

Topics

1 Overview

2 Statistics

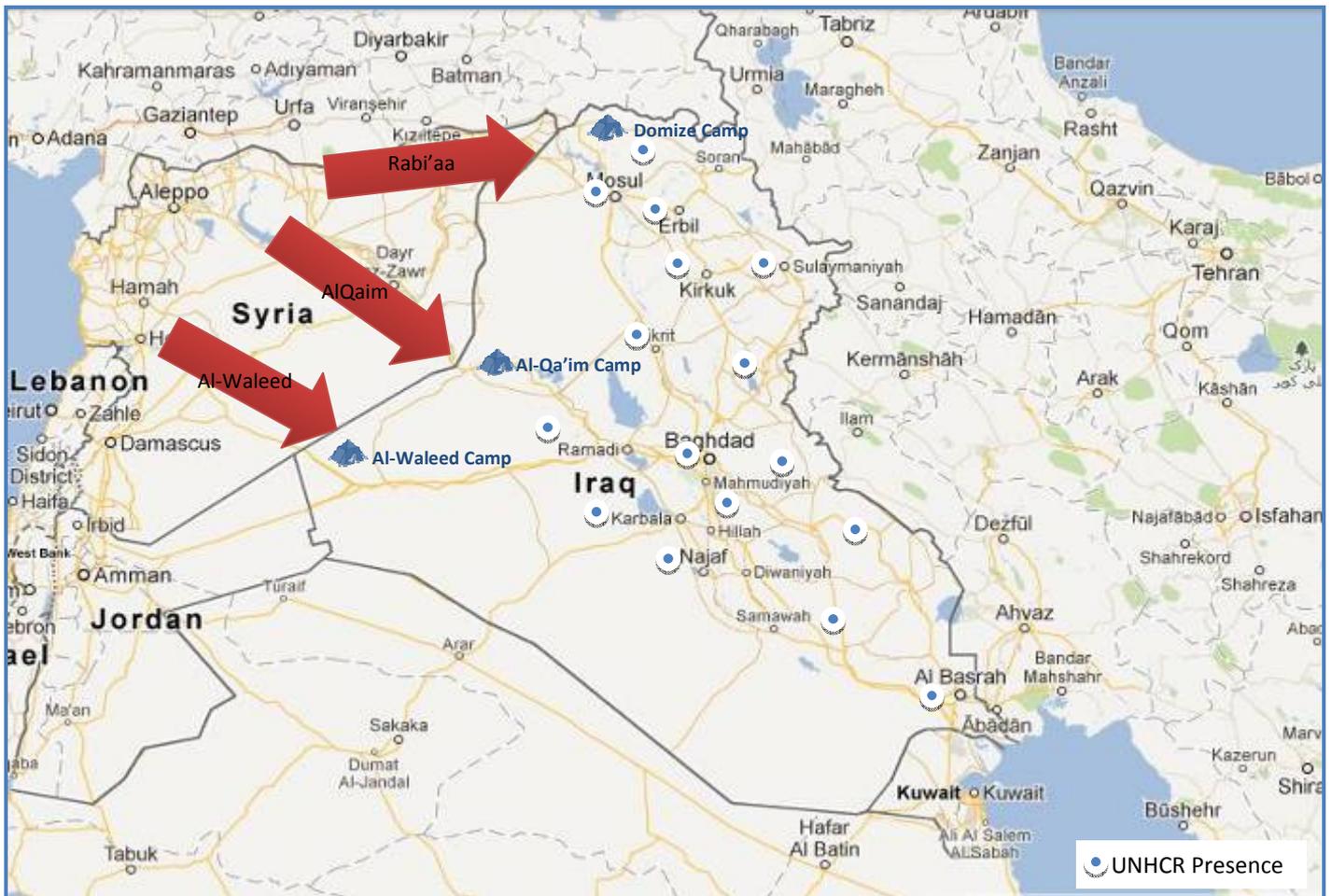
3 Sector Updates

4 Syrian Refugees/Iraqi Returnees

5 Coordination

Syrian Refugee Brief

Location	Total
Duhok	42,364
Erbil	11,978
Sulaimaniyah	3,172
Al-Qa'im/Anbar	8,923
Other Governorates	95
Total	66,532



