INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE – SYRIAN REFUGEES IN IRAQ
16-31 January 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Syrian arrivals from Kobani

- A total of 1,888 Syrians (the majority from Kobani) were admitted into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), bringing the total number of new arrivals in the KR-I since 25 September to 29,652 individuals as of 29 January.
- All new arrivals in 2015 are being received and registered at Gawilan refugee camp in Duhok Governorate. 102 families have settled in the permanent site of Gawilan camp, as of 28 January 2015. The Development and Modification Center (DMC) was on the ground visiting the new arrivals tent by tent and issuing token cards to facilitate their access to services and core relief items (CRIs). The majority of the new arrivals continue to leave the camp to reunite with their relatives and friends in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, and to seek job opportunities.
- The Asayesh (security/intelligence) in Duhok Governorate agreed to register Syrian asylum-seekers who have entered KR-I illegally, regardless of their prior length of stay. This approach will be applied only to those who have not left KR-I since their original arrival date. This measure is effective as of 1 February, and Asayesh and DMC are expected to register an estimated 60,000 individuals in Duhok Governorate.
- The handover of camp management to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Erbil refugee camps has been completed and regular activities in the camps have been running with no interruptions.
- The total number of Syrian refugees in Arbat camp is 1,341 families comprising 5,343 individuals. Construction of the remaining blocks is underway, while the camp manager is still receiving requests from urban Syrian refugees to be allotted places in the camp, due to high rents and depleting resources.

KEY FIGURES

3,372
Individuals were registered in urban areas in Erbil governorate

9
Unaccompanied and separated children were identified among the new arrivals and were referred for assistance

29,652
Syrian new arrivals mainly from Kobani in the KR-I (1,888 during the reporting period)

PRIORITIES

Winterization of camps: distribution of winter kits (shelter and supplementary personal items) and kerosene

Assistance to new arrivals fleeing Kobani

POPULATION OF CONCERN

238,688 Syrian refugees

Distribution of medicines in Gawilan camp. UNHCR/B. Amin
UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- During the reporting period the political situation remained stable between Baghdad and Erbil. The Iraqi Prime Minister Hayder al-Abadi, during a press conference in Baghdad, sent his condolences to the victims of the ISIL-led militants’ attacks/violence and praised the role of the Peshmerga in fighting against the ISIL-led armed groups. The Iraqi PM also promised that in six months, National Guard forces will be established to maintain security in the country. Support from the international coalition against ISIL-led armed groups is growing, with Canada having promised to continue its support to Iraq in this respect.

- The security situation remains challenging in central and northern parts of the country, as Iraqi forces continue fighting in Salah ad-Din and Anbar against ISIL-led armed groups, with limited gains though. In the north, ISIL-led armed groups have waged several attacks against Peshmerga forces in Gwer, north of Erbil and in Sinjar, west of Duhok. In addition the ISIL infiltrators in Kirkuk managed to storm Qasra hotel and engaged police, security forces in battle while other ISIL elements waged attacks on Kirkuk. All attacks were repelled by Peshmerga forces with support of airstrikes. According to UNAMI, at least 1,375 Iraqis were killed, and 2,240 wounded in January 2015 only.

- The economic situation remains challenging with the drop of oil prices globally and the fighting against ISIL-led armed groups putting additional constraints on the Iraqi budget. In addition, the estimated 2.1 million displaced Iraqis has put enormous challenges and costs on the Iraqi government and the Kurdistan regional government (KRG).

- The humanitarian situation remains tense for the estimated 2.1 million displaced Iraqis. The need for funds from the international community to provide basic assistance to the displaced and the nearly 240,000 Syrian refugees remains urgent.

Achievements

Protection

1,888 Syrians were admitted to KR-I (357 families of 1,447 individuals and 441 singles) during the reporting period. The majority of new-arrivals are large families originating from Kobani, whereas others are from Qamishli, Aleppo, Al Hasaka, Derbasayia, and Afrin. The main reasons for leaving are claimed to be compulsory conscription of adult males to join armed forces, deterioration of economic situation and increase of living costs. The majority of refugees left Gawilan camp immediately upon registration with UNHCR, heading to Duhok, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah cities, where most of them have relatives. Out of the 357 families registered during the reporting period, only 105 families remained in Gawilan.

CAMPS

Achievements and Impact

- Throughout the reporting period, UNICEF in cooperation with its implementing partners provided psychosocial support services to a total of 103 children (55 girls; 48 boys) across the refugee camps in Duhok, Sulaymaniyah and Erbil Governorates, raising the cumulative total for January 2015 to 728 children (374 girls; 354 boys).

