

Egypt Weekly Update

Syria Operation

June 4th – June 10th 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of Syrian refugees registered and awaiting registration with UNHCR in Egypt stands at 79,936 individuals as of 10th of June 2013, with 60,563 Syrians registered to date.

Total Gender and Age Breakdown

Age (years)	F	M	Total
0 - 4	4380	4540	8920
5 - 11	5250	5563	10813
12 - 17	3524	4118	7642
18 - 59	15619	15019	30638
60+	1228	1322	2550
Total	30001	30562	60563

Heads of Households	Total
F	6154
M	15895
Total	22139

REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

The total number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Egypt stands at **60,563 individuals/ 22139 families** as of June 3rd, 2013. Additional **19373** individuals are awaiting registration.

To date the total number of Syrian refugees registered in Greater Cairo stands at 26,817 individuals, Alexandria 14,001 individuals, and Damietta 7,535 individuals.

During the reporting period, the total number of Syrian refugees registered is 3110 individuals / 1076 families. The Zamalek registration center registered 2358 individuals/ 818 families.

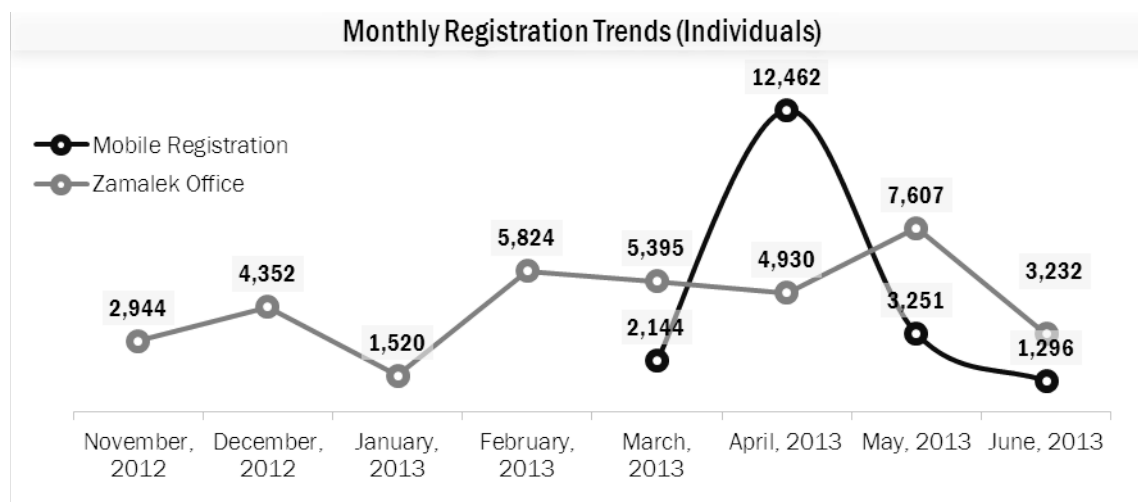
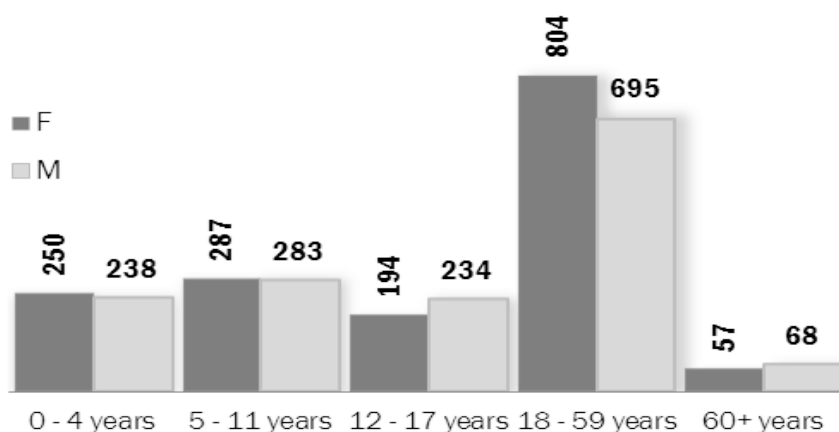
The registration team also conducted a mobile registration in 6th October city in Greater Cairo, during the reporting week that ended 6th June. The total number of Syrian refugees registered during the mobile registration is 725 individuals/285 families. 47 individuals were fast tracked and registered on the spot.