Iraqi – Syrian Border Points

MoDM/DDM/Local Authorities
Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM
NGOs: IRW | Qandil | ISHO | IRC | HARIKAR | CDO | RIRP

1. Overview

Syrian Refugees

According to the recent reports from UNHCR border monitors, a total of 66,532 Syrian refugees entered Iraq by 19 December 2012. Al-Qa'im border crossing point is still kept closed and no arrival of Syrian refugees is observed through this crossing point. It will be opened only for emergency cases. Advocacy efforts is continued to re-open the border for refugees to have access to Iraqi territory to seek shelter. US ambassador to Iraq is planning to meet Iraqi Prime Minister to discuss Al-Qa'im border crossing issues at high level.

In Kurdistan Region (KR), the number of new arrivals continues to decrease compared to past weeks. This may due, among other things, to worsening climatic conditions such as heavy rains and low temperatures, particularly along the border areas. A total of 897 persons recorded during the reported week, with an average of 140 new arrivals daily. This brings the total number of Syrian refugees in the KR to 57,514 individuals.

Iraqi Cross Border Movement

According to UNHCR's Border Monitoring reports, during the past week some 1,636 Iraqis crossed into Iraq from Syria. All three border points (Al-Waleed, Rabi'aa and Al-Qa'im) remained open for Iraqi returnees. Al-Waleed continued to receive the largest number of returnees (1,138).

As of 19 December, the total number of Iraqis crossing the border into Iraq since 18 July 2012 is 61,363 including 5,997 by air. This number includes returnees who have been registered in Syria and those who have not been registered yet. It also includes individuals who cross the border for their private related reasons on a daily basis.

Statistics collected at the border continue to indicate that Baghdad still remains the governorate to receive the largest number of Iraqi returnees, followed by Anbar and Ninewa.

In contrast, 967 Iraq individuals crossed the border to Syria, bringing the total number of Iraqis who crossed the border to Syria to 32,820 individuals since July 18, 2012.

Border authorities at Al-Qa'im and Al-Waleed are still taking some security arrangements to secure the borders.

