

Iraq

11 November 2019

Since the start of military action in North East Syria (NES) on 9 October 2019 **14,779 individuals** have crossed into the KR-I seeking refuge.

1,565 Syrian refugees have obtained clearance to reunite with family members resident in KR-I

Reflecting the dynamic nature of displacement and based upon protection assessments conducted by, a total of **196 new arrivals have voluntarily returned to Syria.**

KEY FIGURES

14,779

New arrivals
since 14 October 2019

234,840

Syrian refugees in Iraq
as of 31 October 2019

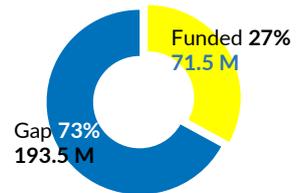
KEY STATISTICS -- 9 November 2019

	Individuals
Average daily arrivals since 3 November	163
Bardarash camp population	12,395
Gawilan camp NES population	2,033
Estimated new arrivals who have left camps	1,565

11,062 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR
Out of whom **49% female | 51% male | 51% children**
Main areas of origin Qamishli (31%) | Ras al Ain (29%)

FUNDING AS OF 31 OCTOBER 2019

USD 265 M
requested for 3RP in Iraq²



²3RP appeal preceding NES influx

Operational Context



Partners assisting newly arrived refugees at Gawilan refugee camp
@Firas el Khateeb

Recent military operations in North East Syria forced thousands of people to flee their homes and to seek safety across the border in neighbouring Iraq. As of 9 November 2019, some 14,779 Syrian refugees have crossed into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Most new arrivals are originally from Ras al Ain and Ain Al Arab, followed by Qamishli and Darbasiyah.

Prior to the influx, there were five informal crossing points through which Syrian refugees entered Iraq, the most used ones being Sehela and Al-Walid. KR-I authorities have confirmed that all five crossing points remain open for families seeking refuge. As of 25 October, however, all individuals entering the KR-I through any of these points are redirected by the KR-I security service, Assayesh, to Sehela transit

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site where they go through an initial security screening. After this screening, new arrivals are transported to refugee camps based on shelter availability and instructions provided by local authorities.

The number of daily arrivals into the KR-I over the past week has significantly decreased with a new average of around 163 individuals per day. New arrivals are reporting tighter security controls at the border, while others believe that as the situation appears calmer people are cautiously waiting before deciding whether to leave their homes and villages. New arrivals entering the KR-I continue to report paying smugglers around USD 250 USD per person to help them reach the border.

Since the beginning of the emergency, two camps have been designated to host the new arrivals -- Bardarash Refugee Camp, which previously hosted internally displaced Iraqis; and Gawilan Refugee Camp, which already hosts over 7,000 Syrian refugees who fled to Iraq prior to this emergency. As both locations are now reaching full capacity, the authorities in Dohuk Governorate are identifying an additional site to accommodate new arrivals. As of 9 November 2019, out of the total 14,779 Syrian refugees who have entered the KR-I, over 12,000 individuals are hosted in Bardarash Refugee Camp, and over 2,000 new refugees are in Gawilan Refugee Camp.



Partners conducting tent to tent protection assessments in Bardarash refugee camp @Firas Al Khateeb

Reunification of newly arrived refugees with relatives outside these two camps continues. With the support of the Assayesh, 1,565 refugees have so far been cleared to leave the camps to reunite with relatives already residing in the KR-I or to obtain specialized care. At the same time, reflecting the dynamic nature of displacement and following protection assessments conducted by UNHCR, a total of 196 new arrivals have already voluntarily returned to Syria.

Humanitarian actors and local authorities responding to this emergency continue to work closely and collaboratively to meet the needs of the new arrivals. Based upon current assessments of the situation in Syria and the rate of new arrivals, it is possible that the situation may expand beyond the Duhok Governorate. The response and coordination efforts will be integrated under the existing Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) framework.

Working in Partnership

Throughout the current response, the host government, communities, and partners, have shown exceptional generosity towards new arrivals. Twice weekly interagency coordination meetings are ongoing at camp level. A fortnightly inter-agency coordination meeting in Duhok ensures a comprehensive and integrated operational response to the situation, with sector working group coordination meetings also being organized on a needs basis. Main sectors covered by the response include coordination, protection, basic needs, food, shelter, WASH, health and education. In addition, the national sector leads reviewed the response and preparedness plan and provided support to the overall coordination at governorate level.

