

Syrian Refugees in Iraq Receive IOM Assistance In Latest Round of Distribution, IOM Provides NFIs to 1,074 Syrian Refugees



January 28, 29 2013 - As Syrian refugees continue to flee the conflict into Iraq, IOM Iraq distributed non-food items (NFI) to refugees arriving in Al Qaim refugee camp and surrounding host communities in Anbar. IOM Iraq distributed 200 NFI kits, each containing a kerosene heater, a rechargeable light, five mattresses, five blankets, five pillows, carpet, a set of plastic cabinets, and other items to 200 families (a total of 1,074 individuals).

The distribution from IOM's emergency warehouse in Erbil was conducted in close coordination with UNHCR, the Ministry of Migration and Displaced, and local authorities in the Al Qaim district.

Prior to the distribution of essential NFIs, IOM carried out a needs assessment of newly arrived Syrian refugees, in partnership with UNHCR and local authorities.

As of January 28, the UN estimates 79,469 Syrians have fled to Iraq, along with more than 36,000 Iraqi returnees who have returned from Syria to their homeland.

Since April 2012, IOM Iraq has carried out more than 30 targeted NFI distributions and has provided emergency aid to over 28,000 individuals, distributing more than 84,000 non-food items to Syrian refugees.

IOM Iraq has also assisted with building up camp infrastructure for Syrian refugees in Dahok, and Ninewa, including the building of water tanks in Domiz Camp in Dahok and Al Kasek Camp in Ninewa.

IOM Iraq has provided vocational training, on the job training, and business management courses in coordination with UNHCR and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) to over 200 Syrian participants, along with in-kind grants to 31 beneficiaries to set-up small businesses.

In light of the ongoing violence in Syria, IOM Iraq remains prepared to rapidly respond to the needs of all vulnerable populations, including arriving Syrian refugees and returning Iraqis from Syria.

This latest round of emergency distribution was funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), as part of IOM Iraq's ongoing Community Revitalization Program II.

