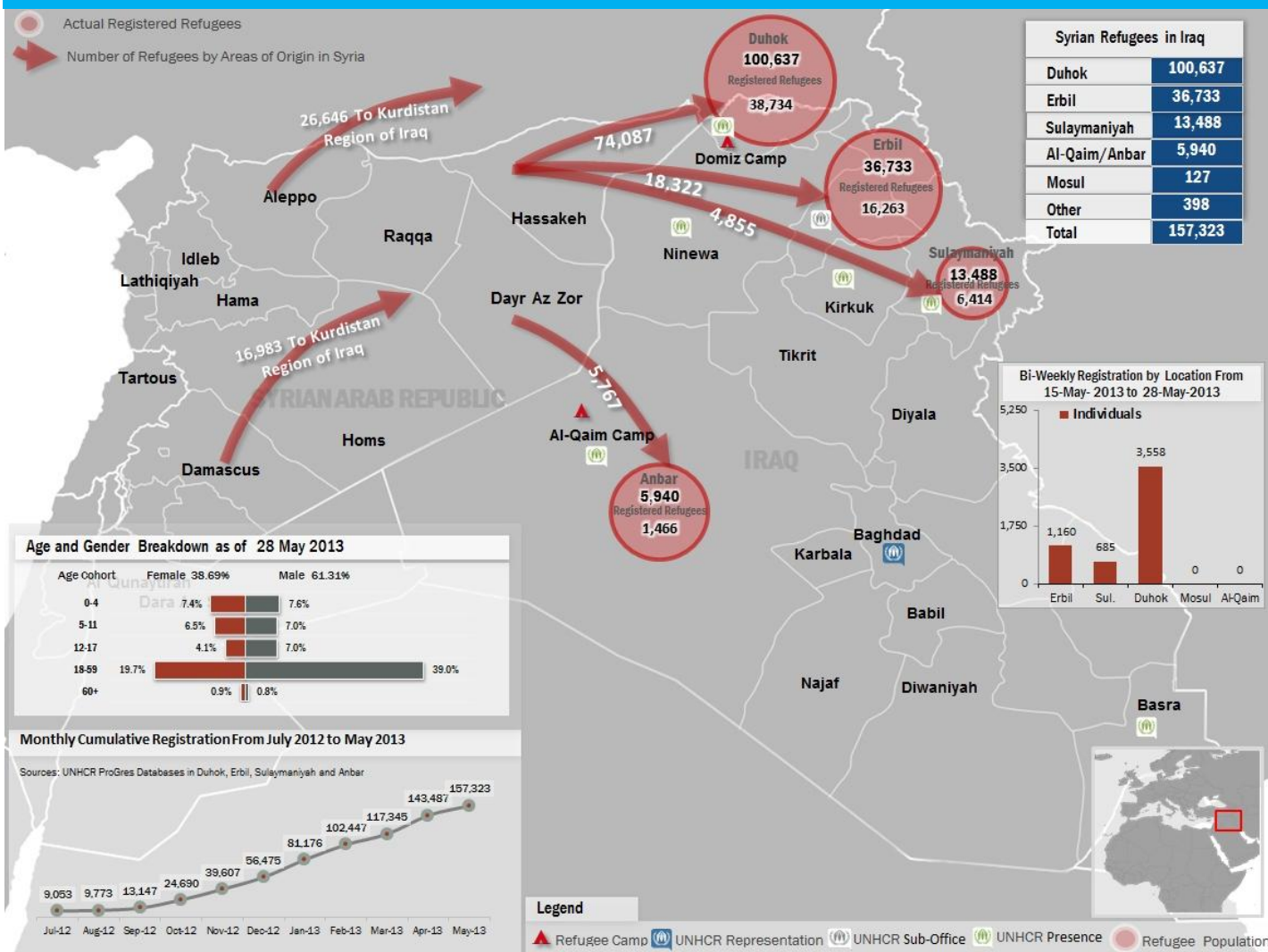


Syria Situation

Bi-Weekly update No. 43

15 – 28 May 2013



To date the following donors have contributed to the Regional Response Plan Jan-June 2013:



<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/>

iraqpi@unhcr.org

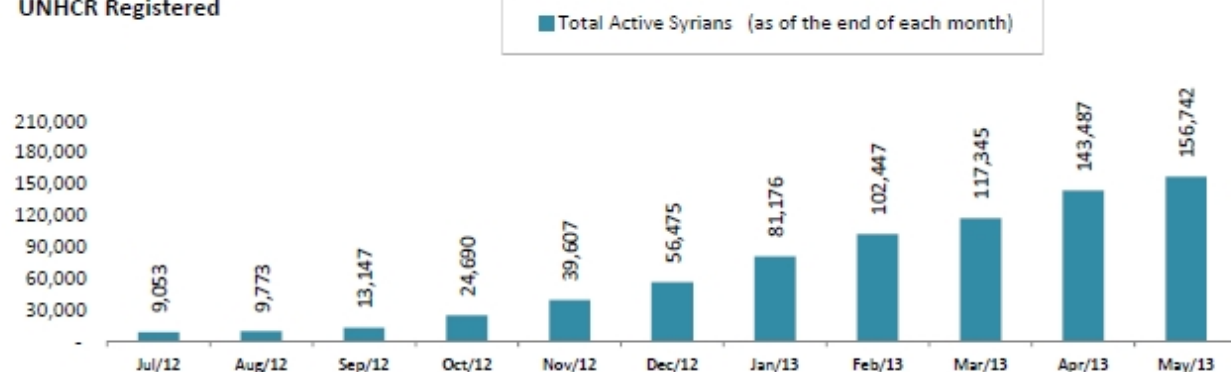
MOMD | DDM | DGC | Local Authorities

Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM

NGOs: IRW | Qandil | ISHO | IRC | HARIKAR | CDO | RIRP | ACTED | Save the CHILDREN | NRC | Muslim Aid | IKL | CDO |

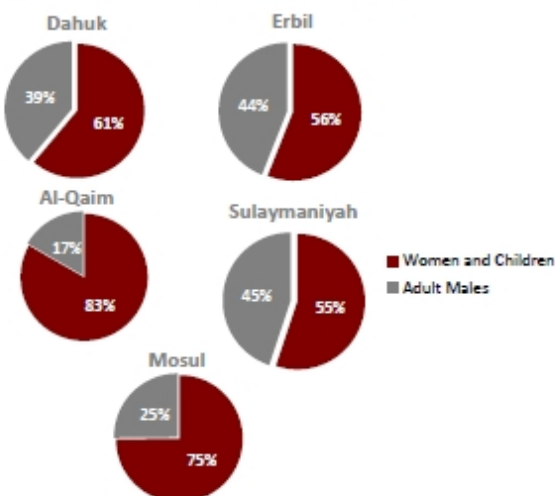
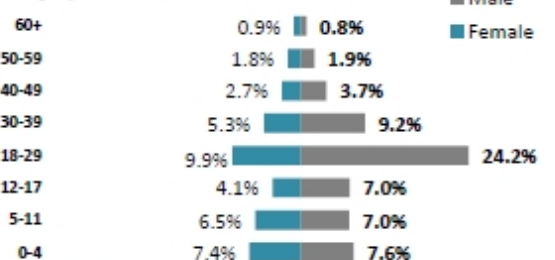
CAPNI | Rabin | Asayeesh | MSF | Oxfam | Afkar | Caritas | UPP |