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Thank you to partners participating in the response

Action Contre la Faim | ACTED | Assayesh | Barzani Charity Foundation | Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs | CARE | Directorate of Health | Directorate of Labour and Social Affairs | Escape from Darkness | GOAL | German Red Cross | Harikar | Heevie Organization | ICRC | IOM | Iraqi Red Crescent Society | Khalsa Aid | Lotus Flower | Lutheran World Federation | MedAir | Médecins Sans Frontières | Mercy Corp | Norwegian Refugee Council | Peace Winds Japan | Plain Compassion Crisis Response | Polish Humanitarian Aid | Peace Winds Japan | Qandil | REACH Initiative | REACH Iraq | Samaritan's Purse | Save The Children | Triangle Génération Humanitaire | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | War Child | World Vision

Achievements

As of 9 November 2019, and with the coordination efforts of local authorities, agencies and partners, Syrian refugees arriving in Duhok Governorate have benefited from the following individual and/or community assistance:



COORDINATION

Achievements and Impact

- Coordination mechanisms have been established to ensure a comprehensive, organized and efficient response to the emergency. This includes continuous contact with authorities to monitor new arrivals to KR-I as well as coordination with partners to ensure their safe transportation to camps, through sector-level, twice weekly camp-level and bi-monthly Duhok-level coordination meetings.
- Camp management, field coordination, and security staff continue to be present in Bardarash and Gawilan Refugee Camps, supporting efficient and ongoing coordination among all partners.
- Inter-camp family reunification between Bardarash and Gawilan Refugee Camps is ongoing in coordination with the relevant authorities. Transportation is being arranged in coordination with camp management.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- To date, authorities decide on a daily basis which camp new arrivals are transported to. At the same time a new camp is being decided upon by the authorities.



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- Protection services continue to be provided to all new arrivals. This includes registration, individual case management, identification and verification of persons with specific needs, psychosocial support, legal aid, protection monitoring, SGBV referral and response, child protection, community-based initiatives, and awareness raising and sensitization on issues including registration and family reunification procedures.

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- As of 9 November 2019, 11,062 Syrian refugees have been registered with UNHCR, out of whom 49% are female, 51% are male, and 51% are children. Main areas of origin of those registered are Qamishli (31%) and Ras al Ain (29%), Ain Al Arab (6%), al-Hasakeh (5%) and al-Malika (5%).
- Close to 28% of new arrivals have been identified as individuals with specific needs. Identified cases of gender-based violence are being closely followed up by specialised partners. At-risk and extremely vulnerable individuals are being fast-tracked for registration.
- Identification of unaccompanied and separated children is ongoing along with Best Interest Assessments and Child Protection assessments. As of this week, 136 Best Interest Assessments have been conducted for 299 unaccompanied and separated children (35 unaccompanied and 264 separated children). Advocacy with the General Assayesh in Akre is ongoing to facilitate the reunification of unaccompanied and separated children with relatives (not necessarily immediate family members), across the KR-I. Family members and/or relatives of the concerned children will have to provide evidence of their relationship, as well as obtain the necessary security clearances from their local Assayesh.
- To date, 2,407 families (2,000 in Bardarash and 407 in Gawilan) have participated in Child Protection Surveys.
- Immediate care through Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support are being provided to all new arrivals, along with counselling for children. Accompaniment is provided to maximize access essential services.
- Child friendly spaces (CFS) are being established in Bardarash camp to provide recreational activities, non-formal education, PSS, art therapy, and child and youth resilience activities. One CFS is now operational and providing daily recreational activities. Two more will be up and running in the next few days. Existing facilities in Gawilan are being used and enhanced.
- Community Outreach Volunteers continue to conduct door-to-door awareness sessions on available services, employment opportunities, fire prevention and anti-fraud. Additional Communication with Communities activities are ongoing in Bardarash and Gawilan Refugee Camps to ensure that all new arrivals are aware of and can access all services provided in the camp.
- Two help desks continue to be operated in both camps. Key messages on, inter alia, registration processes, fraud and exploitation amongst others continue to be disseminated through Community Outreach Volunteers.
- As of 03 November, legal aid actors started providing door-to-door awareness session about civil documentation in Bardarash Refugee Camp. Legal aid services include provision of legal counselling, legal representation and financial assistance for transportation.
- Pre-return rapid surveys and protection counselling are continuing for families/individuals who expressed their wish to return to Syria. Individuals who wish to return are supported by Assayesh and processed at Derabon and return through Pheskhabour Crossing Point. Overall, the top three reasons for wanting to return include:
 1. Desire to reunite with the families (25%);
 2. Lengthy Assayesh clearance procedures to depart camp, tied to restriction of freedom of movement (25%); and
 3. Services (including medical treatment) in the camps not meeting expectations of refugees (16%).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Needs identified through protection monitoring are addressed under each sector below.

