

**Syrian Persons of Concern in need of international protection in the Kurdistan Region: 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012.**

• **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As of 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2012, 2,329 Syrian nationals of Kurdish origin were registered with UNHCR in northern Iraq. This figure is expected to increase as DDM, UNHCR and partners expand their outreach efforts and level of assistance to this category of persons. The Kurdish authorities and UNHCR believe there are hundreds of vulnerable Syrians in the country. Many have arrived with limited means to cover basic needs, and those who could at the initial stage rely on savings or support from the host community are now increasingly in need of assistance in the Kurdistan Region. The authorities in Iraq's Kurdistan region maintain an open-door policy, allowing an estimated number of 10 to 15 families and 50 to 65 singles to enter Duhok Governorate daily. This is of vital importance for the protection of Syrians fleeing violence in their home country. As per recent reports, on-going security fears from the Syrian security forces deployed at the border with Iraqi Kurdistan combined with the increasing smugglers' fees is constraining the arrival of some families and singles who are waiting for the opportunity to cross the border towards Kurdistan. In Duhok Governorate; an estimated number of 60 families and 500 singles are in the process of being registered. In Erbil, the number of Syrian families approaching UNHCR for registration remains limited. Here, the new arrivals are hosted by family members and the local community. They receive no assistance from the local authorities, thus being discouraged them from pursuing registration. In Suleimaniya, no new arrivals were recorded during the reporting period.



The new Camp in Domiz

- **VERALL GOAL: Emergency Protection Including Assistance**
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**1. Fair protection process and documentation**

1.1. Administrative institutions and practice: overall practice: See update Number 3

In Duhok Governorate the local authorities and mostly DDM remains committed to joint efforts with UNHCR in hosting the new arrivals and providing assistance. In Erbil, BDM office and lately the Ministry of Interior had requested the support of UNHCR to design a plan of action for the registration, reception and assistance to the new arrivals. The authorities in Erbil had provided no assistance to the Syrian arrivals lately which resulted in frustration among the Syrian community. The Syrian families and singles enjoy however the freedom of movement and are not subjected to identify check. Singles are employed in informal sector but had reported exploitation from the employers as they have to work long hours for little income. Private donors have supported the singles in renting houses in several areas of Erbil city but this support is unlikely to last for the coming months, the singles will have to vacate the houses if no alternate solution is available and look for other shelter opportunities.

### 1.2. Quality of Registration and Profiling

As of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2012, UNHCR in Erbil, and DDM in Duhok had registered a total number of 2,329 Syrians all over the Kurdistan Region. Among those are 240 families, comprising 979 individuals, and 1,350 singles. In Erbil, 29 families, comprising 116 individuals, and 385 singles were registered, In Suleimaniya, the number of registered remains without change, consisting of 2 families (6 individuals) and 60 singles registered prior to the reporting period; while in Duhok Governorate, 209 families, comprising 857 individuals, and 905 singles were registered, while an estimate number of 60 families and 500 individuals in different districts and sub-districts in Duhok are waiting to be registered and to be relocated to Domiz new camp. Among the registered persons all over the KR, 27 are unaccompanied minors under the age of 18, of which 6 are single female. Duhok remains host to the largest number of Syrian new arrivals, with 1,762 individuals, followed by Erbil with 501 individuals and then Suleimaniya with 66 individuals.

Reporting period	Families	Singles + UAMs	Total Registered	Pending registration	Total arrivals
As of 31th March	21 families (79 individuals)	281 including 15 UAMs	360	400	760
As of 8th April	147 Families (604 individuals)	636 singles including 15 UAMs	1,240	1,000 individuals	2,240
As of 15th April	198 Families (803 individuals)	973 Singles including 15 UAMs	1,776	600 individuals	2,376
As of 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	240 Families (979 individuals)	1,350 Singles including 27 UAMs	2,329	800 individuals	3,129

## 2-Basic needs and essential services (Dohuk)

### 2.1 Shelter and Infrastructure

As of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 186 tents were established in Domiz camp in the families section, of which 80 were established during the reporting period, and the construction of 60 cm eight wall

around each tent and cast foundation of the tents' floor was completed. A total of 90 families were provided with non-food items during the third round of distribution, organized jointly by UNHCR and IOM, bringing the total families who benefited from non-food items distribution to 194. UNHCR continues to distribute essential items while IOM complements the distribution of additional items. 130 families were relocated to the tents. DDM, jointly with UNHCR, continues to supervise the arrangements of the tents, the allocation of tents' numbers as well as the relocation of the families and coordination with the registration team in order to determine the needs of in tents and other non-food items. UNHCR's implementing partner, Qandil, started the construction of cooking areas in the families section. Casting the floor for 36 cooking units has been completed, while the construction of walls for additional 29 units is in progress.

Additional two big size tents (5x10 metres) were installed nearby the Mosque that initially hosted the singles, bringing the total number of big size tents installed for the singles to 7. DDM, jointly with UNHCR in Dohuk, has negotiated with Fayda Municipality for camp expansion to accommodate more families by levelling internal roads and the construction of tent foundation. An alternative site has also been allocated for singles for singles in the northern part of camp, some 60 meters far from the families' section.

## 2.2 Health Status

The health caravan in the camp was completed and is functional. One male doctor and one female doctor are working twice a week in the newly established medical unit, supported by one medical assistant, one nurse, and one clerk; one ambulance is also on duty near the health unit. The entire medical team and the ambulance are operational daily until mid-day except for Friday. The DoH has already provided the necessary furniture and medical equipment for the unit as well as medicines.