UNHCR Registered

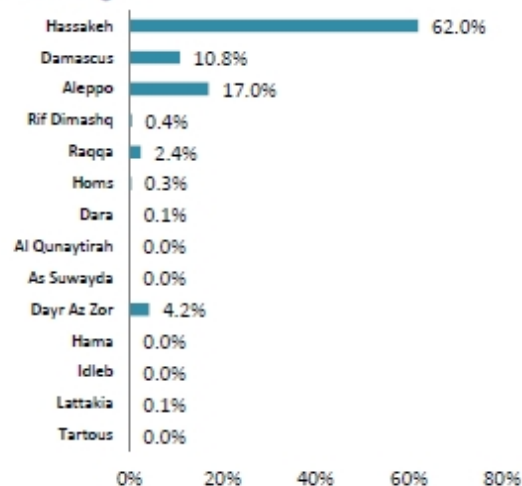


Demographic profile based on 157,323 proGres registered persons

Demographic Breakdown



Place of origin



Localisation of the Registration



Governorate	Persons	House holds	% Total
Dahuk*	100,637	38,734	64.0%
Erbil	36,733	16,263	23.3%
Sulaymaniah	13,488	6,414	8.6%
Anbar	5,940	1,466	3.8%
Mosul	127	38	0.1%
Other	398	205	0.3%
Total Iraq	157,323	63,120	100.0%

* Includes Syrians registered in Domiz Camp

Camps	Persons	House holds
Domiz**	91,822	34,201
Al-Qaim Camp1	1,281	291
Al-Qaim Camp2	1,774	384

** Note that this figure reflects the number of refugees registered in Domiz Camp. However, a substantial number of refugees relocated out of the camp. The camp population is estimated to be 45,000.

1. Syrian response in Iraq: highlights

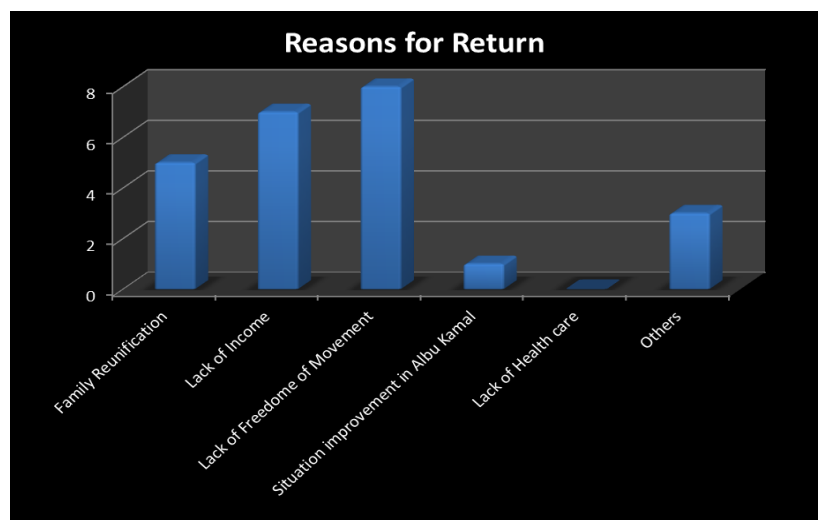
- As of 28 May, **157,323** Syrian refugees are registered in Iraq; **151,383** are in the Kurdistan Region (KR)
- The **border crossing of Peshkapor in the KR has been closed since May 19th**; daily registration has reduced to (approx.) 350-400 individuals that crossed into Iraq prior to May 19th.
- Domiz camp remains **critically overcrowded** with approximately **45,000** Syrian refugees
- The **Al Qa'im border remains closed**
- The number of refugees in Al Qa'im continues to decrease with **5,092 having returned to Syria**
- Construction of Darashakran camp for Syrian refugees is progressing more slowly than anticipated
- The first SGBV sub working group was held in Baghdad on 26 May, (previously integrated in the protection working group)

2. Sector updates

2.1 Reception, Registration and Protection

Al Qa'im

In Al Qa'im, Anbar governorate, the Syrian refugee population is **5,946** with 1,300 in Camp 1 and 1,775 in Camp 2 as well as 2,871 individuals living outside the camps. The increased number of returns result from both push and pull factors, including frustration over living conditions with no freedom of movement, no access to the labour market or sources of income, and the inability to visit relatives in Al Qa'im area. The main pull-factor continues to be a perceived improvement of the security situation in the town of Abu Kamal.



During the reporting period, 105 refugees returned to Syria, bringing the total number of Syrian returnees from Al Qa'im to **5,092**. Due to the prevailing volatile security situation in Syria, UNHCR neither promotes nor facilitates these returns but monitors these movements and provides individual counselling to ensure potential returnees are fully informed of the strict government policy of not permitting re-admission into Iraqi territory.