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- There is mounting frustration in the camps among people of concern who wish to reunite with family members already in the KR-I, but who are facing hurdles with clearances and procedures to leave the camp.
- There are needs for increased educational programmes and recreational activities for children and youth.
- Additional fire extinguisher and enhanced fire risk awareness/mitigation activities are needed and being scaled up.
- Participatory refugee/community leadership structures are being developed in Bardarash and efforts to ensure inclusion of new arrivals in participatory structures in Gawilan are ongoing. Capacity building will be required.



BASIC NEEDS

Achievements and Impact

- All new arrivals continue to be provided with core relief items including, but not limited to: cooking stoves, kerosene heaters, kitchen items, high thermal blankets, mattresses, quilts and jerry cans. Winterization kits for tents are also being distributed in preparation for the winter.
- Partners continue providing hygiene and dignity kits, as well as blankets and mattresses, at the Sehela transit site for new arrivals overnighing.
- Kerosene for heating and cooking is being provided to all new arrivals in Bardarash and Gawilan Refugee Camps.
- Hygiene and baby kit distributions are ongoing in both camps. A total of 2,200 baby kits and 2,900 female hygiene kits will be distributed by the end of November.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A significant number of people continue reporting the need for winter clothes and shoes.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- New Arrivals and those overnighing in Sehela are provided a hot meal upon arrival.
- Upon arrival, all families/individuals in Bardarash and Gawilan Refugee Camps have benefited from regular food assistance through provision of Family Food Rations and Immediate Response Rations.
- Water bottles and snack packages continue to be distributed at Sehela crossing point for new arrivals.
- Taps have been installed across Bardarash Refugee Camp, giving all refugees access to potable water.
- In Gawilan Refugee Camp, water trucking continues whilst the main submersible pump for the borehole is being repaired.

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Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Nutritional Surveys will be undertaken and noted gaps will be responded to.
- Consideration of implementation of possible cash modalities in lieu of rations is ongoing and depends largely upon movement options.



SHELTER

Achievements and Impact

- All new arrivals to date have been provided with shelter. As of 9 November 2019, a total of 2649 tents have been installed in Bardarash Refugee Camp, which remains near full capacity. 475 tents have been installed in Gawilan Refugee Camp, likewise reaching near full capacity.
- Infrastructure works are ongoing in Bardarash and Gawilan Refugee Camps, including improvement of roads, cleaning of shelter surroundings, fumigation installation of solar lights camp delimitations, and enhancement of common facilities.
- In Gawilan Refugee Camp, infrastructure works such as construction of concrete tent bases, open channels, internal roads and electricity are ongoing. As tent bases and surrounding areas are being completed, refugees are being moved with the help of partners. This will allow for more dignified living conditions as winter approaches.
- Electricity is being provided to refugees in both camps.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Communal cooking areas are needed in Gawilan Refugee Camp in order to prevent additional risks created by families cooking inside tents. These can be prioritised as soon as basic infrastructure is in place.
- Upon finalization of a new camp location by the authorities, partners will mobilize to ensure all necessary infrastructure.



WASH

Achievements and Impact

- The water supply line to Bardarash Refugee Camp has been repaired to ensure sustainable access of safe drinking water for all individuals in the camp.
- In Bardarash Refugee Camp, all latrines and showers have been fully rehabilitated. Water storage tanks have been provided to all households. Solid waste collection bins have been distributed to support solid waste management.
- A cleaning campaign was launched in Bardarash Refugee Camp on 4 November in coordination with camp management. The campaign is intended to encourage the early participation of the camp population in keeping their environment clean, sharing good practices to ensure cleanliness in and around the camp to encourage healthy living.
- Desludging of septic tanks is ongoing in both camps. So far, over 128 septic tanks have been desludged.
- Door to door hygiene awareness sessions are ongoing in Bardarash camp. Topics covered during the sessions include safe disposal of solid waste, importance of hand washing, water conservation,

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lice treatment and prevention, safe disposal and waste management practices and environmental hygiene amongst others.

