IRAQ
INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE – SYRIAN REFUGEES IN IRAQ
October 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

In the reporting period:

- A total of 4,644 Syrian individuals entered the KR-I through Peshkhabour border in October, compared to 4,609 in September. Of these arrivals, 360 entered as asylum seekers. The majority of new arrivals have family links in urban areas in the KR-I and are families of Kurdish ethnicity arriving from Al Hassakeh Province, Kobani, Al Raqqa and Aleppo sub-Provinces. A total of 2,923 Syrians returned to Syria through the Peshkhabour border compared to the figure 2,470 in September. Of these departures, 2,765 were registered asylum seekers.

- In Dohuk Governorate, due to an increasing trend of male individuals opting to either return to Syria or move on to Europe, an increase in the number of female headed households in camps has been observed. UNHCR is currently working on an analysis of changes in household profiles in order to plan protection assessments to ensure an adequate response in case of vulnerabilities that may arise.

- International Girl’s Day was celebrated on 11 October across all camps, under the theme “Girls can do what boys can do.” UNHCR, NRC, Save the Children and Al-Masala were all involved in the organization of activities for refugee girls and women in all camps.
UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

During the reporting period budgetary and oil export issues remained unresolved between the Central Government of Baghdad and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) despite continues negotiations on the subject. Nonetheless, the KRG continues to export some oil directly to the global market through Turkey.

In the Kurdistan region, political tensions and several volatile demonstrations in Suleimaniyah and Garmiyan Governorates at the beginning of the month resulted in a new political dilemma between the main political parties. A number of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), the main party in power, offices were attacked and set on fire during the demonstrations in Suleimaniyah. Later this month, the Speaker of Parliament and Ministers from The Kurdistan Region political party Gorran (Change Movement), the second political force in the region, were prevented from entering the city of Erbil, and thus effectively prevented from seating in Parliament. The situation remains unsettled between the main political parties during the reporting period.

In the Kurdistan region, clashes continue between the Peshmerga forces and armed opposition groups in Makhmour, Shingal and Mosul Dam with minimum territorial gains on either side. The Peshmerga forces, in cooperation with the Iraqi National Mobilization Forces (Hashd Sha’abi), conducted a large offensive on armed opposition groups (AOGs) in Kirkuk Governorate and regained control over many villages there.

The overall security situation remains tense in the country as clashes continue between the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and AOGs. In Salah al-Din, ISF have made advances and cleared most of the province from AOGs militants, while in Anbar the conflicts continue on some parts of the province.

Linked to the security challenges and political instability, the economic situation remains unstable in the country, the drop in oil prices, the cost of conflict and the internal displacement has impacted on the overall finances of the Government and weakened the market throughout the country and in particular in the Kurdistan region where public sector employee salaries have not been paid for the last three months.

As the winter season is approaching, new waves of wind and rain are expected and refugees’ vulnerability will increase both in camp and out of camp. UNHCR has just launched its winter assistance programme to help refugee families and displaced Iraqis to survive the freezing temperatures expected in the coming months. “Across the country, countless displaced vulnerable families are facing dire living conditions. They find themselves particularly at risk during winter as temperatures drop below zero,” said UNHCR Iraq Representative Mr. Bruno Geddo. He further stressed that “By distributing life-saving items, kerosene and cash, we seek to help them to stay warm through the winter. But we are unable to cover all the needs in kerosene and are appealing to the Government to distribute enough kerosene to cover the entire displaced population in Iraq.”

Achievements

Protection

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 4,644 Syrian individuals entered the KR-I through Peshkhabour border in October, compared to 4,609 in September. Of these arrivals, 360 entered as asylum seekers. The majority of new arrivals have family links in urban areas in the KR-I and are of Kurdish ethnicity, arriving from Al Hassakeh Province, Kobani, Al Raqqa and Aleppo sub-Provinces.

