**Syrian Situation in IRAQ**

**Inter-agency Update no. 57**

31 December 2013 – 24 January 2014

Donor contributions to the Syrian Response in Iraq, 2012-2014:

Funding has also been received from PRIVATE DONORS, Emergency Response Fund, OCHA, and in-kind and cash donations from the local population.

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Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

1. Highlights

- **UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon visited Iraq** during the reporting period and was accompanied by the High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, and by Valerie Amos, the Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and other high level UN officials.
- On 5 January, 2014, **authorities eased the restrictions on the border crossing point at Peshkabour** to allow Syrian refugees into northern Iraq; since then 3,400 Syrians have registered with UNHCR.
- **UNHCR emergency airlift into Syria is complete.**
- As a result of the armed conflict in Anbar, access to Al Obaidy camp has been limited to essential staff; regular services remain available.

2. Winterization update

- **Distribution of UNHCR winter CRIs is complete in all camps and non-camp locations.**
- **50 per cent of the planned 15,190 family tents in the KR have concrete slabs, which provide a permanent foundation that alleviates the effects from precipitation. Similarly, 46 per cent of the 14,829 kitchen areas have concrete slabs as a base.**
- **The distribution of kerosene for Syrian refugees is ongoing.**
- **The construction of road sub bases, drainages culverts and ditches is ongoing.**
- **Save the Children continues to distribute winter clothing for children in camp and non-camp locations.**
- **ACTED is giving two folding beds per household in Arbat, Kawergosk, Basirma, Qushtapa and Darashakran. ACTED also continues to distribute clothes, fire prevention equipment and wheel barrows in the camps.**
- **In addition, ACF has also provided 900 winter kits in camps, while DRC distributed winter clothes in Qushtapa and Basirma camps.**
- **In Al Qa‘im the host community provided over 400 families with blankets in Al Obaidy camp.**

Visit of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon

During the reporting period, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon visited Iraq to gain a first-hand understanding of the Syrian refugee response operations in the country. He was accompanied the High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, and by Valerie Amos, the Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. During his time in Iraq, the UN Secretary General met with high level government officials in central Iraq and the Kurdistan Region and also visited Kawergosk camp in Erbil Governorate to speak with Syrian refugee families.
During a media briefing in Kawergosk Camp, the Secretary General expressed strong solidarity and support to all Syrian refugees on behalf of the UN and the international community. He also thanked the Kurdistan Regional Government for its kind generosity in hosting more than 200,000 Syrian refugees.

3. Border update

**Al Qa’im**
The border remains closed since 29 March 2013. Syrians with valid visa are allowed to cross the border into Iraq after obtaining prior approval from Iraqi authorities. More medical cases of Syrians are received at the border clinic; patients return back to Syria the same day after receiving the appropriate treatment.

**Peshkabour and Sehela**
On 5 January, 2014, authorities eased the restrictions on the border crossing point at Peshkabour to allow Syrian refugees into northern Iraq. During the month of January, more than 3,400 Syrian nationals have registered for asylum in Iraq. Most of the new arrivals are from Al Malikiyah, Jawadiah, Aleppo, Damascus, Rumaylan, Afrin, Rasalayn, Qamishli and Alhassak. Vulnerable persons including those suffering from chronic illnesses and separated children were identified among the new arrivals, were assisted or advised on the available services.

4. Response by sector and location

**Reception, Registration and Protection**

**Al Qa’im**
The number of Syrian refugees in Al Obaidy Camp is 408 cases (1,921) individuals with 872 cases (3,164) individuals settled in the town of Al Qa’im and other districts of Anbar. The total number of Syrians returned to Syria from Al Qa’im is 6183 individuals. The decision for some refugees to return spontaneously is also related to improved conditions in areas of origin, assistance situation in the camps, and other considerations such as the concern for property, family reasons and access to education for children.

