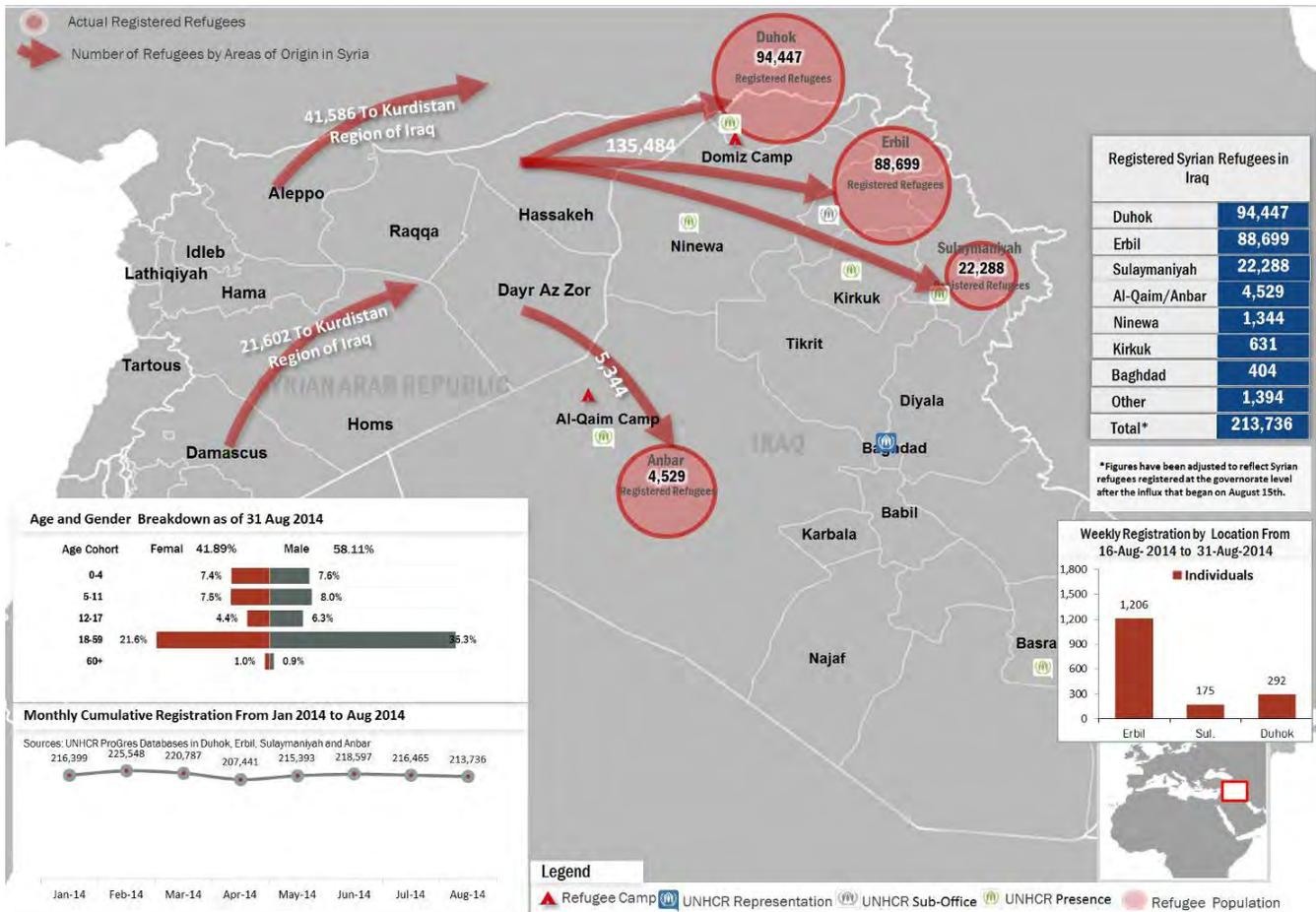


Situation in IRAQ

Inter-agency Update No. 71

August 16-31 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.

