In Collaboration with

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

HARIKAR NGO

Harikar Outreach Monthly Report

March/2023

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HIGHLIGHTS

- *International Women's Day was celebrated in multiple locations in Duhok, reviving the day and celebrating the importance of women.*
- *Sports activities rise in popularity as Domiz Camp 1's annual football tournament launches.*
- *First-aid training sessions support the community in identifying health issues, using first-aid kits, and how to react during health emergencies.*
- *Key messages of the UNHCR Online Registration form are constantly being sensitized and shared with the community in all refugee-relevant areas.*

REFUGEES

Community Empowerment | Social Cohesion

Training Sessions:

- First aid Training Sessions were conducted in **Domiz Camp 1's** Community Centers by Community Outreach Volunteers (COVs). Due to the requests and need of the community to learn first aid for emergency incidents, COVs taught the participants the basics of first aid to prevent further harm covering a total of 33 refugees (4 Men & 29 Women). After each training day, the trainees got further information on how to handle instances when someone is hurt, suffocating, or has fainted.

- COVs of **Domiz Camp 1's** Ronak Center prepared a training session on a concept called "mental arithmetic" which is intended to help children improve their brain's capacity for learning. Covering a total of 40 Children (22 Boys & 18 Girls), this training tool fosters early intellect in children. Also, the mental arithmetic system provides many original and creative solutions to mathematical problems that build children's self-confidence. It was designed to help develop children's brains at an early age so they could utilize their analytical skills to solve problems, whether they were math-related or not. As it is known, children's minds are considerably more receptive to information and learning than adults' minds are. The participants learned how the brain develops and are now able to do calculations or come up with answers to problems in a variety of situations.

- At the **Domiz Camp 2** Roj Community Center, COVs introduced 41 refugee children (all girls) to the Kurdish alphabet upon requests from both parents and children. This training aimed to teach female children how to read and write Kurdish words. The children's enthusiasm for this educational program was evident, and they thoroughly enjoyed learning the Kurdish alphabet. By participating in such programs, children can expand their knowledge and learn new skills.

- COVs in **Akre Camp** and **Zewa Community Centers** set up an English language course for refugees. In Akre Camp, COVs coordinated with the camp's school to set up an English language course for 8 school students (5 Boys & 3 Girls), who require extra support with their language skills. These tutoring lessons are to improve their overall skills and grades. In Zewa Community Center, delivered by a skilled COV, an English language course was launched for 15 refugees (6 Boys & 9 Girls) to enhance the participants' English language skills. As the course was chosen based on the community's interest, The participants have shown high interest in the course; they interacted positively with the teacher and the materials.

- **Akre Camp's** Community Center also set up an Arabic and a Computer course with the support of the COVs. As computer classes at the Akre camp have been long requested, in coordination with a volunteer member from the community and Harikar community center the COVs in Akre arranged for computer classes inside the camp for 8 refugees (1 Boy & 7 Girls). The Community Center has computers available and allowed community members to use them for digital skill development, these classes were delivered by a member of the community as a volunteer to improve the skills of those individuals who were interested.
  As for the Arabic language course, COVs in Akre community centers and other community members that worked as volunteers coordinated with the camp's school to set up an Arabic course, also including 8 refugee children (5 Boys & 3 Girls).

- A training course on how to prepare sweets was provided by the COVs of **Domiz Camp 1's** Yak Dast Center. Instructions on how to operate the tools and prepare the desserts were provided for 7 refugees (all women). The goal of this 2-day activity was to teach participants life skills that they might use to improve their livelihood and to

enjoy their leisure time. Instructions were provided on how to prepare a variety of sweets using various recipes and tools.

Sports Activities:

- COVs of **Akre Camp**, **Qasrok**, and **Sumel's** Community Centers received children and adults from the community since the arrival of the foosball table at the Community Centers to enjoy the game. Akre Camp received 6 refugees (2 Men & 4 Boys). Due to the children visiting the community center more often, they have identified new classes and activities available. This has also helped the COVs with ensuring there is social cohesion between children and providing important awareness messages during their presence. 2 refugee children (1 Boy & 1 Girl) from Qasrok enjoyed the Community Centers foosball as a part of their recreational activities. And in Sumel a total of 14 refugee children (7 Boys & 7 Girls) enjoyed competing with each other.

