

IRAQ

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE - SYRIA

1-15 October 2014

KEY FIGURES

2,428

Individuals completed the biometric registration at the UNHCR Registration Centres in Sulaymaniyah and Erbil governorates

22

Cases of unaccompanied/separated minors arriving from Kobani identified in Duhok

3,128

Residency documents were issued for Syrian refugees in Erbil governorate

11,000+

Syrian new arrivals from Kobani in the KR-I (7,607 during the reporting period)

FUNDING

USD 474,040,412

Requested by agencies for the Iraq response through the RRP6

31%

Funded (USD 148,646,348) for 2014 (RRP6).

PRIORITIES

Winterization of camps and shelter (replacement and repair)

Assistance to new arrivals fleeing Kobani

POPULATION OF CONCERN

219,446 Syrian refugees

HIGHLIGHTS

Syrian arrivals from Kobani

- As a result of increased violence in northeastern Syria, over 11,000 new Syrian asylum-seekers have entered the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). This surge in new arrivals came after an announcement by the KR-I's President, Mr. Barzani, to open the Ibrahim Khalil border checkpoint between Turkey and Iraq's Dohuk governorate. In line with a decision by the Kurdistan Regional Government's Ministry of Interior, all new arrivals from Kobani have been transferred to existing Syrian refugee camps. By the end of the reporting period, an emergency multi-agency, multi-sectoral operation had been established to mobilize assistance to the new arrivals. Sector-based plans of action are being updated by UNHCR and its partners. (More than 11,000 refugees have entered KR-I at the time of writing; 7,944 of them during the reporting period ending 15 October).



Newly arrived families from Kobani, Syria, at the Ibrahim Khalil border, Dohuk governorate. UNHCR/J. Hyba

Winter preparedness

- UNHCR will also provide winterisation assistance to the most vulnerable 4,700 Syrian refugee families in the governorates of Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah, to help them better cope with the harsh winter climate. The first 2,000 families have received thermal blankets, plastic sheets and jerry cans for water, as part of the UNHCR winterisation programme.
- UNHCR will start distribution of the winterization kits during the week of 26 October in Duhok governorate.
- At Domiz camp, the Camp Management authorities continue to issue permissions to families to improve their shelters prior to arrival of winter. The improvements include reinforcement of tents and additions.
- WFP has managed to secure funding and continue with food voucher distribution in October at 31 USD/per person. WFP's expected funding shortfall would otherwise have impacted on the food voucher distribution for Syrian refugees in the KR-I.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

SYRIAN ARRIVALS FROM KOBANI TO THE KR-I: As a result of the recent fighting in Kobani, 7,944 additional Syrian refugees have entered the Kurdistan region of Iraq through the Turkish-Iraqi border checkpoint (Ibrahim Khalil) during the reporting period. Some 5,000 refugees from Kobani were assisted and transferred to refugee camps within Duhok and Sulaymaniyah governorates. The Gawilan camp (Duhok) population tripled due to new arrivals from Kobani, reaching a population of 9,189 families. Such an increase has put a strain on the existing resources. As a result, UNHCR mobilized all of its partners to respond to the needs of the new arrivals, and an emergency multi-sectoral operation was launched to ensure protection and assistance was provided effectively.

Once Gawilan camp had reached its maximum capacity, refugees were transferred from the border to Arbat Camp (Sulaymaniyah). 1,481 refugees arrived there during the reporting period, and 560 tents were subsequently erected in anticipation of continued arrivals. A day after arriving in Arbat camp, more than 250 refugees left the camp and travelled to Sulaymaniyah and Erbil to join their relatives.

After the transfer of refugees to Duhok and Sulaymaniyah, in line with a decision of the Ministry of Interior, all new arrivals were transferred from the border to camps within Erbil governorate, and the arriving families were assisted in their transfer by UNHCR to Basirma camp. New arrivals from Kobani are now located in the Gawilan, Arbat, Kawergosk, Qustapa, Basirma and Darahsakran camps.