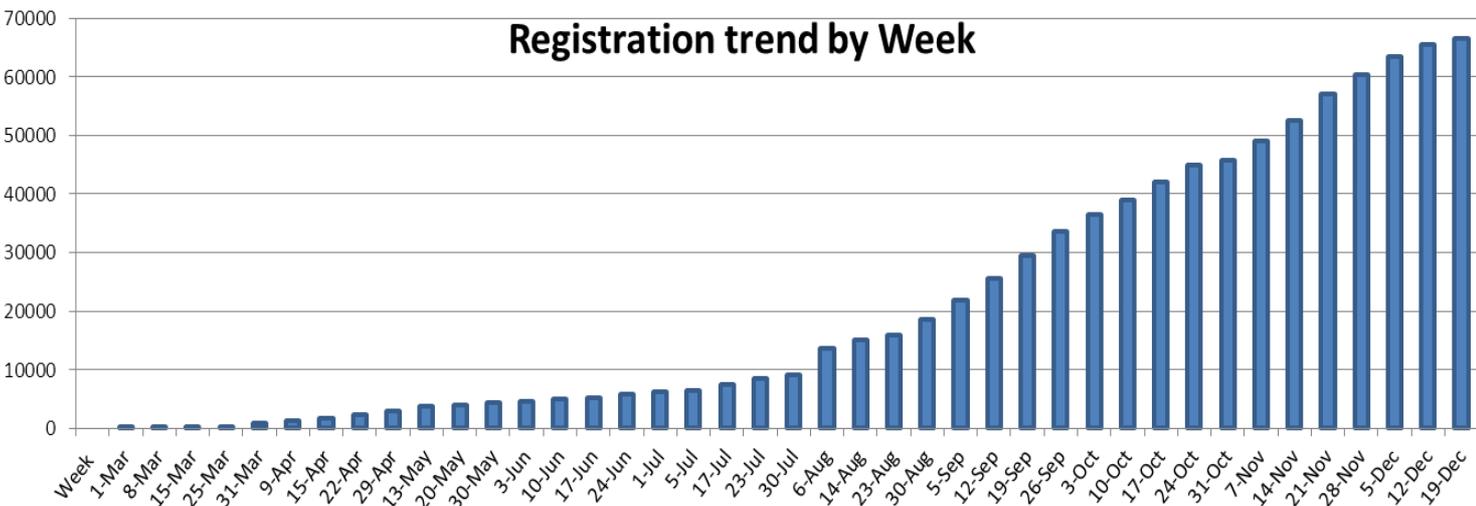
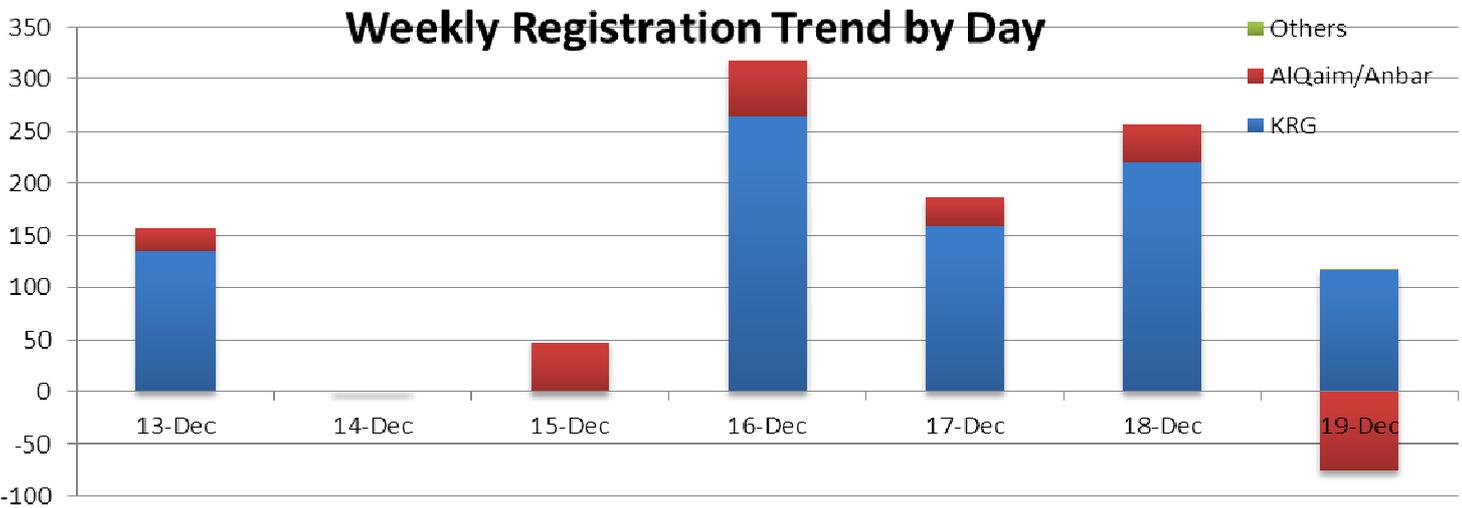
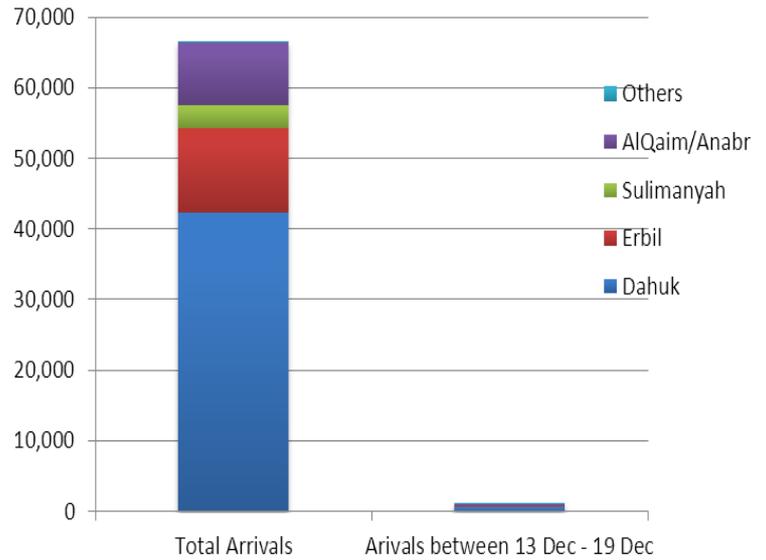