- With the support of UNICEF, 34 refugee children (14 girls; 20 boys) received specialized child protection services from frontline workers, raising the cumulative total to 102 children (39 girls; 63 boys) throughout the whole month of January.

- UNICEF and its implementing partners identified 9 new cases of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) (9 boys), raising the total in January 2015 to 29 UASC children (1 girl; 28 boys).

- Iris-scan enrolment in Akre is now completed, while the renewal process of UNHCR certificates is ongoing.
UNHCR continues to monitor the residency practices applied in respect of refugees living in the camps and in urban areas. The monitoring of the existing practices will assist the Protection Working group (PWG) in drawing the advocacy strategy for refugees.

In course of the protection monitoring activities during the reporting period, UNHCR teams observed an increase in spontaneous relocations and/or return of the refugees to the camps. As a result of individual assessments performed on the cases requesting re-activation or transfer of registration record in UNHCR’s database, it was established that some 167 individuals returned to the camp with the purpose of accessing a new food voucher system, while the other 74 individuals requested transfer for family re-unification purposes. Of concern, refugees raise the limited job opportunities and lack of income in urban areas, as well as increasing rental and living costs as the main reasons for their decision to relocate to the camp.

Registration centers in all four Syrian camps in Erbil processed and issued a total of 765 individual documents (UNHCR asylum-seeker certificates), both for newly registered and renewal cases.

The PARC/Qandil legal team assisted the camp-based beneficiaries in obtaining 21 marriage certificates and 23 birth certificates.

UNHCR-Qandil PARC Community services in Kawergosk and Darashakran camps identified, assessed and referred 20 cases at heightened protection risk to the service providers in the camp. Several cases were referred for resettlement consideration.

In Sulaymaniyah, 82 families (205 individuals) were registered. Including from among those previously registered, 652 families (1,524 individuals) were facilitated with issuance and renewal of asylum certificates. 718 individuals underwent Iris scanning. The cumulative total for those who have undergone Iris scanning is 8,986 individuals.

In Sulaymaniyah, the first best interest determination (BID)/BIA panel of 2015 was conducted, handling four cases out of a total 83 identified.

DHRD continues to conduct its six group therapy sessions with gender-based violence (GBV) survivors in Arbat camp. International Rescue Committee (IRC) has 45 pending GBV cases in the refugee camp and continues working with them.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

Erbil Registration Centre registered 1356 cases (3,372 individuals) of Syrian origin, including 733 individuals seeking update and transfer, and 623 individuals accessing new registration.

The Residency department in urban area processed a total of 677 applications, out of which 475 individuals were issued residency cards.

UNHCR identified and referred four separated Syrian refugee children to the Protection Assistance and Reintegration Center (PARC) Community Services for best interest assessment (BIA) interviews to be conducted.

UNHCR distributed cash assistance to 204 Syrian households, comprising in total 217 individuals from Daratoo, Berkot, Shweys, Kasnazar, Mamzawah and other districts of Erbil.

Durable Solutions (Refugee Status Determination and Resettlement)

Achievements and Impact

Pre-assessment screening was undertaken for 58 cases, of which 53 were prioritized and 5 deprioritized. The majority of these cases (50) were received as internal referrals from other units within UNHCR across KR-I, which explains the high prioritization rate. This is the largest number of internal referrals thus far received in a reporting period, which is attributed to increased mobilization and engagement of colleagues resulting from familiarization and training sessions delivered in recent months.

Interviewing missions took place to Basirma, Darashakran and Qushtapa camps in Erbil Governorate, as well as in Duhok Governorate. Case Identification interviews were conducted in 28 cases, and 34 cases were reviewed of
which 14 were prioritized and 18 deprioritized. Nine initial refugee status determination (RSD)/ resettlement (RST) interviews were conducted, as well as one complementary interview.

- Fifteen cases (54 persons) were referred to the Hub, of which thirteen cases (38 persons) are for submission to the UK, and two cases (sixteen persons) are for submission to Sweden. In total ten cases (50 individuals) were submitted to Sweden in January, with sixteen cases (45 persons) pending submission with the Hub at the end of January. A total of seven cases (28 individuals) received acceptance notifications from the resettlement countries as follows: five cases (22 individuals) accepted by Sweden, one case (one individual) accepted by the Netherlands, and one case (five individuals) accepted by Denmark.

