



MARCH 2017 HIGHLIGHTS:

General : UNHCR registered 1,779 new Syrian refugees in Iraq. Out of these 64% are from Al Hassakeh and 15% from Aleppo and the rest from Raqqa, Damascus and others.

1,427 household assessments for 5,831 Syrian refugees were conducted by UNHCR and partners in KR-I. As a result of the assessment, 735 cases were referred for multi-purpose cash assistance and 186 cases for legal assistance.

A roundtable meeting to discuss a draft Iraqi Refugee Law took place in Erbil from 10-12 April. It was attended by members of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) from Baghdad and KR-I. A final draft was approved and it is expected that the refugee law bill will be present to Iraqi Parliament in May 2017. UNHCR is providing support to the authorities to ensure alignment with international protection standards and principles.

The number of refugees requesting shelter in refugee camps is increasing due to the economic crisis. In order to better respond and manage these requests, UNHCR updated the SOP for reception and accommodation in refugee camps in Erbil. The draft has been discussed with camp managers and Erbil Joint Coordination Center (EJCC) to incorporate final inputs. Standarded Operational Procedures (SOPs) include procedures to manage shelter allocation and registration of refugees included in the external waiting list, internal relocation and visitors.

During a mission of the Permanent Committee of the Ministry of Interior (PCMOI) to Erbil, 111 Palestinian refugees were registered and were issued PCMOI cards.

Resettlement: UNHCR 20 cases /72 individuals to resettlement. The Resettlement Unit of UNHCR underwent a training on child-friendly interview techniques and best interest determination (BID) to be added to resettlement submissions.

Child Protection: DoLSA Erbil in Basirma camp conducted capacity building sessions for children and adolescent structures such as peer to peer groups and round table discussions for children and adolescents, to get involved in their own recovery.

Departement of Labour and Social Affaires (DoLSA) in Basirma camp conducted Parents awareness sessions on good parenting and positive discipline, family attitude and practice in child discipline, community and family attitudes toward delinquent children, and the links between families, community and child. The topic was about Hyperactivity in children and how to deal with it and therapeutic suggestions and there were 5 male and 5 female participants of parents of this session. Furthermore, through mobile team DoLSA team could provide recreational activities to non-camp area such as Khalifan, Haria and Basirma districts.

Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV): Partners celebrated the occasion of international women's day in refugee camps through some awareness raising materials, plays and raise awareness on women's rights amongst Syrian refugees in KR-I. Addressing challenges Syrian women face from SGBV perspectives.



Gawilan camp, Duhok, UNHCR, R_Rashed

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

There are a huge gap in terms of child protection services and follow up cases of refugees in Erbil, in particular in non-camp areas such as Bahrka, Qushtapa, Kasnazan and Pirzen and in Darashakran refugee camp. Due to lack of resources, some activities were implemented by NGO staff on voluntary basis.

*Planned response based on full funding of 3RP for an expected direct beneficiary population of 235,000 Syrian refugees and 1 million members of impacted local communities by end-2017.

By 31 March 2017, 236,772 Syrian refugees (77,485 households) live in Iraq:

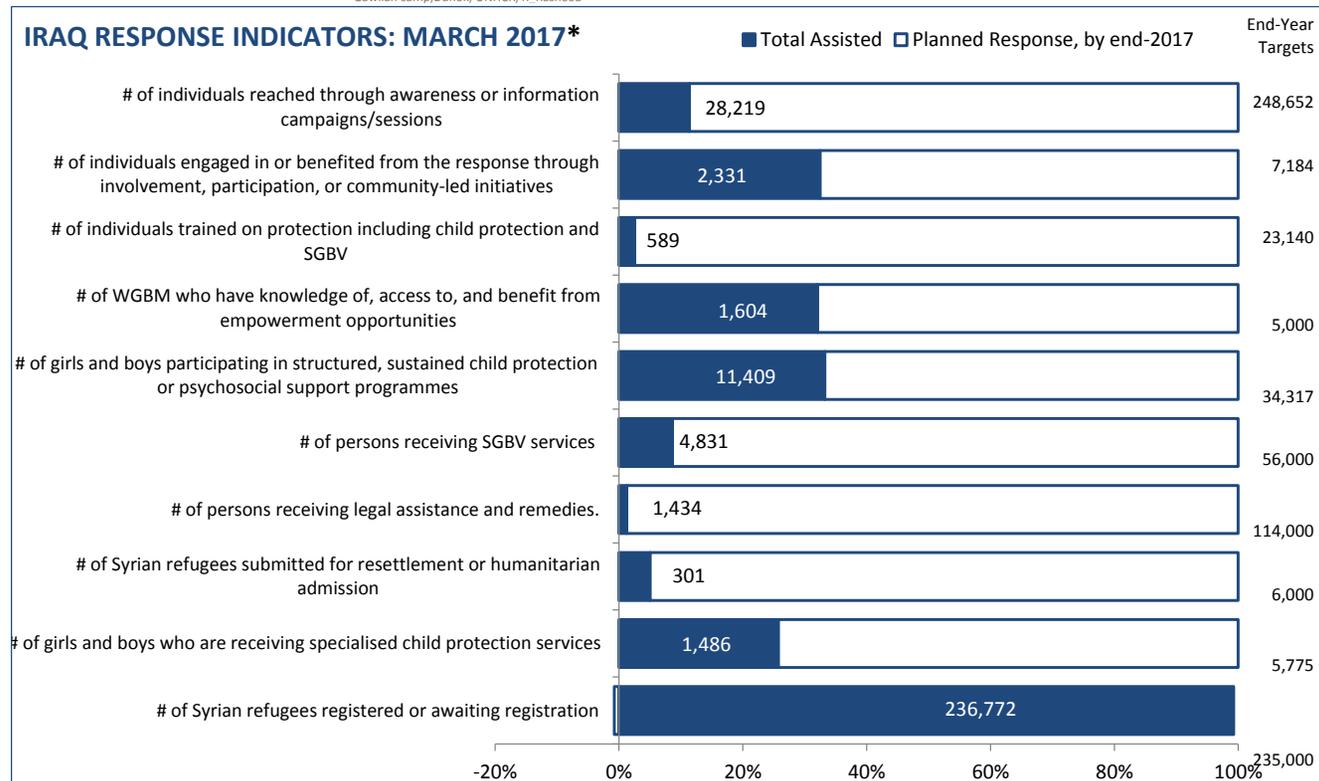
97% = 228,567 live in Kurdistan Region-Iraq (KR-I): Erbil Duhok and Sulaymaniyah.

3% = 8,205 Live in other locations in Iraq.

62% = 146,825 live in non-camp/urban areas.

38% = 89,947 live in 9 camps (Basirma, Darashakran, Kawergosk, Qushtapa camps in Erbil, Domiz I and II, Akre, Gawilan camps in Duhok, Arbat Camp in Sulaymaniyah).

IRAQ RESPONSE INDICATORS: MARCH 2017*



Leading Agencies: UNHCR, Carolina MATEOS, MATEOS@UNHCR.ORG





54,668 Syrian refugees received food assistance.

Modalities of food distribution:

Food vouchers: in 8 camps (Domiz 1&2, Arbat, Basirma, Darashakran, Gawilan, Kawergosk and Qushtapa).

Unrestricted cash: Distributions at Akre Castle camp.

Highlights

A total of 54,668 Syrian refugees received assistance from WFP in March 2017 under the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO).

All beneficiaries received IQD 22,000 (USD 19) per beneficiary, per month.

A new hotline for receiving complaints and feedback is now operative. This service is free of charge and helps WFP to be more accountable to beneficiaries and those in need.

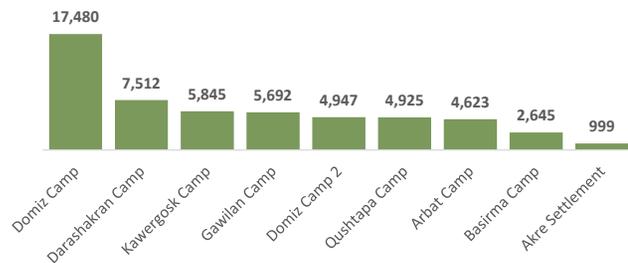
The timeline for the vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees has been agreed amongst WFP's Vulnerability, Analysis and Mapping (VAM) unit, WFP's Cairo Regional Bureau and UNHCR. The assessment will take place in May 2017.

Monitoring of prices at retailer shops was carried out in various camps throughout the March cycle. All prices were found to be appropriate.