- As Hopscotch (hands and feet) had a positive effect on the community in 2022, COVs in **Akre Camp** in coordination with Dolsa, managed to use the Hopscotch game. Dolsa arranged games for 4 refugee children (all boys) in the Community Center. Hopscotch is a game that teaches a lot of patience while requiring strong hand and eye coordination. It's a great physical activity that requires confidence and can be easily played indoors or outdoors. Children after the fact started visiting the community center due to the availability of the game.

- In **Domiz Camp 1's** Vajeen Community Center, COVs arranged for a "Zumba for Fitness" training course, each course spanning 2 days, teaching 35 refugees (all women) sports exercises that help improve cardiovascular fitness, enhancing balance, agility, and body strength. Since the activities could be exercised at the community center and at home it aims to provide a better health and fitness routine for the participants.

- Table tennis matches were set up in **Domiz Camp 1's** Ronak Center and tennis tips for beginners were provided in Qasrok by COVs. In Domiz Camp 1, The activity is in high demand and requested by the community due to their enjoyment of the sports, therefore it was deemed necessary for the COVs to respond to this request and gathered a total of 14 refugees (6 Boys & 8 Girls). After each game, the participants were sensitized about the main key messages of relevant protection issues, PSEA, health issues, fraud, and other topics that are currently considered concerns to the community. Besides stressing the importance of sports for all community groups. In Qasrok the COVs prepared tennis tips for beginners to encourage them to try, enjoy, and improve at the for 3 refugees (all girls).

- With the support of Harikar and UNHCR, the COVs of **Domiz Camp 1** launched the annual Ramadan Football Competition, which has 46 teams and will play for the duration of a month leading up to International Sports Day in April. To promote social cohesion and co-coexistence among the populace as well as increased physical activity among young people, this activity was chosen as the primary sporting event for March and April. The primary takeaways of the PSEA, health problems, fraud, and other subjects that are now regarded as community protection concerns are sensitized to the participants after each game in the form of key messages. Together with highlighting the value of sport for all facets of society.

Recreational Activities:

- Recreational activities for children were conducted, targeting 51 refugees (9 Boys & 42 Girls) of **Domiz Camp 2**. COVs of Roj Community Center set up an activity that included games for children to create a joyful environment, activities included mentioning words with Kurdish or Arabic letters. Volunteers also engaged in various other recreational activities with the children to further foster this positive atmosphere. POCs and children appreciated activities like these being conducted in the Community Center.

- COVs in **Sumel** Community Center provided recreational activities for 15 refugees (11 Boys & 4 Girls) which are essential to promote their physical and mental well-being, help them cope with trauma, and foster a sense of community and belonging. Among the recreational activities conducted for refugees include Morning exercises, drawing, and face painting for children in Sumel. The overall feedback was positive on the organization and delivery of the activities.

- Children were invited by COVs to visit the **Hussiniye** and **Sumel** Community Centers to participate in drawing activities in order to improve their social skills, learn various skills, and be protected. 5 refugee children (all girls) from Hussiniye were brought together and provided with drawing material, and in return showed positive feedback and were happy to use coloring books from the community center to draw and present their skills. In Sumel the COVs hosted 23 refugee children (8 Boys & 15 Girls) to showcase their skills and socialize with other children in the community.

- Other recreational activities for refugee children in **Sumel** include face painting, where 9 refugee children (5 Boys & 4 Girls) visited the Sumel Community Center. Children enjoyed the activity as Recreational activities are crucial for promoting the physical and emotional health of children.

