

Iraq

3 November 2019

Since the start of military action in North East Syria (NES) an estimated 13,634 individuals have crossed into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) seeking refuge.

All refugees have entered KR-I through five different informal crossing points. As of 25 October, all new arrivals are redirected to Sehela transit site.

Families arriving to Sehela are transported to camps based on shelter availability and instructions provided by local authorities, Bardarash camp being prioritized.

KEY FIGURES

13,634

New arrivals since 14 October 2019

229,285

Syrian refugees in Iraq as of 31 September 2019

KEY STATISTICS as of 3 November 2019

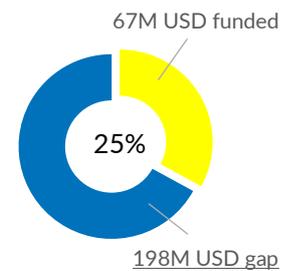
	Individuals
Average daily arrivals since 14 October	704
Bardarash camp population	11,237
Gawilan camp NES population ¹	1,483
Estimated new arrivals who have left camps	759

¹ Total population in Gawilan stands at 8,714 individuals.

6,843 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR
 Out of which 48% female | 52% male | 51% children
 Main areas of origin Qamishli (32%) | Ras al Ain (25%)

FUNDING AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

USD 265 M
 requested for 3RP in Iraq²



²3RP appeal preceding NES influx

Operational context

Following recent military operations in North East Syria (NES), thousands of families have escaped their villages to seek safety in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). As of 3 November 2019, an estimated 13,634 Syrian refugees have crossed into Iraq. Most new arrivals are originally from Qamishli and Ras al Ain, followed by al-Malika, al-Hasakeh, and Afrin.



New arrivals walk through Bardarash Refugee Camp © Alejandro Staller

There are currently five informal crossing points through which Syrian refugees are entering 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, however, as of 25 October, all individuals entering the KR-I through any of these points are redirected by Assayesh to Sehela transit site, where they go through an initial security screening. After receiving clearance from Assayesh, new arrivals are transported to refugee camps based on shelter availability and instructions provided by local authorities.

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

While at the peak of the influx over 1,500 individuals were arriving daily to KR-I, this figure has significantly decreased during the past days, with a new steady average of around 300 arrivals per day. New arrivals are providing different information, some stressing that security controls at the border are tighter, while others state that the situation has become calmer and people are waiting before taking next steps. So far, most families entering the KR-I reported having paid smugglers between USD 350 and USD 1,000 per family to help them reach the border, the amount varies per case.

Since the beginning of the emergency, two different refugee camps have been designated to host the new arrivals, namely Bardarash camp, which was re-opened, and Gawilan refugee camp, which was already operating. At the time of writing this report, the preferred destination by authorities for new arrivals is Bardarash refugee camp. As of 3 November 2019, out of the total 13,634 Syrian refugees who have entered the KR-I, 11,237 individuals are hosted in Bardarash refugee camp, and 1,483 in Gawilan refugee camp. A significant number of refugees have indicated that they have relatives across KR-I with whom they would like to reunite. In order to be able to leave camps, refugees



Refugee children playing outside their tent in Bardarash © Alejandro Staller

need to obtain permission from Assayesh. To do so, family members outside the camp who want to sponsor their relatives need to approach Assayesh in their KR-I governorate with their residency card to get clearance. Assayesh in each KR-I governorate clears, compiles, and shares the list of cleared sponsors with Assayesh in Akre, who then shares with Assayesh in camps for final clearance before being allowed to depart. As of 3 November, an estimated 759 new arrivals have left camps to other locations.

As the situation remains volatile, continued efforts are required by all humanitarian actors, including local authorities, UN agencies, and NGOs, to ensure all new arrivals have access to adequate protection and assistance to meet their needs. At the current rate of arrivals, it is expected that the situation will steadily expand beyond Duhok governorate and 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, remaining the first and most important responders to the emergency. A weekly interagency coordination meeting is held in Duhok to ensure a comprehensive and integrated operational response to the situation, with sectorial 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.

Thank you to partners participating in the response

Action Contre la Faim (ACF) | ACTED | Assayesh | Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF) | Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs (BRHA) | CARE | DoH | DoLSA | EOFD | GOAL | German Red Cross (GRC) | Harikar ICRC | IOM | Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) | Khalsa Aid | MedAir | Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) | Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) | Polish Humanitarian Aid (PAH) | PCCR | Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) | Qandil | REACH Impact | Samaritan's Pursue | Save The Children (STC) | Triangle | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO World Vision (WV)

Achievements

With the coordination efforts of local authorities, agencies, and partners, as of 3 November 2019, Syrian refugees arriving in Duhok governorate, KR-I, have benefited from the following assistance.



COORDINATION

Achievements and Impact

- Coordination mechanisms have been established to ensure a comprehensive, organized and efficient response to the emergency. This includes the continuous contact with authorities to monitor new arrivals to KR-I as well as coordination with partners to ensure their safe transportation to camps.
- Camp management, field coordination, and security staff are present in Bardarash and Gawilan camp to guarantee efficient and ongoing coordination among all partners operating in the field.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- To date, authorities decide on a daily basis which will be the destination for new arrivals, which provides a level of uncertainty to partners working on the ground.