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/>

irqpi@unhcr.org

MOMD | DDM | DGC | Local Authorities
 Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM | UNDP | UNFPA | FAO | UNESCO | UN-Habitat
 NGOs: ACF | ACTED | DRC | FRC/ IRCS | HAI | HI | IMC | INTERSOS | IRC | IRW | KURDS | MAG | Mercy Corps | MSF | NRC | PEOPLE IN NEED | PU – AMI | PWJ | QANDIL | Relief International | SC KR-I | SCI | STEP | TGH TRIANGLE GH | UPP | WarChild UK | WARVIN

Syria Crisis in Iraq: Bi-weekly Update

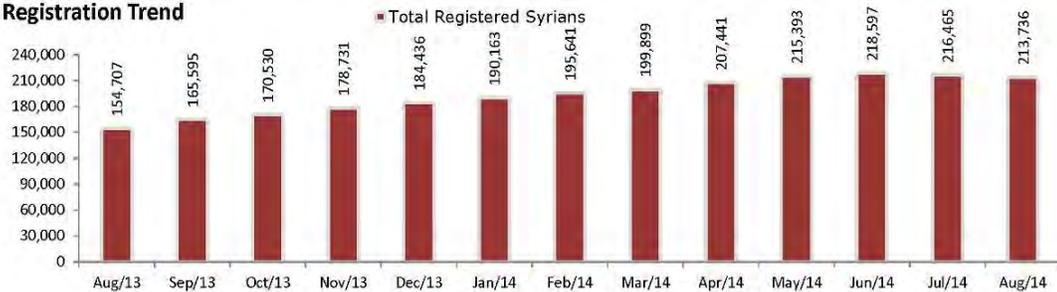
UNHCR Registration Trends for Syrian Persons of Concern 31 Aug 2014

Registration Unit **Total Persons of Concern** **Individuals** **Households**

215,303 **76,974**

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
Iraq

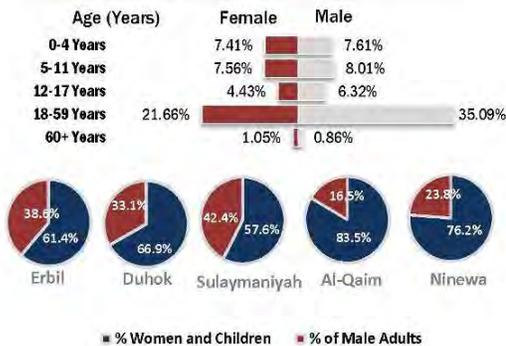
Registration Trend



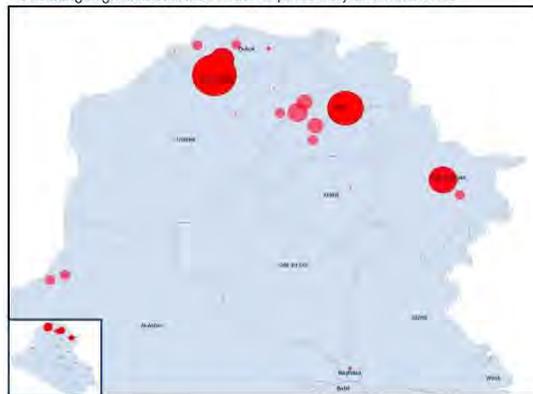
This profile is based on **213,736** and **1,567**. The total is **215,303**.

proGres registered individuals
Awaiting registration *
Individuals

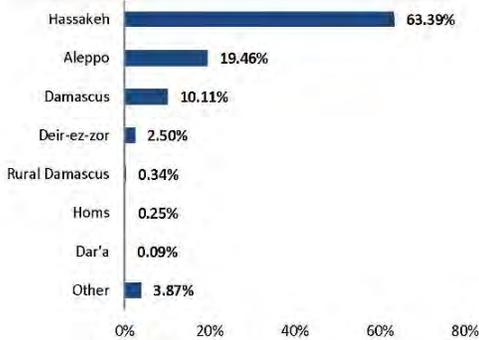
Age and Gender Breakdown



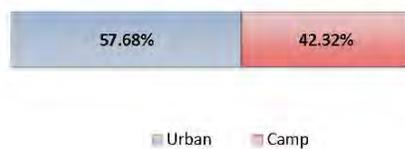
* Awaiting registration refers to those previously fixed as level 1