International Women's Day:

- On IWD, COVs in both **Domiz Camp 1** and **Domiz Camp 2** arranged an outdoor activity in the form of a picnic in a designated area near the camp to provide a more festive and relaxed environment. The activity totaled 30 refugee women (16 from Domiz Camp 1 & 14 from Domiz Camp 2). There were sub-activities such as traditional dance performances, entertaining and intellectual competitions, music and singing, and gift distribution, The women participated in these activities with great enthusiasm and energy, showcasing their talent and creativity. The women were delighted with the gifts and expressed their gratitude to the organizers. women from both Domiz 1 and Domiz 2 refugee camps came together to celebrate this important occasion.

- A total of 16 refugees (all women) and 4 host community members (all women) were invited to take part in an event arranged at the **Husseniye** community center. Activities planned for this day included successful women leaders' stories, competition between female participants, and discussions on the importance of their role in community empowerment. Participants were from the age groups of 20 to 35 years old. All participants received awards (flowers and perfume) while the winning group was gifted an extra award each for winning the competition. The event was organized to bring together host and refugee women in one activity to allow social cohesion. And Women were happy to receive gifts for their courage at the events and promised their support in empowering others through their activities.

- In coordination with the Harikar GBV unit 20 hardworking refugee women from the **Akre refugee camp** participated in a joint activity. The planned activity included a Seminar on international women's Day, recreational activities, breakfast at a restaurant, and flowers/perfumes for participants. Women were happy to receive gifts for their courage at the events and promised their support in empowering others through their activities.

Other Social Cohesion Activities:

- Case verifications were conducted by the COVs of **Domiz Camp 1**, **Hussiniye**, and **Bardarash's** Community Centers. The COVs, as a part of their main roles and responsibilities, reached out to the community, where they have been supporting in mobilizing the community to reach the POCs that were unreachable to verify their information, address, contact numbers, location, and other information that is related to their status as refugees as requested by UNHCR. This activity helped to update 10 refugees from Bardarash (9 Men & 1 Woman), A refugee man in Hussiniye, and 64 refugees in Domiz Camp 1 (45 Men & 19 Women) information so that they have the access to the available humanitarian services which they were informed about after the POCs were reached.

- Harikar NGO jointly with UNHCR had a monthly protection meeting with RWC (Refugee Welfare Committee) in both **Bardarash** Camp and **Gawilan** Camp separately to discuss and exchange updates regarding the latest protection issues that are ongoing in the camp and find proper solutions to the community's protection issues and answer the questions of the community.

- COVs from **Hussiniye** Community Center assisted Harikar with mobilizing and providing the necessary space to conduct an awareness session on social care for 16 refugee women. Feedback for this activity however was met with criticism by POCs that they dislike being called to awareness sessions, they prefer NGOs to focus on finding ways to deliver awareness messages in other forms.

Communication with Communities (CwC) | Mass Information

Awareness Sessions:

- Awareness sessions on community-based complaint mechanisms and services provided by the community centers were provided in **Domiz Camp1's** Yak Dast Center, **Akre Camp**, **Hussiniye**, and **Domiz Camp 2's** Roj Community Centers by COVs. How to submit and use the complaint boxes was explained to the community and illiterate POCs were assisted in submitting their complaints. Covering 20 refugees in Akre Camp (2 Men, 3 women, 7 Boys, & 8 Girls), 36 refugees in Hussiniye (11 Men & 25 Women), 8 refugees in Domiz Camp 1 (all women), 8 refugees in Domiz Camp 2 (all women).

- 18 refugees from the **Deraluk** and Sheladzi area (7 Men, 6 Women, 2 Boys, & 3 Girls) participated in field-based anti-drug awareness seminars led by the COV team at the Deraluk Community Center. The lesson's goal was to better inform POCs about the hazards that drugs pose to their users as well as their negative consequences. This activity was chosen because it is crucial for the overall protection of POCs and since recent reports show that drug usage among refugees and IDPs is on the rise. The workshop was well received by the participants, who said they learned the necessary information regarding these drugs as a result. They said that going forward, they would be extra cautious when accepting gifts from strangers and would particularly avoid accepting any form of smoke.

