



ERBIL, Iraq 8 December 2013 – The Government and People of Japan continue to support Syrian refugees in Iraq

Today the delegation from the Embassy of Japan in Iraq, led by Minister Counselor Mr. Kenichiro Matsubayashi, visited Domiz camp in Dohuk Governorate of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Domiz, opened in late 2012, is now home to some 45,000 Syrian refugees.

During the visit to Domiz refugee camp, the Japanese diplomats, accompanied by the Head of UNHCR Sub-Office in Erbil William Tall, Refugee Coordinator from the Development and Modification Center (DMC) Mr. Edrees Nabi Salih and Mr. Salah Yaseen from the NGO partner Harikar, distributed school uniforms, procured with Japanese funds, to refugee students. Some 3,000 school age children attend 3 schools in Domiz. All of them received school uniforms, provided by UNHCR and funded by Japan and other donors.

There are more than 200,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq, mainly in the Kurdistan Region, about half of them are children. It is estimated that about 77 per cent of school-aged children are not enrolled in schools. Provision of school uniforms in Domiz camp is yet another attempt by Japan to support education of refugee children. “We hope that these school uniforms will help to create an ordinary school life for children and increase their motivation for learning,” said Minister Counselor Mr. Kenichiro Matsubayashi during his visit to Domiz.

“Japan has been supporting UNHCR programmes all around the world and is one of our biggest and long-standing donors. We are grateful for the support of the Government and people of Japan, who are rendering help to refugees also in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq from the onset of the crisis,” said William Tall, the Head of UNHCR Sub-Office in Erbil. In 2013 Japan granted USD 4 million to UNHCR in Iraq. These funds were used to provide protection and assistance to Syrian refugees in Al Qa’im, Anbar Governorate and Domiz refugee camp in Dohuk Governorate, in particular for equipment to register new arrivals from Syria, for 1,000 tents and construction of kitchens and concrete foundations for the tents, and for provision of medicines in the health centre in Al Qa’im camp. In addition, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government and people of Japan some 1,000 Syrian refugee families received core relief items and 250 families received individual assistance.

Striving to improve the access of Syrian refugee children to primary and secondary education, in November 2013 Japan provided to UNHCR an additional USD 0.5 million emergency aid grant to install 83 prefabricated classrooms in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, expanding existing educational facilities.

Recognizing the generosity and hospitality of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Minister Counselor Mr. Kenichiro Matsubayashi assured that Japan stands ready to continue helping Syrian refugees in Iraq. Japan’s overall humanitarian assistance to the Syrian situation since 2012 amounts to approximately USD 280 million and the country became the fourth largest contributor among all donor countries.

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Syrian refugee children in Domiz camp, Dohuk Governorate of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq greeting Japanese diplomats./UNHCR/



Minister Counselor Mr. Kenichiro Matsubayashi from the Embassy of Japan in Iraq visited Domiz camp to hand-over school uniforms, funded by Japan, to Syrian refugee children./UNHCR



Head of UNHCR Sub-Office in Erbil William Tall handing over school uniforms to Syrian refugee children in Domiz camp, Dohuk Governorate of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq/UNHCR



Minister Counselor Mr. Kenichiro Matsubayashi from the Embassy of Japan in Iraq visited Domiz camp to hand-over school uniforms, funded by Japan, to Syrian refugee children./UNHCR

Core relief item kits for 1,000 newly arrived Syrian refugee families. Composition of the standard kit: 1 mattress per person, 1 blanket per person, plastic sheet, kitchen set, hygiene kit, kerosene stove or fan in summer, jerry can for water, jerry can./UNHCR



Provision of essential medicine in Al Qaim camp, funded by Japan./UNHCR

