

## 1. Syrian Persons of Concern in need of international protection in the Kurdistan Region

### • EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Syrian Kurds continue to flee violence in Syria and seek protection in the Kurdistan Region. Along with UNHCR, the Department of Migration and Displacement ensures Syrian new arrivals have access to the territory and are protected against refoulement. During the reporting period, no major new arrivals were recorded in Erbil Governorate, and those who had arrived in the past were entirely registered by UNHCR. Similarly in Suleimaniya Governorate, no new arrivals were recorded by DDM; in both Governorates, the Syrian arrivals are absorbed by the host community and live in urban settings and are assisted by already existing Syrian families. However Duhok Governorate continues to witness an increase number of arrivals, the local host community has provided temporary shelter for families; but the increasing number of arrivals had exceeded the capacity of the host and Syrian community and families started relocating to the newly established Domiz camp in Fayda sub district to benefit from registration and assistance. An estimated number of 20 families and 900 individuals are in the process of being registered by DDM in Duhok. The new Domiz camp is progressively being equipped with essential services to host an increasing number of families and new single arrivals.



New camp in Domiz

### • OVERALL GOAL: Emergency Protection Including Assistance to Refugees

### • STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

#### 1. Fair protection process and documentation

##### 1.1. Administrative institutions and practice

The attitude of the local authorities varies from one to another Governorate; however one common administrative procedure is in place. Following the border crossing into the

Kurdistan Region, the new Syrian arrivals are registered with the security services known as the “Asayish” in the villages along the border in the part of Ninewa Governorate which is under *de facto* Kurdish control.

The security services provide the new arrivals with a number on a piece of paper, while they record their basic bio-data on a list that is shared at a later stage with the Directorate of Migration and Displacement (DDM). This number is shown at the checkpoint and allows the Syrians to access to the region.

The new arrivals are also requested by the Asayish in the border area to provide a sponsor in Iraq. They have been allowed to appoint Syrian asylum seekers already residing in the country as their sponsors and no reports of denial of access due to lack of sponsor have been reported. When the new arrivals have reached their location inside KR, they can register with UNHCR and DDM once the latest confirms their names are recorded on the Asayish list.

The same procedure applies for Suleimaniya where new Syrian arrivals register with Asayish and DDM and are referred to UNHCR for preliminary registration. As for Erbil, BDM did not engage yet in the registration of the Syrians, the latter are approaching UNHCR for preliminary registration. UNHCR; however engaged in discussions with BDM and the Ministry of Interior in order to coordinate their response to the needs of the Syrian new arrivals and to ensure BDM takes its responsibility in the registration process. In both Erbil and Suleimaniya, Syrians are located in urban settings and assisted by the host local community.

## **1.2. Quality of Registration and Profiling**

The Department of Migration and Displacement along with UNHCR is carrying out the registration of the Syrian new arrivals. DDM ensures that new arrivals are primarily registered on the security Asayish list prior to referring them for a second stage registration where UNHCR ensures the specific needs of all persons are recorded and priority is given to families, and persons with vulnerabilities.

As of the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2012, UNHCR in Erbil and DDM in Duhok and Suleimaniya had registered a total number of 1,240 Syrians all over the Kurdistan Region. Among those 1,240 registered, (147 are families in 604 individuals) while 636 are singles. In Duhok Governorate; families from Zakho and Semel districts, Miserike and Moquble camp were relocated to Domiz camp and attended the registration, a total of 126 families and 525 individuals were registered while an estimated additional 20 unregistered families are still in these locations. In Suleimaniya, they were 2 families in 6 individuals among the registered and similarly in Erbil 19 families in 73 individuals.