Place of Origin



Camp and non-camp population comparison



Governorate	Individuals	Households	% Total
Duhok	94,447	29,711	44.19%
Erbil	88,699	34,317	41.50%
Sulaymaniyah	22,288	9,860	10.43%
Anbar	4,529	1,150	2.12%
Ninewa	1,344	439	0.63%
Kirkuk	631	221	0.30%
Baghdad	404	222	0.19%
Other	1,394	627	0.65%
Total Iraq	213,736	76,547	100%

Camps Registered Population			
Camp	Individuals	Households	% Total
Al-Obaidi Camp **	1,536	322	1.70%
Akre Settlement	1,401	343	1.55%
Bajrd Kandala Transit Camp	63	12	0.07%
Domiz Camp	57,953	18,001	64.07%
Gawilan Camp	2,523	632	2.79%
Basirma Camp	3,335	792	3.69%
Darashakran Camp	7,974	1,688	8.82%
Kawergosk Camp	9,153	2,418	10.12%
Qushtapa Camp	4,621	1,139	5.11%
Arbat Camp	1,888	517	2.09%
Total	90,447	25,864	100%

** From 16 June 2014, as Al-Obaidi Camp became inaccessible to UN agencies and other humanitarian staff, the camp registered population figure is not updated.

1. Highlights

The second half of August saw no significant changes in the situation of Syrian refugees in Iraq. UNHCR or partners received no reports about new arrivals; at the same time it was reported that some refugees opted for return.

In Al Qa'im, Anbar Governorate of Iraq, UNHCR continues to have no direct access to the Al Obaidy camp or refugees in urban areas since mid-June due to insecurity. Therefore, the figures of camp and non-camp refugees as well as of spontaneous returns could not be updated. UNHCR's partners (local NGOs ISHO and UIMS) continued running services for refugees and using core relief items, pre-positioned by UNHCR before June. On 21 August, WFP partner Islamic Relief Worldwide delivered 1,200 WFP food parcels to A Obaidy, bringing much-needed food assistance to the entire camp.

In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq two issues remain of imminent concern at the camp level: delays in the construction of permanent living space for refugees, and poor water and sanitation situation. UNHCR consistently follows up with operational partners on these issues.

The results of Protection monitoring within Erbil governorate indicate a new wave of arrivals of Syrian refugees in the camps. Majority of arrivals are refugees relocating from urban centres in Erbil and Dohuk primarily due to the economic reasons and in particular, a reduced coping capacity to meet living costs vis-à-vis the increase of the IDP population. The situation with regard to space in the Syrian camps continues to be tense and UNHCR along with the Erbil Refugee Council (ERC) continues negotiations on expansion of the existing camps to accommodate new arrivals. However, suitable land resources in Erbil governorate are limited and several plots have been allocated to IDP camps.

As the security situation in Gawilan has stabilized, since 24 August 415 families have returned back to the camp. DMC has relocated 86 families from Domiz-1 to Gawilan as part of the decongestion of Domiz camp. Some additional 200 families staying in irregular areas in Domiz-1 camp are pending relocation to Gawilan camp in the near future. 500 Syrian families staying in shelters in irregular areas in Domiz-1 camp have been relocated to Domiz-2 camp.

In August, UNHCR submitted 26 cases (100 individuals) to Sweden, representing the team's most productive month yet in terms of submissions to resettlement countries. It is intended that all submitted (112 total) will depart to Sweden in 2014.

"UK funding helps boosts skills and self-reliance of Syrian refugees in Iraq" – see story on p. 9.

2. Border update

Peshkhabour-Semalka: Semalka (Syrian border point) has been closed since 10 April 2014 for Syrian new arrivals. However, since 10 June 2014, Peshkhabour-Semalka border points remains open for the return of Syrians from KR-I back to Syria. UNHCR successfully advocated for admission into KR-I of child refugees residing in KR-I through Peshkhabour-Semalka under the family re-unification criterion.

During the reporting period, 2,973 Syrians returned to Syria from KR-I via the Peshkhabour border to Syria, bringing the total number of Syrians who have returned since the beginning of January 2014 to 23,133 individuals.