- In Gawilan Refugee Camp, 45 communal latrines have been installed benefitting all new arrivals. Additional latrines and bath units are planned to be installed in the coming days. In Gawilan, an additional 150 mobile latrines have been provided and are being installed.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- As the population increases and in order to move away from communal WASH facilities as soon as possible, efforts to enhance overall WASH infrastructure in both locations is ongoing.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- Since the beginning of the emergency, medical teams are available at Sehela transit site and at Bardarash and Gawilan Refugee Camps to ensure adequate access to health services.
- Health services are provided round the clock in Sehela transit site through a mobile medical unit. This includes general consultations for adults and children and wound and injury care. So far, 393 individuals have benefited from Out-Patient consultations. Reproductive health services are available. Vaccinations teams from the Directorate of Health are vaccinating all new arrivals under 15 years of age with polio and measles vaccines.
- Primary Health Care Centres (PHCC) are available in both Bardarash and Gawilan Refugee Camps, providing a range of health services including out patient consultations, sexual and reproductive health consultations, Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support, in addition to individual mental-health counselling sessions.
- Vaccination and nutrition screening services are available through mobile teams in both camps and at the PHCC.
- Serious medical cases are able to access treatment outside of camps.
- Frontline staff including registration staff have received basic training on Psychological First Aid (PFA).
- PFA is provided to the new arrivals at various locations including at the registration and reception centres and through tent-to-tent visits. This is critical to support the identification of cases in need for more focused and specialized care which are then referred to the onsite clinical psychologist.
- The caravans in the vicinity of the PHCC were refurbished. – In coordination with the Child and Adolescent Mental Healthcare Hospital in Duhok, teams of outreach workers including psychologists and social workers have been deployed to the camp to address the needs of the children referred for specialized care.
- MHPSS activities are provided in both camps in coordination with the Directorate of Health. Trained staff together with protection staff are conducting tent to tent visits across both camps.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Bardarash Refugee Camp, laboratory services are still not functional due to a shortage of laboratory equipment and supplies. Medicines for chronic illness are also in short supply. A number of complaints have been received about long queues at the PHCC.

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- In Bardarash Refugee Camp more ambulances are required. Partners on the ground are working jointly in identifying available resources in order to overcome this gap.
- In Gawilan Refugee Camp, health actors have expressed the need for additional support (staff, supplies, medication), as the number of patients is increasing due to the rise in the number of new arrivals in need of medical care.
- Ongoing protection assessments have revealed a need for additional psychosocial support for children who have gone through traumatising experiences in Syria.
- Gaps in MHPSS Services for adults include one and one counselling, psychiatric care and provision of psychotropic drugs. In coordination with Directorate of Health, proposals are being studied to identify specialized partners to ensure the continuity of comprehensive primary health care and MHPSS beyond immediate emergency phase.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- Education partners, together with local authorities in Duhok, will begin the construction of a primary school in Bardarash Refugee Camp. The school is expected to be ready by the end of the year. In the interim, non-formal education activities and temporary learning spaces are operational. The eventual education curriculum will be decided by the Ministry of Higher Education.
- A Temporary Learning Space is now operational in Bardarash camp for sport and recreational activities, as well as for PSS and basic literacy and numeracy courses for children.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- New and enhanced primary and secondary education facilities will be required.



LIVELIHOODS

Achievements and Impact

- Camp management in Bardarash are establishing a “job centre” for in-camp employment, as well as a market area.
- In both camps, numerous refugee-run shops and eating establishments have started to open.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- No specific livelihood and self-reliance programmes have been established to date. This remains a major gap amongst the refugees who report having little to no cash. According to current data, around 40% of individuals in the camp are of working age.

Special Thanks to Donors

Partners are very grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Syrian refugee response in Iraq as well as those who have contributed un-earmarked & broadly earmarked funds:

Canada | European Union | Denmark | Estonia | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Kuwait | Netherlands | Norway | Private Donors | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

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