Four detainees that were arrested were released and relocated to the camp. The IRC lawyer based in Al Qaim supported their cases and represented the individuals in court.

Urban Refugees

Seventy counselling sessions were conducted by IRC social workers for urban refugees. Interviews with urban refugees indicate a trend of increasing poverty due to long periods of unemployment and lack of access to services. Tensions are rising within the refugee community as a result of the lack of freedom of movement, particularly for urban refugees who have no documentation. The soaring summer temperatures are worsening circumstances for urban refugees as they do not possess air conditioners or fans. In addition, electricity expenses run high, which they are unable to afford. Some urban refugees have expressed general fear of becoming victims of the unstable security situation in the cities where they are residing.

Kurdistan Region

Despite the border closure at Peshkapor, Syrian refugees continue to approach UNHCR offices in KR with 5,403 new arrivals comprising of 813 families (4,100 individuals) and 1,303 singles recorded during the reporting period. These individuals entered Iraq prior to May 19th and approached UNHCR for registration:

- Erbil: 210 families (805 individuals) and 355 singles
- Sulaymaniyah: 94 families (446 individuals) and 239 singles
- Duhok: 509 families (2,849 individuals) and 709 singles
- Mosul: 0 families (0 individuals) and 0 singles

A significant decrease has been observed in the number of new arrivals. According to interviews conducted by UNHCR, the decrease in arrivals is attributed to the closure of KR border with Syria (Peshkapor), the border remained closed during reporting period.

Domiz Camp

Psychosocial services and coordination in Domiz Camp: the coordination and provision of psychosocial services is well established and refugees from different sectors in the camp are accessing services; cases are being referred to relevant partners. Four cases were referred for material assistance by the Listening Centre.

The psychosocial service team continues to coordinate with DMC to improve the conditions for vulnerable families and successfully negotiated the provision of additional food items for three vulnerable families currently staying in the Reception Centre. Likewise, the Listening Centre and UNHCR Community Services Desk identified five potential child protection cases and referred them to the Child Protection Unit.

A meeting was held between UNHCR and Handicap International (HI) to identify areas of collaboration in assisting refugees with disabilities. HI expressed their interest to collaborate with service providers and provide their technical and material assistance to persons with disabilities in the camp.

Child protection

A two day training was conducted on Best Interest Determination (BID) and resulted with an action plan for the implementation of the BID Standard Operating Procedures. The terms of reference for the panel were also reviewed and agreed up on. Accordingly, UNHCR will serve as the chair of the panel whereas IRC, as secretary, is tasked with conducting BID interviews, preparing the BID reports, and presenting the report findings.

Due to the large number of children currently identified as separated and accompanied and pending BID, it was agreed that two parallel BID panel meetings will be conducted, the first of which is scheduled for 12th June, 2013.



A Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) specialist undertook a field mission to Domiz camp and interviewed seven children who had experienced grave violations committed in armed conflicts. As a result of the mission, a system for MRM in Domiz camp was established and interviewers and front line staff will be trained on appropriate interviewing techniques.

Children continue to receive recreational and psychosocial support in the two Child Friendly Spaces in Domiz camp catering for children between 5-15yrs. The ACTED-run centre registered 372 children and the UNICEF / DOLSA-run centre registered 561 year olds which is significantly lower than the previous reporting period. Activities conducted included drawing, games, singing, dancing, competition, quizzes, storytelling, health education, mine risk awareness, and hygiene awareness.

The UNICEF supported Child Protection Unit (CPU) received 33 new cases during this reporting period. Two awareness sessions were conducted; one for 15 children and another for 13 mothers on the impact of domestic violence on children's psychology and well-being.

Sulaymaniyah camp

UNHCR agreed with the Governor of Sulaymaniyah to postpone the camp construction until the end of the harvesting season (mid June 2013). However, the immediate proximity of electrical power lines at the proposed camp location, observed by UNICEF, may be considered as safety hazard and could affect the camp's development.

Urban Cash Assistance

The Cash Assistance exercise concluded in Erbil on 27 May 2013. All but one cheque were distributed to 250 vulnerable families that UNHCR has identified alongside with the PARC teams. This exercise provided insight

into the livelihood challenges, medical needs, education needs and willingness to relocate to camp location of Syrian refugees living in urban areas.