An estimated 31 per cent of the new arrivals are children, and 24 per cent are less than 4 years old.

The approaching winter season, the increased number of refugees and internally displaced people, combined with limited resources, pose a serious challenge for the humanitarian community in the coming months.

- The humanitarian crisis in the country, with an estimated 1.8 million displaced people and over 219,000 registered Syrian refugees, remains a growing challenge for the Government and people of Iraq.
- The security situation remains tense in many parts of Iraq, as the conflict continues with the Iraqi Security Forces and Kurdish Peshmerga forces fighting against ISIS-led armed groups. In the Anbar and Salahadin Governorates, the Iraqi Security forces are engaged in heavy fighting against armed groups to prevent an advance into areas near Baghdad. In the north, Peshmerga forces are engaged in fighting against ISIS in the Nineveh and Diyala Governorates. During the reporting period the front lines have repeatedly changed near Kirkuk and Mosul.
- The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) agreed to name their Ministers in the new Iraqi cabinet, which is complete for the first time since 2010. During the reporting period, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq's Prime Minister - Nichervan Barzani - announced that a high level delegation from the KRG will visit Baghdad to discuss and establish a mechanism for solving issues between Erbil and Baghdad.
- Negotiations continue between the political factions regarding the formation of the local government in Sulaymaniyah Governorate.
- UNHCR remains unable to access and monitor the protection needs of refugees in the Al Qa'im and Al Obaidy camp; Al Qa'im remains in territory held by armed groups. UNHCR's partner ISHO continues to monitor the refugees' general situation.

Achievements

Protection

- UNHCR has been supporting the reception and transfer of refugees at Ibrahim Al Khalil border, and has so far identified 57 extremely vulnerable individuals, including 26 elderly refugees, four serious medical cases, 18 women at risk, five female separated children, two survivors of SGBV, and two individuals with acute psychosocial needs.

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF's child protection partners assessed the child protection needs of the new arrivals from Kobani. So far 14 separated and two unaccompanied children have been identified.
- Protection Network partners marked the International Day of the Girl Child (11 October) in refugee camps. With the aim of addressing the observed increase of early marriages, UNHCR and UNICEF together with their implementing partners NRC and IMC, launched a tent-to-tent information and awareness-raising campaign targeting children and their parents/caregivers.
- UNICEF supported the opening of a new Child Protection Unit (CPU) at Basirma camp. UNICEF's partner Terres des Hommes is currently in the process of recruiting staff for the CPU.
- In Kawergosk camp, the issuance and renewal of residency document is proceeding. An estimated 7,250 individuals have been issued or have received or renewed their residency documents since the process was launched in October 2013. An estimated 4,400 residency documents have been issued in Darashakran camp.
- UNHCR's partner REACH released the results of a mass communication assessment of Syrian refugees living in camps in the KR-I. This survey, carried out by the REACH Initiative on behalf of UNHCR, highlights the information needs of Syrian refugees as well as access to communication channels and preferred sources of information. The assessment report is available at: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=7216>

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Advocacy interventions were made with the Asayesh (security/intelligence) offices in all camps to ensure that an estimated 2,000 individuals, whose residency documents have expired, are prioritized for the renewal process.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, 299 individuals were registered in the CDO registration center.

Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- Pre-assessment interviews were conducted for cases profiled in the Domiz and Kawergosk camps, as well as for referrals from different functional units within the KR-I. Case Identification interviews were conducted for 22 cases. Overall, 24 cases were reviewed, and 13 were prioritized for further RSD/resettlement consideration.
- Following discussions between USCIS officials and UNHCR in September, formal submissions to the US commenced during the reporting period. Ten cases (31 persons) were referred to the Resettlement Hub for submission to the US. A target of approximately 120 persons per month has been set for submissions to the US.
- One Syrian case (one person) was accepted for resettlement to France.

Education

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- School registration is ongoing, and more than 10,000 refugee students have been registered across the KR-I Governorates.