	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



NHCR staff during registration in Domiz Camp

## **2. Basic needs and essential services (dohuk)**

### **2.1 Shelter and Infrastructure**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April the Erbil UNHCR Head of Office together with DDM and the Mayor of Semel District, Representative of Fayda Sub District (where the Domiz camp is located), Representative of Dohuk Governor, Directorate of education, Social Affairs, Health, Water and sanitation and senior Asaayesh and Dohuk police officials, as well as IOM Head of Office, ICRC, IPs Harikar and Qandil, and UNHCR staff from Dohuk and Erbil were present at the opening of Domiz new camp for Syrian new arrivals. The opening ceremony was largely covered by local media.

Following the opening of the new camp, 37 families moved to the tents and were provided with non-food items by UNHCR (plastic sheeting, jerry cans (water and Kerosene), mattresses, cooking sets, kerosene heaters and hygiene kits and complemented by IOM e.g floor carpet for the tent, rechargeable fans and torch, stove for cooking, blankets, pillows, gas cylinder and plastic shelves for kitchen items. A total of 69 tents for families and 14 for singles in the area designated for the singles in the camp were installed. However, no

singles have moved yet, pending the preparation of sanitation facilities on their side of the camp.

Families hosted by the domiz community are eager to move in the camp, pending the completion of the necessary WATSAN and floor foundation for the tent, which are expected to be completed by coming Thursday. An increasing fatigue of the host community as well as the new arrivals was obvious.

Preparations are in place to have the capacity to accommodate an additional 100 families in the event that there is an influx in large numbers. However, no large number of families arrived over the weekend.

## 2.2 Health Status

Following the opening of the camp, UNHCR Head of Office met with the Director of the Health Department to ensure health services are in place. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, a day following the opening of the camp a health team was deployed to the camp by the Health Directorate. The health team among which there is a female health staff operates in the camp on a daily basis from 8h30 to 1200 and assist up to 50 cases a day, the team could identify various diseases among the Syrian population of the new arrivals, among them many were diagnosed with skin diseases and allergies, and two cases of chicken pox were identified among children and were immediately isolated far from families in the camp. The youths went also through a health screening and several cases were diagnosed with skin allergy and anaemia and were provided with iron tablets.

The health team launched a health awareness campaign to sensitize the Syrian arrivals on the hygiene and sanitation practices. The team provided vaccinations for the BCG and DPT for children and Anti- Tetanus for the youths.



Mobile clinic at Domiz Camp

In order to ensure an adequate environment for the health screening and medical assistance, UNHCR ordered a pre-fab unit for health centre to be installed in the camp. The DoH has already provided the furniture and medical equipment for the unit as well as medicines. They will also ensure that a female doctor visits the site regularly. The

Department of health will ensure an ambulance is deployed in the camp for emergency cases and had conducted a fumigation campaign to clean up the camp against insects.

### **2.3 Supply of potable water**

The families relocated to Domiz new camp were provided with 60 water tanks with a capacity of 1,000 litres storage capacity each. The quality control of drinking water will be ensured in coordination with the relevant local authorities in Domiz. The water department is trucking water twice a day to the families as well as for construction work.



Filling the water tanks in Domiz Camp

### **2.4 Nutrition**

The Directorate of Migration and Displacement continues to provide the new arrivals with food items, charity organizations were also present in the camp and shown willingness to assist the population with additional items. Following the completion of the cooking space in the camp, DDM will continue to provide the families with dry food items and ensures they become self-independent and provide themselves with cooked meals.

### **2.5 Sanitation and Hygiene**

UNHCR, implementing partner along with DDM ensures satisfactory sanitary conditions are in place in Domiz camp. At the opening of the site and during the reporting period, 14 WCs on the families' side and 6 for singles are ready to the standards while 34 are under construction will be completed by Thursday.

One mobile latrine for the singles will also be installed. The completion of the latrines will allow more families to be relocated to the new camp and to enjoy satisfactory sanitary conditions. . In order to expedite the increase in the number of latrines, UNHCR has ordered TVC emergency latrines i.e six WCs and four baths which will be temporarily placed in the families section, until the communal latrines will be completed and functional.