- Due to cases of lice spreading to the children in the camp, particularly within schools, COVs of **Domiz Camp 1** and **Akre Camp's** Community Centers found it necessary to conduct a series of awareness sessions on lice prevention for 34 refugees in Domiz Camp 1 (26 Women & 8 Girls), and 4 refugee girls in Akre Camp. Mothers are to be enriched with information on how to avoid their children catching lice, and to keep the children sanitary in order not to spread it to other students as well. Children who participated in the session showed positive signs of understanding. Yet it was seen essential to have the available treatments available at the sessions for the participants, shampoos, and combs for example.

- Key messages and awareness sessions on UNHCR online registration form are constantly being shared in all refugee-relevant areas. The COVs supported in filling forms and teaching participants how to register for an appointment by UNHCR to update their forms if they required any changes. House visits and awareness sessions for the community and especially heads of families in **Bardarash** were conducted covering 130 refugees (30 Men, 30 Women, 37 Boys, & 27 Girls). In **Domiz Camp 1** the activity covered 44 refugees (3 Men & 41 Women), as for **Hussiniye** a total of 20 refugees were assisted and sensitized (19 Men & 1 Woman).

- The purpose of the personal hygiene awareness session in **Sumel** Community Centers is to develop knowledge and the value of maintaining personal cleanliness for general health and well-being purposes. In this quick educational session by COVs for 19 refugees (13 Boys & 6 Girls), participants acquired knowledge on proper handwashing methods, the advantages of taking a daily shower or bath, the requirement of cleaning their teeth and hair, and the value of dressing in clean clothing. The exercise incorporates engaging talks and demonstrations, as well as visual material like movies, to help reinforce the lesson, which helps in the prevention of infections and diseases that could harm your health. For instance, routine brushing and flossing can assist to avoid dental issues like cavities and gum disease.

- The COVs of **Domiz Camp 1's** Yak Dast Community Center informed 6 refugee women of Domiz Camp 1 about PSEA, including how to report cases and take preventative measures, and also raised general awareness regarding the issue. The goal of this awareness session was to both further reduce the number of incidents in the camp and demonstrate how to properly report these cases. The relevant information on how to avoid and report PSEA instances was supplied to the participants.

- In **Domiz Camp 1's** Yak Dast Community Center, COVs have opened a social media parenting control awareness session to prevent unguided social media use among refugee children. The activity was chosen because of the spread of social media and bad actors. After the session, 8 refugee women were taught how to guide their children to a safer use of social media apps.

IDPs

Community Empowerment | Social Cohesion

Training Sessions

- A series of first aid trainings were conducted with the aid of COVs in **Batifa** Community Center in order to prevent further harm and teach the community methods to identify and alleviate health problems. The first aid trainings targeting 6 IDP women, 6 refugee women, and 49 host community members covered topics such as identifying breast cancer, skin burns, blood pressure, and HIV.

- **Qasrok** Community Center had COVs introduce the basics of using a computer to participants via a series of computer basics training sessions. A total of 14 IDP females (8 Women & 6 Girls), 7 refugee females (3 Women & 4 Girls), and 4 host community women have learned how to navigate the desktop, use common software and applications, and browse the internet. Participants have been encouraged to practice using their computers at home, explore new software and applications, and continue to develop their skills further. Participants acknowledged the effectiveness of interactive activities, discussions, and presentations.

- **Qasrok** Community Center COV conducted an English course for beginners, an introductory program designed to teach basic English language skills to 6 IDP males (4 Men & 2 Boys) who have little or no knowledge of the language. The goal of the course was to empower POCs with language skills that can help them integrate into their new communities, access education, and employment opportunities, and communicate with others effectively. Overall feedback was positive from the participants on the general organization and delivery of the course.

Sports Activities:

- the **Deraluk** COV team organized a one-day chess competition, gathering 2 IDP boys, 5 refugee boys, and 1 boy from the host community. The activity was intended to enhance social cohesion and co-existence. The participants responded to the activity in a very positive manner and expressed their enthusiasm for chess as the activity was chosen by the community itself.

- **Qasrok** Community Center arranged a training session on "Tennis Tips for Beginners", gathering 2 IDP men where COVs gave tips and allowed the participants to learn the game.