- The construction of a permanent primary school in Qushtapa camp has been finalized. The furniture and school materials are being provided in the coming days.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The delay in securing the supply of Kurdish curriculum textbooks continues, which are reportedly being printed by the Ministry of Education. Protection monitoring in schools revealed that the rate of student enrollment/attendance remains generally low in the camps when compared to the rate at the end of 2013/2014 academic year. The issue was reported to the Child Protection and Education sub-working groups, which were subsequently tasked to develop advocacy messages to promote enrolment in schools.
- In Basirma camp, the school has reached full capacity and three additional classrooms are required to provide access to education for all school-age refugee children in the camp.
- The lack of Arabic textbooks remains a challenge in the majority of the camps. UNICEF and sector partners are working with MoE and DoE to resolve this issue.

NON CAMP

Achievements and impact

- 241 students (129 girls, 112 boys) were registered in Sarikani Refugee School in Sulaymaniyah governorate. They received school bags and stationery from UNICEF and textbooks from the DoE. UNICEF is also providing transportation for students who are not within walking distance from the school.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- Schools are scheduled to reopen on 22 October. The start of the new academic year was postponed due to the ongoing crisis in the KR-I and the occupation of schools by IDP families.



Health

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Medical consultations remained stable and no outbreaks of communicable diseases occurred. The consultation rate/person/year remained stable at an average of 3.5 during the first two weeks of October, and is within the expected range of 1 – 4 consultations/person/year.
- In all camps, preparedness measures for the new refugee influx were implemented.
- On 15 October, the DoH began vaccination against measles and polio at the Ibrahim Khalil border checkpoint for all arrivals below the age of 30.
- In Gawilan camp, PU-AMI increased its response capacity to provide medical care to the newly arrived refugees. DoH Bardarash has deployed a medical team to augment service provision. Consultation rates increased from 50 to 300/day. In total, up to 4,784 persons with acute, chronic and mental health conditions have benefited from the health services provided in the Domiz 1 and 2, and the Gawilan camps.
- In the four camps in Erbil Governorate, a total of 5,188 primary health care consultations have been conducted, including 186 consultations for mental health care.
- In Arbat camp, a total of 650 patients received treatment for acute and chronic health conditions during the reporting period. Renovation works to upgrade the WASH facilities and ensure accessibility of the PHCs for persons with disabilities are about to be completed.
- In Al Obaidy, Anbar province, health services continue to be provided by UIMS. A total of 261 patients received treatment for acute, chronic and mental health conditions.
- UNICEF and its implementing partners vaccinated 80 under-5 children against polio and 37 against measles.
- UNICEF's Baby Hut programme continues to provide support and advice to new mothers on infant care. During the reporting period, a total of 228 under-5 children were screened as part of the programme. Of those screened, 15

children showed indications of stunted growth, and five were underweight. UNICEF and its partners continue to support these children with appropriate nutritional care.

- UNICEF and its implementing partners held 15 seminars on breastfeeding counselling and how to prepare complementary food and other health-related issues in Domiz camp.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Depending on the growing number of new arrivals from Kobani, health services may need to be further expanded. Measures to control communicable diseases and disease surveillance will need to be reinforced accordingly.
- UNICEF has reported a need for High Energy Biscuits and supplementary food in all Syrian refugee camps.

NON-CAMP

- IMC and PU-AMI expanded their activities to cover Syrian refugees living in impacted communities in Erbil and Duhok Governorates. Projects focus on linking Syrian refugees to governmental PHCs through information campaigns, in order to address current knowledge gaps on service availability, and to enhance health knowledge through behavior change communication.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Shortages of essential medicines occur frequently in the public health facilities, despite large medicine donations from the humanitarian community. While humanitarian actors are able to mobilize resources to cover gaps in medicines in refugee camps, Syrians in urban settings increasingly have to purchase medications in public or private pharmacies.

