



APRIL HIGHLIGHTS:

Syrian refugees from Aleppo district and other areas continue to arrive the Peshkhabour border (560 individuals) which is open for new arrivals on Monday only. Refugees' report that at ISIL controlled checkpoints those who are known supporters of the regime, the Free Syrian Army (FSA) or YPG are prevented from passing. The total of new arrivals since January 2015 stands at 19,029 individuals, with 4,591 arrivals in April 2015. The reasons for departure remain the same: fear of military conscription, general violence, family unification.

Refugees departing for Syria (1,424 individuals) claim family reunification, access to medical care, attending family events, and the high cost of living in the KR as their main reason for departure. Refugees all return to areas not affected by the conflict at the moment.

Biometric **registration** and verification is progressing: in Said Sadiq, Sulaymaniyah, 132 refugees were verified and their biometrics registered, whilst the residency department processes applications at the same time. The Duhok residency department renewed or issued residency cards to all refugees in Gawilan and Akre (1,862 cards).

Partners Harikar, Qandil and CDO continued to provide **legal support** to refugees in need of civil status documents (birth, marriage, death and divorce certificates). Recent delays in court proceedings to issue marriage certificates are attributed to delays in required security clearances. It has been noted that refugees resort increasingly to traditional marriages thereby putting at risk obtaining birth certificates for new born children. In response to these concerns, massive campaigns for birth and marriage certificates have taken place across the KRI. DOLSA implemented a tent to tent awareness raising campaign in Basirma about the negative consequences of early marriage.

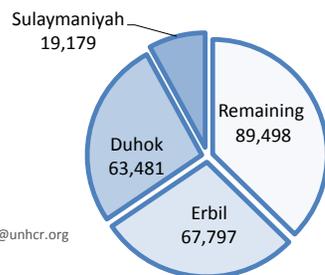
ACTED has established Youth Protection Committees in Qushtapa, Darashakran and in Domiz refugee camps to ensure that the voices of youth living in the camps will be heard. Further, TdH organized community consultations on CFS activities in Basirma to tailor the programme further to meet the needs of the beneficiaries. STEP has opened a new CFS in Arbat refugee camp.

SGBV partners in the KR-I have focused on further capacity building and awareness raising. In Duhok Governorate reports have been received of sexual and gender based violence by young adolescent refugees against children (boys and girls). These reports are being investigated to provide appropriate responses and improve preventive measures to address these serious concerns.

The local call centre, managed by CDO, has received an increasing number of calls related to registration and eligibility for food assistance. More refugees in out of camp areas have expressed the need for food assistance due to the increasing cost of living and limited job opportunities.

Protection activities in Al-Qaim refugee camp remain suspended. It has been reported that restrictions on the freedom of movement, and the many ISIL controlled checkpoints, de facto limit refugees' access to health services. The journey to the hospital may take 15-20 hours, and the cost of transport is significant.

Iris-Scan in KR-I
60.5% enrolled
39.5% remaining



Leading Agencies: UNHCR Jacqueline Parlevliet, parlevli@unhcr.org

- **248,367** Syrians are registered by UNHCR:
 - 96.8% live in KR-I (in 9 camps) and in urban areas.
 - 3.2% live in Anbar (1 Camp) and rest of Iraq urban areas.

- **60.5%** (150,457) of the Syrians are with updated registration records including iris scan enrolment in KR-I.



Registration in Gawilan Refugee Camp, Duhok KR-Iraq. UNHCR/R. Rasheed

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The revision of the verification and biometric registration work plan, including the preparations for outreach through mobile verification units, is expected to accelerate and complete the process by the end of June 2015. Mobile registration in out of camp areas will be expanded in May 2015 following a successful pilot in Sulaymaniyah.

Reports of refugees returning to camps will be further analyzed in light of the possible support which would be required for these refugees to maintain themselves outside of camps. So far most of the refugees have reported the high cost of living, lack of food assistance, limited access to education, and lack of job opportunities as the main reasons for resorting to camps.

Access to safety, and access to asylum remains a concern with the intermittent border opening to the KR-I. The regularization of some 40,000 Syrians has commenced in Duhok, however, the process and procedures need to be better understood to ensure that all individuals with international protection needs can access asylum systems.

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: APRIL 2015