The new medical unit in Domiz camp

## 2.3 Supply of potable water

In order to increase the water storage capacity for the singles and to provide additional number of emergency bath rooms nearby the Mosque where singles are hosted, UNHCR, through its partner Qandil, is installing 10 emergency bath rooms between the Mosque and the 7 big tents that were installed for the singles. 20 water tanks (of 1 cubic meters capacity

each) have been delivered from Erbil, and additional 20 water tanks are in the process of being delivered. 10 water tanks will be distributed to the singles while 30 will be distributed to the families.

“Kurds NGO”, through IOM funds and its own contribution, has started work to install 21 cubic meter water tank nearby the extended Domiz site; the NGO had coordinated with the Water Department to agree on connecting the water tanks to the public water source.

#### **2.4 Nutrition**

The Directorate of Migration and Displacement continues to provide the singles with three hot meals a day, families are also provided with dry food through DDM. However, the need to supply the families with additional dry food rations is becoming increasingly needed.

#### **2.5 Sanitation and Hygiene**

UNHCR and its implementing partner, along with DDM, ensure satisfactory sanitary conditions are in place in Domiz camp. To that end, construction works for five units of communal baths and WCs for the families’ section has been completed; 36 WCs and 26 baths are functional. UNHCR’s partner, Qandil, has installed one mobile sanitation unit of 4 WCs and 3 baths in the same family section, while DDM has also constructed two communal baths and WC units comprised of 11 WC and 8 baths. All are functional except one unit which is under repair of the PVC doors and the installation of the water tank.



New latrines in Domiz camp

#### **2.6 Services for persons with specific needs**

In order to tackle on-going difficulties faced by the Syrian new arrivals, UNHCR is stepping up its community visits to the families and the singles in Duhok camp and in Erbil Syrian hosted areas. Singles in Duhok camp are the ones most suffering from psychological trauma. Being away of their families and having no job opportunities or accurate information about their future and their studies had added to their frustration and created

a depressing mood and a feeling of instability and fear. The community services team in Duhok had liaised with the Director of the University of Duhok to explore possibilities for the students to join the University, the latest had committed to provide support and to seek the enrolment of the students. In addition; single Syrians had difficulties to bear the life in the camp, they increasingly request job opportunities and enhanced health and sanitation care in the camp. Similarly, in Erbil` scattered areas where the Syrian live, the same state of instability was observed among the singles who suffer from the lack of assistance from the local authorities and exploitation from the employers when they are able to find jobs, they feel they are left in a limbo with no prospects for return to Syria and an uncertain future in Kurdistan.

### **2.7 Access to Education**

UNHCR ordered the production of 6 caravans for school classes; the fabrication of these caravans has been completed and as of today one caravan has reached the site and was installed near the existing primary school to ensure additional space for school age children.

UNHCR Dohuk Community Services team has organized a meeting with the Directorate of Education in Dohuk to follow up on the education needs of the Syrian children among the new arrivals. The DoE in Duhok had committed to address all education related concerns with the Ministry of Education and to enrol the school age children in order to complete the school year. The Department of Education in Semel district had also committed to provide all the necessary equipment needed.

UNHCR and DDM are concentrating efforts to encourage parents to send their children to school. Tools include individual counselling at the time of registration with UNHCR and during households visits to maintain sustained encouragement.



The new schools classes in Domiz camp

### **3. Security**

The Asaayish security continues to ensure the security in the camp and the surrounding areas. No security incident was reported in the camp so far.

#### **4. Coordination and Partnership**

In the context of joint efforts with other relevant actors to tackle the existing challenges, UNICEF has conducted a visit to Domiz camp with a view to assess the PoC's needs in education and nutrition sectors. IRC is also planning a visit to the camp in the coming days in order to assess the situation and to design future intervention. Meanwhile, UNHCR and DDM continue their coordination with IOM and relevant local authorities' structures.

In Erbil, UNHCR met with the Director of BDM (The Bureau for Displacement and Migration) and stressed the need for a joint response to the situation of the Syrian new arrivals. Subsequently, BDM has liaised with the Ministry of Interior who requested a meeting with UNHCR and sought support and guidance from the latter on handling the registration of new arrivals as well as in determining their needs for assistance.

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#### **Iraqi Refugee Returnees from Syria movement trends**

UNHCR Iraq Refugee Returnee monitoring conducted at Government of Iraq Returnee Centres and at the main taxi and bus stations in the reporting period observed the following trends:

There were no increases in number of Iraqis returning by taxi and bus in the last week from Syria. Most bus and taxi companies are still reporting 1-2 vehicles a day returning from Syria to Iraq with 1 sometimes 2 departing from Iraq to Syria.

There are continued reports of possible increases in return (a combination of permanent, uncertain and temporary return) this summer, at the end of this year's school year in Syria and Iraq. Additionally, minor improvement in security in Syria since the implementation of the UN peace plan were reported as well as continued movement of both Syrian and Iraqis in Syria to safer areas in locations in Damascus. Certain profiles of Iraqi Refugees still fear returning to Iraq and are intending to remain in Syria

The number of Iraqi Refugees returning from Syria and choosing in the last week to register with the MoDM as permanent returnees continues at a steady level. No large increases are observed at monitoring locations throughout Iraq.

The total number of Iraqi national returning to Iraq from Syria and departing to Syria of all types (including commercial traffic) from all three Border Crossing was slightly higher in the weekly reporting period. The total volume of recorded cross border traffic continues to remain at comparatively lower compared to October and November 2011 for the Border locations of Al Waleed and Al Rabiyya. Most Iraqis monitored at the border locations are continuing to claim to be returning for a temporary or uncertain time period in the past week with only 8% claiming to be returning permanently. Al Qa'im border crossing remains closed by Iraqi authorities.

UNHCR –Iraq

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