



FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

Syrian refugees from **Kobane** and other areas continue to arrive through the Ibrahim Khalil border (3,025 individuals) and Peshkhabour border (450 individuals). Refugees report that conscription in the Kurdish controlled areas, and a deterioration of economic conditions in ISIL controlled areas, form the main reasons for the flight.

Refugees returning to Syria (1,362 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.

There is no update on the situation for refugees in **Al Obaidi camp** as the city of Al Qaim, including the refugee camp, remains under control of ISIL-led armed opposition groups.

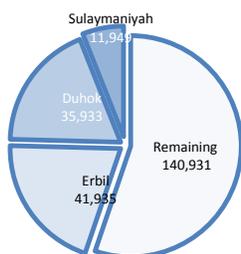
The residency department is increasing its capacity to respond to refugees' need for valid residency documents. In Erbil camps for example the residency department renewed 750 residency cards during the reporting period.

Child protection partners have implemented birth registration campaigns in Erbil to raise awareness amongst the refugees on the importance of birth certificates. Further, mobile child protection services in collaboration with the authorities were launched in Sulaymaniyah to improve access to services for out of camp children. The preliminary results of the child labour survey show a significant rise in children contributing to family income.

The inter-agency capacity building plan on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (**SGBV**) has been finalized and will be implemented in March 2015 to improve the quality of the SGBV services. In both Duhok and Erbil, the SGBV Working Group conducts assessments in urban areas to identify gaps and strengthen access to quality services.

Participatory **assessments** amongst Syrian refugees indicate the need for better information on available protection responses, review of refugee leadership with a view to incorporate more women in the committees, and the need to expand education opportunities for children, including those with specific needs, to improve their protection situation amongst others.

Protection and gender mainstreaming workshops have been implemented across the KR (I); the focus of the workshops has been on the centrality of protection for an effective humanitarian response and safe programming minimum standards.



Iris-Scan in KR-I
43% enrolled
57% remaining

Leading Agencies: UNHCR Jacqueline Parleviet, parleviet@unhcr.org.



- **244,731** Syrians are registered by UNHCR:
 - 96.7% live in KR-I (in 9 camps) and in urban areas.
 - 3.3% live in Anbar (1 Camp) and rest of Iraq urban areas.

- **43%** (106,032) of the Syrians are with updated registration records including iris scan enrolment in KR-I.



8 March 2015, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, Basirma Refugee Camp, Erbil KR-Iraq. UNHCR/ T. Tool

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. The impact of the changes in the methodology is carefully monitored.

UNHCR observed a relatively large number of single men amongst the new arrivals. Further protection assessments permitting a better understanding of the profile of new arrivals and the reasons for departure are required.

There are limited services available for **disabled children**; especially the absence of specialized medical care is of concern. Youth programming and access to education are gaps that need to be addressed across camps and non-camp areas in a bid to reduce negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage and child labour. The preliminary result of the survey on child labour offers an opportunity to guide the response.

SGBV response assessments are ongoing in urban areas of Duhok and Erbil to determine access and the quality of the response as well as the dissemination of information about available services.

In a bid to improve the **representation of women** in leadership committees, elections for out of camp refugees are being piloted in Erbil Governorate.

IRAQ RESPONSE INDICATORS: FEBRUARY 2015