On 12 January, UNHCR registration team started renewing asylum seeker certificates; 26 certificates were renewed during the reporting period.
Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Kurdistan Region

Camps

Domiz Camp: During the reporting period, a total of 1,937 cases of Syrian refugees have been registered. Up to 197 cases of expired Refugee Certificates were renewed, while a total of 189 newborns (90 male and 99 females) were recorded and added to the case of their parents - included in the total registered 1,937. In addition, 253 litigation interviews were conducted with Syrians in Domiz Camp.

Qushtapa Camp: As Level 2 registration has yet to start, camp residents do not have Residency Permits. However the local security offices continued to issue about 60 movement permits per day, valid for between 3 to 15 days, to enable camp residents to travel outside the camp for medical reasons, family visits etc. Females are only issued with the permit if accompanied by a male family member.

Kawergosk Camp: Data collection for a survey on higher educational needs in Kawergosk was completed. At the same time, the construction of the registration centre was completed which will enable the start of Level 2 registration mid-January. An inter-agency case referral form was also introduced, pending the introduction of fully fledged case management mechanisms once Level 2 registration is rolled-out.

Gawilan Camp: A total of 279 cases of Syrian refugees were registered, bringing the total number of refugees residing in the camp to 2,358.

Arbat Camp: The Registration Unit is completed in the Arbat Camp and ready to be operational.

Spontaneous and verified returns

Dohuk: A total of 770 registered cases of Syrians have voluntarily returned to Syria, which bring the total number of registered Syrian nationals returning to country of origin since January, 2013 to 29,575 individuals. Also, a total of 781 non-registered Syrians, have voluntarily returned to Syria, which bring the total number of non-registered Syrian nationals returning to country of origin since May 2013 to 21,212 individuals.

Sulaymaniyah: Three families (16 individuals and eight singles left Arbat transit site during the reporting period. It is unclear if they returned to Syria or rented houses outside the camp.

Transit sites

Akre Camp: A total of 1,447 cases of Syrian refugees were registered. UNHCR’s partner finished conducting full registration (level-2) of the camp that had previously undergone level-1 registration upon entry.

Bajet Kandala Transit Site: A total of 611 Syrians were accommodated before relocating to permanent camps such as Gawilan.

✓ Shelter/Infrastructure

As part of UNHCR livelihood projects, the constructions of two bakeries by ISHO were completed and they are being tested now. UNHCR and ISHO are planning to have this project running during the next reporting period.

Bakeries construction @ ISHO/Laith

Kurdistan Region

Camps

Domiz Camp: During the reporting period, tents continued to be
replaced in the camp; of the planned 3,500 tents, 1,446 have already been replaced. The verification process for the replacement of tents is ongoing; Pre-paving of roads leading to PHC and MSF is underway, by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement from Baghdad;

Renaming Domiz camp sectors and phases and installation of quarter names and street numbers has been completed, in cooperation with DMC, ACTED, REACH. Development of Transit 7 (Sarbasty Qr) has been completed and 30 refugee families were relocated and provided with electricity and water; DMC has confirmed the extension of Domiz camp by 325,000 sqm which will benefit 10,800 persons.

Gawilan Camp: The Ministry of Migration and Displacement of Baghdad continued working on construction of 500 plots of cement base shelter and completed 288 latrines and showers as part of the planned 1,900 permanent shelter that was started in 2013.

Arbat camp: Police and asaysh: Construction of the police and fire force station is ongoing and will be completed within three weeks

Reception, Warehouse and Voucher: Earth work is completed by Kurds and ACTED has started work.

Electricity: Installation of electricity is smoothly continuing in the Arbat Camp and will be completed within three weeks if the weather condition permits.

Admin Area: Earth works and levelling of the admin area completed and installation of the prefabs for the UNHCR office and Partners commenced.

Schools: Earth works and levelling for Primary and Secondary schools in Arbat Camp have been completed.