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- Protection services are provided to all new arrivals on an ongoing basis, this includes registration of new arrivals, individual case management, identification of persons with special needs, psychosocial support (PSS), legal aid, protection monitoring, SGBV referral and response, child protection, community-based initiatives, and awareness raising ranging, including registration and family reunification procedures.
- As of 3 November 2019, 6,843 Syrian refugees have been registered with UNHCR, out of which 48% are female, 52% are male, and 51% are children. Main areas of origin of those registered are Qamishli (32%) and Ras al Ain (25%), followed by al-Malika (6%), al-Hasakeh (6%), and Afrin (4%). Around 77% are new registered cases and 23% are reactivations. In addition, close to 7% of new arrivals have been identified as individuals with special needs.
- Identification of unaccompanied and separated children, as well as persons with specific needs is ongoing along with Best Interest Determination, and Child Protection assessments. To date, 1,664 families have participated in Child Protection Surveys.
- Immediate care through Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) is being provided to all new arrivals, along with counselling for children as well as accompaniment to access essential services. As of 3 November 2019, 2,445 individuals (1,112 children and 1,333 adult-parents) have benefited from PFA and PSS.
- Child friendly spaces are being established to provide recreational activities, non-formal education, PSS, art therapy, and child and youth resilience activities.
- Door to door awareness sessions about available services are underway, civil documentation procedures will start on the 3 of November. Additional communication with communities (CwC) activities are ongoing in Bardarash and Gawilan camp to ensure that all new arrivals are aware of and can access all services provided in the camp.

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- Provision of legal counselling and legal representation, including covering financial fees, are planned to begin shortly.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Needs identified through protection monitoring are further developed under each sector.
- There is mounting frustration in the camps among people of concern who wish to leave the camp and be reunited with family members within KR-I but who are facing hurdles with clearances and procedures to leave the camp.



BASIC NEEDS

Achievements and Impact

- To date, all new arrivals (13,634 individuals) have been provided with core relief items. Including, but not limited to: cooking stoves, kerosene heaters, kitchen items, high thermal blankets, mattresses, quilts and jerry cans. Additional winterization kits for tents are currently being distributed.
- During the reporting period: over 650 families have received hygiene kits, and up to 250 families have received dignity kits in Bardarash and Gawilan camps. In addition, over 1,000 packs of diapers have been distributed at Sehela Reception Centre.
- Partners continue providing hygiene and dignity kits, as well as blankets and mattresses, at the Sehela Reception Centre for new arrivals overnighting.
- Kerosene for heating and cooking will be provided to all new arrivals in Bardarash and Gawilan during the months of November and December, 100L per family per month, along with a 220L capacity barrel per family for kerosene storage.
- In November, partners plan to distribute 2,200 baby kits and 2,900 female hygiene kits in Bardarash and Gawilan camps. In addition, over 750 fire extinguishers will be distributed in Bardarash camp.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A significant number of families continue reporting the need for clothes and winter blankets.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- Since the beginning of the emergency, partners have coordinated to ensure the provision of water, hot meals and continued access to food for all new arrivals, including at Sehela Reception Centre, and Bardarash and Gawilan camps.
- Over 13,000 individuals in Bardarash and Gawilan camps have benefited from food assistance. One-month Family Food Rations (FFRs) have been distributed to all families in Bardarash camp along with Immediate Response Rations (IRRs). Families in Gawilan camp have been provided with IRRs pending deliverance of kerosene. IRRs do not require cooking and include dates, biscuits, beans, canned chicken and chickpeas. As of 3 November, 10,195 refugees in Bardarash and Gawilan have received IRRs. FFR distributions are ongoing in Bardarash for new arrivals and will start in Gawilan as soon as families receive cooking fuel.

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- Over 95,000 bottles of water have been distributed at Sehela Reception Centre, and Bardarash and Gawilan camp, along with 5,400 snack packages. No more bottled water is being provided in Bardarash camp, as tap water provided in tents is drinkable.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Many individuals have complained about not being able to access food distribution sites. There has been a suggestion to hire daily labourers to help vulnerable families like sick, elderly, or pregnant women, who are unable to carry their food rations to their tents during distribution. This is being explored as a solution.



SHELTER

Achievements and Impact

- All new arrivals to date have been provided with shelter. As of 3 November 2019, a total of 2,673 tents have been installed in Bardarash camp, which has currently reached full capacity. In addition, 293 tents have been installed in Gawilan camp.
- Three Rubb halls have been installed in Sehela Reception Centre to accommodate all new arrivals until individuals are transported to camps.
- All tents in Bardarash and Gawilan have been provided with electricity.
- Infrastructure works are ongoing in Bardarash and Gawilan camps, including improvement of roads, cleaning of shelter surroundings, installation of solar lights camp delimitations, and enhancement of common facilities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Cooking facilities or areas are needed in Gawilan camp in order to prevent additional risks created by families cooking inside tents.



