

KURDISTAN REGION-

IRAQ – STATUS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

PRESENTATION – MAY 20, 2014

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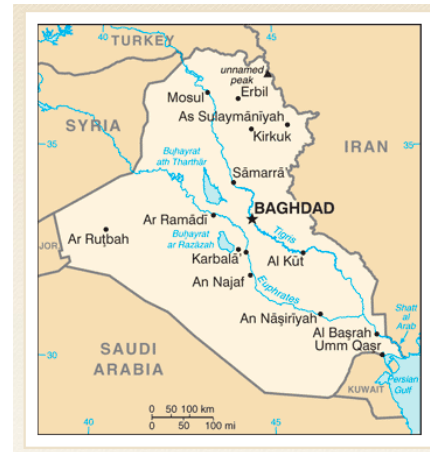


Kurdistan Region – Iraq (KRI)

- Autonomous federal Region of Iraq
- Population 5.2 million (Iraq 32 m)
- 3 governorates, Erbil, Slemani, and Duhok and hosts 97% of Syrian refugees in all of Iraq
- 43 643, km² - larger than the Netherlands and four times the area of Lebanon.
- Official language Kurdish and Arabic

Kurdistan Region – Iraq (KRI)

- Borders Iran to the east, Turkey to the north and Syria to the west
- Shares 20km border with Syria, while all of Iraq shares 605 km with Syria
- Two International airports
- Witnessing an economic boom, drawing back many exiled Kurds who had fled oppression and persecution by the former Baath-regime
- Open border policy regards Syrian refugees, unlike Central Government



KRI – Refugees and Internally Displaced

KRI hosts:

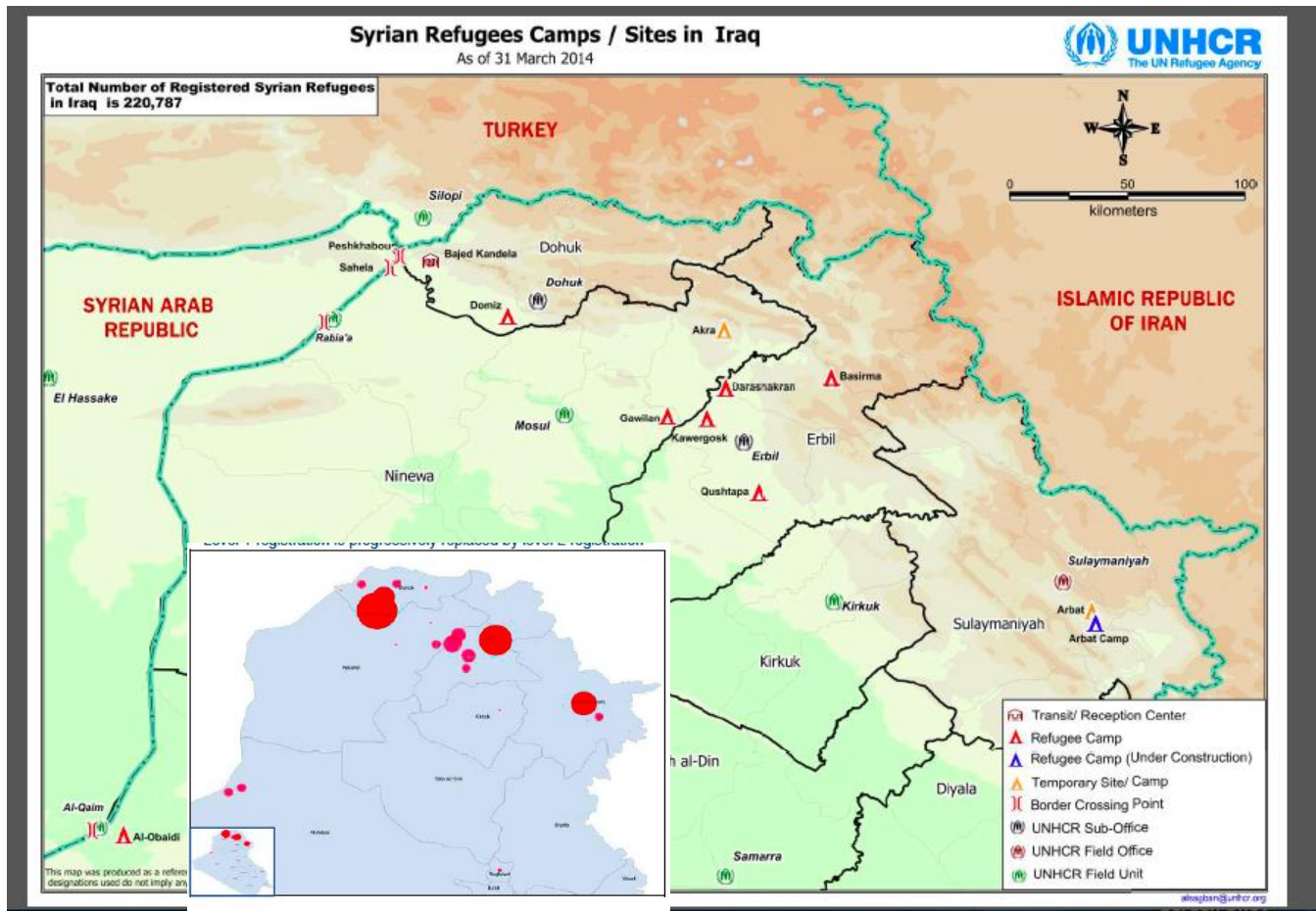
- 250,000 Iraqi IDPs who have fled sectarian violence and terrorism
- 26,000 Iraqi Christian families from Baghdad and Mosul
- 250,000 Syrian refugees (majority Kurdish origin)
- 30,000 Arab IDPs from Anbar Governorate
- Other