Number of latrines for the singles hosted in the mosque has been increased by UNHCR from 3 to 8 to improve the sanitation facilities.



Fumigation process in Domiz camp

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

Syrian new arrivals reported that they fled following the prolonged unrest, insecurity and continued retaliation against demonstrators in Syria; some claimed to have deserted the army while others were called to serve in the army and fled following several threats to their persons and their family members. Through meetings with UNHCR protection and community services team, many cases of Syrian new arrivals appeared to be traumatized and had developed anxieties and psycho-social disorders.

The Directorate of Health during their visit to Domiz and after speaking to the singles/youth is planning a joint assessment with UNHCR to evaluate the scope of the stress disorders and related trauma impact on the new arrivals and will conduct counselling as well as provide psycho-social support. UNHCR has hired a temporary community services assistant to respond to the needs of the population in the camp.

## **2.7 Access to Education**

The Director of Education was at the official opening of the camp. The latter engaged in supporting the local authorities and UNHCR in identifying children of school age and ensuring their timely enrolment in the existing school in Domiz old camp site. The only available school is located in Domiz camp at few meters from the camp; however the school is overcrowded and lacks the capacity to host additional school age children. UNHCR along with the Directorate of Education is assessing the situation and will provide additional caravans that can serve for school classes. The capacity of the school will be expanded with the provision of six cabinets of classes 6 meters by 4 meters and height three meters. The classes' cabinets will be delivered within eight days. DoE will provide the furniture, stationery, teaching staff etc to accommodate the new arrivals. UNHCR has also requested UNICEF to assess the educational needs.

The single/youth have expressed great enthusiasm to be enrolled in high school; incidentally there are two intermediate schools, 3 KMs away from the Domiz site, where IDPs from Dohuk, Mosul and border areas have been attending.

Another primary school is located in the nearby IDP community which is two KM away from Domiz. However, all schools are crowded and lack space to accommodate the new arrivals; hence there will be a need to expand the capacity.

The primary level is Kurdish language, but intermediate and high school have Arabic language and Kurdish language shifts. In Syria they have been going to Arabic schools. However, there are no primary level schools in Arabic, UNHCR will discuss with the DoE to consider having Arabic shifts for the primary students.

### **3. Security**

The UNHCR Head of Office met with the Governor of Duhok after the opening of the site. The Governor was supportive, The Asaayish security team was deployed outside the camp and ensured the location is safe and protected round the clock.

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

UNHCR is closely coordinating efforts with the Government authorities, implementing partners and the UN agencies in order to have a coordinated response to the situation of the Syrian new arrivals. The UNHCR Head of Office had met with the Governor of Duhok following the opening of the site; the Governor is very supportive and engaged in pursuing providing assistance.

The UNHCR Head of Office met also with the Director of the Health Department to ensure health services are in place, and with the Directorate of Education to ensure children of school age can access education. DDM works jointly with UNHCR to ensure a joint registration and adequate follow up on the needs of the new arrivals.

UNHCR is coordinating with the UN agencies, namely IOM for the distribution of complementary non food items, and UNICEF for education. The UNHCR Head of Office conducts regular briefing meetings with the UNCT to ensure all are updated about the situation of the Syrian new arrivals and engaged in a joint response.

## **2. Monitoring at the Syrian/Iraqi border: Period from 1st of April until 8th of April**

- 1) There is a net increase of returnees to Iraq compared to last month. Where the Total Returnees were 5,293; Total Departure: 2,400; Net Returns to Iraq: 2,871.
- 2) There is an increasing percentage of returnees who mentioned that the security /political situation in Syria is the first reason for them to return to Iraq.  
Security/ political situation in Syria 60%, Assess conditions in Iraq for possible future return 17%, Visit family/ friends 16%, Business/ money related 7%.
- 3) There is an increasing percentage of 19% of returnees who mentioned that they decided to return permanently to Iraq. For temporary return (1-4 weeks) 62% and for Uncertain 19%.

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