Recreational Activities:

- Recreational Activities in **Batifa** district were prepared by COVs. 8 IDPs (all girls), 3 refugees (all boys), and 51 host community members (45 boys & 6 Girls) played hopscotch to music, made drawings and other activities as part of the Batifa Community Center's recreational activities. Children like visiting community centers and taking part in activities that promote such social cohesiveness. The center welcomes them and gives them all the key information they need to support children's growth and safety.

- COVs in **Qasrok** Community Center prepared recreational activities for 18 IDP boys, 3 refugee boys, and 2 host community boys which are essential to promote their physical and mental well-being, help them cope with trauma, and foster a sense of community and belonging. The activities included storytelling for children where they were gathered to learn from the stories and enjoy their time.

International Women's Day:

- Harikar, through **Deraluk** Community Center's COV team, organized a picnic for 16 women, 11 refugees, 3 IDPs, and 2 host community members residing in the Deraluk area to celebrate International Women's Day. The picnic was held in a selected public place in Goharze village near the Deraluk district center. The event included refreshments and several recreational activities for the participants.

- **Zakho's** Community Center Jointly with Harikar's GBV team prepared a picnic for 6 IDPs (2 Men, 2 Women, 1 Boy, & 1 Girl), 13 refugees (4 Men, 6 Women, 2 Boys & 1 Girl), and one man from the host community in Zakho's Happy Park. The participants who were also cases of GBV enjoyed the picnic with the recreational activities set up by the COVs with a side of refreshments.

- The event in **Bersive Camp 2** for IWD was held at the ZSP center. The number of participants in this event was 40 IDP women. The activities for that day were a seminar and some other activities that highlights issues related to the importance of this day, e.g., women's rights, the role of women in society…etc.

- In **Qasrok** COVs prepared a Computer Course for beginners covering 5 IDPs (2 Men & 3 Girls), 2 refugees (1 Man & 1 Girl), and 1 man from the host community. They were provided with refreshments and information on how to navigate the desktop and use a computer to improve their digital skills.

- As for **Sumel**, in coordination with IMC and Women Union, Outreach Team in Summel organized the event at the Sumel Community Center which targeted high school female students, business owners, and women with talents. Covering 9 IDPs (2 Men & 7 Women), 16 refugees (4 Men & 12 Women), and 26 members of the host community (3 Men & 23 Women), the event was comprised of an information session on leadership, entrepreneurship, and career development for women. The girls and women were provided with refreshments, and music in a form of an outdoor activity after the sessions, where other refugee and HC girls and women shared their success stories, speeches, and their physical skills in the form of a Taekwondo skill showcasing to the girls and other guests. The event concluded by having other refugee and IDP women display their handcrafted work and businesses in form of stalls to promote the community's livelihood.

- On IWD, **Batifa's** Community Center coordinated with Batifa's women union to present a seminar and revive the IWD. The seminar included the importance of this day, women's rights, women's rule in the community, education, and technology. The participants hosted included 6 IDPs (2 Men & 4 Women), 6 refugees (2 Men & 4 Women), and 8 members of the host community (4 Men & 4 Women).

- Harikar, through Zewa Center's COV team in **Duhok**, organized an event on IWD at Zewa Community Center in Duhok. The event was attended and celebrated by: Better World Organization, DOLSA Zewa Community Center, 7 IDP women, and 10 refugee women. The event included a panel to present and discuss the success stories of three selected women: one refugee, one IDP, and one member of the host community who reside in the Duhok governorate.

CwC | Mass Information

Awareness Sessions:

- In the **Batifa** Community Center, 2 IDP women, 2 refugee women, and 17 women from the host community attended an anti-fraud awareness class conducted by COVs. The session's goal was to make participants aware of the several sorts of fraud that are currently trending and how to safeguard themselves and their families against them. Women were pleased to attend awareness classes on these subjects, and they recommend future activities to include such trainings and more accurate information.