Construction of Camp 3 (Al-Obaidy) in Al-Qa'im

2. Statistics

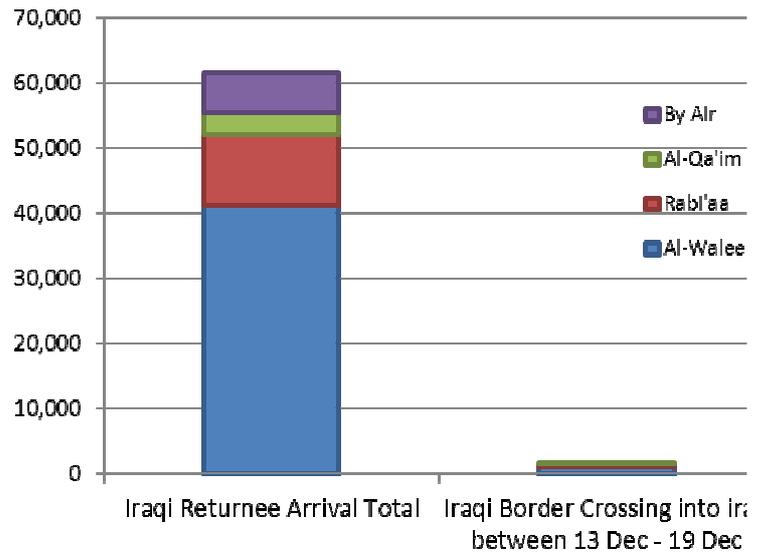
2.1 Syrian Refugees

Location	Syrian Arrivals between 13 Dec – 19 Dec	Total Arrivals
Duhok	690	42,364
Erbil	163	11,978
Sulaimaniyah	44	3,172
Al-Qa'im/Anbar	107	8,923
Other Governorates	1	95
Total	1,005	66,532