Al Qa'im: The border remains under the control of armed groups. Reportedly, Syrians and Iraqis are moving back and forth between the two sides of the borders freely. There is no official passport office or customs to organize or formalize the movement of civilians between the two countries.

3. Response by sector and location

✓ *Reception, Registration and Protection*

During the reporting period, the verification exercise including a biometrics component (IRIS scan) continued across 3 camps (**Kawergosk**, **Qushtapa** and **Basirma**) and urban areas in Erbil.

Overall in August, review of RSD adjudications and accompanying RRFs resulted in submission of 26 cases (100 individuals) to Sweden, representing the team's most productive month yet in terms of submissions to resettlement countries. In total by the end of August, which was the deadline for submissions to Sweden, 31 cases (112 individuals) had been submitted for resettlement to Sweden. The quota was thus not only met but exceeded, and it is intended that all refugees will depart to Sweden in 2014. Several cases referred to the Regional Resettlement Hub remain pending submission to resettlement countries, and the next quota of resettlement places is for Australia.

At **Domiz** camp, during the reporting period, 315 Syrians underwent final registration. A total of 963 individuals renewed their expired asylum certificates. Bio-Metric installation at Domiz registration centre was successfully completed; a total of 1,220 individuals (above 6 years old) underwent Iris-scan during the renewal of their cases/files.

At **Gawilan** camp, UNHCR conducted six protection interviews and made 5 referrals to registration, community services, UPP, DMC, PARC lawyers, the Women's Listening Centre and DoH.

In **Sulaymaniyah**, 105 cases (524 individuals) were verified including using IRIS (eye scanning) and provided with new certificates, and 84 households (142 individuals) were registered. 438 households (2,126 individuals) were registered in **Arbat** permanent camp, including some relocated families from Arbat transit camp.

✓ *Child Protection*

At **Domiz** camp, UNHCR reported 23 new cases, including psychosocial distress, illness, early marriage, child labor, children with disabilities, attempted suicide, physical violence and neglect. Child protection committees continue to identify issues affecting children in both camps and non-camp areas. Movie screening shows for children between the ages of 7 to 14 have been initiated as per the CPC requests; thus far 271 children have enjoyed these shows. 129 unaccompanied and separated children are currently being supported with case management services.

✓ *Mass Information*

In the context of the verification exercise, UNHCR developed a poster to explain refugees the verification process and the IRIS scanning procedures. The information materials will be distributed to UNHCR registration centers across KR-I in September.

In view of reviving the refugee hotline for Erbil governorate, UNHCR developed FAQs to respond to protection queries from refugees in camps and outside camps. A team will manage the hotline on a rotation basis seven days a week, starting from September 7th. An online call tracking database has been developed to keep record of enquires received and answers given.

✓ *SGBV*

In course of the reporting period, UNDP Rule of Law programme started implementation of SGBV project in four Syrian camps within Erbil governorate.

At **Domiz** camp, during the reporting period, UNHCR identified and referred 3 SGBV cases to the women's listening centre. At **Gawilan** camp, UNHCR identified and referred one SGBV case to the women's listening centre. At **Akre** camp, all SGBV cases were handed over from UNHCR to PARC; UNHCR will support PARC

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protection dealing with SGBV cases, which will also be supported through IRC's SGBV capacity building program.

✓ **Shelter/Infrastructure**

The construction of sheds in the waiting areas outside the food and CRI distribution centers in **Kawergosk** and **Darashakran** camps was finalized by KURDS.

In **Kawergosk** camp, the Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF), in coordination with Camp Administration distributed new fire extinguishers on 21 August. The new distribution was done on a family basis, one extinguisher per family.

In **Qushtapa** camp, the internal roads have been completed.

During the reporting period, 500 families were relocated from **Domiz 1** to **Domiz 2** and each family was provided with individual tent base, toilet, shower and kitchen; all have access to services such as water, electricity, schools, health centres and friendly spaces. The soccer field stadium was opened in Domiz 1 camp, the second PHC was opened in Domiz 1 camp, and CFS, YFS and CPU were opened in Domiz 2 camp. UNHCR replaced 269 tents and 161 plastic sheets, reaching a total of 3,033 tents and 161 plastic sheets replaced since the beginning of the process.