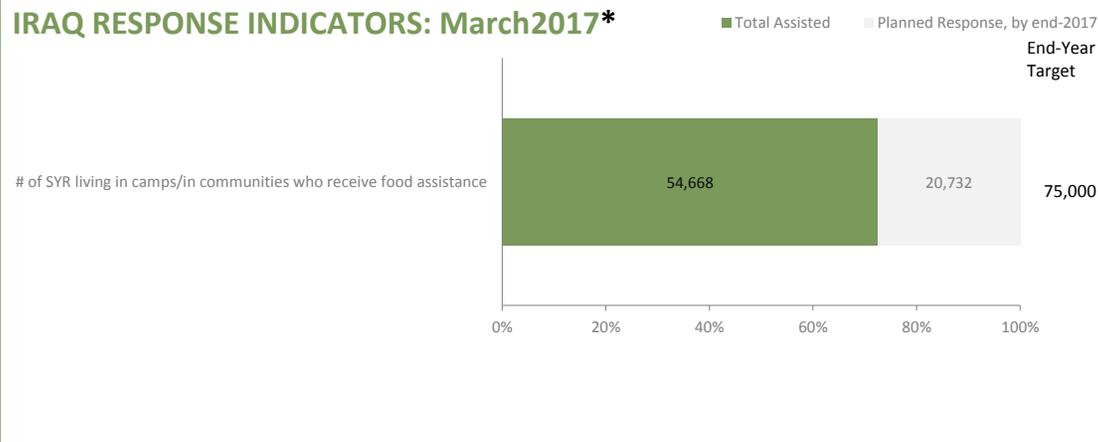


Syrian refugees request information and share concerns in Darashakran camp. WFP/Mohammed al-Bahhani

Number of Beneficiaries (individuals) reached in camps



IRAQ RESPONSE INDICATORS: March 2017*



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Lead Agencies: WFP, mohamed.shwan@wfp.org, FAO, Fadel El-Zubi, fadel .elzubi@fao.org



OVERVIEW:

77,334 Refugee Children are aged 3-17years. Of these, **56,189** are school aged (6-17 years). Currently 29,979 are so far enrolled in formal education and 5,211 in informal

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

56,189 Syrian school aged refugee children (6-17 years) are residing in Iraq, 9% in the KRI. 32,158 are spread into urban, peri-urban and rural communities, while 24,031 are in camps. Of these 29,979 children enrolled in formal both in primary and secondary education as of March while 5,211 are participating in non-formal education camps and non-camp settings across the Iraq



Children attending class in Akre Camp in Akre District. Photo credit: UNICEF, Feb/2017

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Gaps and Constraints

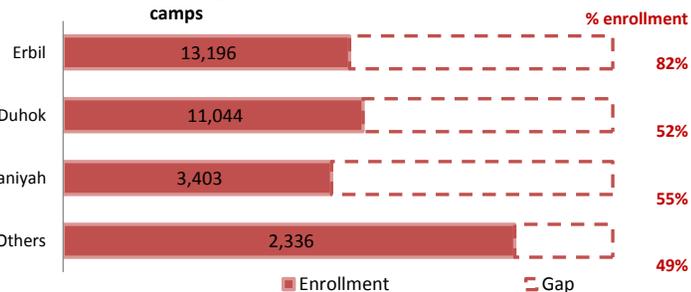
- The ongoing financial crisis of the KRI Government has limited the assistance that the Ministry of Education (MoE) can provide to refugee students in Iraq.

- Teachers operating in camps particularly in the camps in Erbil Governorate require training in psychosocial support

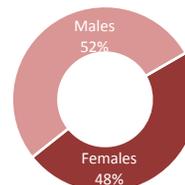
- The number of teachers remains low despite increase in enrolment in some camps. This is partly attributed to lack of incentives for teachers supporting schools with multiple shifts.

- As per recent study conducted by UNHCR, 31% girls and 36% boys of the Refugee children remain out of school. Among the out of school, 38% girls and 43% boys are in non-camp while 14% girls and 19% boys are in camp. Factors such as financial costs, lack of Arabic schools, child labour, among others are contributing to out of school children.