- In Erbil Governorate, 789 UNHCR Asylum certificates and a further 184 residency cards were processed. Residency cards have a one year validity which facilitates access to employment and key social services such as health and education.
A PARC/Qandil legal team in Erbil Governorate facilitated the issuance of 254 legal documents, including birth and marriage certificates. Also in Erbil, 147 persons were identified with specific needs including: serious medical conditions, psychological conditions, disabilities, women at risk, and persons without legal documentation.

Child Protection Committee members and community mobilizers have started delivering the first of nine sessions that target parents in Erbil Governorate. The sessions have been designed to help parents to better care for their children and protect them from all forms of violence.

As a follow up on the issue of the departure of many refugees to Europe, leaflets with key messages on the risks of illegal migration have been distributed by UNHCR in refugee camps in Erbil Governorate as well as in urban areas by the mobile teams of PARC.

In Arbat Camp, Suleimaniyah Governorate, 212 Asylum certificates, including renewals, were issued and 752 individuals received consultation concerning registration, residency and DDM requirements.

In October, UNICEF and its partners provided psychosocial services to 2,999 Syrian refugee children who were accessing UNICEF services for the first time in the KR-I.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

A total of 2,923 Syrians returned from the KR-I to Syria through the Peshkhabour border. Of these departures, 2,765 were registered asylum seekers. The individuals were counselled at the Bajet Kandala Registration Centre to ensure the voluntary nature of their return.

In Dohuk Governorate, due to the increasing departure trends among male individuals from both urban and camp settings who are opting to either return to Syria or move on to Europe, UNHCR has noted an increase in the number of female headed households in camps. UNHCR is currently working on an analysis of changes in household profiles (including family composition) in order to plan protection assessments to ensure an adequate response in case of vulnerabilities that may arise.

UNHCR through its IP CDO conducted protection monitoring at Arbat Refugee Camp. The main issue highlighted was food targeting and the associated decreasing food assistance; according to the Suleimaniyah Refugee Council, now only 30% of the refugees in the camp receive food assistance. Other issues that emerged include the lack of night shifts at the health center.

NON-CAMP Achievements and Impact

In Dohuk Governorate, 103 cases were approved for cash assistance (including one-time and multiple cash distribution).

In Erbil Governorate, 1,200 individuals were provided with UNHCR Asylum certificates through the PARC centre. Information has also been verified, updated or transferred for 6,271 individuals and 483 urban refugees were provided legal aid and counselling for issues including for the issuance of birth certificates and marriage certificates.

In Erbil Governorate, 165 extremely vulnerable families have been identified for cash assistance payments.

In Suleimaniyah Governorate, UNHCR partner the Democracy and Human Rights Development Center (DHRD) conducted awareness sessions on SGBV for 10 members of the women’s rights committee. The sessions focused on domestic violence and its impact on families and how to support survivors of domestic violence in their communities.

During the reporting period, UNHCR partner Qandil conducted a total of 260 vulnerability assessments for refugees in Qaladiz, Arbat, Orga, Chamchamal and Sulaymaniyah City Center.

In Suleimaniyah Governorate, 231 new arrivals were registered. 146 cases were transferred from Erbil and Dohuk and 555 cases were referred to the Residency Department for issuance/renewal of residence permits. In addition 1,099 beneficiaries received consultation and guidance related to registration and residency, and 261 individuals were iris scanned.
Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The unstable situation in Suleimaniyah in early October created uncertainty among the refugee population which was compounded by the fact that the local news is mostly available in Sorani Kurdish which the refugees do not understand. To closely monitor the situation, protection monitoring visits were conducted in Chwarta, Raparin Qaladze, Rania, Chamchamal and Said Sadiq. In addition to the protests, the main issues highlighted as concerns for refugees were: food insecurity and a lack of kerosene and NFIs approaching the winter.

Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- Resettlement pre-assessment screening was undertaken for 24 cases of which 23 were prioritized. The main referral profile of the prioritized cases was refugees with special medical needs.
- Interviews were carried out in all three KR-I Governorates. Identification interviews were conducted for 31 Cases, while 47 cases were reviewed of which 25 were prioritized. The team also undertook 28 RSD/RST interviews and five follow up interviews were conducted while resettlement counseling was provided for 113 cases.
- Thirty five cases (151 individuals) were referred to the MENA Regional Hub in Amman for submission to resettlement countries. The MENA Regional Hub submitted 23 cases (91 individuals) for resettlement to the UK and 12 cases (62 individuals) to Australia.
- A total of 89 persons departed for resettlement with 54 persons traveling to Sweden and 35 persons departing for the UK.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Resettlement processing to the USA from Iraq will most likely restart during the planned selection mission in early December (2-12 Dec).
- Due to delays on processing for some countries and the recent events in Europe, some refugees already in the resettlement process still continue to choose to travel on their own to Europe further negatively impacting overall processing. During the reporting period, eight cases comprising 49 persons were put on hold from further resettlement processing due to reported spontaneous departures to Europe.

Education

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Duhok governorate, UNICEF distributed 450 desks to Gawilan School and another 450 desks to Domiz 2 School.
- Rehabilitation of the Secondary school Kawargosk camp in Erbil Governorate is in its final stages and the work is expected to be completed by the start of November.
- With the school year well up and running, a total of 6,010 students are registered in primary schools in the four camps of Erbil Governorate.
- UNICEF distributed 7,500 pamphlets and posters on Cholera awareness to refugee schools both in camp and outside the camps in Suleimaniyah. In Erbil 3,000 Cholera pamphlets and brochures were distributed to all the camp and non-camp schools.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a shortage of teachers in refugee camp schools as Directorate of Education has not yet been able to mobilize its officials to ensure provision of volunteers in these schools.
Primary school classrooms in Kawergosk and Darashakran camps, Erbil Governorate, are over-crowded. According to the headmaster of the primary school in Darashakran, there are 75-80 students per classroom. In order to solve this problem of overcrowded classrooms, UNHCR will provide three caravans to both schools.

**NON-CAMP Achievements and Impact**
- Quick Impact Projects were implemented in three Kurdish schools in Erbil after the Decision by MoE to enroll Syrian students in Kurdish Schools.
- Literacy started attended by 81 Syrian refugee learners started in War City near Domiz in Duhok Governorate.
- UNICEF provided 960 desks to two new prefab schools in non-camp locations – Qirqa, Suleimaniyah Governorate and Chwar Chira, Erbil Governorate.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**
- A shortage of professional teachers and the non-payment of salaries in camp and non-camp schools in the KR-I remain issues. Also, despite some distributions there is still a lack of classroom furniture - particularly desks.

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### Health

**CAMP Achievements and Impact**
- A total of 31,865 patient consultations were conducted in Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities across Syrian refugee camps. Consultations showed a significant increase of 29% from September, with an average patient consultation rate of 3.5 consultations per person per year still within the expected range of 1-4 consultations. Major causes for patient consultations remained upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and skin infections. A total of 1,047 patients were referred to secondary/tertiary hospitals for further investigations or hospitalization, while 1,200 patients benefited from mental health services.
- UNICEF continued to support local and governmental health authorities for routine immunization services in all refugee camps. A total of 1,935 children under five years old (U5) were immunized against polio, 288 infants under one year of age were vaccinated against measles and 323 children under the age of five received vitamin A supplements to reduce child mortality.
- In Al Obaidy camp, 368 individuals received health care services at the camp medical clinic. 20 children were also vaccinated by the Department of Health in Al Qaim.
- In all KR-I camps, 2,545 children under five years of age accessed UNICEF-supported growth monitoring and baby hut services. Information-sharing and counselling on maternal and child health continued, reaching an estimated 1,390 pregnant and lactating women on infant and child feeding and nutrition. A total of 832 infants were also reached by UNICEF with home services to promote home care practices allowing new mothers to become self-sufficient and better caregivers.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**
- The recent Cholera outbreak in Iraq continues to pose a threat inside the country as well as among its neighboring countries. Since the start of the outbreak on 15 September 2015, the Ministry of Health has reported 2,173 confirmed cholera cases with two deaths thus far. WHO and partners (including UNHCR) will support the DoH to conduct a
cholera vaccination campaign in November in the KR-I, targeting an estimated 80,000 refugees with the oral cholera vaccine (OCV) in Arbat, Domiz 1, Domiz 2, Basirma, Darashakran, Kawergoski and Qushtapa.