Similarly the exercise concluded in Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk on May 30, whereby 150 and 300 families respectively will have received cheques. Families entitled for cash assistance of over USD 250 will subsequently start receiving their second installment from mid June.

SGBV

The first SGBV sub working group was held on 26 May in Baghdad where various agencies discussed the objectives, terms of reference, results of the SGBV workshops in Amman and Erbil, SGBV mapping exercise, strategy and fact sheet development. The next meeting is scheduled for the 18 June .

An Extremely Vulnerable Individual (EVI) panel was conducted on 15 and 22 May together with Health, Protection and Community Services colleagues in Baghdad. Six of twenty one cases 21 cases are Syrian refugees and were approved for financial assistance.

2.2 Security

Al Qa'im

The situation in Al-Qaim has remained calm compared to other areas of Anbar province with few incidents reported. The main challenge for the operation remains reaching the location. A number of incidents have been reported on and along the road between Baghdad and Al Qa'im. The towns of Ramadi and Fallujah, where protests have been ongoing since November 2012 have been the scene of armed clashes. Several explosions also occurred along the main road between Ramadi and Al Qaim For a prolonged period of time, road missions by international staff to Al Qa'im have not been conducted due to the very high perceived risk of such movements. Movement of national staff has been reduced to critical movements in view of the volatile situation along the road.

The date of provincial elections at Anbar Governorate has been fixed for 20 June 2013. It is unknown what effect the election will have on the overall security situation.

Domiz

A tragic fire occurred on May 28 after midnight in one of the tents and two children died as the result. Following the incident immediately the authorities and security forces transferred the wounded refugees to Duhok hospital to receive medical care and treatment. The incident was reported widely in the Kurdish media. The KR authorities in Domiz Camp are conducting an investigation and UNHCR is reviewing the report.

Previously another two fire incidents occurred on 19 May in sector 2 (playground) and on 22 May in sector 11. According to Civil Defence reports, tents, blankets, mattresses were completely destroyed and required replacement. Families were assisted the same day with tents and NFIs. Fire prevention measures are in place, including water tanks and sand bags.

Asayeesh (local authorities) continue to dig trenches around the camp to prevent cars entering the camp from the sides and to mark the boundaries of the camp.

2.3 Assistance Update

Shelter / infrastructure

Al Qa'im

As a result of UNHCR responding to the Gol request to relocate refugees from Camps 1 and 2 into Camp 3 (Al Obaidy Camp), partners (IRW and ISHO) began erecting tents in the camp (previously removed due to strong winds). Electrical connection for Camp 3 to the National Grid is being completed. Lighting for the camp is pending and was requested by the Electricity Unit in Baghdad through Main directorate of Anbar. Due to the security situation, truck drivers are refusing to transport the requested equipment from Baghdad. The tent wiring will be initiated once all tents are erected. All minor works are expected to be completed during the next reporting period.

Domiz

Transit 7: 782 plots were completed and ready to accommodate families. The remaining 1,060 plots will be completed after irregular shelters and families from the lower part of Transit 7 are relocated and UNHCR partner Qandil can continue the works. By the end of the reporting period:

- 681 tokens were issued by the joint committee
- 521 families are actually moved
- 28 tokens are collected by families but not moved yet
- 132 tokens are prepared and will be distributed in the coming days
- 69 families have been identified and approved by the committee for relocation; their tokens will be prepared over the weekend and distributed.

Since the start of the relocation to Transit 7, the joint committee of UNHCR/DMC/Refugees are facing reluctance by almost half of the guest families to relocate to Transit 7 for various reasons, Transit 7 is considered too far from the “centre” of the camp, many services are not yet available there (water network is under construction, electricity is yet to be connected), and also that guests are staying with their relatives and friends and find it more convenient to stay where they are now. Meanwhile, families who do not wish to move report problems of WASH and overcrowded conditions in Phase 1-2.