During the reporting period, a total of 63 individuals were fast tracked as well as registered on the spot alongside 28 Syrians with serious medical conditions who were being referred by different agencies and partners.

The number of individuals scheduled for registration in Zamalek registration center is 15,553 people. The number of families awaiting registration in Alexandria is 974 families/1454 individuals and in Damietta 950 families/2366 individuals. Each registration assistant is expected to register a minimum of 10 individuals in an hour, as per the regional registration standards for the Syria operation.

The sex and age breakdown was the same as in the previous weeks. The majority of registered individuals are females. When looking more precisely at the adult population, the largest age group is 18 – 59 years old.

Total Gender and Age Breakdown during the reporting week



1.PROTECTION

During the reporting period, the protection team continued to cover the Zamalek registration center and the mobile registration mission in 6th of October.

The Syrian refugee communities reported that, as school final exams end in Syria, many Syrians are expected to arrive to Egypt. It is worth noting that the Egyptian authorities have shown a great deal of flexibility in admitting Syrians into the country.

UNHCR has so far succeeded in establishing fifteen Community Based Protection Networks (CBPNs), to complement its presence as Syrian refugee communities are widely scattered throughout the numerous urban areas in Egypt. The CBPNs established in Sadat City, Damietta, Helwan, and Alexandria have been in direct contact with UNHCR referring vulnerable cases and sharing needs of their communities. Trainings have been provided to Damietta CBPNs and further sessions will be provided to other existing networks.

Counseling sessions provided to people of concern on several issues such as stolen documents and resettlement queries. The protection unit clearly explained that currently there is no resettlement program for Syrians in Egypt.

During the reporting period, 20 unaccompanied or separated children were interviewed by the Protection unit;

- An orphan who has arrived illegally to Egypt with a non-relative caregiver,
- A child who is currently awaiting his brother's arrival from another country.
- Two brothers arrived to Egypt together with their father, yet he left them and returned to Syria to take care of the rest of the family. While none of them is enrolled in school, they are working either in embroidery or in a restaurant. The brothers have been referred for fast-track registration.
- Twelve children who are accompanied by either an uncle or an aunt. The children were fast-tracked for registration and added on their caregiver files.
- Four protection interviews were conducted with three, of which are pregnant child spouses accompanied by their mother while the fourth child is accompanied by her grandfather. All four were fast-tracked for registration and referred to Community services for immediate follow-up and assistance.

53 women have been identified as women at risk. The women identified were fast tracked for registration and referred to Community services. The cases vary from single mothers and single pregnant women, survivor of torture in the country of origin and women who are requesting divorce as a result of domestic violence.

Two in-depth protection interviews were conducted with a Syrian young male who defected the free army and fled the country with a Syrian passport not belonging to him. The person was fast-tracked for registration after verifying other personal identification.

Seven cases have requested the closure of their files with the office; two departing to attend to family matters, while five departing to third countries (Saudi-Arabia, Lebanon, and Libya) for reasons including looking for a job, family reunification, performing pilgrimage, and/or seeking asylum in other countries.

Three couples who arrived illegally to Egypt have been fast-tracked for registration and referred to UNHCR legal partner for the issuance of legal marriage certificate through local authorities.

As part of its outreach efforts, UNHCR received information and a list of 200 Syrian families through community leaders from El-Sadat City, Menofiya. UNHCR deployed a field mission to assess the Syrian refugees' needs in El-Sadat City.

Several activities were undertaken during the mission. Two focus groups discussions were organized separately with women and men. A CBPN was established to identify and flag protection cases and communities' concerns.