Blocks (tents with kitchens): All the tent foundations and kitchen units have been completed. All 256 sanitation units in block C have been completed by KURDS

Transit sites
Bajet Kandala Transit Site: The construction of registration office was completed; construction of 400 concrete tent base shelters continued.
Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Arbat Transit Site: A tent caught fire in the early hours of Wednesday (3AM), 22 January. An elderly refugee, man in his 90s, died as a result due to severe burns. He shared the tent with his daughter and two of her children. His daughter and the mother of the children received some burns, not seriously, and a 10 years old daughter had her upper arms, thighs and face burned (about 25 % of her body). The mother was released from the hospital and the daughter is expected to recover, but remains in hospital. Apparently, electric heaters were used in the tent that caused the short circuit. The Governor’s office paid an amount of 500,000 IQD ($400) as a financial compensation to the family.

The sanitation units for blocks A and B are still under construction, with a completion rate of 40 per cent, however there are some concerns of the quality that will be raised with the partner.

Construction of the sewage network remains ongoing, block is almost completed, particularly on the sewers, and they promised to start with block B on Sunday. Construction of the reception centre, distribution centre and warehouse is ongoing and will be completed within three weeks, as the contractor stated. All the internal roads within blocks A, B and C have been graded and compacted up to sub grade level.

✓ Child Protection

Al Obaidy
NTR

Kurdistan Region

Camps

Domiz Camp: Child Friendly Space (CFS) and Youth Friendly Space (YFS) registered 4,635 children; thousands of children continue to visit the CFS/YFS and participate in different recreation activities.

Gawilan Camp: 274 children benefited from child protection sessions through the mobile child protection team.

Transit Sites

Akra: 254 children benefited from child protection sessions provided by the mobile child protection team.

Water and Sanitation

Kurdistan Region

Camps

Domiz Camp: FRC completed its emergency rehabilitation and surface water protection of the sewage holding pits covering Transits 3 (Shorash Qr) and 4 (Khabat Qr); the dislodging work in all 67 sewage holding tanks in Phase 4 (Rizgari Qr) was completed.

Gawilan Camp: The ACF WASH facility designs were implemented in Transit 1. Meanwhile, PU-AMI has continued its hygiene promotion, cleaning of toilets and showers, improvement of drainages and rehabilitation of toilets in Transit 1; ACF and UNICEF began the construction of 13 toilet blocks in Transit 1; water delivery continued on daily basis to all sectors in the camp.

Transit sites

Bajet Kandala Transit Site: To accommodate the new arrivals since the opening of the border, NRC has completed construction of 50 toilet and 20 shower cabins; the designing of water network has been completed by UNICEF.
Arbat Transit site: Cesspools of the a few latrines in section “M & E” are out of order and need maintenance. The communal showers of UNICEF in “O& N” sections are still not functional. Cesspool of “M” section collapsed and created a big hole of water, which poses a risk to children. Necessary follow up has been done with IRC to fix the problem.

Core Relief Items

Al Obaidy
UNHCR through ISHO distributed kerosene for the month of January to the camp refugees. Each family received a half share of kerosene as the amount available in the camp did not cover all refugees. On 12 January, a new shipment of kerosene arrived at the camp and UNHCR will complete the distribution during the next reporting period. On 13 January, UNHCR started distributing soaps to the camp refugees and the number of beneficiaries was 74 families.

Due to deterioration in security situation in Ramadi and Faluja, many families fled to the surrounding areas like Hit, Haditha, Anna, etc. Upon senior management decision to support these IDPs, UNHCR Al Qa’im team in collaboration with Relief Group arranged transportation of 260 CRI Kits to be distributed to those IDPs in Heet on January 14. UNHCR field unit OIC will supervise the distribution.

Kurdistan region
The airlift of emergency items from northern Iraq into Syrian is now complete. The last UNHCR cargo flight landed on 30 December at Qamishly airport carrying assistance urgently needed by displaced persons. UNHCR commenced its airlift on 17th December with 12 special cargo flights totalling nearly 300 metric tons of relief aid to help more than 50,000 people in north-eastern Syria cope with winter.