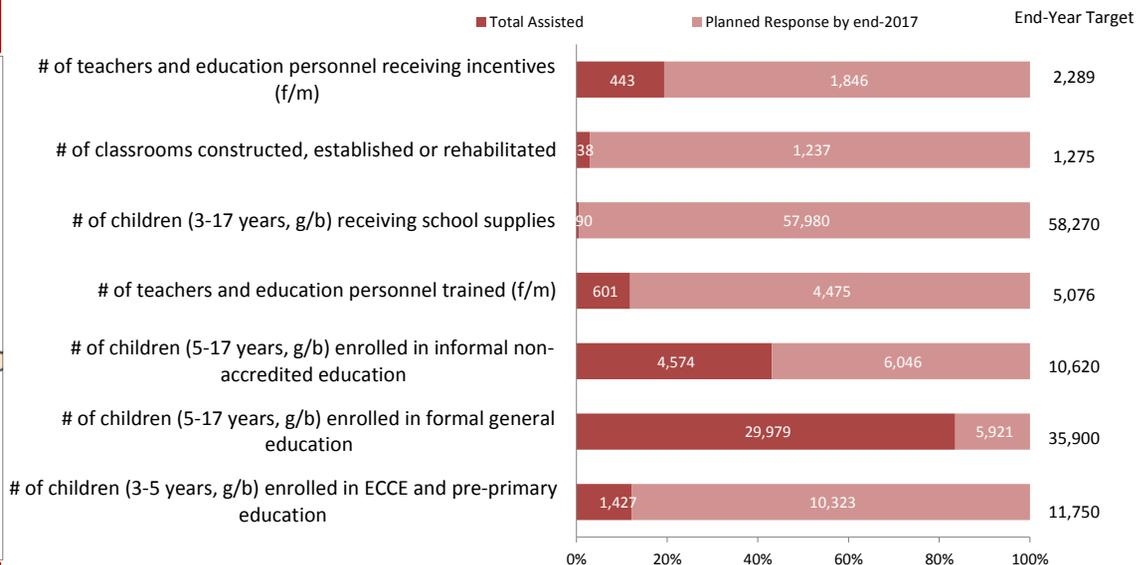
Children (6-17 years) attending primary schools in camps



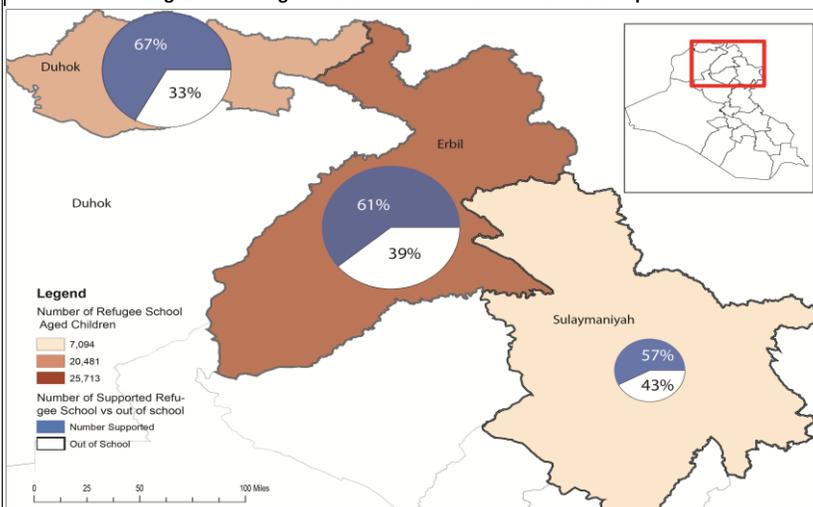
Gender Disaggregation of Refugee School aged Children Supported



IRAQ RESPONSE INDICATORS: MARCH 2017*



Refugees School Aged Children: Sector Achievements and Gaps



*Planned response is based on full funding of 3RP for all the school aged refugee children, spread out in the camp and non-camp settings majorly in the Kurdistan Region. There are 76,175 children between 3-17 years, and only 55,380 aged between 6-17years.

*The Numbers visualized above are based on the reports retrieved from Activityinfo as provided by the partners involved in the Refugee response as of March 2017.

Contacts: Aden, Abdirisak
Email: abdirisak.aden@savethechildren.org

Fred Mugabi
iraq.edu.im@humanitarianresponse.info



MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- A total of 22,363 patient consultations were conducted in Primary Health Care Centres in refugee camps during March. Health utilization rate (visit/person/year) was 2.6 which lies within the expected range of 1-4. During March, 669 (out of 22,363) mental health consultations were provided at camp PHC.
- 1,169 patients were referred from camp based PHCC to secondary and tertiary facilities for further investigations and/or hospitalization.
- The second round of Polio National Immunization Day (PNID) has been conducted in Iraq with support from WHO and UNICEF, for five days during March. Children under 5 years (U5) among refugees, IDPs and host community were targeted. Coverage rate was approximately 95% in Iraq.
- In order to improve data collection from refugee's camps, a training on UNHCR-Health Information System (HIS) and Activity Info (AI) has been conducted by UNHCR Health team to DoH staff in Duhok governorate. A similar training will be conducted in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates in April.
- UNICEF provided IYCF counselling assistance on appropriate breastfeeding to 1592 pregnant and lactating women in the camp settings across KRI.
- In Erbil governorate, UNHCR facilitated MHPSS mapping workshop in collaboration with Ministry of Health and other NGOs operating in Erbil, including both refugees and IDPs camps. Mapping has a strategic value in detecting the gaps in current activities and strategies in place to bridge these gaps.

