departing** for Syria (2,308 individuals in July, and 11,757 individuals since the beginning of the year) claim improved security and access to Kobane (13%), family reunification, access to medical care, attending family events, and the high cost of living in the KR as their main reason for departure.

Iris-Scan in KR-I

72% enrolled
28% remaining



Biometric registration and verification is now completed for refugees residing in camps. The verification of the residual caseload living out of camps is complicated due to the high mobility of refugees in the KR-I, the inconsistent practices of the residency departments and the complexity of transferring residency files. UNHCR continues to advocate for harmonization and simplification of the procedures to ensure that refugees are registered and documented in the place of residence.

Partners Harikar, Qandil and CDO continued to provide **legal support to refugees** in need of civil status documents (birth, marriage, death and divorce certificates). In some semi-urban areas, refugees struggle to obtain residency permits due to the complex and lengthy residency procedures. Further, security has imposed further restrictions on access to residency cards for those refugees who returned to Syria, and seek now to re-activate their case in the KR-I. The administrative practices are under discussion with the authorities, as these practices likely have negative implications for the protection of refugees.

Ahead of the UNHCR **roundtable on urban displacement**, discussions with refugees living out of camp and those who recently moved to camps show that under the challenging economic conditions and reduced humanitarian assistance, refugees are weighing their options including return to Syria or onward movement to third countries.

Child protection actors, led by UNICEF, conducted various awareness and counseling sessions with children and their parents to discuss issues related to child labour, child marriage, MRE and violence amongst children. Further, UNICEF, in collaboration with DOLSA, conducted an **assessment of child labour in Duhok**: between 16-30% of the children identified are from the refugee community. The capacity of most of the child friendly spaces has been seriously over stretched during the school holidays and the extreme weather conditions in July. Refugee children have generally been very successful in their school exams, which is an indication that psycho-social recovery is on the way.

In the preparation for the **“Back to School Campaign”** UNHCR conducted several focus group discussions with teachers, parents and students and advocated for enrolment in local Kurdish language school for primary education students who live out of camps.

SGBV partners in the KR-I have commenced the implementation of the GBV IMS system. It is expected that the analysis of the reported cases will facilitate improving prevention and response. The implementation of a **“Safe Shelter”** project with the Department of Combating Violence Against Women face delays due to administrative hurdles.

In July, 8 cases of 30 persons were referred for **resettlement** to Belgium. Further, 21 families of 78 persons were accepted for resettlement. At the same time, 3 families of 8 persons have departed for resettlement. Resettlement submissions to the USA were put on hold at the request of the resettlement country.

UNHCR and ERC have conducted awareness-raising sessions on the **“Ethics”** with refugee committees in the 4 Erbil camps; all refugees who are representing the community in the various committees have now signed the **“Code of Ethics”** which will guide the representatives in professional execution of their responsibilities. Further, capacity building for refugees out of camp was dedicated to improving the understanding of community-based protection and the role of the community. Protection activities in Al-Qaim refugee camp remain suspended since June 2014; it has been reported that there are 117 unregistered refugees in the camp. There is no information about the faith of some 2,800 urban refugees in Al-Qaim.

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Child Friendly Space in Kasnazan District, Erbil, KR-I Save the Children/Farah Sayegh

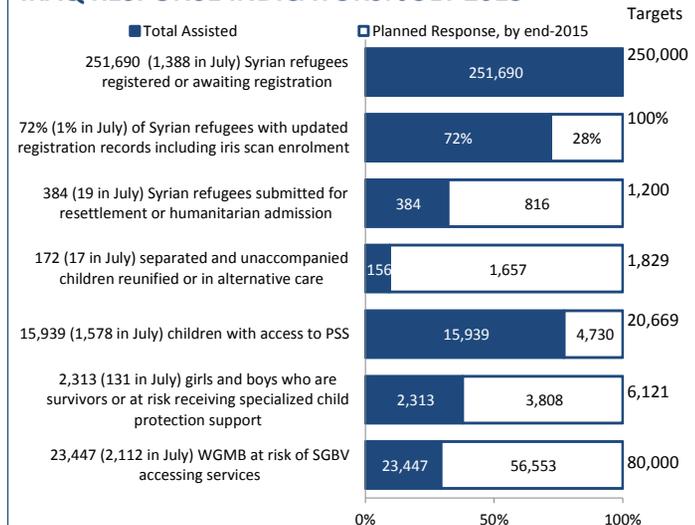
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The recommendations from UNHCR’s regional office and HQ’s registration and ODM mission are being put in place, with as an important outcome the review of the verification plan to complete the residual out of camp caseload by the end of September 2015. Preparations for the roll out of RAIS have been made; the timing of the roll out will depend on the capacity to manage the system.

Access to safety, and access to asylum remains a concern with changes in exit procedures and admission procedures into the KR-I. Although the KR-I authorities request support for developing humanitarian admission criteria, most refugees from conflict areas or with serious medical needs, are currently receiving 30 days visas which allows for asylum applications, whereas other persons with international protection needs receive 15 days visas. The concern that persons with international protection needs are not able to access safety, or face serious delays, or are not permitted to submit asylum applications. UNICEF’s assessment of the scale of child labour in Duhok (16-30%) warrants further in-debt analysis to understand better the causes of child labour in the refugee community. The capacity of CFS/YFS in most of the locations has been seriously over-stretched due to the school holidays and the extreme weather conditions (heat).

The situation in Al-Qaim refugee camp remains of great concern, with the protection partner having withdrawn all staff due to security concerns, and the inability to deliver food assistance to refugees.

IRAQ RESPONSE INDICATORS: JULY 2015



Planned response 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-2015. There are currently 251,690 Syrian refugees registered by UNHCR (37.5% in camps and 62.4% out of camps).