The protection unit also assessed the situation of Syrians in Al Sadat city. Through family visits, focus group discussions and individual meetings some immediate needs of the Syrian families were identified: Lack of awareness on services available, access to registration, medical facilities, higher education, shelter and food for some vulnerable families.

Syrians in Sadat City face difficulty in enrolling their children in Egyptian public schools in the area due to bureaucracy in place and a lack of awareness. Some Syrians encounter challenges despite the Presidential decree including children repeating same academic year, and papers requested by schools (passports, school transcripts, and school certificates) in case of loss. Access to higher education is limited; as well some are not able to afford tuition and others not able to provide required documents for enrolment.

Syrians stated that they do not have easy access to government hospitals while private doctors are expensive. They also mentioned names of three hospitals and clinics offering good healthcare service, wishing UNHCR to partner with it instead of approaching existing medical partners either in Cairo or Alexandria.

In general, Syrians feel safe although women feel safer going out being accompanied by a man. Women stated that they have received few offers and proposals for marriage from taxi drivers and other unknown people. However, they stated that no one has been coerced into marriage up to now.

Refugee families in El Sadat City are generally poor; they have chosen to reside there because of affordable shelter and for work, since there is less competition in the job market. Flat rents range between 400 to 1000 EGP. Due to the influx of large number of Syrians to Sadat city, the rent amount has increased to 900 – 1200 EGP for a two to three bedroom apartment. Two to three families usually reside in a three-room apartment.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

During the reporting period, the Islamic Relief World Wide in Cairo (IRW), UNHCR's partner, registered in Cairo 535 families / 2132 individuals. The number of registered refugees eligible for assistance increased as a result of the improved awareness among the Syrian refugees regarding IRW's services. 442 families / 1772 individuals were identified as vulnerable. IRW also conducted 43 emergency interviews for refugees who were extremely vulnerable. This is in addition to 43 families / 129 individuals who received a one- time emergency assistance.

During the same period, 116 families / 480 individuals received financial assistance through the post office. IRW conducted home visits to 15 families / 80 individuals; and counselled 340 families / 1422 individuals. IRW and Tadamon centre are cooperating smoothly. Tadamon refers vulnerable families, who need immediate assistance and IRW fast tracks those cases. Moreover, the IRW team conducted a mission to Damietta to meet with Resala, UNHCR's partner in Damietta to support the Resala team and to extend cooperation between the partners. Plans to work an evening shift are on their way to absorb the backlog of registration.

3. FOOD DISTRIBUTION

During the reporting, World Food Programme (WFP) completed the food voucher distributions in Damietta reaching a total of 2,889 Syrian refugees or 99% of the target. Similar food voucher distributions are planned in Obour and 6th of October (greater Cairo) and Alexandria to assist a total of 28,000 Syrian refugees in June. The joint UNHCR / WFP rapid assessment for Alexandria has been rescheduled to the 24 and 25 June. The assessment will identify areas for geographic targeting to ensure that support is provided to the most food-insecure Syrian refugees.

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community services unit provided counseling to all applicants who approached the Zamalek office and the 6th of October mobile registration mission. During counseling, 32 families were identified to have specific needs and were fast tracked for registration; among whom six were scheduled for home visit registration.

During the reporting period, the community service unit together with Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) took part in the financial assistance committee to review 150 cases and decide on the financial assistance eligibility. Community service unit started assisting IRW in eliminating the cases that are pending for committees by conducting 3 parallel committees each with 50 cases and the support will continue till the pending cases are finished.

The Community service team conducted a two- day mission to Damietta to train the Resala team, UNHCR's new implementing partner for cash assistance. The training focused on case management, social assessment interviews and applying UNHCR's financial assistance eligibility criteria in their assessments. The Project Manager, Senior Social worker and 9 Social workers attended the training.

The Community service unit participated in the field assessment mission for Syrian refugees residing in Sadat City for future interventions in terms of registration, identifying protection issue and services needed. 5 Community leaders had been identified to facilitate UNHCR contact with the Syrian refugees in Sadat city.