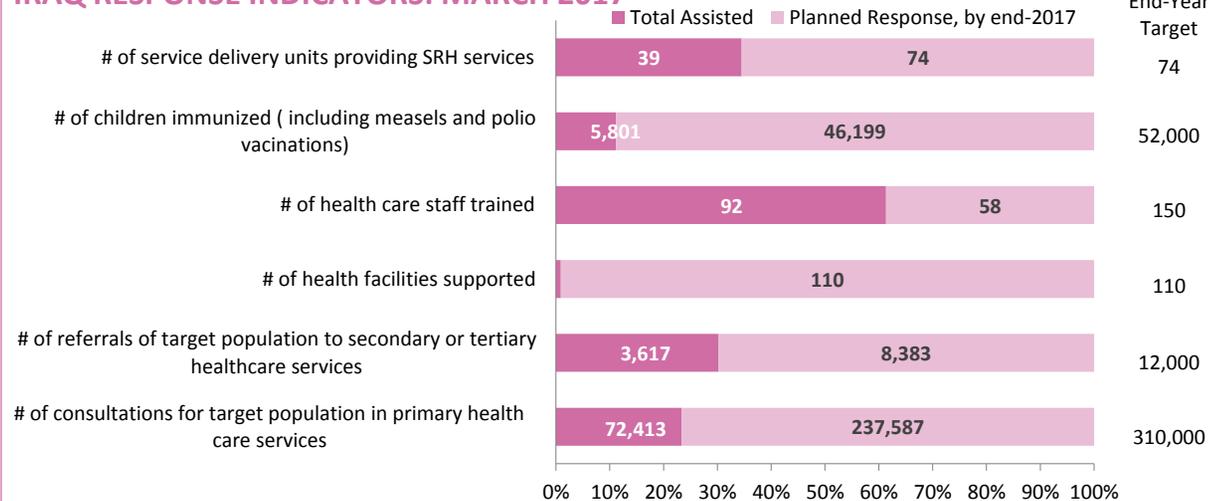


UNHCR/WHO monitoring visit, Kawergosk refugee camp PHCC, Erbil

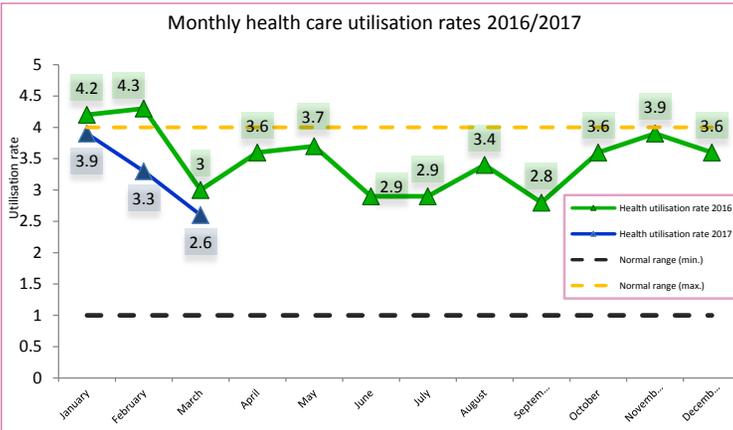
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- Control of communicable diseases needs to be strengthened in close cooperation with other sectors in order to prevent disease outbreaks.
- Shortage of medicines remains a key concern in public health facilities, particularly for patients with chronic diseases.
- Lack of awareness on available health services and insufficient health knowledge impact health seeking behavior. Health awareness campaign for non-camp Syrian refugees on available health services at public health facilities in KR-I is still needed, to improve knowledge of refugees on services availability in the host community.
- Mental health and psychosocial care services remains an area in need of further support for urban refugee populations.