That makes over half a million refugees.

*note: official numbers, unofficial higher due to lack of registration. Many living with local family and friends.

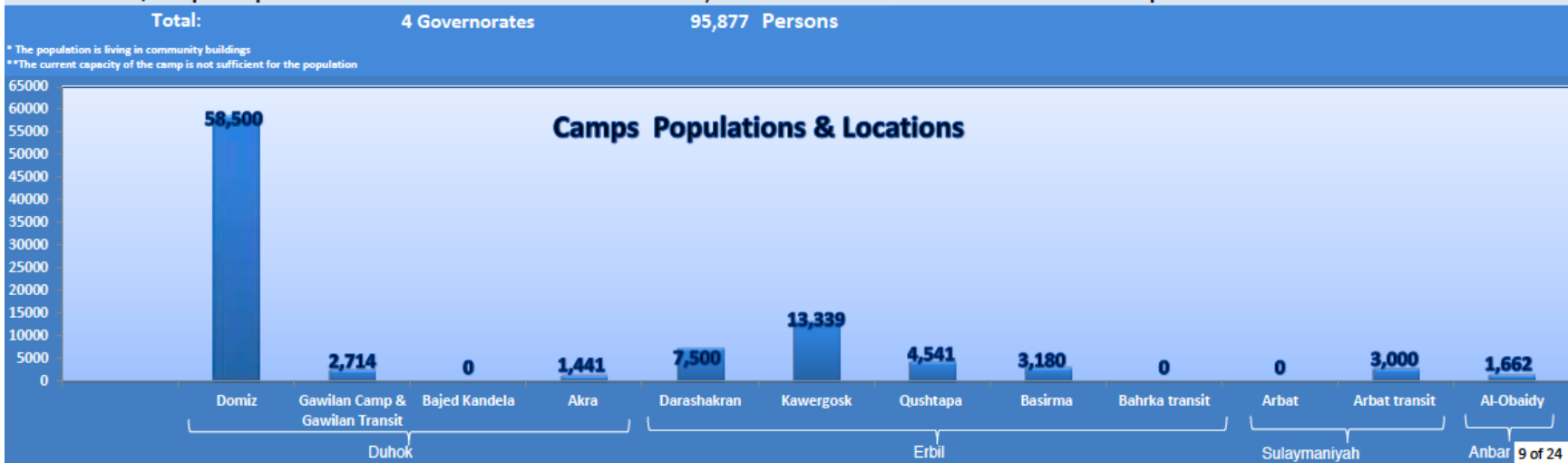


Status of Syrian Refugees in KRI



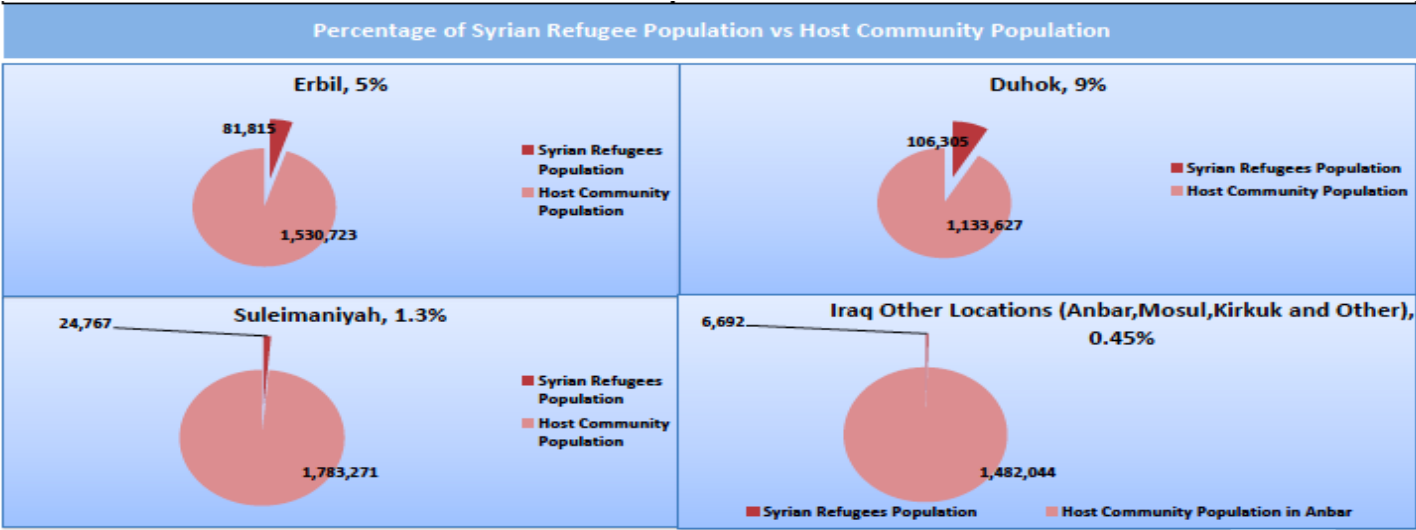
Source: UNHCR Erbil Monthly Information Kit - Syrian Refugee Response / Iraq April 2014 No. 4

Status of Syrian Refugees in KRI



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In 2013 out of the 250,000 Syrian refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan, nearly 120,000 lived in cities like Dohuk and Erbil, while the remainder live in 10 camps spread throughout the region.