In addition to individual vulnerable cases identified and recommended by protection/CS team, several groups have been identified as vulnerable due to their location and have been relocated to Transit 7. They include groups who were residing in the market, lower fence area, around the rubhall, and groups of families residing alone the main entrance. Also a group of families recommended by NRC were relocated from Phase 1 and Phase 2 in order to improve the sanitation situation of the families. Cases of groups residing basically on or near septic tanks in Phases 1 and 2 were included into relocation. One more specifically identified group is that residing behind registration area (as per consultation with protection unit, also with DMC and the refugees themselves).

As mentioned above, in order to finalize works in Transit 7, it is necessary to vacate the land where currently some 200 families are residing. The committee initially considered relocated these families to the newly developing area (Transit 6) next to the new UNHCR office. However, based on the assessment of the ongoing relocation process, the committee is now considering relocating the 200 irregular families in groups to the remaining places in Transit 7. The families are ready to move, they can be relocated them in small groups by clearing the area line by line thus enabling continuation of works in Transit 7. The proposal is being discussed with the DMC and the refugee representatives. In the meantime, taking into account that many families are reluctant to move to Transit 7 it has been agreed to first complete the relocation of those who have been assigned plots and after that proceed with identification of new families. Otherwise, field and DMC continue reallocating the plots for those who refuse to move and thereby delays the process.

Phase 8: Kurds shared with UNHCR a topographical assessment and proposed site plan for Phase 8, which is pending technical review by Erbil. According to the Kurds assessment most of the 229,208 m² of land can be used after cleaning and levelling. In allocating 45 m² per person, the land may accommodate some 5,000 persons (which is roughly 1,000 families).

Phase 6: As communicated earlier, DMC requested support for implementation of Phase 6 (which was planned by DMC for singles). UNHCR is currently discussing with DMC the possibility of placing families in Phase 6. Feedback from DMC is pending.

Reception Centre/Accommodation for New Arrivals

There are nine families staying in the Reception centre and seven additional families affected by the 25 May storm: five families who moved out from the Reception centre during the week. Ten water tank tabs are broken and leaking; DMC relies on UNHCR for general maintenance of the Reception Centre.



Left: DMC made improvements for the communal kitchen in the Reception Centre: casting the floor and installing tables and stands for gas cookers, © UNHCR/GG



Right: Distribution of welcome food by Harikar at the Reception Centre, ©UNHCR/GG

Playground: The Phase 1 playground equipment was installed and inaugurated by UNICEF on 26 May.

Darashakran Camp, Erbil Governorate

The levelling of the site has been completed and removal of black soil is on-going by the government; 85 per cent of the work is complete and the remainder should be completed in the coming days.

The government installed three prefabricated caravans and one local tent for their office space. UNHCR installed four tents to be used as temporary office space. One tent was donated by a Turkish company for use by Qandil Guards. One generator of 100kv will be installed in the camp



Progress in Darashakran Camp/ Erbil Governorate, May 2013 @ UNHCR

by UNHCR through partner Qandil. Progress is moving slower than anticipated although the government remains committed; the camp is expected be open in time for the new school year in September.

Water and Sanitation

Al Qa'im

As a result of the heavy rain the increased turbidity in the Euphrates River, the UNICEF WASH team supported the water compact by cleaning all filters which ensured the water compact functions normally.

Domiz

The WASH Working Group meeting was held on 22 May. One of main issues discussed was the scaling down of MSF activities in WASH as previous WASH interventions for water supply by tractors, installation of emergency latrines were conducted as a response measure in view of existing gaps. This is paralleled by the scaling up by other partners including a greater UNICEF presence and the start up of NRC activities in WASH and health.

MSF has drawn the attention of the WASH group the need to identify more water source points and ensuring that water supply to areas without water networks are covered by relevant partners. MSF will finalize the installation of emergency latrines in irregular areas and will continue with water testing. Information Education and Communication activities related to WASH and health and hygiene promotion will be also continued.

UNICEF announced that the necessary funding for implementation of drainage plan (USD 2.2m) is secured. Following the UNHCR recommendation to consider constructing 10m deep cesspools for the septic tanks, KURDS began implementation of test cesspools in Phase 3. At this stage one of concerns raised by Kurds is

that in some locations, i.e. Phases 1 and 2 it may be difficult to make cesspools as there is not enough space for the machine to manoeuvre and dig the cesspool without serious disturbance to the already heavily congested area.