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Leading Agencies:
Ministry of Health (MoH - KRI)
UNHCR, Dr. Mohammed Marzoog, MARZOOG@unhcr.org
WHO, Dr. Muhammad Fawad Khan, khanmu@who.int



MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

Camp:

The overall situation of the sector: the total shelter capacity in Syrian refugee camps amounts to **20,074** shelter units. In 2016, UNHCR constructed **2,512** shelter units (comprised of a concrete slab, kitchen, family latrine and shower). A total of **17,224 (88%)** shelter units are now constructed and occupied, with more than **17,000** refugee households (about **85,000** individuals) benefiting from satisfactory shelter conditions in the camps.

In Duhok/ Domiz1 camp, as a part of the rapid assessment of infrastructure services (Shelters, Care & Maintenance and Water Treatment/WASH facilities). 3,550 families have been visited by the multi-functional team (UNHCR/ PWJ/ BRHA). However, the assessment is still on-going and many needs have been identified.

In Sulaymaniyah. Shelters upgrade assessment has been conducted in Arbat camp. 60 families (most vulnerable) has been selected, preparation of BoQ under process.



UNHCR Shelter Rapid assessment in Domiz 1 camp /B.Amin/UNHCR

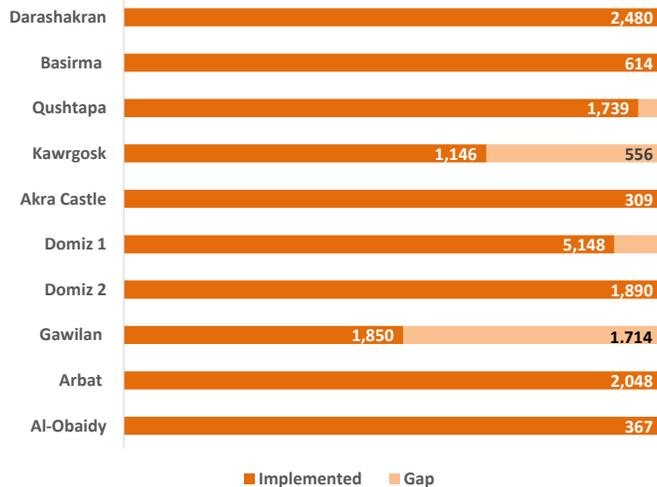
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

As part of 2017 plan, 315 new shelter plots will be constructed in Kawergosk, as well as an additional 80 in Qushtapa, which is made possible in the latter case following an internal reorganization of the camp layout that freed up space. In Darashakran some available extra space will enable the construction of 80 new shelter plots and thus meet the needs of an increasing population. In Kawergosk 225 shelter plots have yet to be upgraded and despite the camp will have then reached its full design capacity, 272 families will still be accommodated in overcrowded condition.

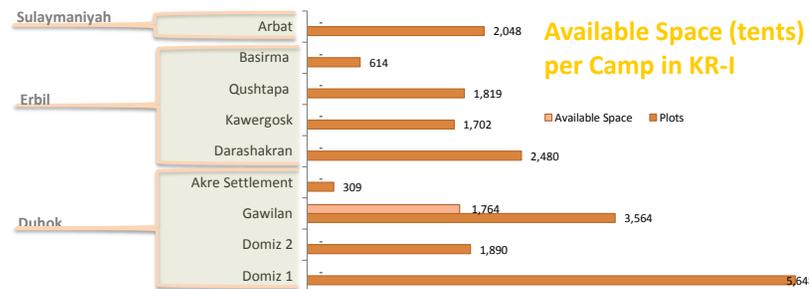
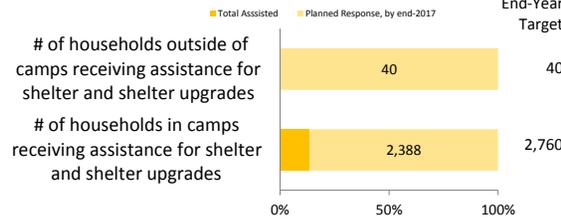
In Kawergosk and Qushtapa, further needs remain in regard to upgrading of roads, water network and drainage.

The provision of adequate and targeted shelter support to refugees residing out of camps requires increased attention as needs remain very high. Interventions generally may include upgrading of dwellings, rental support and support to community infrastructure. Assistance should be provided in close consultation with local authorities ensuring that the landlord will not increase the monthly rent or evict the refugee families shortly thereafter. Refugee households should be identified based on a set of vulnerability criteria. A more comprehensive and systematic response entail enhanced outreach and referral mechanisms and an effective prioritization of such interventions.