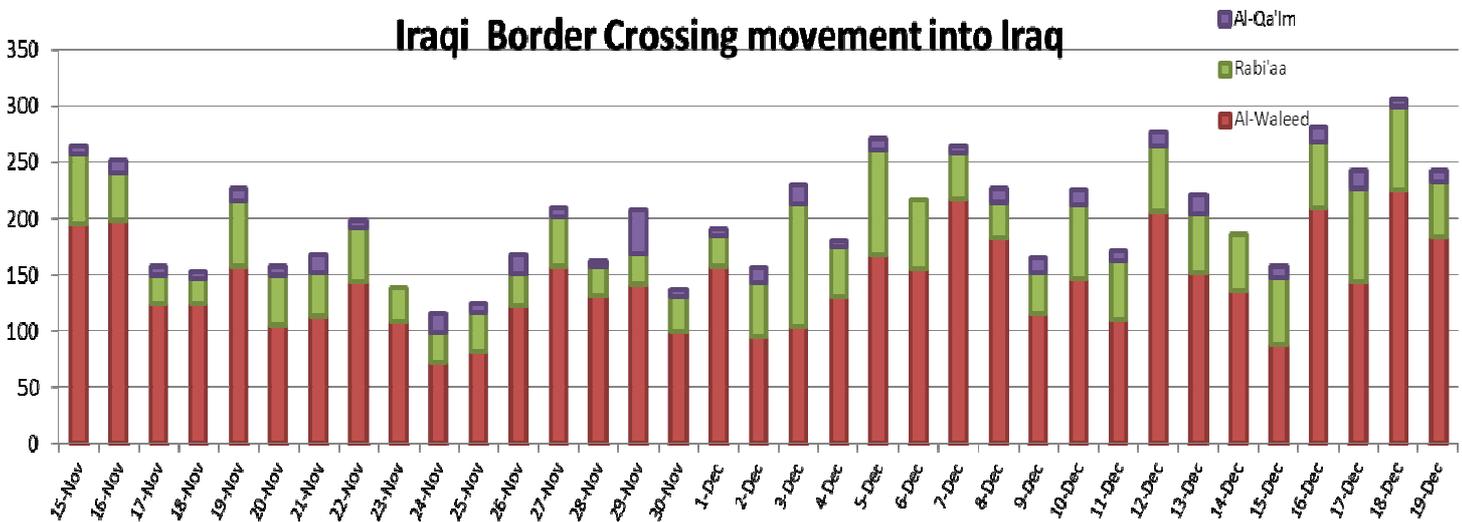


2.2 Iraqi Returnees (Cross Border Movement)

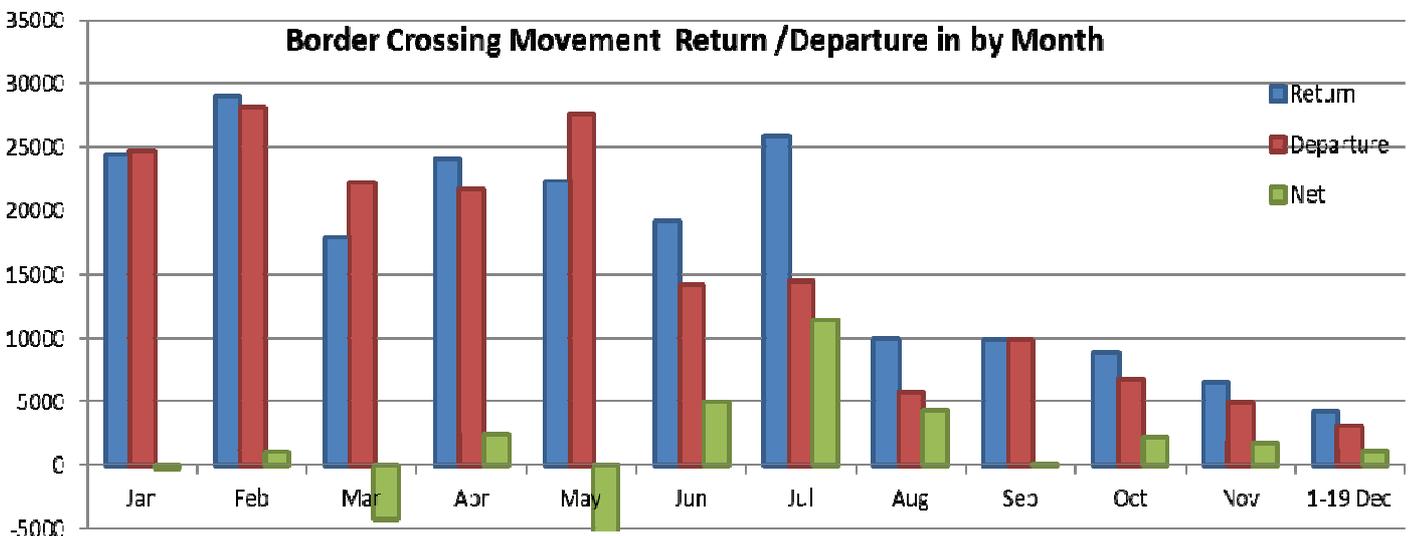
Border Point	Iraqi Returnees (cross border) between 13 Dec – 19 Dec	Total Arrivals Since 18 July
Al-Waleed	1,138	41,016
Rabi'aa	424	10,987
Al-Qa'im	74	3,363
By Air	0	5,997
Total	1,636	61,363



Iraqi Border Crossing movement into Iraq



Border Crossing Movement Return /Departure in by Month



3. Sector updates

3.1 Reception, Registration and Protection

Al-Qa'im

As of 18 December 2012, Camp 1 accommodates 3,000 individuals and 3,885 live in Camp 2. A total of 25 individuals are hosted by community in Al-Bert Village, Al- Obaydi District, and 2,103 asylum seekers benefit from Sponsorship Programme.

Outside the camps – 536 cases (2,103 individuals). Voluntary repatriation: 146 cases (669 individuals)

Kurdistan Region

During the week, UNHCR recorded 897 new arrivals, comprising of 130 families (518 individuals) and 379 singles.

- New arrivals in Erbil: 24 families (88 individuals) and 75 singles.
- New arrivals in Sulaimaniyah: 7 families (25 individuals) and 19 singles
- New arrivals in Duhok: 99 families (405 individuals) and 285 singles.

The total camp population is currently estimated at around 25,000 individuals.

Syrian latest arrivals report of fleeing their country because of general violence and lack of basic livelihood and services such as food and electricity. Few Syrians reported having left Domiz Camp for urban environments mainly because of bad weather conditions, lack of job opportunities and unwillingness to live in tents. However, new arrivals in urban contexts continue to be in dire need of assistance. On the matter, as part of the urban strategy, UNHCR started distributing 1 winter blanket per person and 50 litres of kerosene per month per family for a period of 3 months among Syrians living in host communities.