Camps
Domiz Camp: During the reporting period, Qandil distributed 981 CRIs packages to 919 families; UNICEF has completed its winterization assistance covering all the children 1-13 years old.

Gawilan Camp: Under the winterization program in the camp, 881 insulation panels were distributed to 340 refugee families; CRI kits were distributed to 73 new arriving refugee families; blankets and mattresses to 50 new arriving refugee families; IRC team has distributed 500 women cloth packages (1 package per family) to all sectors in the camp; IRC team has distributed 100 packages of hygiene kits to all new arrivals in the camp; UNHCR started the distribution of baby diapers and sanitary napkins covering 627 women and 107 children.
Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Transit sites

Akra Camp: UNHCR through Qandil distributed babe diapers and sanitary napkins to 412 women and 60 children.

Bajet Kandala Transit Site: UNHCR delivered 200 CRI kits to new arrivals as part of an immediate relief assistance distribution; NRC and UNICEF distributed 42 hygiene kits to 42 new arriving families.

Arbat Transit site: Distribution of “1420” Polystyrene floor insulation kits to the refugee families in Arbat Transit has been completed. All new arrivals received NFIs. Not all families however received jerry cans and tarpaulins due to shortage of these items in Sulaymaniyah stock. Erbil was requested to send the items that are expected to arrive next week. Kerosene stock is empty and hence no kerosene was provided to refugees during the reporting period. Programme Unit in Erbil has given a green light to YAO to proceed with kerosene procurement and distribution in the camp. The distribution will start and completed within this week.

Food

Al Obaidy
On 6 January, WFP through IRW started the distribution of food parcels to the camp refugees.

Kurdistan Region

Camps

Domiz Camp: During the reporting period, UNHCR attended a food coordination meeting and called on food partners to make the necessary arrangements for emergency food assistance in Gawilan and Bajet Kandala as food response remains one of the main challenges.

Gawilan Camp: WFP distributed high energy biscuits to 266 new arriving Syrian refugees and food packages to 2,681 individuals.

Transit sites

Akre Camp: WFP distributed food packages to 1459 individuals.
**Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update**

**Bajet Kandala Transit Site:** WFP delivered food packages to prospective refugees that will stay overnight before relocating to permanent camps such as Gawilan.

**Arbat Transit Site:** 63 Syrian pregnant refugee women in Arbat Transit Centre and 5 similar cases from among urban caseload were assisted with one time food ration including 5 kg of powder milk, 3 packs of biscuits, 3 kg of fresh fruits, 3 kg lentil, 1 kg almonds, 1 kg raisins, 3 kg beans, 3 cans of peas, 4 bottles of sesame seeds, 1 pack of diapers and plastic made food protector as well as mother-child healthcare counselling and multi vitamins. Two internally Palestinian families also received the same food package.

**Health**

**Al Obaidy**

On first of January, the PHC opened in the camp and 947 patients received treatment in the clinic during the reporting period. A Pediatrition, an Internal medicine specialist, and Gynaecologist Specialist receive cases from Sunday to Thursday each week and the total cases treated in the clinic are 106, 101 and 41 cases respectively.

On January 13, in collaboration with UNHCR Al Qa'im team, DoH started a vaccination campaign in the camp and covered 26 cases during the reporting period. The campaign will continue until January 15.

**Kurdistan Region**

**Camps**

**Domiz Camp:** UNHCR met with representatives from the University of Norway and Dohuk University and discussed provision of psychosocial assistance to refugees. The Primary Health Centre is monitoring a possible health hazard among children as an alert was sent to all concerned agencies regarding prevention and treatment of Pediculosis among children.

**Gawilan Camp:** UNHCR referred a mentally disabled 19 year-old refugee boy to Erbil Hospital for examination; a female refugee was referred to psychological counselling sessions in Dohuk; the construction of primary health centre through UNHCR and IRW continued.