Food Security and Nutrition

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period WFP/INTERSOS distributed (2,500) food parcels/persons targeting the new Syrian arrivals from Kobani in Gawilan camp. Each parcel is intended to provide food for one month.
- On 10 October, the Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF) distributed hot meals targeting some 760 new arrivals from Kobani. In addition, BCF provided new arrivals with two prepared meals on a daily basis.
- In Domiz camp, WFP secured funding and continued the food voucher distribution in October at 31 USD/per person. Due to a funding shortfall, it was expected that the food voucher distribution for Syrian refugees in KRI would be reduced.
- Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF) distributed meat (2 kgs per family) during the Eid Holiday for all camp-based refugees.



*Food distribution for new arrivals from Kobani in Gawilan.
UNHCR/ B. Amin*



Water and Sanitation

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- At the Domiz 1 camp, FRC conducted hygiene promotion sessions, while NRC continued to run drama shows for children, which include messages on good hygiene practices such as hand washing. FRC finished the construction of the 50 new sewage holding tank constructions.
- UNHCR mobilized its partners to prepare/reactivate Transit 1 in Gawilan camp to receive new arrivals from Kobani. UNHCR and ACF (funding by UNICEF and UNHCR) have assessed and developed a plan of action for repairs in Transit 1. Hygiene kits were distributed to all new arrivals at Gawilan camp.

- In Arbat camp, in preparation for hosting the influx from Kobani, KURDS installed 13 emergency latrines and completed the digging of 68 cesspools.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need for sanitation structures to cope with the recent new refugee arrivals from Kobani.
- Final works on the Gawilan camp water network of sectors A-D are still pending. Sector E in the permanent site is not yet connected to the water network.

Shelter and CRIs

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- At the Domiz 2 camp, the construction of three offices for DMC, Police and Asayesh is complete. Handover will take place on 16 October.
- At the Domiz 2 camp, the Camp Management authorities continue to issue permissions to the families to improve their shelters for winter.



Self improved refugee shelters in Domiz 2. UNHCR/G. Gubaeva

- During the reporting period, 1,153 families (5,804 people) from Kobani arrived in Gawilan camp. UNHCR swiftly coordinated with the DMC camp management to accommodate new families to the permanent site. 862 UNHCR family tents were issued and DMC teams, in collaboration with PWJ teams, started pitching tents at the permanent site.
- UNHCR set up of five communal tents in the old transit site. UNHCR negotiated the use of four communal tents, which previously served as a child friendly space, but were no longer being used. ACF has agreed to clean up the transit site.
- UNHCR/Qandil allocated an emergency stock of mattresses and blankets for the new arrivals, in particular for those arriving at night.



Setting up new tents in Gawilan for Kobani arrivals. UNHCR/B.Amin

- The renovation works in Akre castle, the UNHCR offices at Akre, and the construction of the Assayesh Akre office are complete and ready for handover.

- In the Domiz camp, 110 UNHCR family tents and 46 plastic sheets were issued by Qandil for tent replacement and rehabilitation.

- In the Gawilan camp, Qandil distributed 950 full CRI kits. Distribution is ongoing to cover the remaining families. ACF distributed 800 hygiene kits in the permanent site. Save the Children distributed hygiene kits to 936 families from Kobani. Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF) distributed kitchen sets, buckets and urgent food baskets for 400 families from Kobani. BCF also provided 400 Kobani children with baby diapers and milk formulation.

- In the Arbat camp, UNHCR provided standard CRI kits for the 1,481 refugees from Kobani upon arrival. The Barzani Charity Foundation distributed stoves. YAO distributed 93 barrels (to be used for kerosene) to the refugee families there.

- About 150 families from Kobani were received in the Kawergosk camp. UNHCR erected 95 tents and prepared two schools in the camp for the new arrivals. ACTED distributed CRIs, and NRC installed water taps and bathrooms.



