Report on the situation of Syrian refugees in Iraq

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Introduction:

The influx of Syrian refugees to Iraq has increased, especially in recent times after opening the border crossing points in the provinces of Ninawa and Anbar of Iraq, that comes after the loss of the Syrian regime somewhat to control at the borderline between Syria and Iraq, before the closure of border crossings by the Iraqi government and the concentration of the Iraqi army on the border to prevent Syrians refugees to enter Iraq in the Anbar region, but the displacement to the Kurdistan Region has continues up to the present day and in huge numbers ranging 400 - 600 person per day this returns to the arrests process done by regime especially in the areas of Kurdish also the explosion that happened in the city of Qamishli at 18th August 2012. The Syrian regime's attempt to pull required people to obligatory military service in Kurdish cities, in addition to requesting the reservists as well to join the obligatory military service whom at the end will be forced to kill civilians, resulting in huge displacement towards Kurdistan Region (KR) which also push them to try to prevent refugees from entering to KR through closing the border point, the below picture showing gathering of Syrians on the border point Syria side.
Therefore it was necessary to mobilize all energies by humanitarian organizations working for refugees to redouble their efforts, as it was the case in the Dumis camp in the province of Dahuk, which have seen providing aid and services by international and local organizations also private sector through the following organizations and players (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR - , International Organization for Migration - IOM - , the Directorate of Displacement and Migrations - DDM), which tried to work according to their ability to secure the greatest needs of the refugees, despite the presence of vulnerability factors which seen through the refugees complaints to slow progress of work in the camp as well as demands for continuing to improve the water network and electricity, which significantly disrupted, and the inability of many of them to get the tents and thus they slept in the open or stayed with the families resident of the camp in advance.

The influx of many Syrian refugees to Iraq under this abnormal atmosphere; high temperature with having the sand and dust waves, also as a result of the poor living conditions of the health and psychological of these refugees, have led to the spread of many chronic diseases among children and pregnant women and some young people (such as diarrhea and fever and myasthenia and repeated vomiting and other diseases cases, which is now the main reason to spread of fear among the refugees), especially
after the death of a 23 years old woman named (Av. Z. J) a pregnant in the seventh month as a result of heart failure on 9th June 2012, also the death of a three years old girl named (Hv. T. M.) as a result of falling into a drainage hole on 30th August 2012

The cases of malnutrition among children and women especially the pregnant ones are seen in the camp as well as the surrounding environment for pregnant women and nursing mothers can lead to fetal malnutrition of the infants and which would negatively affect the growth and welfare of children.
In addition to mental illness such as anxiety, depression and some cases of schizophrenia, which led to resorting some young people to use sleeping pills and narcotic, thereby acquiring a state of aggressive and jittering and irritability and there have been some problems among young people, and between the families themselves for the same reason.
In terms of services in the camp still refugees complaints are progressing because of the acute shortage of clean water and the lack of water network in the camp and their dependence on simple water storage which are filled every two days and these storages are susceptible to pollution, in addition to simple electricity network, which rely on virtual wire as well as the sewage are open as shown in the following pictures:
The condition of Syrian refugees living in Erbil:

The refugees demand on registration in the office of UNHCR is highly increased in order to ensure their legal protection as of 30 - 40 cases per day. In addition to that the condition of scattered refugees in the Erbil city is unstable for many reasons:

1. Depriving them from financial and in-kind assistance such as was distributed in the Dumis camp of Dahuk province.
2. Not having access to residence card in the region, and as a result of their presence outside the Dumis camp.
3. Lack of the communication with them by the humanitarian and aid agencies because of the random distribution across the Erbil city.
4. Increasing the amount of renting houses in Erbil city, as a result huge request to rental houses by scattered IDPs which directly affect Syrian refugees.
5. Focusing of all international and local organizations to the camps as a result of the ongoing media coverage of the camp
6. Exploitation of the owners of companies and institutions to increase their manpower through employing Syrian refugees for low wages compared with long working hours.
Syrian refugees residing in the Qaim area in Anbar province:

Since the beginning of the Syrian refugees flow of to the Al-Qaim border area the efforts of Iraqi tribes had started and still continuing to provide the best for these refugees this reruns to the relations between Iraqi and Syrians tribes to some extend that the Iraqi tribes came out to protest against the government's attempt to move the Syrian refugees to a camp near the city of Ramadi (camp 7 km) and with increasing public pressure the Iraqi government has approved the sponsorship and accommodation by Iraqis to the Syrian refugees for those have close Iraqi relatives (first degree of relation).