- Awareness activities for IDPs in **Qasrok** Community Center by COVs include a session to promote the usage of complaint boxes and raise awareness of their significance in resolving issues and difficulties that the community encounters. The session hosted 8 IDPs (4 Women & 4 Girls) and encouraged openness, responsibility, and responsiveness by giving individuals a way to voice their issues and have them promptly resolved.

- COVs in the **Qasrok** community center set up an environment conservation awareness session, designed to educate the community (4 IDP boys & 1 refugee boy) about the importance of protecting and preserving the natural environment. The session covered a range of topics related to environmental conservation, such as the impact of human activities on the environment, climate change, pollution, and waste management. The session includes interactive activities, discussions, and presentations between the facilitator and participants. The goal is to motivate young POCs to make positive changes in their behavior and to become active participants in protecting the environment for future generations. The community in general showed appreciation for the opportunity to learn and gain new insights about environmental conservation.

- Harikar prepared an awareness session for **Batifa** and **Chamishko** Community Center's volunteers, 28 IDPs (16 Men & 12 Women), 2 refugee men, and 13 members of the host community (1 Man & 12 Women) regarding the importance of civil documents, marriage certificates and obligations, and divorce and its obligations. It is vital for the community to be sensitized on the importance of legal documents and services that can be provided for them to avoid cases of fraud and be able to receive the proper support.

- Personal hygiene awareness for children regarding proper methods to clean their feet was shared by COVs in **Batifa's** Community Center. Targeting 2 IDP girls, 1 refugee boy, and 17 members of the host community (15 Boys & 2 Girls) the children that participated were happy to be informed on personal hygiene and how to maintain it. Personal Hygiene awareness sessions were also conducted in Qasrok. The purpose of the personal hygiene awareness session in Qasrok Community Center is to develop knowledge and the value of maintaining personal cleanliness for general health and well-being purposes. In this quick educational session by COVs for 8 IDPs (4 Women & 4 Girls) participants acquired knowledge on proper handwashing methods, the advantages of taking a daily shower or bath, the requirement of cleaning their teeth and hair, and the value of dressing in clean clothing.

Capacity Building

- PSEA capacity-building sessions were conducted for the COVs of **Domiz Camp 1's** Vajeen, Ronak, and Yak Dast Community Centers. Due to the cases happening all over the world by humanitarian actors towards the persons of concern that are in need of humanitarian aid and services exploiting their positions to obtain a sexual relationship in return for services that are provided free of charge to persons affected by the crisis, these sessions were found of vital to be given to COVs and community structures which included (13 Men & 25 Women).

- In coordination with the Island of Hope training on Trauma was delivered for 3 IDP men, 5 refugee women, and 3 members of the host community (1 man & 2 women) COVs of **Zakho** Community Center. in this training that lasted 3 days, COVs were able to get more information on how to deal with sensitive cases and to help the affected population.

FAQs, Complaints, Trends

In Akre Camp

- 25 POCs complained they should also be targeted for food parcels.
- 50 POCs complained they have not received any food parcels for the past 2 years.
- 29 POCs asked how to register their names for the resettlement program.
- 6 POCs asked whether their names will be shared with camp administration when making a complaint.

In Domiz Camp 1

- The community member continues complaining about the low working hours of the primary health center; from 8:00 am to 1:30 P.M., which creates challenges and puts a risk to the community's lives during which health issues occur outside of working hours which does not include afternoon or evening shifts to respond to their cases.
- The high prices of the local power amperes that the majority of the camp residents can't afford and request for the cut of power after 2:00 A.M. in order to lower the cost of the amperes.
- The POCs are complaining about the breach of the local power rules. By changing their circuit breaker with one that has lower amperes, each family should receive three amperes to a higher numbered one which is more than three amperes without notifying the local power generators' owners.
- The community is complaining about the lack of ambulances within the camp, they want to have a full-time, 24/7 ambulance that can be available for anyone at any time. They require it to achieve faster response times and avoid vehicle costs of transportation.

