



**Ministry of Interior**  
**Joint Crisis Coordination Centre**

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**Situational Report:**

**The Education for Syrian Refugee Students in Kurdistan  
Region of Iraq**

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## **Executive Summary:**

The civil war in Syria in 2011 prompted millions of people to seek safety in the neighboring countries including Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Approximately 250,000 Syrian refugees fled to the Kurdistan Region and have remained under the protection of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) ever since. Today, 37% reside in nine refugee camps in Erbil, Duhok and Slemani governorates of the KRI and the rest are hosted within local communities.

The crisis has pushed to the limits the capacity of the KRI education system, which was already short of schools and teachers and had overcrowded classrooms. Education facilities are overstretched, conducting triple and quadruple shifts with fewer hours of instruction for children in all shifts. It is estimated that 34% of Syrian refugees are children aged 0-11 years and most school-aged children largely 38% children aged 6 to 12 years enrolled in formal and informal schooling and currently the number of Syrian refugee children enrolled in the schooling is (32,198) while majority are not going to school for various reasons such as transportation cost, economic hardships, child labor, language barriers and limited space etc. A shortage of learning materials, including textbooks, continues to affect the quality of learning in the refugee camps.

Within its existing limited budget space, KRG has been supporting the educational needs of the Syrian refugees. For example, a second shift has been allocated to the Syrian refugees in some schools with the associated costs, including teacher salaries, being provided by the Ministry of Education. KRG has also built schools and provided land for school construction for the refugee children.

However, due to the current financial crisis in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, coupled with technical challenges such as limited number of teacher recruitment capacities, the KRG Ministry of Education (MOE) has not been able to pay refugee teacher incentives or provide textbooks and to pay for textbooks and school supplies to Syrian refugee children. With the

Immediate priorities are infrastructure related (e.g., school renovation, classroom expansion or construction), it is equally important that teachers are deployed and paid, textbooks are provided, language barriers are addressed, and children's security and safety are ensured. In the short run, \$3 million per month is required to provide the basic education services to school-age children of refugees in the Kurdistan Region.

Currently, there are (249,293) Syrian refugees hosted in the Kurdistan Region and only 37% live in 9 camps and the rest live with the host communities in Erbil, Duhok and Slemani as shown in the below table:

### Number of Refugees inside and outside camps:

Governorate	Location	No. of refugees	Total	
Erbil	Inside Camp	Basirma	2,863	128,505
		Darashakran	11,769	
		Kawrgosk	7,788	
		Qushtapa	8,128	
	Outside Camp	City centre and outskirts	97,957	
Duhok	Inside Camp	Akre Settlement	1,102	88,447
		Domiz Camp 1	33,976	
		Domiz Camp 2	10,574	
		Gawilan	8,934	
	Outside Camp	City centre and outskirts	33,861	
Slemani	Inside Camp	Arbat/Barika	8,940	32,341
	Outside Camp	City centre and outskirts	23,401	
<b>Total</b>			<b>249,293</b>	

### Syrian Refugee Children Education Overview:

The education sector like any other sectors have pushed to the limits and faced huge challenges and increased shortcomings mainly after a huge number of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees arrived in the Kurdistan Region. Provision of education service to the refugee children have been of big concern, Lack of teaching staff have been one of the major issues that affects the education sector. Both the UNICEF and UNESCO have been supportive in decreasing the burden on the KRG and played a critical role to increase educational space and conducive environment for refugee children to enroll in schools through provision of financial and technical support to the schools. However, with the end of 2018, both agencies announced that the contract of teachers will not be renewed. This will have negative impact on the education services for the refugees as many contracted and volunteer teachers and staff will not be able to continue teaching in the refugee schools and they will stop

teaching the students without salaries and incentives. This will have dire consequences for the students and majority of them will remain without schooling.

According to the latest figures in the Kurdistan Region, the KRG provides salaries of (81) permanent teachers and (302) contract teachers in (55) schools designated for refugee students. UNICEF and UNESCO have provided salaries for (1,240) teachers and staff. The below tables explain the number of refugee students and teachers in each governorate in Kurdistan Region. The total monthly required funds to pay salaries and incentives to the teachers, volunteers and staff is \$2.9 million USD.

It is critically important that teachers are deployed and paid, textbooks are provided, language barriers are addressed, and children's security and safety are ensured in addition to the other immediate priorities such as infrastructure related (e.g., school renovation, classroom expansion or construction).

## **Conclusion:**

KRG needs continued financial and technical support from the partner organization and international community to continue paying the financial incentives and salaries of the teachers and volunteers who teach at the refugee schools across Kurdistan Region to maintain the educational services and keep the schools open for the Syrian refugees. There are several priorities for the education sector and for the refugee students to prevent them becoming a lost generation. The priorities include:

1. Provision of the financial incentives and salaries for the teachers, volunteers and staff at the refugee schools.
2. Financially supporting vulnerable families with income generating activities to enable them to send their children to schools.
3. Provide cash assistance to the vulnerable refugee families for school enrollment and school attendance of their children.
4. Provision of school supplies and materials for the students to reduce the costs linked to education such as transportation costs, school uniform costs, costs for school supplies, etc.
5. Improve and upgrade of the school infrastructures to increase conducive educational environment for more children to enroll in education and decrease drop out rates.

6. Provision of non-formal education opportunities and catch up programmes for children who have missed months or years of schooling.
7. Provision of tailored training and induction programmes for teachers to provide quality education to refugee children.