**Transit sites**

**Arbat Transit Site:** Construction of the PHC is almost completed.

**Education**

**Al Obaidy**

On 12 January, UNICEF school facilitator met with the Director of Education /Al Qa’im to discuss issues related to the complementary schools in Al Obaidy Camp. Topics like mid-year exams, curriculum, and WFP biscuit distribution had also been discussed during the meeting.

**Kurdistan Region**

In Sulaymaniyah through the continued advocacy with the Education Directorate and the university, 49 refugee students were successfully enrolled. These students will not be charged any fees during the four years of their university education. A pick and drop facility on a daily basis has been arranged by CDO for these students.

**Camps**

**Domiz Camp:** During the reporting period, a total of 2,810 children have returned back from midyear break to attend basic schools.
Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Gawilan Camp: The construction of a primary school that will benefit 586 students by PWI and UNICEF continued; six tents were sent to Gawilan to be used as temporary additional classrooms for the existing schools.

Transit Sites

Akra Camp: The 12 classroom school that will benefit 360 students has been received by DMC and is ready to start, pending approval of teaching staff by the Ministry of Education.

☑ SGBV

Al Obaidy

Through Women Listening Centre two cases were identified and received psychological and legal support.

Kurdistan Region

Camps

Domiz Camp: 13 cases of SGBV were reported and referred to appropriate counselling.

☑ Community services

Al Obaidy

On 8 January, the host community of Al Qa’im distributed blankets to 408 refugee families in the camp. Each family received one blanket.

Kurdistan Region

Camps

Domiz Camp: A total of 19 families were provided with different types of assistance such as cash, registration with government, specific needs and reunification with family members abroad.

Gawilan Camp: A total of 8 families were provided with different types of assistance such as children with disabilities, elderly family member and single household.

Transit sites

Akre: A total of 4 families with chronic diseases were assisted.

Arbat Transit Site: Advocacy with a local maternity hospital eventually resulted in free medical care including surgery for a Palestinian woman in need of urgent medical attention.

Protection and community services paid a courtesy visit to the Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims. It appeared a well-established organization with centers also in Kirkuk, Dohuk (including one in Domiz Camp), Chamchamal and Halabja. A team of doctors briefed about the specialized services their centre offered in psycho-social healthcare and free of cost medicines. The centre agreed to send a team of doctors twice a
week to Arbat Transit Camp. They also requested for a permanent office (two rooms) in the new camp where psycho-social support could be facilitated for men, women and children.

5. Non-camp assistance

✓ Reception, Registration and Protection
During the reporting period, UNHCR through PARC conducted field visits and reached out to 81 Syrian refugee families that have voiced their protection concerns on issues related to shelter, health, education and employment; medical cases were referred to appropriate health institutions, and non-registered Syrian refugees to the registration desk in Domiz.

UNHCR’s PARC partner in Erbil (Qandil) continued to provide legal assistance and community services support to the non-camp caseload, including undertaking follow-up on individual cases.

✓ Core Relief Items
UNHCR carried out the provision of winterization assistance in various districts and areas in Dohuk, benefiting 1,302 Syrian refugee families and 778 families from the host community population. completed the winterization assistance in Dohuk Governorate benefiting a total of 4,774 households.

In Sulaymaniyah, 67 Syrian families in Chamchamal and four families in Sangaw district were assisted with kerosene oil and hygiene kits

Four trucks of carpet, shoes, blankets and second hand clothes were sent to Erbil - Kawergosk camp and distributed among the refugees.

475 urban refugee families were referred to Mercy Corps and Humedica and STEP to provide them with CRI, kerosene oil and winterized clothing of children up to 5 years of age

✓ Health
In Al Obaidy UNHCR Al Qa’im team continued cash assistance and medical interviews with non-camp refugees.
Syrian Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

Education

During the reporting period, a total of 4,393 children continued to attend basic schools in Dohuk urban areas, while a total of 134 children attended Kurdish and Arabic high schools.