Relocation of families from Domiz 1 to Domiz 2. UNHCR / S. Gammah

On 20 August UNCHR completed the relocation of the remaining Syrian refugees from the Arbat transit camp to the permanent camp. A total of 164 families and 66 single males were relocated to Block C. Thirty emergency latrines were constructed at Arbat camp by KURDS which enabled movement of refugees from Arbat transit camp to Arbat permanent camp.

✓ **Water and Sanitation**

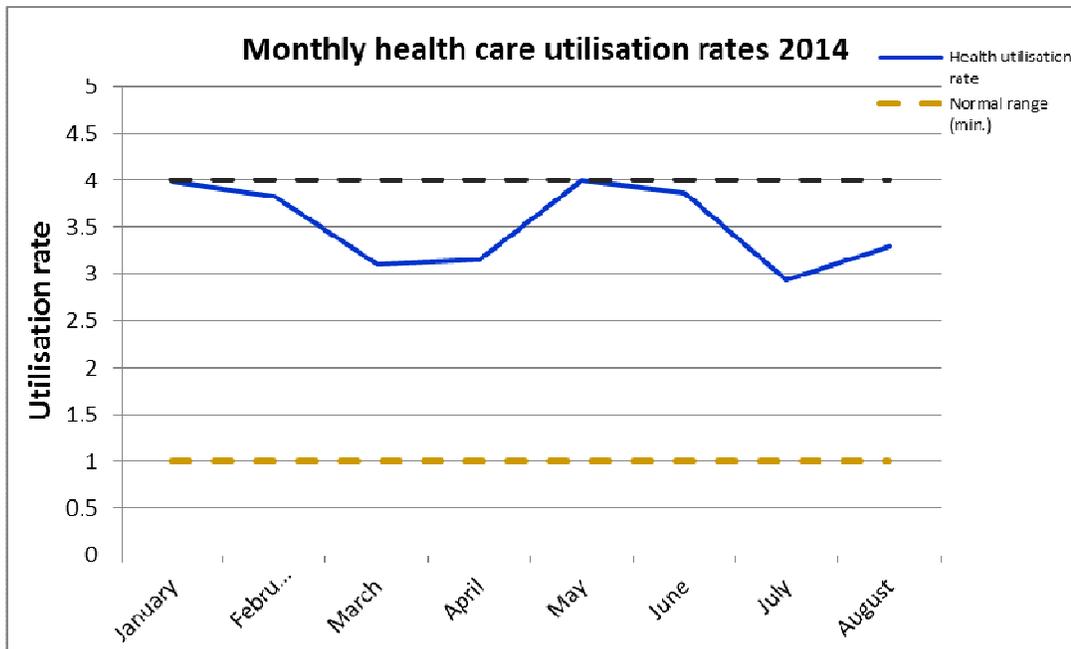
The “Keep Kawergosk Clean Initiative” inaugurated in April, 2014 has now been replicated in all Erbil governorate camps. While the same is still continuing in **Kawergosk** camp, other camps are at different stages of its implementation. In **Qushtapa**, the camp cleaning took place last week while in **Darashakran** and

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Basirma, preparations are underway. In **Darashakran**, ACF has completed its rehabilitation of 115 cesspools. Construction of sanitation facilities at **Basirma** camp and **Arbat** permanent camp is in progress.

✓ Health

In KRI-I, medical consultations slightly increased after the end of Ramadan and no outbreaks of communicable diseases occurred. The consultation rate/ person/ year increased slightly to an average of 3.3 and is within the expected range of 1 – 4 consultations/ person/ week. Upper respiratory tract infections remain the main causes for consultations. In addition the number of diarrhea cases is slightly increased in all camps but remains below alert level. Hygiene messages are spread by partners on the prevention and treatment of diarrheal diseases.



Graph 1: average monthly consultation rates in all camps, 2014

A subnational mass polio vaccination campaign has been conducted by DoH with support from UNICEF and WHO, targeting all children under 5 including Syrian refugees. Altogether more than 3.7 mio children were vaccinated in 13 high risk governorates.