- Greater immunization efforts are needed to target vulnerable groups at the border as once the refugees settle into the camp and host communities the risk of disease outbreaks becomes greater.
- The current national budgetary crisis in Iraq and in particular the KR-I has limited health services. Also high turnover of staff has had effect on delivery of health services in the refugee camps.
- Departure of some of the health staff to Europe is posing a major challenge. This contributes to staff shortage for healthcare service provision.
- Transition to DoH for provision of PHC services in Domiz 1 has commenced in October. MSF-CH will continue to provide specialized services in Domiz camp including the maternity, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and community outreach programmes. MSF has donated drugs to the DoH, estimated to run until March 2016.

NON-CAMP
Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR and its partners face increasing constraints to raise the needed funds to maintain health services for refugees. Continued support for health care services provided by the Ministry of Health and humanitarian actors is a key priority to prevent excess morbidity and mortality among the displaced Syrian population.

Food Security and Nutrition

CAMP
Achievements and Impact

- In total, 53,855 Syrian refugees received WFP food assistance in October, all of which was through vouchers. The monthly voucher value remained at a reduced rate of either IQD 22,300 for the extremely vulnerable to food insecurity or IQD 11,700 for those vulnerable to food insecurity.
- In Al Obaidy camp, Anbar Province, UNHCR through the Iraqi Salvation Humanitarian Organisation (ISHO) continued to distribute two pieces of bread per refugee per day for the entire camp population in addition to complementary food assistance of IQD 17,500 to 697 refugees in the camp. To address the gap in delivery of food parcels, UNHCR through ISHO distributed an additional amount of IQD 25,000 for 925 refugees.
- The transition from in-kind food to paper vouchers in Arbat, the last remaining camp distributing food parcels, occurred during October meaning that now all nine refugee camps in the KR-I are currently using paper vouchers.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WFP was unable to deliver food commodities to Al Obaidy camp in Al Qaim in Anbar Governorate, where ongoing military operations continue to hinder access to the camp.
NON CAMP

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A food security and vulnerability assessment in the host communities in the three governorates in KR-I is expected to commence in the month of November. The results from the assessment will better inform WFP’s programming in the communities.

Water and Sanitation

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF completed the construction of sanitation facilities for people with disabilities and renovated other WASH facilities through a private sector contractor in 6 schools in Domiz 1, Gawilan and Akre camps, Dohuk Governorate.
- In Darashakran, construction of sanitation units (household latrine and shower) for 285 new shelter plots by KURDS/UNHCR has been 65% completed; the remaining works are expected to be completed by end of November 2015. Phase four of the construction of sanitation units for 308 new shelter plots is also being undertaken by KURDS/UNHCR and is expected to be completed by end of December 2015. Construction of garbage dumping site by ERC/UNHCR has also been fully completed.
- Repairing of the sewer network in Qushtapa camp was completed by KURDS/UNHCR in order to maintain sanitary conditions in the camp.
- Construction of new family latrines in the pre-fabricated container area of Basirma has been started by ACF/UNHCR, and is expected to be completed by first week of December 2015.
- A cleaning campaign was organized by ACF/UNHCR in the four refugee camps in Erbil Governorate focusing on collection and disposal of solid waste.
- Garbage collection in all 4 refugee camps in Erbil (Kawergosk, Darashakran, Basirma and Qushtapa) and 1 refugee camp (Arbat) in Sulaymaniyah continues with financial assistance from UNHCR. Erbil Refugee Council is implementing partner in Erbil whereas IRC is implementing partner in Sulaymaniyah.
- In Al-Obaidy camp, the maintenance team of ISHO repaired damages to the water network in the camp which occurred during a storm at the start of October.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- There is a need for construction of waste water treatment plant for Domiz 1 and 2 to reduce the pressure on daily desludging activity.
- In Suleimaniyah Governorate improvements to the water and sanitation facilities of 50 families has been completed by UNHCR through QANDIL.
- There has been continued advocacy for the financing of the construction of Mosul dam water supply project. The project will supplement safe drinking water resources, thus ensuring a sustainable water supply for the for 35,000 individuals in Domiz 1&2 camps in the medium to long term.
Shelter and NFIs