Cash Assistance

In Dohuk During the reporting period, DRC provided emergency and multiple cash assistance to 640 Syrian refugees and 160 individuals from the host community population; PARC provided emergency cash grants with a total value of USD 4,500 to 11 Syrian refugee households.

Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)

In Dohuk, UNHCR conducted field visits to monitor the progress; most projects have been satisfactorily completed.

Community services/livelihoods

In Al Qa’im, 177 families received cash assistance by ISHO to benefit extremely vulnerable refugees.

In Dohuk, during the reporting period, UNHCR followed up on urgent medical cases related to a Syrian refugee girl and a man, and is currently exploring the best referral options for them.

Child Protection

During the reporting period, a total of 3,022 children were registered in the Child/Youth Friendly Spaces in Var City and Fayda District.

6. Stories from the field

Sixty-nine-year-old Saleh and his wife were among the new arrivals since border restrictions were eased in northern Iraq. They came all the way from Al-Hasakah area in Syria. They have six sons and five daughters; all of them crossed into KRI, during the influx in August, 2013. The parents convinced them to leave first, as armed groups were forcing the youth to join the fighting and taking two men from each family.

Saleh and wife wanted to stay in their own house back in Syria, but because of the intensified bombing, “I could not take it any more” says Saleh, “so I decided to take my wife and join my children in KRI.” Their house was destroyed as it came in the middle of a fight between armed groups. “In the war in Syria, no one distinguishes between civilians and fighters” reveals Saleh, “Our house was hit by an RPG.”

“There was no water, electricity, not even bread, because of the increasing clashes in my area,” Saleh recalls. Saleh, his wife and a group from the neighbourhood, rented a truck, and came to the border. They waited for one night, before being allowed to enter KRI. Saleh and his wife will join their children in Zakho, some of them are married.

The short journey across the Tigris River, which makes a natural border between Syria and Iraq, usually take about five minutes by boat. The efforts to welcome and receive the newly arriving Syrian refugees have been collectively shared by different parties beside UNHCR, such as the Kurdish government, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Medecins Sans Frontiere (MSF).
The KRG-I provided the boats for border crossing, along with other services such as first aid, vaccination and food, including fresh bread donated by the local population. Others have delivered transportation, bottled water and medical services.

Saleh was suspected of being affiliated to a political party that militants in his neighbourhood back in Syria opposes, which got him into trouble. He was denied bread from bakeries. “Now that I am in Kurdistan Iraq, I can talk, I am not afraid anymore.” “Although, we are refugees here, my children can work and have income, and we can have a better house.” “One day we will all be able to go back home,” Saleh declares.

*Names have been changed for protection reasons.*

**7. Security**

**Al Qa'im**
Security situation remains stable in Al Qaim and no major security incident has been reported during the reporting period.

**Kurdistan Region**
The overall situation remains stable.

**8. Coordination**

For information related the Regional Response Plan (RRP6) please click on [http://www.unhcr.org/syriarrp6/](http://www.unhcr.org/syriarrp6/)

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

**9. Acronyms and abbreviations**

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFS</td>
<td>Adolescent Friendly Space</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFS</td>
<td>Child Friendly Space</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRI</td>
<td>Core Relief Items (formerly known as non-food items/ NFIs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DDM</td>
<td>Department of Displacement and Migration</td>
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<td>DMC</td>
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Syrian Refugees Camps / Sites in Iraq
As of 22 January 2014

Total Number of Registered Syrian Refugees in Iraq is 216,271

- TURKEY
- SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
- ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Key:
- ▲ Refugee Camp
- ▲ Refugee Camp (Under Construction)
- ▲ Transit Site/Camp
- □ Border Crossing Point
- © UNHCR Sub-Office
- © UNHCR Field Office
- © UNHCR Field Unit

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