The current IDP crisis impacts on access to health care for all population groups including refugees. Shortages of essential medicines occur frequently in public health facilities despite large medicine donations of humanitarian actors. While humanitarian actors are able to mobilize resources to cover gaps in medicines in refugee camps, population in urban settings have to purchase medications increasingly in public or private pharmacies. Similarly, hospitals are faced with a high burden of patients; while emergency treatment is ensured, delays occur in receiving treatment for e.g. non-lifesaving surgical interventions.

In **Domiz** camp, up to 4,575 persons with acute, chronic and mental health conditions have benefited from the health services provided by MSF, DoH/ IMC, PU-AMI and Kirkuk foundation center. In addition preventive health services including EPI, growth monitoring and reproductive health are provided by DoH with support of UN agencies. A maternity ward opened in August with the support of MoH/DoH, UNFPA and MSF. Between 25 and 30 deliveries are conducted per week, the facility sees not women come not only from Domiz camp but also Syrian women from surrounding areas.

In **Gawilan** camp, in total, 118 patients received treatment for acute, chronic and mental health conditions. Health services restarted as soon as the refugee population returned to the camp site.

In the 4 camps in **Erbil** governorate a total of 5.763 primary health care consultations have been conducted including 191 consultations for mental health care. Renovation works continued in all PHCs to upgrade the WASH facilities and ensure accessibility of the PHCs for persons with disabilities. Generators with a capacity

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of 100KVA were installed in 3 camps to address frequent electricity cuts, in the remaining camp DoH provided a generator.

In **Al Obaidy** camp, health services continue to be provided by UIMS. A total of 638 patients received treatment for acute, chronic and mental health conditions. Referrals to nearby facilities could restart and ensure access to secondary health care services.

In **Arbat** camp, in total, 395 patients received treatment for acute and chronic health conditions. Services are provided 24/7 in the permanent camp. Kirkuk Foundation started a psycho-social care and mental health project and offers consultations in the PHC twice a week. Health services in the transit camp closed once the remaining refugees moved to the permanent camp in August.

✓ **Core Relief Items**

At **Gawilan** camp, Qandil distributed 259 packages of baby diapers to children ages 0-3 yrs. and 536 sanitary napkins to women ages 11-50 yrs. At **Akre** camp, Qandil distributed 143 packages of baby diapers to children ages 0-3 yrs. and 385 sanitary napkins to women ages 11-50 yrs.

✓ **Food**

WFP and Erbil Governorate signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) allowing the transition to voucher assistance for camp refugees in the governorate. The programme is expected to start in October in Kawergosk and Darashakran camps, giving retailers time to build and stock participating shops. The roll-out in Basirma and Qushtapa camps will follow shortly thereafter.

In August, WFP assisted all Syrian refugees residing in camps, reaching 100,005 Syrian refugees. In **Domiz** camp, where WFP provides Syrian families with vouchers valued at US\$31/person/month, WFP assisted over 66,000 refugees, injecting over US\$2 million into the local economy in August. In all other camps, WFP assisted refugees with individual food parcels, providing 2100 kcal/person/month and reaching a total of 33,661 refugees. Over 300 families who fled Gawilan camp earlier in August, fearing a possible attack by IS forces, sought refuge in Domiz camp. WFP, in consultation with the Dohuk Modification Centre (DMC) and UNHCR, had prepared to include these families in its voucher programme and briefed refugees on the use of voucher in Domiz. However, prior to their inclusion, the families, who were provided with hot meals daily by other food sector actors, were moved back to Gawilan camp as the situation had normalized. INTERSOS, WFP's partner in **Gawilan** camp, distributed food parcels in the camp to the returning refugees on 31 August.

In **Akre** camp, the Syrian refugee caseload collected their food ration. The Syrian refugees in Akre have donated 100 food rations to be distributed to IDPs in Akre as a sign of solidarity.

In **Basirma** camp, INTERSOS also conducted complementary distribution of WFP food parcels on 27 August for the families that had not received in the last distribution.

WFP partner Islamic Relief Worldwide delivered 1,200 WFP food parcels to **Al Obaidy** camp in Anbar governorate on 21 August, bringing much-needed food assistance to the entire camp, which had been unreachable since June due to insecurity. WFP plans to dispatch more parcels in September.