- Considerable planning was undertaken alongside IOM counterparts in preparation for the forthcoming US pre-selection mission to Erbil on 8-17 February, during which 208 Syrian refugees will be interviewed by four IOM caseworkers in relation to their applications in the US Refugee Admissions Programme, resulting from formal submissions by UNHCR in the last quarter of 2014.

**Education**

**CAMP**

**Achievements and Impact**

- The second semester for the current academic year 2014-2015 started on 21 January 2015. Due to the construction of two new UNICEF built school buildings in Darashakran and Kawergosk camps, the three-shift-system could be replaced by two shifts, increasing studying hours from 2.5 hours to 4 hours.

- Over 14,000 children are attending 14 basic camp schools in the KR-I (7,807 students in nine schools in Duhok Governorate, 5,684 students in four schools of Erbil Governorate and 757 students in one school in Sulaymaniyah Governorate).

- An agreement was reached with DOLSA to include refugee children in institutions in Duhok that provide special care. This will include three years of special education and vocational trainings for children affected by Down Syndrome, hearing impairment, visual impairment, autism, and physical disabilities. Identification of beneficiaries will be conducted in cooperation with ACTED, UNICEF and Save the Children.

- UNHCR has monitored the progress in the basic school in Qushtapa camp. As a result of the recent community-based awareness campaigns and upgrade of the school infrastructure, a total of 300 drop-out-of school/ out of school Syrian refugee students returned to school. A primary school in Kawergosk camp, which has 1,864 students, has re-enrolled a total of 70 students out of the 100 drop-out cases registered since the beginning of the new academic year in September. The primary school in Darashakran has expanded the premises which helped to de-congest the classrooms and create a more conducive learning environment.

- In Kawergosk camp UNICEF through ZHIN organization distributed uniforms to all students in school. In Qushtapa Camp Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Educational support team is following up with UNICEF on the enrolment of 98 students from Kobani in schools.

- NRC with UNICEF financial support has started catch up classes for 75 students (30 male; 45 female) in Qushtapa Camp School.

- As part of UNICEF’s winterization strategy, UNICEF provided all 4,930 students in Darashakran, Kawergosk and Qushtapa camp schools with three pieces of winter uniform clothes. The clothes are locally produced at the sewing factory in Darashakran Camp with UNICEF funds, which is run by Syrian refugee women under the supervision of local NGO ZHIN.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- Shortage of teachers remains a problem in most of the camp schools.

**NON-CAMP**

- 14,542 refugee children are attending the 45 non-camp basic schools across the KR-I (9,753 students in 23 non-camp schools in Duhok Governorate, 3,619 students in 19 non-camp schools in Erbil Governorate and 1,170 students in 4 non-camp schools of Sulaymaniyah Governorate).
Transportation is the main constraint faced by non-camp refugees that prevents also many others from accessing schools. UNICEF has been supporting the transportation of over 90 students to their schools (Arabic schools) in Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- Overcrowded classes remain a big issue in most of the schools in host communities in the KR-I, especially schools with Arabic as the language of instruction.

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**Health**

**CAMP**

**Achievements and Impact**

- With the support of UNICEF, a total of 600 under 5 years old (U5) children were immunized against polio, 122 infants under 1 year old were vaccinated against measles, 130 U5 children received MMR vaccine, and 240 U5 children received vitamin A supplements, in 8 refugee camps across the KR-I. Additionally, 170 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) received tetanus shots.

- UNICEF conducted 40 seminars in eight baby huts across all refugee camps in the KR-I, benefitting approximately 250 PLW. Primary topics included exclusive breast feeding, well balanced diets and complementary foods for infants. The seminars are offered on a regular basis, with up to three seminars per baby hut per week.

- Trained Syrian refugee nurses visited about 2,500 tents across all refugee camps in the KR-I, as part of the UNICEF supported newborn home visit program. During these visits, 467 newborn babies and 350 post-delivery mothers received follow up examinations, for which 98 newborn and 29 post-delivery women were referred to health facilities to receive further care.

- In Obaidy camp, Anbar Governorate, health services continue to be provided by UNHCR implementing partner UIMS. A total of 181 patients were treated for acute and chronic health conditions, including 8 consultations in the recently started mental health and psychosocial support programme.