Statistics indicates that the total number of refugees who have entered Iraq through Al-Qaim border since it’s opened in 4th of July is estimated about (5000) refugees (200) of them have hosted by their relatives in the Al-Qaim city and the remainder are settled down in UNHCR camps, where UNHCR have started set up camp in the south of the city for this purpose with a capacity of ten thousand refugees and it is hoped that the housing will be completed within a week.

It is worth mentioning that the Iraqi government allowed the Syrians refugees to enter Qaim city, under several conditions the most prominent to be housed on 20 km from the border and being under the supervision of the Iraqi army for that the Iraqi government have brought three military brigade since the start of the crisis to strengthen the security aspect of the area, which was the bigger concern by the Iraqi government towards these refugees, while the Iraqi government did not pay attention seriously towards providing services to displaced Syrian families.

The following is a summary of the most important and the most prominent needs:

1. Absence of international standards and specifications in the available camps.
2. Most of the schools that the refugees reside in are old schools and are not suitable for housing even though temporary
3. Accumulation of several Syrian families within each room of the schools, which causes gathering of a large number the women and children which is not healthy.
4. Absence of medical committees, especially for children and women within the current centers of the camps in addition to the lack of medicines and medical supplies

**Statistics:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syrian refugees</th>
<th>Registered and Unregistered</th>
<th>Registered with UNHCR</th>
<th>اللاجئون السوريون منذ بداية الثورة</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syrian refugees since March</td>
<td>430,000</td>
<td>+ 249,094</td>
<td>اللاجئون السوريون في تركيا</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees in Turkey</td>
<td>+ 120,000</td>
<td>+ 80,410</td>
<td>اللاجئون السوريون في لبنان</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees in Lebanon</td>
<td>+ 100,000</td>
<td>+ 65,041</td>
<td>اللاجئون السوريون في الأردن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees in Jordan</td>
<td>+ 180,000</td>
<td>+ 81,643</td>
<td>اللاجئون السوريون في العراق</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees in Iraq</td>
<td>+ 30,000</td>
<td>+ 22,000</td>
<td>مجموع اللاجئين</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian refugees in Iraq</td>
<td>Registered and Unregistered</td>
<td>Registered with UNHCR</td>
<td>إقليم كورستان</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Refugees</td>
<td>+ 30,000</td>
<td>+ 22,000</td>
<td>محافظة الانبار</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurdistan Region</td>
<td>+ 23,000</td>
<td>+ - 17,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al- Anbar</td>
<td>+ 7,000</td>
<td>+ - 5,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Statistics Analysis:

Depending on the previous reports of our organization about Syrian refugees in Iraq we note that there is a continuous increase in the number of Syrian refugees to Iraq, and especially in the past few months, therefore we expect that the number of refugees to Iraq until the end of September will reach (35000) despite the poor conditions refugees somewhat, as the figure will reach 40,000 refugees in case if the Rabia border crossing opened by the Iraqi authorities, and this is because of the constant bombardment of the Syrian regime on neighboring cities for that border crossing.

How the information contained in this report is collected:

The information are collected by a team consists from the staff of Public Aid Organization (PAO) especially the Dahok, Erbil, Suly, Ninawa and Anbar offices in addition to the collaboration with Avahe for Syrian Revolution “AVAHI Coalition” which is the is available in the majority of Syrian cities and some of the neighboring countries of Syria. The information is gathered through direct visits to the camps, and places of refugees’ existence in addition to having focal points among Syrian refugees themselves.

The Avahe team lately has started providing support inside Syria for the displaced families through distributing assistance; materials and food items receiving from charity people and organizations benefiting from the experienced of PAO in this regard.
PAO’s initiative for working on the Syrian crises;

Public Aid Organization in collaboration with Avahi team have started collecting information and data about Syrian crises science the beginning of March, while at that time neither the KRG nor majority of the humanitarian organization where not working on the Syrian refugees, PAO have conducted its first meeting for the international organization and consulates on 12th March 2012, in the meeting PAO have asked the participants to move towards helping refugees and have suitable plan in this regard. After that PAO met the government and told the concern to them.

After that PAO have submitted three project proposals, one to NPA which is approved recently, it’s about preparing women and youth leaders for new Syria to have active role
in rebuilding new Syria, while the two other proposals been written and submitted jointly with UPP, the first one was for provision legal assistance to scattered Syrian refugees in Dahok, Erbil and Suly while the second have focused on the Domiz camp was about, training DDM staff, Hygienic, Health protection focusing on child malnutrition and pregnant care.