Non Food Items

Al Qa'im

UNHCR in collaboration with Rebuild Iraq Reconstruction Program (RIRP), distributed NFIs in both camps. The total NFIs released from 15-28 May was 688 items including the completion of the distribution of baby diapers for babies from 0-3 years old in both camps (small: 420 pieces, medium size: 1,078 pieces and large: 1550 pieces).

Domiz

The DMC, UNHCR and other partners continue to distribute NFIs to new arrivals in the camp. UNHCR in particular continues the distribution of sanitary napkins and baby diapers for girls/women aged 11-50 years and babies under three years old. Three hundred family hygiene kits provided by UNFPA were distributed during hygiene promotion activities.



Distribution of baby diapers, @ RIRP/Mustaffa



Left and Right: NFI Distribution © UNHCR/GG



Food

Al Qa'im

The fifth cycle of ration distribution was completed for May with a total of 3,262 parcels; the remaining stock is 5,791 parcels. The sixth cycle for June is ongoing, with more than 1,500 parcels already distributed. One hundred cartons (450kg) of biscuits were given to Afkar NGO for distribution to students during summer activities. Remaining biscuits will be distributed this final study week to ensure there is no remaining balance.

Domiz

WFP completed the food voucher distributions on 21 May in Domiz camp. A total of 45,887 Syrian refugees received the vouchers valued at USD 1.4 million compared to 43,820 beneficiaries in April. These figures demonstrate that despite the limited capacity in Domiz, an increasing number of refugees continue to seek food assistance. The new cycle of distribution targeting 50,000 - 55,000 beneficiaries is scheduled to start on 5 June. Printing of the vouchers in Amman is in progress.



Distribution of food parcels, @ WFP/Zyad

WFP Food Voucher Distribution Cycle 5 in Domiz Camp, Dohuk (figures as of 22 May)

Cycle-5 Distribution	Food Voucher Distributed	Male	Female	Total Beneficiaries	Amount Per Individual in USD	Total Amount \$ USD
TOTAL	9,964	23,834	22,053	45,887	31	1,422,497

Given that WFP distributed all vouchers and reached the planned target, they were unable to assist families who arrived after 8 May (an estimated of 1,000 cases comprising to 4,500 individuals). UNHCR requested Peace Wind Japan (PWJ) to cover these families by providing them with the welcome food package.

Harikar (funded by PWJ) continued to provide new arrivals a welcoming food package containing five kgs of rice, 2,700 grams of sugar, 2 units of vegetable oil, 450 grams of tea, 700 grams of salt, 1 kg of beans, 500 grams each of spaghetti and macaroni, and 1 kg of tomato paste.

DMC assistance provided during the week of 19-23 May:

7,315 kgs of rice to 1,463 families

2,188 formula milk to 1,094 children

2,188 diaper packs to 1,094 children

45 family water tanks to 45 families

Health

Al Qa'im

Outpatient consultations in Al Qa'im camp during the last two weeks included 1,637 patients of which most cases were acute respiratory tract infections and diarrhea. In past two weeks, one suspected case of measles was identified.

There was no child and under five mortality during the reporting period. Mental health services continue to be provided by MSF and approximately 10 patients received social support every week. Hospital referrals for 94 patients included 21 emergency patients.

Domiz

The health clinic at Domiz camp continues to operate by DoH and MSF and provides regular health services. During the week a total of 3,717 patients visited the clinics and 399 (11%) were suffering from diarrhea while 1,279 (36%) suffered from Upper Respiratory Tract Infection. In addition, 42 diabetic patients, 103 hypertension-cardiovascular disease and two cancer cases received required health services. A total of 208 patients were referred to Duhok Hospitals for further investigation and management in addition to 39 deliveries at the Duhok maternity hospital.

DoH continues to expand available space at Domiz health clinic to cope with the daily increasing number of patients seeking medical care at the center including installing a dental facility and waiting area for patients.