WASH

Achievements and Impact

- Works are ongoing both in Bardarash and Gawilan camps to ensure all new arrivals have adequate access to WASH facilities. This includes, connections of sewage pipes to toilet basins, replacement of toilet basins, replacement of damaged water pipes, repair of water networks and boreholes, base floor casting, maintenance of water infrastructures, and procurement of materials to fix doors and windows of sanitation facilities. A WASH sector coordinator has been deployed to support all WASH actors working in Bardarash and Gawilan camps.
- The water supply line to Bardarash camp has been repaired to ensure sustainable access of safe drinking water for all individuals in the camp.
- In Bardarash camp, 2,262 latrines and showers have been fully rehabilitated, and 425 water storage tanks of 500L capacity have been provided to households. 150 garbage bins with a capacity of 120L have been procured along with 20 garbage bins with a capacity of 600L to support solid waste management. Additional WASH materials including water tanks, buckets and garbage bins will be provided in the coming days (over 2,000 water tanks, 2,580 buckets, and 250 garbage bins in stock). 100 samples for water quality monitoring were checked in Bardarash camp. Meanwhile, six water trucks have been provided in Bardarash camp to support families suffering from water shortage.

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- One truck has been hired for garbage collection in Bardarash camp. To date, garbage collection and disposal is ongoing and covering the whole camp. Trash cans and trash bags have been distributed to all families. Solid waste management including cash for work for garbage collection and disposal will start in mid-November. Desludging activities in Bardarash camp will start soon.
- Six hygiene door to door awareness sessions have been conducted in Bardarash camp, more awareness sessions are planned to take place in the coming days. Topic covered during the sessions include safe disposal of solid waste, importance of hand washing, and others.
- In Gawilan camp, 25 communal latrines and 25 communal bath units are being installed for Transit A site, benefitting all new arrivals. 150 latrines and 150 bath units are planned to be installed in the coming days.
- Latrines and bath units have been also installed in Sehela Reception Centre to support the needs of all new arrivals. Works have been carried out to extend water supply to the site.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Significant WASH works are urgently needed both in Bardarash and Gawilan camps, a significant number of families have reported missing key items in sanitation facilities. This includes over 130 missing doors, 50 windows, 500 window glasses, 385 door opening glasses, 85 PVC plates, and 335 door locks in Bardarash alone.
- General camp cleaning needs to be improved, along with an increase of hygiene promotion campaigns and awareness sessions to enhance waste disposal.
- Many individuals have raised concerns over lack of hot water and bathrooms that do not close.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- Since the beginning of the emergency, medical teams are available at Sehela Reception Centre and at Bardarash and Gawilan camps to ensure adequate access to health services.
- Health-services are provided in Sehela Reception Centre through a mobile clinic. This includes general consultations for adults and children and wound and injury care. So far, 393 individuals have benefited from Out-Patient Department (OPD) consultations.
- A Primary Health Centre is available at Bardarash camp, where health services are provided on a regular basis. Male and female doctors, nurses, and ambulances are available. To date, 985 individuals have benefited from OPD consultations, of which 299 children under 5; 69 individuals have benefited from sexual and reproductive health (SRH) consultations; 490 individuals have received Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS), in addition to the ones reported under protection activities; individual mental-health counselling sessions have been provided to 49 individuals. Two psychosocial workers and a psychologist are providing services in the PHC since 28 October. In addition, partners are also conducting vaccination and nutrition monitoring, and are providing equipment to persons with special needs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Bardarash camp, screening and medical equipment for the PHC is urgently needed, along with medicines for chronic illness. In addition, transport services (regular presence of ambulances) remain weak, with additional ambulances required to ensure provision of adequate medical services in urgent situations. Many families have further complained about long queues to access medical services in the PHC.

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- In Gawilan camp, health actors have expressed the need for additional support, as the number of patients increases by day due to the number of new arrivals in need of medical services. Likewise, support is needed to guarantee increased medicine stocks for new arrivals.
- Reported need for psychosocial support for children who have gone through trauma during the hostilities, as per ongoing protection assessments.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- A Temporary Learning Space (TLS) is being created in Bardarash camp for sport and recreational activities, as well as for PSS and basic literacy and numeracy courses for children.
- Depending on the stability of the population in Bardarash camp, Duhok's Directorate of Education will decide whether to authorize the construction of a school in the camp. The eventual education curriculum will be based on the results of future education assessments. Two spots to build the schools have been already identified.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- As reflected in registration figures, to date, over 51% of the population in Bardarash and Gawilan camps are children aged between 0-17 years old. Education as well as children-related activities are urgently required. The education sub-cluster team including all partners working in the education response conducted a short assessment in Bardarash camp where different challenges have been identified, mainly children having been taught by different curriculums (Arabic Syrian and Kurdish Kurmangi), and children having never attended school.



LIVELIHOODS

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- No livelihood and self-reliance activities have been promoted to date. This remains a major gap in Bardarash camp, particularly considering the significant number of young adults in the camp. According to current data, around 40% of individuals in the camp are in 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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