Number of Improved Shelter Units (Concrete Slabs, Kitchen, Family Latrine and Shower) / Camp



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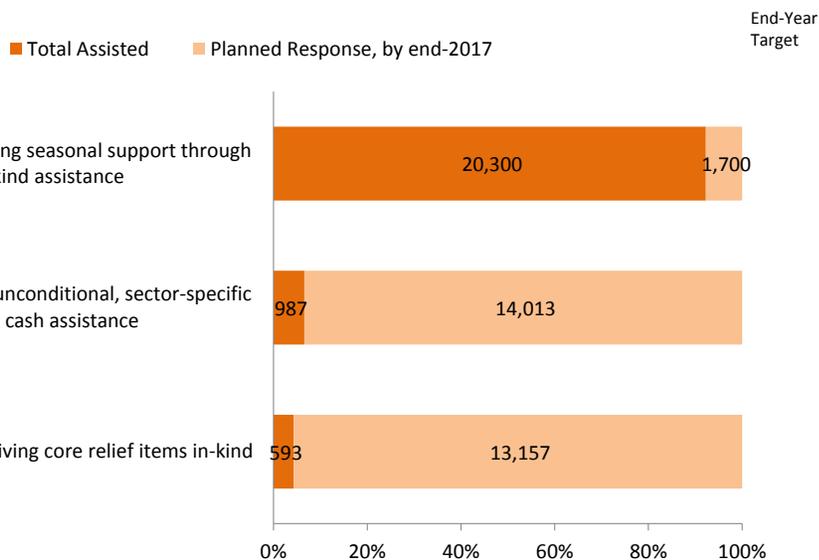


MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

In Erbil, with the lingering cold weather, a remaining balance of 7,920 liters of kerosene from the winterization program was distributed to the most vulnerable families, those who did not receive their share in the previous rounds, and camp support authorities. Refugees in the coldest areas in Sulaymaniyah had sufficient access to winterization. YAO, UNHCR's partner agency, distributed core-relief items and kerosene (100 liters per household) to more than 2,000 refugee families.

For multi-purpose cash assistance, some of no-show cases were attributed to expired refugee certificates. Qandil, UNHCR partner in Erbil, is working on an analysis to address the issue of no-show cases and follow-up actions.

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Leading Agency: UNHCR, Bola HAN, hanb@unhcr.org; Co-leading agency: ACTED.



Guarding jerrycans with kerosene in Basirma camp, Erbil Governorate. Oleg ZHDANOV.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

In the first quarter of 2017, the rate of fire incidents in camps increased compared to the same period in 2016. Possible mitigation measures include: 1) establishing fire prevention plans, 2) training the refugees on fire safety, 3) organizing awareness sessions, and 4) replacing damaged fire extinguishers in all camps in Dohuk.

Lack of livelihoods opportunities remains one of the gaps in urban areas in Erbil governorate. Refugees struggle to pay rent, for food, transportation and medication fees. Economic difficulties are pushing refugees to explore the option of moving to camps as a more attractive alternative. Over 800 households are registered in the waiting list to receive plots in the camps in Erbil Governorate.

UNHCR will closely work with ACTED in Sulaymaniyah Governorate to disseminate information about cash assistance, as many refugees are unaware of its scope and criteria.



MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

Erbil (Basirma, Darashakran, Kawergosk, Qushtapa):

In all camps, routine provision of safe drinking water (averaging 91 l/p/d), O&M of water networks, maintenance of WASH facilities, including water quality monitoring continued. UNICEF concluded skills building project focusing on WASH committees for refugees. All trained refugees and WASH committees are linked to the camp management.

To support host communities hosting refugees and IDPs. UNHCR through their partner KURDS has agreed to start to drill 2 boreholes in Khabat District, Erbil Governorate.

UNHCR has started to construct of individual family WASH facilities for 80 families in Qushtapa camp. The facilities include toilet, shower with roof tank/each family and connections to sewerage systems (Septic tanks) and separate grey lines.

To ensure that refugees do not live in squalid condition in all the refugee camps, UNHCR continues to support garbage collection and desludging activities in all the 4 refugee camps in Erbil (Kawergosk, Darashakran, Basirma and Qushtapa) through partner EJCC (ERC).

Through EJCC/ERC partner, UNHCR continue to undertake daily maintenance and cleaning of the existing WASH facilities in all the 4 refugee camps in Erbil (Kawergosk, Darashakran, Basirma and Qushtapa), now the activities are in progress.