3.2 Security

Al-Qa'im

No particular concerns have been received from camps 1 and 2. Iraqi security forces are taking care of security issues in the camps.

To provide security in Camp 3, a total of six security guard points will be constructed at the request of Iraqi military forces responsible for protecting the camp.

Domiz

DDM and UNHCR are discussing the establishment of an improved system to control access of unauthorized vehicles into the camp.

MAG cleared 50,375 sq m and reportedly finished the work.

3.3 Assistance Update

Shelter / infrastructure

Al-Qa'im

The construction works are going on in Camp 3 in Al-Obaidy by ISHO and IRW. UNHCR is closely monitoring construction works in the camp.

In Camp 1, with the support of UNICEF, ISHO has started installing 25 boilers for female bathrooms.

Domiz

Heavy daily rains continue to delay overall construction works in the camp. Several roads are affected with storm water stagnating in different areas and are impracticable for either walking or driving. However, despite the major climate challenges, labourers continue with their work to ensure the completion of key infrastructure, i.e. new health centre, schools, roads, etc.

Refugees are constructing the shops in the area allocated for the market – according to DDM the plots are given on the condition that refugees will construct adequate shops. Land is designed for 100 shops, out of which 33 have been allocated for further use by camp residents.

On 16 December, UNHCR and DDM met with the refugee Syrian leaders in Domiz Camp. Among the main concerns raised by the participants were:

- Shelter, especially for families arriving at night for whom leaders have to identify accommodation.
- Garbage collection challenges
- Water supply is a challenge due to heavy rains and muddy terrain. Water trucks cannot access all camp areas due to the impracticability of internal roads, so several refugees need to walk to specific points to collect the water.
- Kerosene and heater's distribution system needs to be improved.

Phase 4

DDM started the campaign for the collection of the tents from those in the Phase 4 who are constructing the houses for which tents are not needed. UNHCR will be retrieving all tents collected.

The construction of the road in the Phase 4 still has not been started yet. Government explains that the contractor attempted to start the works today, but the heavy machinery cannot work on muddy terrain.

Phase 5

ISHO did the demarcation, completed the wooden forms and casted the floor for all sanitation units and raised the walls for 375 of them. Decision needs to be taken on the system of numbering.

New transit area 4

As the latrines are being delivered to the site and installed by ISHO, the Government will soon start excavating the septic tanks to be connected to the sanitation units prior to the installation of tents.

Water and Sanitation

Despite the earlier commitments, the water carriers still were not moved from the well that should serve Phases 1 and 2. DDM informed that this is because of the tests being conducted for the quality of the water at the newly identified wells.

For the water project in the Phase 4, Kurds almost completed the water network. The construction of the storage base for the water tanks has been completed, Kurds are now plastering it.

Phase 3 is receiving water from the water network system.

All transit areas and areas for singles receive water by DDM through carries.

NFIs

Al-Qa'im

During the reporting period, a total of 72 NFI packages were distributed among refugees and 250 NFI packages and 250 family tents were released from Baghdad to Al-Qa'im and these items are kept in Al-Qa'im rub hall.

Save the Children Organisation distributed 430 newborn kits in Al-Qa'im.

Distribution of kerosene completed in both camps by MoDM. Each family received 20 litres of kerosene following the implementation of winterization programme.

Domiz

UNHCR distributed the winterization packages to a total of 3,797 families (6,830 individuals) and 1,340 singles. The distribution started on 29 November 2012.

DDM distributed winter jackets and trousers for the single men, and continued with distribution of kerosene (150 litres per family), water tanks and empty barrels. In addition, the DDM distributed, blankets, mattresses, sanitary napkins covering all the camp while continued with the distribution of baby diapers.

IOM distributed 340 winter packages during the reporting week.

Food

Al-Qa'im

WFP food packages comprising of 5,000 packages have arrived in Al-Qa'im from Turkey. The food packages will be kept in MoDM storage in Camp 2 as WFP rub hall is still under construction. WFP food distribution will be started in Camp 2 upon making necessary arrangements.

Domiz

WFP concluded the household food survey to assess the nutritional needs in the camp as well as in urban host communities.