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Relocation of the families from irregular locations in Domiz 1 camp to the empty plots in Domiz 2 camp was completed, with a total of 216 new plots now inhabited.
- UNHCR through Qandil provided full NFI kits to 57 families in Gawilan and Domiz 1 camps, Dohuk Governorate, as well as supplementary NFI items to 91 newly added family members (new births and family reunification cases). Additionally, 26 tents and five plastic sheets were provided to families in Gawilan camp. UNHCR/Qandil also provided kerosene heaters and jerry cans to 230 families in Akre camp.
- In Dohuk Governorate, UNHCR through partner Qandil, has begun its winterization response in refugee camps. CRIs are being distributed on a targeted basis, while it is planned that all Syrian refugees in both camp and non-camp locations will be provided kerosene.
- Construction of 185 new shelter plots in Qushtapa camp has been started by DRC/UNHCR. The works include, site preparation, construction of kitchen units, tent slabs and WASH facilities, however, families will only be relocated to these plots early next year.
- Targeted winterization distributions have commenced in three of the four camps in Erbil Governorate with distributions in the last remaining camp, Darashkran, scheduled to start in the first week of November.
- Construction of 683 meters of storm and grey water drainage pipe is completed in Kawergosk camp, which will help to discharge storm and grey water out of the camp and prevent flooding; the work was completed by UNHCR through ERC.
- Construction of 308 new shelter plots in Darashakran has been started by KURDS/UNHCR; the earth work is 80% completed and most of the construction materials have been delivered on site.
- In Arbat Camp YAO, on behalf of UNHCR, distributed tents to 46 families, and plastic sheeting, kerosene heater, kerosene jerry cans and hygiene kits to 534 families whose tents were storm damaged. YAO also distributed 200 liters of kerosene to all 1,511 refugee families in Arbat.
- In Al-Obaidy Camp, UNHCR through ISHO distributed 522 sanitary napkins, provided 14 CRI Kits to newly arrived families and provided 183 families with a total of 11,900 liters of kerosene.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to the security situation at Al-Obaidy Camp, UNHCR could not deliver any CRIs resulting in an acute shortage as reported by camp management partner ISHO. There is also acute shortage in adult and baby diapers and the quantity of sanitary napkins distributed does not meet the needs of the population.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, in partnership with Qandil, completed the renovation of 50 houses for refugees living out of camp in Barzian District, Suleimaniyah Governorate. The renovated houses are properly insulated against winter drafts and supplied with proper latrines and showers.
During the reporting period, YAO conducted cash for winterization assessment for vulnerable families in Dukhan, Penjwen, Suleimaniyah and also in non-camp locations in Halabja governorate. UNHCR will provide USD 200 per family for 2,000 vulnerable refugee families that are in need of assistance during the coldest winter months. The distribution will start in late October.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Domiz 1 camp, coordination and collaboration between the BRHA camp management staff and the appointed mukhtars needs to be improved in order to ameliorate the data collection processes. Capacity building support should be provided to facilitate this. Coordination between BRHA management and the Civil Defense Office (CDO) also needs to be strengthened.
- Domiz 2 camp management approached UNHCR to discuss the possibility of upgrading some 40 shelters for extremely vulnerable families.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR livelihood partner DRC held two life skill trainings in Akre settlement, in which 43 refugees participated. Livelihoods scale-up trainings were organized in Domiz 1 and Domiz 2 and Gawilan camps benefiting 79 persons. Life skill post monitoring was conducted for 398 beneficiaries of grants, as well as for non-grant recipients.
- The CTA internet stations were used by 133 persons in Domiz camps, 91 persons in Gawilan camp. Main activities were online-communication with family members abroad, drafting CVs and doing general online research.
- In Gawilan camp, 11 vulnerable individuals were identified and referred to DRC for enrolment in upcoming training.
- In Basirma camp, 1,354 individuals participated in English, Arabic and Maths courses, and sports activities. In Qushtapa refugee camp, 265 women, men, boys and girls participated in community-based activities organized at the community center.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The general economic situation of KRI has seriously affected the livelihood and income levels of households.