Duhok (Domiz I and II, Akre, Gawilan):

In all camps, routine O&M of WASH facilities, including dislodging of wastewater, garbage collection and disposal continued. In Domiz I water trucking continued for 620 families (4,518 individuals) due to inadequate pressure on the network.

Water quality monitoring continued by Directorate of Water Outskirts in all camps at the water sources, from the water tankers and at the points of use.

WASH awareness and hygiene promotion also continued through the Directorate of Health, while sanitation and hygiene education is ongoing in 14 camp schools. In order to keep the camps environment friendly UNICEF distributed 555 garbage bins in Domiz. As part of preparations for world water day drawing competition was organized on water conservation among student from 20 refugee schools. Due to drought and (high sulphat, Netruit and Turbidity) contamination 4 drinking water deep wells were closed which have negative impact on quantity of water supplied to Domiz 1&2.

Sulaymaniyah (Arbat):

Continuous provision of drinking water with 90L/Person/Day for refugees, water delivery is planned to be implemented through DSSW after signing the agreement with UNHCR.

UNHCR/Municipality continues coordination to collect waste management on daily basis (except Friday).

UNHCR/ Qandil plan to start KAP survey inside camp.



Directorate of Health (DoH) hygiene promoters covering households in Domiz Refugee Camp, Erbil.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Due to continuous cut-off electricity power and possible increase demand for water due to changing season, provision of drinking water is expecting to be a challenge. The rise in demand will be also due to extensive use of evaporative air coolers.

Increased demand for water outside the camps due to additional IDPs and refugees within the host community has led to constant reduction of water supply from the municipal network to the Domiz 1 & 2 camps. Faced with a demand deficit of about 600m3 per day, it is predicted that the next summer period will be very challenging and will put a lot of demand for water trucking. As already experienced last year, it is again anticipated that the communities within the camp will be engaged in illegal water connections, in attempt to boost water intake from the network, thereby creating unequal distribution. UNICEF and the camp management plans to carry out social mobilisation and enforcement of regulations for removals of illegal connections during the period.

There has been substantial worsening of the water quality in some boreholes due to high turbidity and presence of nitrates in the groundwater. In the 12 months the camp manager in coordination with Directorate of Water Outskirts have been forced to close down 6 of the 15 boreholes supplying Domiz 1 & 2. The negative environmental impact of excessive abstraction of groundwater within Domiz 1 & 2 locations, now implies drilling more boreholes in the surrounding areas will no longer be feasible. And, so in the long term, there will be need to provide a more sustainable solution by relying on surface water source from Mosul dam rather than groundwater source.

IRAQ RESPONSE INDICATORS: MARCH 2017-

■ Total Assisted

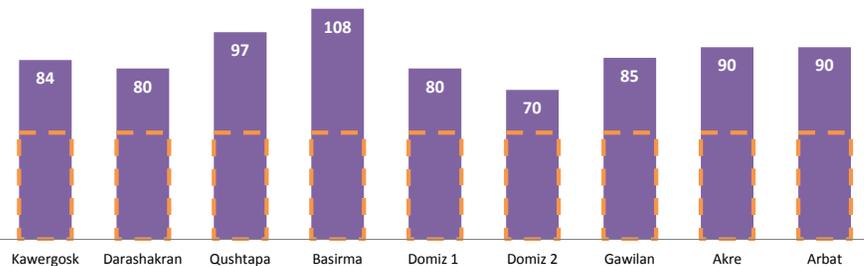
■ Planned Response, by end-2017

End-Year Targets

Indicator	Total Assisted	Planned Response, by end-2017	End-Year Targets
73,134 (72,134 in March) people with access to adequate quantity of safe water through temporary provision	73,134	26,866	100,000
72,158 (72,158 in March) people benefiting from access to adequate quantity of safe water through improved longer-term water systems	72,158	0	58,879
8,048 (120 in March) people with access to appropriate sanitation facilities and services	8,048	189,952	198,000
34,278 (1,246 in March) people who have experienced a hygiene promotion/ community mobilization session	34,278	163,722	198,000
1,540 (1,540 in March) people attending public spaces and institutions have access to safe, gender appropriate water and sanitation facilities and services and hygiene promotion activities	1,540	196,460	198,000

ACCESS TO SAFE WATER SUPPLY IN CAMPS: MARCH 2017

■ Average water supply (litre/person/day) ■ WASH Cluster Minimum Standard (50 litre/person/day)



Leading Agency: UNICEF. Contact: Annmarie Swai: aswai@unicef.org



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