- WHO continues to support the salaries of 64 medical staff (doctors, dentist, nurses, lab technician, pharmacists, and other support staff) in the four refugee camps in Erbil.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- Health status of newly arriving refugees needs to be closely monitored. Prevention of communicable diseases outbreaks remains a key priority. Mental health and psychosocial care services in urban areas are limited in all governorates and do not cover all refugees in need of support.

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**NON- CAMP**

**Achievements and Impact**

- With the support of UNICEF, the Directorate of Health (DoH) in Duhok is vaccinating all newly arriving refugees below the age of 15 years in Duhok Governorate against measles and polio. Throughout the reporting period, 1,000 children were vaccinated against polio and 943 against measles.

- The renovation of the PHC in Kora, was completed, renovation included repairs to electricity network and the roof as well as provision of basic medical equipment.
Water and Sanitation

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- The sewage disposal site in Domiz camp is fully completed.
- At Gawilan camp, ACF is constructing 11 toilets for the disabled, and work is expected to be completed by 12 February 2015.
- In Kawergosk camp, WASH facilities are ready at the permanent site. Ten shower cabinets were installed in the camp for the newly received refugees from Kobani. Additionally, UNICEF’s implementing partner NRC distributed 2,858 hygiene kits.
- In Qushtapa camp, daily water trucking quantity was increased from 150,000 to 182,000 liters a day. Construction phase of the water and sewerage network was completed and has now entered the testing phase. UNICEF’s implementing partner DRC coordinated the WASH response to scabies in the camp. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) has started taking responsibility for the maintenance of WASH facilities in line with the agreement with UNHCR.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Darashakran camp, the drainage of grey water continues to be an issue. UNICEF and other camp actors are working to address this concern by developing a grey water drainage system.

Food Security and Nutrition

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Through the UNICEF-supported growth-monitoring program, a total of 1,240 U5 children were screened during the reporting period in seven refugee camps across the KR-I and received 2,280 packs (325 grams each) of supplementary and therapeutic food for either preventive or therapeutic treatment. 14 children were diagnosed with Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)/wasting and received adequate treatment or were referred to specialized services.

WFP reported distribution of food vouchers and parcels as follows:

- In Akre, 297 families received food vouchers in January. The figure includes 14 non-camp families that were referred by the Mayor’s Office.
- In Gawilan, the distribution of food parcels for the month of January was completed, reaching 880 families.
- In Duhok, 61,996 beneficiaries were reached as part of Cycle #25 as of 25 January; the distribution is still ongoing.
- In Erbil, the WFP voucher system commenced in Kawergosk camp on the 18 January, which caused some frustration among the refugees, who complained about the high price of items as compared to the local market.
- On 20 January, WFP/INTERSOS distributed food parcels for the month of January in Basirma Camp.

Shelter and CRIs

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Installation of the sandwich panel partition walls in Akre settlement is 100% completed, while fixing of sanitation is ongoing (80% complete).
- Qandil has provided 97 families from Kobani with full NFI packages in Gawilan camp, while 83 families have been provided with winterization kits and tent insulation materials.
- Qandil distributed 42 baby diaper packages for the age (0-1 yrs.) and 65 baby diaper packages for (1-2 yrs.) in Akre settlement.
- The site development work for 200 families in Darashakran extension area has started.
- The upgrading of 512 kitchens has started in Kawergosk camp. It is expected that by 8 February 2015, the upgrading of 200 kitchens will be completed, after which refugee families will be able to move to the permanent area.
- In Basirma camp the MoMD contractor has started leveling of the allocated land in sector A in order to construct the remaining 40 concrete slabs.
- Terre des Hommes (TDH) distributed winter coats and rain boots to the refugees between 15-18 years of age.
- YAO distributed 27 CRIs to the newly arrived refugees in Arbat camp; the CRIs included tent insulation kits and polystyrene boards.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**
- Sanitary napkins are needed for females in Gawilan and Akre camps. The last distribution of sanitary items was conducted in October 2014. Distribution of hygiene kits should be undertaken through a systematic approach on a monthly basis covering all families in Gawilan and Akre camps

**NON-CAMP**

**Achievements and Impact**
- Additional winter items have been availed to Duhok and 7,000 sleeping bags will be distributed in non-camp locations targeting 2,134 families in Akre, Bardarash district and Faida sub districts. Additional winter kits, insulation kits and panels will be distributed to around 200 families of new arrivals in Gawilan. Distributions started on 31 January and should be completed by the end of first week in February.