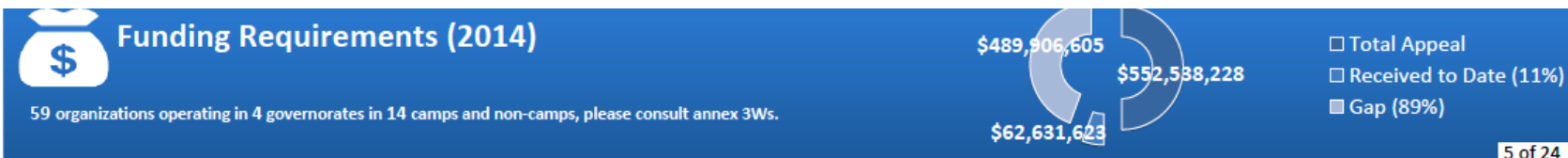
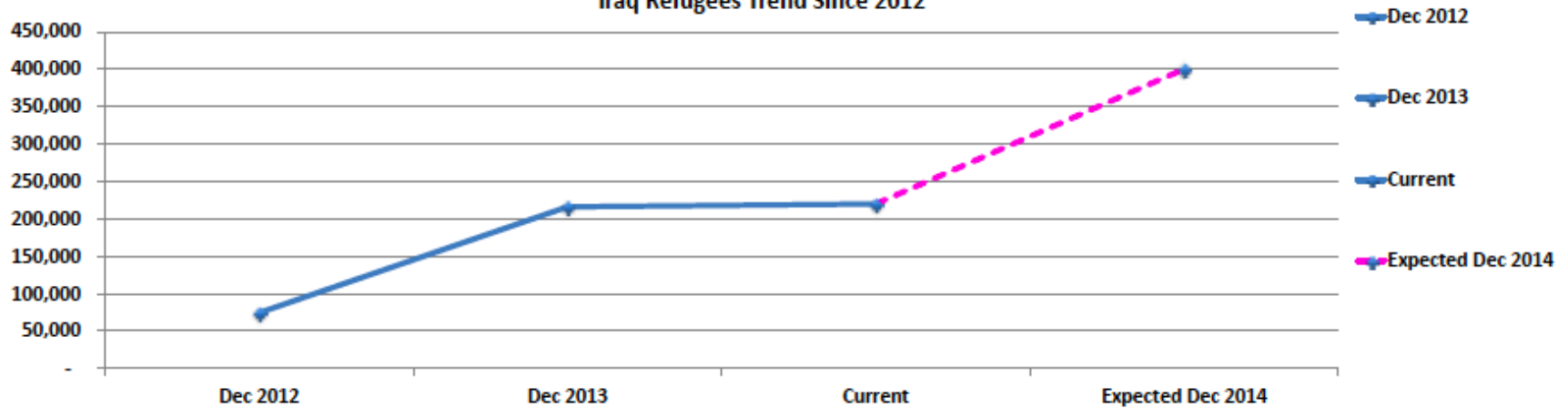


Source: UNHCR Erbil Monthly Information Kit - Syrian Refugee Response / Iraq April 2014 No. 4

Trend



Iraq Refugees Trend Since 2012



Role Kurdistan Regional Government

- Open border policy towards refugees
- Established refugee camps with assistance of UNHCR
- Administers camps in partnership with UN Agencies, international and local NGOs
- Grants residency and work permit to all (3 month basis)
- Ministry of Natural Resources has donated \$10m USD and established Humanitarian Initiative KOGHI 2013
- KOGHI has received \$15m donations by locally operating Oil & Gas companies
- UN, Human Rights Watch and various others have praised commitment of KRG to the refugees crisis

Plight of Syrian Refugees

- Uncertainties of returning home – many camps resemble more and more a permanent settlement
- Despite efforts many Syrian school and university students were forced to interrupt their education
- Jobs are often available in construction and service industry, but how long? Also question of minimum wage.
- Psychological impact of war, forced migration and sudden reality of severe socio-economic poverty cannot be forgotten in all of this
- Harsh winter condition in camps and hot summer months fertile ground for diseases – despite UN and KRG efforts
- No major food shortages within camps, but price inflation and housing inflation outside camps present hardship for many Syrians and also local population





“Once you provide the refugees with their basic living needs, like food and shelter, the most important task is to help them restore their human dignity.”

— Mr. Musa Ahmed, Deputy Director of the Barzani Charity Foundation



Syrians on the Edge: The Status of Refugees in Neighboring Countries

May 20, 2014

Migration Policy Institute

More information at:

bit.ly/MPISyria

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