DDM distributed 1,070 food baskets donated by local community-among new arrivals (1 kg lentils, 0.5 kg tea, 1 kg sugar, 4 sacks of noodles, 1 kg chick peas, 1 litre vegetable oil, etc.). DDM also distributed 2kg of 'Bulgur' per family.

Health

Al-Qa'im

Al-Qa'im Health Directorate continues to provide medical service to refugees living in both camps.

Domiz

On 16 December, UNHCR met MSF which confirmed a number of sanitation related activities which will mainly target the single side of the camp. MSF will cover cost for cleaning latrines, repairing emergency ones, provision of soap and detergents (monthly) and provision of additional water tanks.

Low temperatures, humidity and daily non-stop rains increasingly affect children's health, particularly to those of early age and vulnerable living in tents.

Fumigation of tents by the DoH against snakes, rodents, scorpions and mosquitoes is on-going.

Education

Al-Qa'im

Secondary school students continue attending classes in two shifts.

A seven-day workshop on SGBV was conducted in Al-Qa'im local council hall with the participation of all actors working in Al-Qa'im camps, particularly UN agencies, national and international NGOs and local authorities. The workshop was conducted by IRC.

Domiz

Harikar is finalizing the verification of the list of the pupils to be enrolled in the new UNHCR school located in Phase 5. An education working group meeting is called to finalise all measures to get the two new schools operational as soon as possible.

Current primary school in the camp reported 1,922 registered students attending the classes.

4. Interviews with Syrian Refugees/Iraqi Returnees

Syrian Refugees

As assessment conducted by ICRC in Domiz and Al-Qa'im shows that Syrian refugees generally keep contacts with their relatives through phone.

Interviews show that some Syrian asylum seekers started to voluntarily return to their home countries due to the restoration of stability in Albo Kamal after Free Army of Syria took the full control of the town and with the purpose of owning their properties left in Syria.

Interviews at the Iraqi-Syrian borders are on-going, some interviewed returnees indicated and an Iraqi driver was killed and three passengers were injured during this fighting in Damascus.

Iraqi Returnees

During the reporting period, 113 Iraqi returnee households (678 individuals) registered with the MoMD. Currently, a total of 5,742 Iraqi returnee households (34,452 individuals) have been registered with MoMD since 29 July 2012. Out of this number, 2,662 households have received the 4 million IQD grant. No grant has been distributed in Basra, Kirkuk, Salah-Al din and Muthana yet due to the lack of fund and logistic-related issues. Registration is slow in some of southern governorates due to the background check conducted by the Ministry of Interior.

Based on the needs, UNHCR Iraq started the distribution of a one-time cash grant of \$400 per family and \$200 for singles to Iraqi returnees to meet immediate and short-term needs.

During the reporting period, 101 families (6,064 individuals) received the UNHCR cash assistance bringing the total number of households who received UNHCR cash assistance to 2,164 households (12,984 individuals).

Some interviewed Iraqis indicated that they are temporarily visiting Syria to get UNHCR Syria monthly cash assistance, food basket and 80% coverage of their medical expenses. Some other Iraqis temporarily go back to Syria to sell their properties or to obtain their kids school certificates, which are required by the Iraqi Ministry of Education.

5. Coordination

Al-Qa'im

In Camp 2, IRW held a meeting with partners to discuss issues related to coordination and management of the camp

A group of representatives from ACTED visited the camp to assess the situation with the distribution of clothes and additional needs of Syrian asylum seekers.

Kurdistan Region

Domiz

On 13 December, UNHCR met the head of ICRC delegation who debriefed on the outcome of the two days surveys on family reunification carried out in the camp. The later advised there is no strong need for family links restoring as most of camp residents managed to retain their links with relatives back in country of origin.

UNHCR met all actors working in the camp, including the government, for a coordination meeting to discuss current updates, needs and challenges in Domiz.

On 19 December, a team of videographers was selected by the KRG (DFR), which will be closely working with UNHCR to produce a film on the current camp, overall situation and challenges.

Erbil

On 18 December, the DFR and UNHCR HOSO called for a press conference with major media outlets of KR to update the journalists on the current refugee context in the region, with particular emphasis on the Syrians in Domiz Camp as well as in the urban host communities.