Communal tents installed for new arrivals in Gawilan Transit/ UNHCR/ B. Amin

INTERAGENCY WINTERIZATION EFFORTS

- On 7 October, UNHCR chaired the monthly CRI coordination meeting in Duhok, with a focus on implementing winterization plans. Partner contributions for Syrian refugees are limited, with many reporting a focus on providing support to IDPs. UNHCR will provide winterisation kits to 3,123 families in all the four camps in Erbil, which host a total of 12,400 families in need (not including new arrivals from Kobani, Syria). The winterisation package/family consists of five blankets, one plastic sheet, one water jerry can, one kerosene jerry can, one kerosene stove, and kerosene. UNHCR is working with its partners to start distribution during the week of 26 October.
- Partners who have indicated contributions include PWJ with 2,500 winter jackets for school going children; and IOM with a package comprising of blankets, mattresses, pillows, 4 drawer cabinet, carpets/mats, rechargeable light, heater and kerosene for 2,000 to 3,000 families, both in camps and non-camps. UNICEF have indicated that they will provide childrens clothes and shoes.
- The tent-to-tent needs assessments in all both the Arbat refugee and the IDP camps in Sulaymaniyah to identify vulnerable families for distribution of winterisation assistance was completed. IRC conducted an assessment

identifying families that are in need of winterisation shelter kits in the Arbat permanent camp. 301 families living under tents have been identified for the provision of shelter kits.

- Following an expression of interest by the Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF) to distribute winterisation items, DRC (Camp Management) conducted a house-to-house winterisation needs assessment in Basirma Camp, and shared the outcomes with BCF. BCF is looking into the possibility of providing heating stoves and kerosene to vulnerable families, in particular to those with disabilities.

NON-CAMP

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- An urgent concern in Duhok governorate is the threat of rental increase or eviction from house owners where refugees are sheltered. UNHCR has requested UN-Habitat to urgently work to resolve this concern before refugees affected engage the Municipality in the matter.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- A Camp Coordination meeting was held in the Gawilan camp on 9 October, co-chaired by the Camp Manager (DMC) and UNHCR. The main issue discussed was the reception and response to the needs of new arrivals from Kobani. All new arrivals were provided with basic items, including water and food.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In the Arbat camp, community mobilisers were sensitized and coached on engaging with camp residents and, in particular, with the new arrivals from Kobani.
- Profiling of persons with specific needs is ongoing with the aim of completing a vulnerability mapping of all refugee camps. The information that will come from this exercise will better inform specific interventions for assisting persons at heightened risk.

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:

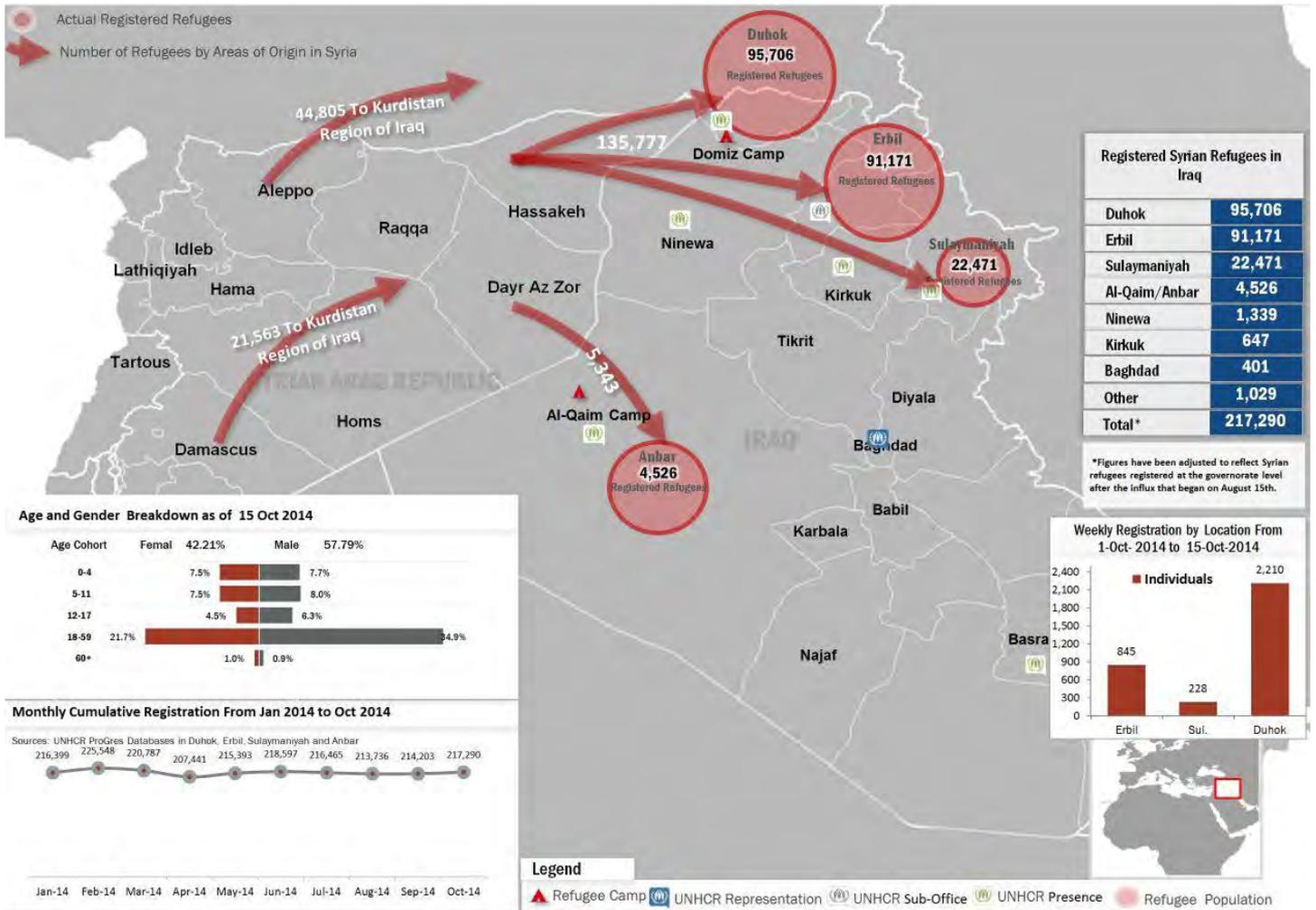
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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
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