Working in partnership

- International Girl’s Day was celebrated on 11 October across all camps, under the theme "Girls can do what boys can do." UNHCR, NRC, Save the Children and Al-Masala were all involved in the organization of activities for refugee girls and women in all camps. Coinciding with this, a campaign on the dangers of was launched with UNHCR, UPP, UNFPA, DCVAW, BRHA, NGOs and religious leaders in attendance at the opening ceremony.
DONOR INFORMATION

Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operation.

Donors who have contributed to the operation:

- Australia
- Canada
- CERF
- Denmark
- European Union
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Iraq
- Japan
- Kuwait
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Romania
- Switzerland
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- Private Donors

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AOG  Armed opposition group
ANC  Antenatal care
BIA/BID  Best Interests Assessment/Best Interests Determination
CRI  Core Relief Items (formerly known as non-food items/NFIs)
DoE  Department of Education
DoH  Department of Health
EVI  Extremely Vulnerable Individual
HH  Households
IDP  Internally displaced people
KR-I  Kurdistan Region of Iraq
MoDM  Ministry of Migration and Displacement
MoE  Ministry of Education
PARC  Protection Assistance Reintegration Centre
PHC  Primary Health Care
RSD  Refugee status determination
SGBV  Sexual and gender-based violence
UASC  Unaccompanied and separated children
WASH  Water, sanitation and hygiene
ANNEXES

Refugees by Areas of Origin in Syria

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Links:
For information on the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) please click on http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/.
Announcements of all sector meetings along with respective agendas and minutes, and other information on sector-wide progress such as 3W’s, dashboards and camp profiles, are available on the inter-agency information sharing portal at http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php.

For more information on the work of UNHCR and our partners in Iraq, please follow us on Twitter at @unhcriraq and on Facebook at “UNHCRinIraq”
UNHCR Registration Trends for Syrian Persons of Concern

UNHCR Registration Trends for Syrian Persons of Concern
27 Oct 2015

Registration Unit | Total Persons of Concern | Individuals | Households
--- | --- | --- | ---
| | | | |

This profile is based on 245,134 proGres registered individuals.

Age and Gender Breakdown

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<th>Age (Years)</th>
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Place of Origin

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<tr>
<td>Duhok</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erbil</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5.07%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Governorate | Individuals | Households | % Total
--- | --- | --- | ---
Duhok | 94,626 | 35,685 | 39.00%
Erbil | 111,945 | 42,630 | 45.67%
Suwaymaniyah | 29,337 | 11,649 | 11.97%
Anbar | 4,510 | 1,159 | 1.84%
Nineveh | 5,880 | 2,070 | 6.55%
Kirkuk | 770 | 278 | 0.31%
Baghdad | 594 | 301 | 0.24%
Other | 781 | 420 | 0.32%
Total Iraq | 245,134 | 87,001 | 100%

Camp and non-camp population comparison

Urban: 61.40% | Camp: 38.60%

From 16 June 2014, as Al-Obaidi Camp became inaccessible to UN agencies and other humanitarian staff, the camp registered population figure is not updated.