**Without immediate response from all donor countries and international organizations in providing funds and material and technical assistance directly to the KRG, there is high risk the schools will be closed, and students will not be able to continue their education and the new school age children will not be enrolled.**

**Table (1); Overview of the students, teachers and staff at Syrian Refugee Schools in Erbil Governorate**

#	School's Name	Exact Place	No. of Student	No. of Teacher		No. of Officers	Note
				KRG's Contract	UNICEF Contract		
1	Kobani Primary	Center of Erbil	1,107	/	31	4	
2	Rubar Primary	Center of Erbil	654	/	17	3	
3	Ismail Beshkachi Primary	Erbil - Bahrka	452	/	19	4	
4	Peshmerga Primary	Around Erbil	1,164	/	18	/	
5	Van Primary	Erbil- Pirzin	970	/	19	3	
6	Zhinyar Primary	Erbil - Twraq	263	/	12	2	
7	Khapor Primary	Shaqlawa	433	/	10	3	
8	Rojava Kindergarten	Shaqlawa- Basrma Camp	207	/	8	7	
9	Rojava Primary	Khabat	793	17	31	4	
10	Kawergosk Primary	Khabat	1,454	49	49	16	
11	Darashakran Primary	Khabat	1,483	16	63	2	
12	Darashakran Kindergarten	Khabat	/	/	11	2	
13	Parwar Primary	Khabat	1,193	10	27	2	
14	Rwanga Kindergarten	Khabat	224	/	13	2	
15	Qamishlo Primary	Erbil - Qoshtapa Camp	1,815	16	55	8	
16	Qamishlo Kindergarten	Erbil - Qoshtapa Camp	178	/	4	4	
17	Badrkhan Primary	Erbil districts	652	/	36	4	
18	Gre Spi Primary	Erbil districts	264	/	17	4	
19	Dirok Primary	Erbil districts	778	/	36	2	
20	Sare Kani Primary	Erbil districts	205	/	16	1	
21	Rondk Primary	Erbil districts	226	/	15	3	
22	Hamwn Primary	Koya	207	/	18	2	
23	Taq Taq Primary	Koya	359	/	/	2	
24	Amad Secondary	Koya	162	/	/	/	
25	Jgar Khwen Secondary	Khabat	230	/	/	1	
26	Yaran Secondary	Khabat	358	/	/	1	
27	Rojava Secondary	Khabat	85	2	/	/	
28	Qamishlo Secondary	Erbil - Qoshtapa Camp	172	/	/	/	
<b>Total</b>			<b>16,088</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>86</b>	

**Table (2); Overview of the students, teachers and staff at Syrian Refugee Schools in Duhok Governorate**

#	Name of school	Exact Place	No. of Student	No. of Teacher			No. of Officers	Note
				KRG		UNICEF's Contract		
				Permanent	Contract			
1	Kurdin Primary	Akre- inside and outside of Akre Camp	451	6	7	9	/	
2	Derk Secondary	Semel- Domiz Camp 1	485	7	6	14	1	
3	Payam Secondary	Semel- Outside Camp	208	2	3	12	1	
4	Qamishlo Primary	Semel	103	9	/	6	/	
5	Rojava Primary	Semel- Domiz Camp 1 & 2	594	5	18	19	3	
6	Derin Primary	Semel- Domiz Camp 1	510	3	11	17	1	
7	Warst Primary	Semel- Outside Camp	782	16	12	18	3	
8	Zhvan Primary	Semel- Outside Camp	620	2	8	24	2	
9	Kobani Primary	Semel- Domiz Camp 1	1,188	1	14	30	3	
10	Bnar Primary	Semel- Domiz Camp 1	586	2	4	12	3	
11	Afrin Primary	Semel- Domiz Camp 1	1,356	1	22	29	2	
12	Awat Primary	Semel- Domiz Camp 1	859	3	4	30	5	
13	Nazdar Primary	Semel- Domiz Camp 1	1,289	3	24	30	3	
14	Kar Primary	Semel- Domiz Camp 1	628	1	6	17	2	
15	Zhian Primary	Semel- Domiz Camp 1	1,037	1	14	22	3	
16	Gawilan Secondary	Bardarash- Gawilan Camp	485	1	5	24	/	
17	Gawilan Primary	Bardarash- Gawilan Camp	790	/	5	31	/	
18	Jgar Khwen Primary	Bardarash	825	/	4	31	3	
<b>Total</b>			<b>12,796</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>35</b>	

**Table (3); Overview of the students, teachers and staff at Syrian Refugee Schools in Slemani Governorate**

#	School's Name	Exact Place	No. of Student	No. of Teacher			No. of Officers	Note
				KRG		UNICEF's Contract		
				Permanent	Contract			
1	Kobani Primary	Slemani - Eastern Education Directorate	417	3	5	29	4	
2	Sarikan Primary	Slemani - Western Education Directorate	345	1	8	15	6	
3	Hawar Primary	Said Sadiq	100	1	/	12	3	
4	Afrin Primary	Slemani - Western Education Directorate	180	1	/	20	5	
5	Barkhodan Secondary	Slemani - Arbat Camp	199	1	13	/	1	
6	Mshtanoor Primary	Pshdar	97	4	/	8	2	
7	Amude Primary	Slemani - Eastern Education Directorate	1,639	1	12	62	15	
8	Mam Primary	Raniya	182	1	/	21	3	
9	GreSpi Primary	Slemani - Western Education Directorate	155	5	/	24	3	
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,314</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>42</b>	