In Hussiniye

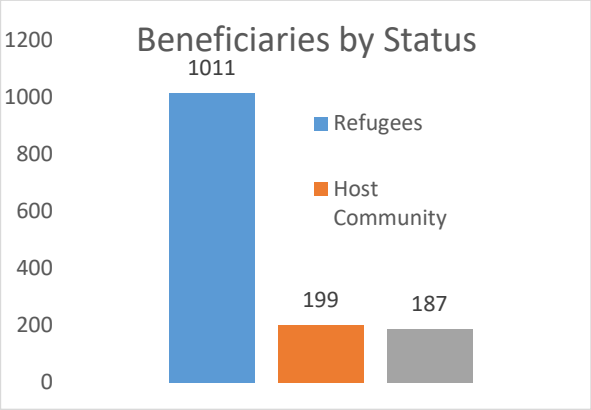
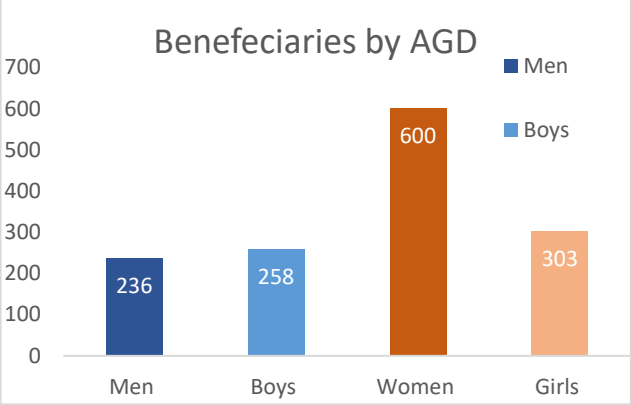
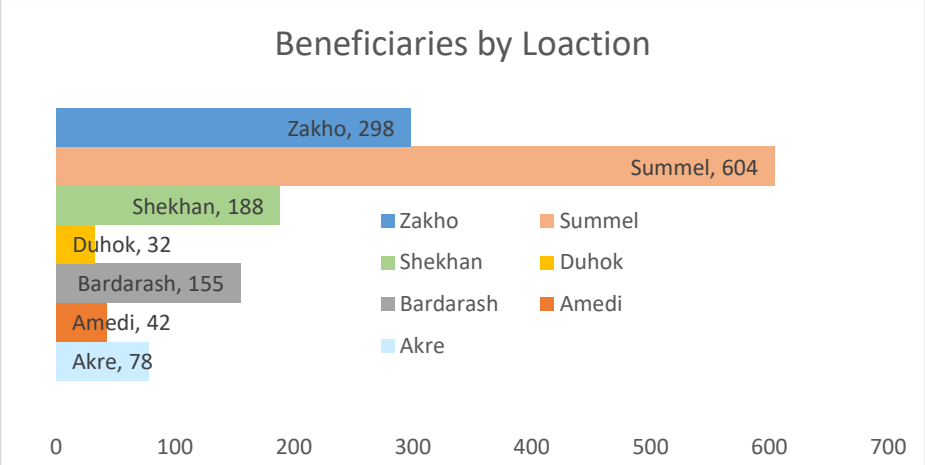
- 6 POCs asked if UNHCR urban registration mission will take place in Husseniye.
- 3 POC asked why they were contacted to visit Bardarash camp for UNHCR form renewal.
- 8 women asked if any NGO would distribute female hygiene.

In Qasrok

- Refugees are yet to receive this year's share of cash for kerosene.
- Asylum seekers ask for resettlement services currently available.

In Sumel

- Fresh graduates from the Turkish refugee community find it difficult to be employed.
- Turkish refugees want to know if they will be granted Iraqi IDs as promised by the government 3 months ago.
- The community asks for elderly-friendly spaces in Miserik.
- Refugees are yet to receive this year's share of cash for kerosene.
- IDPs keep asking how come they don't receive as much assistance as is provided for refugees.

Relevant Data

The data below shows the total number of people reached based on the status, district, and AGD. With a total of 1397 beneficiaries, 1011 of which are refugees, 199 IDPs, and 187 are members of the host community. The majority of the Beneficiaries are Females with a total of 903 (600 Women & 303 Girls). With Males a total of 494 (236 Men & 258 Boys).