



FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

The Syrian KR-I border at Peshkabour has remained open since 5 January for persons requesting access to the territory in order to access health care and family visits. In addition, persons originating from known conflict areas are admitted. Monitoring of cross border movement (counselling, monitoring and inactivation of cases for assistance in UNHCR's database) has continued.

Protection monitoring and co-ordination of protection activities in all camps in KR-I continued. Some of the concerns identified included high-rates of drop-outs from / lack of attendance at schools by school-age children, issues related to inequitable access to civil status documentation and residency permits, challenges faced in facilitating family reunifications between the various camps in the Kurdistan Region, as well as inability of some refugees who are known to have returned temporarily to Syria to be re-admitted and re-acquire their (valid) residency permits and individual cases of SGBV.

Level 2 registration in the newly-established camps continued to be rolled out, but continues to face some logistical challenges. At the time of writing, 89.9% of refugees are registered at Level 2. Training was provided by UNHCR to some 45 Iraqi Government officials (including from the Kurdistan Region) on refugee protection.

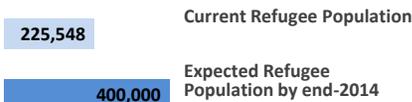
Advocacy on freedom of movement and access to residency permits (for Syrians in the Kurdistan Region) continued to be undertaken. During a high-level visit from the Government of Iraq to the Kurdistan Region to assess the situation of refugees, facilitated by UNHCR, the commitment to continue hosting Syrian refugees and respect for refugee rights was reiterated by all.

Advocacy vis-à-vis the Erbil authorities to enable provision of humanitarian assistance – with a focus on community empowerment and livelihoods – to refugees in the urban setting is ongoing. The merged (or 'collapsed') refugees status determination and resettlement procedures for the Syrian caseload began to be implemented (on a 'pilot' basis) during the reporting period. Work is ongoing to improve and refine case identification techniques/strategies and referral mechanisms/pathways.

The KR-I Protection WG updated its ToRs to reflect recent changes in the overall humanitarian co-ordination structures, while the KR-I Child Protection Sub-WG was re-activated during the reporting period. The SGBV Sub-WG made progress in adopting the newly proposed GBVIMS intake form.



SYRIAN REFUGEE POPULATION IN IRAQ:



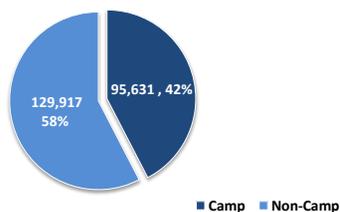
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Identifying persons in need of international protection amidst mixed migration movements is challenging, as well as ensuring access to asylum for those new arrivals who initially enter as persons who seek medical assistance or claim family visits, and at a later stage seek to submit asylum applications. Safeguarding asylum space maintains thus a key activity of UNHCR and its partners. In order to ensure accurate data, UNHCR needs to explore solutions to facilitate regular updating of the proGres database. This includes reliable mechanisms to update the data base on a regular basis with regard to specific needs that may have been identified at the registration stage or later in the process of asylum.

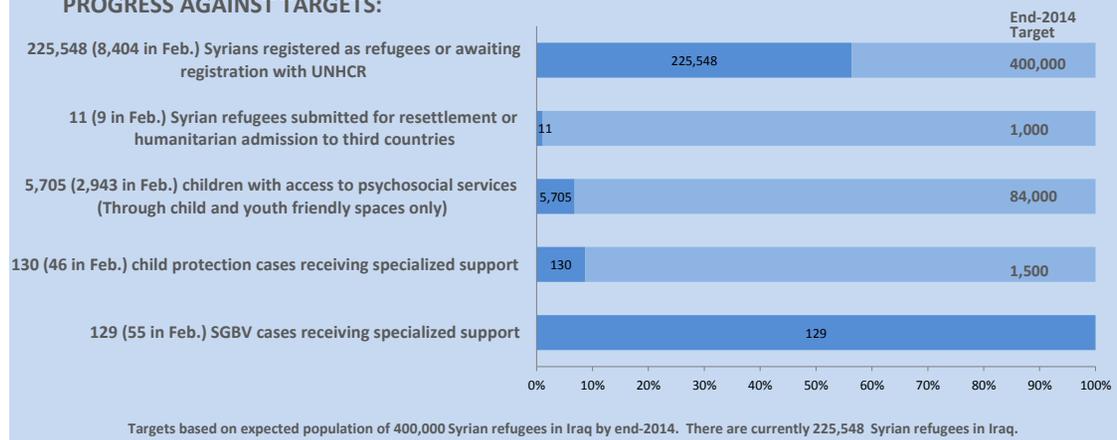
The reporting of instances of SGBV, and a proper analysis of the data, will be facilitated once the GBV IMS system is fully operational in the camps and for the urban population. Together with GBV IMS partners, the intake form, the data-sharing protocols and the analysis of the data is essential. Identifying child protection needs and responses for all children at risk in the camp will be strengthened following the analysis of the child protection assessment in 2014.

Equal participation of communities' self-identified male and female refugee representatives in camps and urban areas will strengthen refugees' ability towards self-reliance in protection and assistance, including for the most vulnerable refugees, and facilitates access to information in a timely manner. UNHCR and partners will thus need to prioritize working with the communities at an early stage. Clear procedures, referral mechanisms, and human resources will be put in place to facilitate the identification of the most vulnerable refugees in need of resettlement as a durable solution.

Population : Camp vs Non-Camp



PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS:



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Participating Agencies: Ministry of Interior (MoI)-Iraq/Permanent Comitty (PC), Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MODM)-Iraq, Ministry of Interior (MoI)-KRI, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAMI Human Rights, IOM, ACF, ACTED, ACTED-REACH, CDO, DRC, Handicap International, Harikar, Heartland Alliance, InterSOS, IRC, Kurdistan Save the Children, KURDS, MAG, Mercy Corps, Mine Advisory Group, NRC, PAO, Save the Children International, STEP, Triangle, UPP, War Child UK, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.