Of the 460 under five children who were screened, only 14 (3%) malnourished children were detected of which only two with severe (-3 Z score) malnutrition; all cases received required management.

Antenatal care services was provided to 132 pregnant women in the camp, while 10 lactating mothers received required postnatal care

A total of 1,138 new arrivals aged six months to 25 years were vaccinated against measles (40 received measles vaccine and 1,098 MMR vaccines)

A total of 89 children were vaccinated with routine vaccines as per the applied national schedule, in addition to 27 adult received Hepatitis B vaccine; five pregnant women and 35 women of child bearing age (15-49 years) received Tetanus Toxoid.

During the Polio National Immunization Days, a total of 4,410 children under five years old were vaccinated in Domiz camp in addition to 1,148 children vaccinated within the communities across Duhok Governorate.

With UNICEF support, a KAP study was conducted by 20 DoH staff among 900 families living in the camp on hygiene practices, data entry is underway and the preliminary results are due next week. In addition, 60 volunteers were trained for four days on hygiene and health promotion and interpersonal communication skills and started their work began visiting the targeted 600 tents/families. Information and education materials (10,000 handouts, 20 flex banners and 1,000 posters) were distributed as well

Furthermore, in cooperation with UNICEF, a Nutrition Anthropometric Assessment Survey is under way and so far a total of 584 children under five years old were screened, the survey is expected to be concluded next week.

Surveillance for communicable diseases is ongoing in the camp and a total of eight suspected measles cases were reported and investigated

As part of emergency preparedness and mitigation plan against cholera and other water/sanitation borne diseases in Domiz, a meeting was organized with various stakeholders and UN Agencies and other partners at the DoH Duhok on 15 May 2013.

Urban Refugees

Mobile teams have been mobilized for measles vaccination of urban refugees in Erbil. The mobile teams will use the ACTED mapping, which identifies areas where refugees are currently residing in Erbil.

WHO trained a group of 10 laboratory technicians from Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah and Erbil on the isolation of cholera from stools. Such trainings will continue until summer sets in with the purpose of ensuring effective preparation for potential cholera/watery diarrhea during the summer months.

Education

Al Qa'im

In Camp1 School examination participants from 1st to 5th grade included 68 students out of 135 male students and 87 out of 149 female students; 100 per cent of those who sat the exams were successful.

In Camp 2 School there were 136 examination participants from 1st to 5th grade, out of 204 male students, 86 per cent succeeded; and 140 out of 181 female students, 98 per cent succeeded.



Exam participants in Camp 1 and 2 schools for 6th grade included 50 out of 90 students; the results are not yet available.

Exam participants in Camp 1 School/Intermediate Classes included 19 out of 23 male students for boys and 21 out of 25 female students.

Exam participants in Camp 2 School/Intermediate classes included 22 out of 37 male students and 26 out of 30 female students.

Domiz

An Education Sector Coordination meeting was held to discuss the activities for the summer break. It was agreed that two schools will provide summer activities to 1,000 children. The activities will focus on fine arts, sports and recreation. The Primary school, which was officially opened by the Assistant High Commissioner in April, has been named Jiyan School. The name was given by one of the students and means 'life' in Kurdish. Jiyan School will provide summer catch up classes organized by DoE and UNHCR.

3. Coordination

Al Qa'im

Sheik Nader, a member of the Crisis Cell in Al Qa'im visited UNHCR Field Unit and met with the team to discuss a future activity of distributing vegetables to refugees in both camps. The donors are community leaders of Al Qaim. They are expected to start the distribution next week.

Kurdistan Region

A coordination meeting on the Syrian response was held on 15 May with UNHCR, UN agencies, local authorities, and partners.



Meeting with Al Qa'im Crisis Cell Member @ UNHCR/Omar

4. Acronyms and abbreviations

CFS	Child Friendly Space
DDM	Department of Displacement and Migration
DMC	Development and Modification Centre
DoH	Department of Health
EVI	Extremely vulnerable individual
HOFO	Head of Field Office
HOSO	Head of Sub Office
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
KR	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
MOMD	Ministry of Migration and Displacement
PARC	Protection Assistance Reintegration Centre
PHC	Primary Health Centre