✓ **Community services**

In **Domiz** camp, on 27 August, the last match of the football championship was played in Domiz I between the teams Rojava and Jazeera. The Championship covered eight football teams from all quarters of Domiz I camp and lasted for 4 days with 7 matches. IRC facilitated the rent of a football field outside of the camp, including transportation, refreshments and the awarding of the two winning teams.

The two community centres in Domiz 1 hosted 68 events such as meetings, workshops, awareness sessions and social activities; these centres are growing in popularity among the refugee community, UN and NGO actors as venues for events.

In **Gawilan** camp, the community centre was inaugurated in the camp on 21 August, as a venue for social and educational activities. The centre is fully furnished and equipped to cater for training activities and social

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gatherings. UNHCR in conjunction with the women's listening centre conducted a session for the women protection committee, covering topics such as legal instruments for the protection of women and the role of actors in the protection of women and provision of services.

UNHCR referred seven disabled individuals to MSF to receive better psychosocial support and for facilitation of referrals to Azadi Hospital in Duhok.

Following the recent security situation in surrounding areas, ACF strengthened its psychosocial support through its mobile teams. The teams are making regular visits to the refugees in their tents. Refugees in Gawilan reported the sounds of fighter planes and bombs from the surrounding areas are sources of stress.

✓ **Education**

The 12-classroom school in **Arbat** permanent camp has been completed and handed over to the authorities in the Department of Education.

✓ **Livelihoods**

IOM has launched a new livelihoods projects that consists of training courses (computer, English, tailoring, sweet making, etc.) for refugees in camps. Focus lies on people who have not previously received any training and who are not currently working. IOM will be coordinating with BCF to ensure that the people signed up for the IOM classes have not previously received training with BCF. The courses target people between the ages of 17 and 35.

At **Domiz** camp, UNHCR facilitated employment opportunities and trainings for 49 refugees including employment with local companies, humanitarian organizations and UNHCR's partners such as IRC, Friends for Education, IMC and FRC. UNHCR participated in the interviewing and selection process of 25 female headed household with DMC for working in a sweets company in Domiz camp; UNHCR also identified 19 professionally qualified refugees for potential job seekers. Following the livelihood working group meeting, DMC will provide plots in the camp for anyone interested in opening a business, and has so far issued 900 licences and provided lands to 40 blacksmith shops outside the camp.

At **Gawilan** camp, UNHCR identified and referred 18 female jobseekers for vocational and on job trainings and recommended 23 extremely vulnerable families to receive grants from IOM, out of which 15 will be considered for the opportunity of in-kind grants.

REACH conducted a sewing training course for the refugees in **Arbat** camp for four months. Initially 20 women participated, and in the end 17 participants graduated and successfully completed this course.

4. Non-camp assistance

✓ **Reception, Registration and Protection**

UNHCR conducted two child protection safety mapping exercises with children in Akre and Semel non-camp areas. In **Semel**, children reported facing discrimination at schools and hospitals and lacking safe spaces to play. In **Akre**, children reported child labor exploitation, discrimination at stores, hospitals, and schools, and lacking safe spaces to play. Follow up actions are being taken with child protection actors, communities and host community leaders.

According to the Security and Residency Departments in **Sulaymaniyah**, 174 individuals returned to Syria on their own.

2,971 individuals settled in the town of **Al Qa'im** on a sponsorship program. The total number of spontaneous returns to Syria from Al Qa'im is 6,773 individuals since the Syrian crisis to 15 June 2014. The figures of both non-camp refugees and spontaneous returns could not be updated as UNHCR national staffs have been relocated to Erbil and the whole city of Al Qa'im remains under the control of IS.

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✓ **Community services/livelihoods**

Volunteer committees of Syrian refugees are participating in assisting IDPs in several schools in Duhok city by preparing and distributing food and NFIs.

DRC has completed the scale-up business training for 279 beneficiaries as well as monitoring 110 small scale business beneficiaries.

✓ **Education**

In Duhok Governorate, 683 schools are reported to be occupied by IDPs. UNICEF has produced a GPS mapping of all occupied schools. A school needs assessment led by DoE and UNICEF is about to be finalized. One main priority for the education sector, as announced by DoE, is the quick renovation of schools once IDPs currently residing there are relocated. Harikar finalized two QIP interventions in Barokh School in Semel district that will be handed over in the next few days; two more schools are being renovated through QIPs.