**Camp Coordination and Camp Management**

**Achievements and Impact**
- The CCCM meeting was conducted for Akre and Gawilan refugee camps at Gawilan on 22 January. Issues relating to protection, shelter, food, wash, education and distribution of CRIs and fuel were discussed. The Camp Manager reported that the current camp population is 964 families (4,225 individuals) including 123 singles residing at Gawilan permanent site.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**
- Fire incidents continue to be a major concern. Poor quality of kerosene stoves is cited as one of the major causes, and community has called for improvement of the quality of the stoves.

**Access to Energy**

**CAMP**

**Achievements and Impact**
- The second round of kerosene distribution in Duhok camps started on 25 January. All families including new arrivals will receive 200L. Akre is still distributing 20 litres per week. Distribution is scheduled to be completed by 4 February.
- As of 30 January, 4,207 families have been reached with Kerosene in Domiz and Gawilan camps; UNHCR continues to monitor the distributions.

*Kerosene distribution in Domiz camp. UNHCR S. Gammah*
At Gawilan camp 964 families were reached with distribution of kerosene. The distribution covered all families including the new arrivals from Kobani.

UNHCR/DRC is regularly distributing kerosene (40 liters per family per distribution) to all families in Qushtapa camp.

In Basirma camp, DRC distributed 40 liters of kerosene per family on 25 January.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- The number of refugee volunteers in Akre camp has increased to 36 members and is now split into two sub-committees, responsible for issues related to women and community services, respectively.

- In Duhok, more than 2,100 refugees are now registered in the database that UNHCR shares with organizations to support refugees’ employment. During the reporting period, 15 refugees found opportunities with organizations and private operators in Domiz camp.
Donor information

Agencies are grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operation.

Donors who have contributed to the operation:

- Australia
- Canada
- CERF
- European Union
- European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)
- France
- Germany
- Iraq
- Italy
- Japan
- Kuwait
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- United States

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CFS      Child Friendly Space
CRI      Core Relief Items (formerly known as non-food items/NFIs)
DMC      Development and Modification Centre
DoE      Department of Education
DoH      Department of Health
DoLSA    Department of Labour and Social Affairs
GBV      Gender-based violence
KR-I     Kurdistan Region of Iraq
PARC     Protection Assistance Reintegration Centre
RSD      Refugee status determination
RST      Resettlement
UASC     Unaccompanied and separated children
ANNEXES

Refugees by Areas of Origin in Syria

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Links:
For information related to the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2015-16, please click on www.3rpsyriacrisis.org
For information related to UNHCR’s supply pipeline, please click on http://data.unhcr.org/iraq/supply/

Announcements of all sector meetings along with respective agendas and minutes, and other information reporting sector-wide progress such as 3Ws, dashboards and camp profiles, are available on the inter-agency information sharing portal at http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php

For more information on the work of UNHCR and our partners in Iraq, please follow us on Twitter at @unhcriraq and on Facebook at “UNHCRinIraq”
UNHCR Registration Trends for Persons of Concern

**Registration Trend**

- **Total Persons of Concern:**
  - Individuals: 238,688
  - Households: 83,286

**Age and Gender Breakdown**

- **8-11 Years:**
  - Female: 7.56%
  - Male: 8.10%
- **12-17 Years:**
  - Female: 7.66%
  - Male: 8.66%
- **18-59 Years:**
  - Female: 22.31%
  - Male: 34.14%
- **60+ Years:**
  - Female: 1.15%
  - Male: 0.97%

**Place of Origin**

- **Damascus:** 25.55%
- **Aleppo:** 33.65%
- **Hassakeh:** 9.30%
- **Deir ez-Zor:** 2.26%
- **Rural Damascus:** 0.23%
- **Daraa:** 0.09%
- **Other:** 3.77%

**Governorate**

- **Total Iraq:**
  - Individuals: 238,688
  - Households: 83,286

**Governorate Breakdown**

- **Duhok:** 97,965
- **Erbil:** 104,493
- **Salamiya:** 20,290
- **Anbar:** 1,452
- **Nineveh:** 2,243
- **Kirkuk:** 711
- **Baghdad:** 406
- **Other:** 962

**Governorate % Total**

- **Duhok:** 41.04%
- **Erbil:** 43.78%
- **Salamiya:** 11.85%
- **Anbar:** 1.89%
- **Nineveh:** 0.56%
- **Kirkuk:** 0.30%
- **Baghdad:** 0.17%
- **Other:** 0.40%

**Total Camps Registered Population**

- **Total:** 92,787
  - Individuals: 25,922
  - Households: 100.00%