ANNEXES

Refugees by Areas of Origin in Syria



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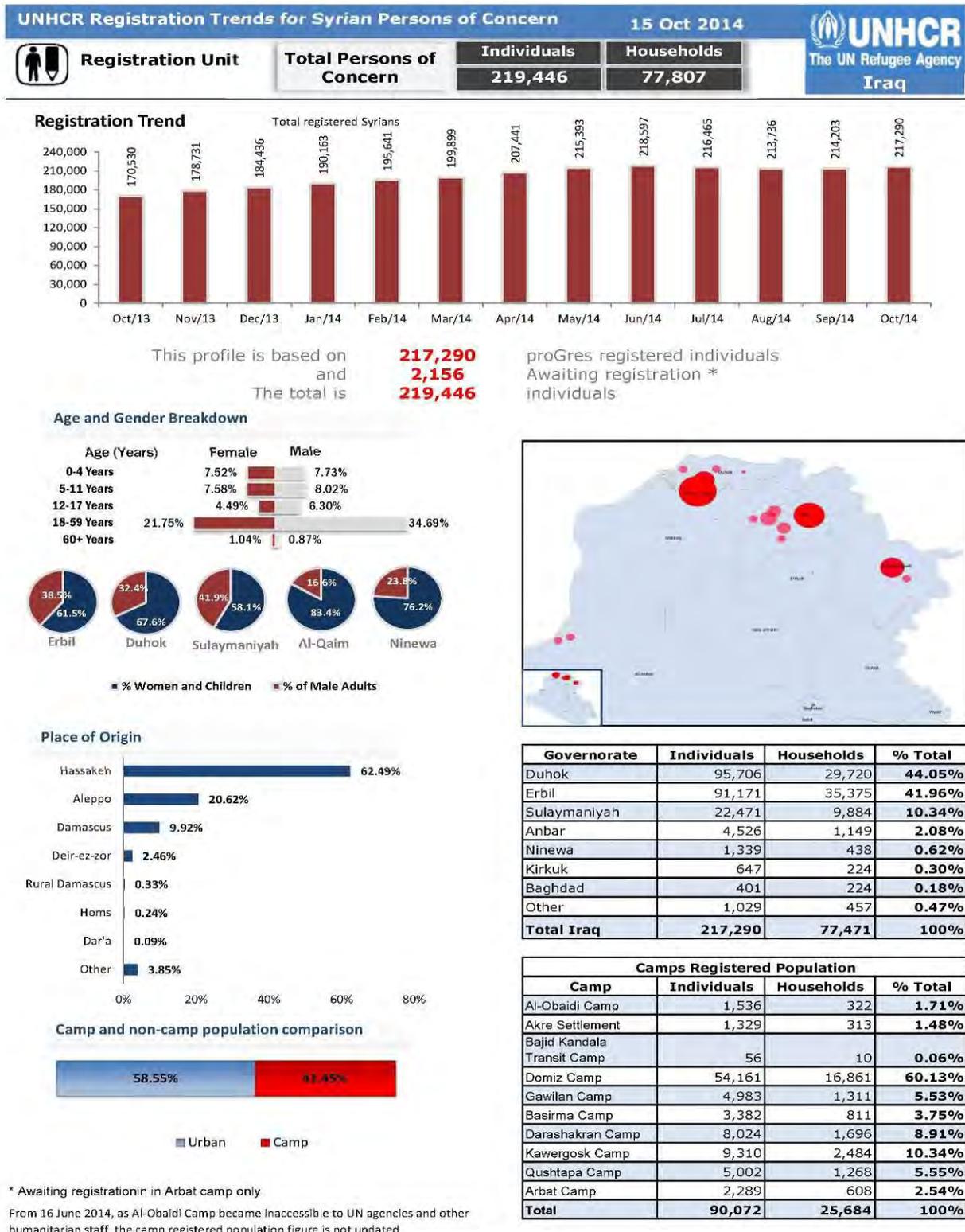
Links:

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



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Fleeing Kobani: One Family's Story

Kawergosk Camp, Erbil governorate- 20 October 2014

Osman and his family arrived at the Kawergosk camp outside Erbil at midnight, after a long and tiring journey from the war-torn city of Kobani in northern Syria. The journey to safety in Iraq's Kurdistan Region took more than ten exhausting and difficult days for Osman, his wife Shamsi, and their six children.



Osman Darwish, his wife Shamsi, and three of their children soon after arriving at Kawergosk refugee camp UNHCR/Y. Mahmood

62 year old Osman told of his hurried departure. "In less than a month, Kobani, the city of my birth and happiness, turned into a city of horror and fear," he said. "The terrifying scenes that will stay in my memory for the rest of my life are indescribable." Wiping away tears he continued, "Armed groups were randomly killing anyone they caught. We left the city when we learned they were only 500 metres from our area."

Osman's family walked from Kobani to the Turkish border with tens of thousands of other Syrians, where they anxiously waited to enter Turkey. "It was a very difficult trip," said Osman's wife Shamsi. "People were exhausted, terrified and many were worried about the elderly left behind who were unable to make the journey."

The same day they arrived at the border with Turkey, the family entered and continued their journey to a village where they waited for 10 days, until Iraqi Kurdish authorities open the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing. Osman said Iraq's Kurdistan region of Iraq (KR-I) was their preferred destination, given the large Kurdish refugee population of 215,000 already there.

Osman's family and 89 others entered the KR-I on 19 October; and were transported to the Kawergosk refugee camp. UNHCR and other aid agencies were on hand to register and greet them. They were provided with UNHCR emergency support including plastic sheets, mattresses, blankets and hot food. After a long and exhausting journey, Osman and his family were finally able to sleep in peace. Their story is one of thousands; more than ten thousand Syrians have arrived here from Kobani in October alone. - Report by Yousif Mahmood