5. Stories from the Field

UK funding helps boosts skills and self-reliance of Syrian refugees in Iraq

On a dark, sweltering evening twenty young boys dressed in white cotton outfits punch, kick and yell their way across a gymnasium floor. Amongst them are 14-year old Nasib and his 12-year old brother Sipan, who spend five days a week at the Baharka youth center in the Kurdistan region of Iraq (KRI), moving through the rigorous drills, dreaming of becoming the best taekwondo athletes in the country. Nasib says, "It's a lot of fun to train with my brother and all the other boys here. We train hard, two hours every day – five times a week. I hope to become a national champion of Iraq one day."

The two brothers are among 200 young people who are benefitting from a recent renovation at the youth center carried out by UNHCR and its local partner REACH, with the help of 40,243,200 Iraqi dinars provided by the British Department for International Development (DFID). UNHCR made the decision to carry out the Quick Impact Project (QIP) at the youth center to help promote cooperation and understand among Syrian refugees, internally displaced Iraqi's and 11,000 local residents.

Over the past two years an estimated 226,000 Syrian refugees have crossed into Kurdistan region with 60 percent living in urban areas. Nearly 570 Syrian refugee families have settled in Baharka town. The youth center is the only one in the Baharka district and was in need of renovation and expansion.

Over a two month period the corridors inside the main building were renovated and repainted and a new exterior building was constructed where computer training courses are scheduled to begin in August. Twenty new computers, desks and chairs were also donated as part of the QIP funding. An estimated one thousand people are expected to benefit from the upgrades.

"The renovation and additional building were really necessary. We are already seeing a lot more people coming to the center. Now we have space to carry out more activities which means all the members of our community will have a greater chance to come together", said Ishki Yasaan Salih, Manager, Baharka Youth Center. While the renovations were underway a second Quick Impact Project funded by DFID was being held in a meeting room at youth center to benefit female Syrian refugees and members of the host community.

Over a forty day period twenty women attended a free vocational course where they learned to sew and make patterns. The aim of the training was to provide opportunities for the women to interact, become more self-reliant and gain skills to increase their chances of finding employment. As part of the 45,036,000 IQD in funding the women were supplied with a sewing machine, sewing fabric, a sewing table and vest and a laptop computer. At the end of the course graduates were awarded with a certificate of achievement and a sewing machine for their professional use.

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Syrian refugee 38-year old Siham Sheikh Moos stands in the renovated hallway of the Baharka Youth Center in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. She is the beneficiary of a sewing course that took place at the youth center, which was renovated by UNHCR and its local partner REACH. UNHCR / C. Robinson

38-year old Siham Sheikh Moos and her family fled the civil war in Syria more than one year ago. She says the course has boosted her confidence and will help her family make ends meet, "I took

the course because I wanted to improve my sewing. I learned how to make patterns and am now using my donated sewing machine to work as a dressmaker from my house. Women come to me with their fabrics and I make clothes for them. My husband is ill and it is up to me and my oldest son to support our family now."

- Story by Catherine Robinson

6. Security

Security situation remains deteriorated in **Al Qa'im** and IS elements remain in control of the city.

7. Coordination

Camp Coordination meetings were convened in the four camps of **Erbil** governorate (Basirma, Darashakran, Kawergosk and Qushtapa). Issues raised included completing permanent phase locations in order to start decongesting camps by relocating refugees and possible delayed opening of schools in the camps due to school construction in all camps not yet being complete.

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

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>

8. Acronyms and abbreviations

AFS	Adolescent Friendly Space
CFS	Child Friendly Space
CRI	Core Relief Items (formerly known as non-food items/ NFIs)
DDM	Department of Displacement and Migration
DMC	Development and Modification Centre
DoE	Department of Education
DoH	Department of Health
HOFO	Head of Field Office

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HOSO	Head of Sub Office
ISF	Iraqi Security Forces
KR	Kurdistan Region of Iraq (or KRI)
MOMD	Ministry of Migration and Displacement
PARC	Protection Assistance Reintegration Centre
PHC	Primary Health Centre
QIPs	Quick impact projects
YFS	Youth Friendly Space