A meeting was held with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). The purpose of the meeting was information sharing since MSF plans to conduct needs assessment for the Syrian refugees in 6th October area in Greater Cairo. The purpose of the assessment is to identify the needs of the Syrians refugees in terms of acute immediate mental health needs that would constitute an emergency response.

5. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the reporting period, Tadamon center referred 20 vulnerable families to the Islamic Relief Worldwide in Cairo. Tadamon continues to provide information about registration and services furnished by UNHCR to Syrian refugees.

Tadamon held a meeting with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) to coordinate health services referral mechanisms, which aims to cover for current mental health gaps. Tadamon also arranged several home visit for MSF mission for health assessment. There are potential plans from MSF to open a clinic for Syrian refugees in 6th of October area.

Tadamon volunteers visited 10 for Community based associations that are serving and assisting Syrian refugees at the Pyramid – Faisal districts in Greater Cairo. The purpose of the mission was to get information on their services and to introduce them with 6th of October community center programs.

A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted with the Engineers Association club and swimming pool in 6th October. The MoU targeted 100 Syrian refugee children for the activity of swimming for children of Syrian refugees, during the three month summer vacation.

In coordination with Nassiem Al-Gana School, the community center will provide computer classes, theater activities and art/crafts for 250 students targeting age group (9 to 14 years old) starting Sunday 9th June.

In response to the Syrian Refugee parent's request to provide services to children under-5 in terms of early childhood development activities, Tadamon sustained its children activities during the summer vacation period. "Word & Letter" interactive play games project started this week with 24 children. The project targets 3-5 age - group and aims at giving children new tools of expression through innovative ways to enhance their self- confidence. "El Sard El- Masrahy band" Theater project aims to teach children ways to express their feelings and fears and to earn skills related to theater such as acting. The project attracted 20 children from the age group 10-13 years.

French language lesson continued during the reporting period, 24 Syrian children benefited from the lesson.

The center continues to hold regular guitar lessons for both adults and children. A professional Syrian guitar teacher teaches the lessons. Twelve children and fourteen adults benefited from the lesson.

"My Bag" project continued to attract 20 women during the reporting period. The project's objective is to empower Refugee women by teaching them skills that will help them to earn an income. The products will be showcased during the World Refugee Day celebrations.

A total of 255 (120 women and 135 men) Syrian Refugees have benefited from an adult program delivering information. Training also provided information on the protection training offered by the UNHCR the information sessions on the community center services and the NGOs & CBOs that support refugees including places that offer assistance to Syrian refugees. It also provided employment opportunities that were posted on a bulletin board.

During the reporting period, Tadamon held awareness sessions for girls and women on forced and early marriage and 20 women attended the sessions.

Other micro grants activities include, health for all, waste recycling project, and Syrian Tuktuk; an electronic newspaper for children. Preparations are under way for more activities for the children since the summer vacation started.

The number of participants, who benefited from the Syrian community center regular activities, was 1641 individuals and from irregular activities (micro-grants projects), was 397 individuals. It is worth noting that the academic year has ended which will increase the number of children participants in the center's activities.

6. EDUCATION

The Under-Secretary for education advised that a ministerial guidance was issued with immediate effect stating that no Syrian student is to be failed for 2012-2013 academic year for not attending the first term exams due to arriving to Egypt after or during the first term, instead to be awarded the pass marks. This ministerial guidance also states that Syrian students who fail more than two subjects in the final exams will be allowed to re-take their exams in all of these subjects. This practice has been granted to the Syrian students contrary to the norm in the Egyptian education system where by students are only allowed to fail more than two subjects. Syrian students will be allowed to re-take their exams in August of every year; otherwise they would have to repeat the full year. The Under-Secretary also stated that Egyptian students are set to benefit from such a ministerial guidance exactly like their Syrian counterparts.

Advocacy efforts with Ministry of Education (MoE) continues and a formalized partnership between UNHCR and the MoE is in its initial stages responding to the Letter Of Understanding that was proposed by UNHCR in the past two weeks.

A meeting was held with Save the Children for their input to UNHCR education strategy in Egypt. UNICEF has already signed an agreement with 6th of October Syrian Community school to establish eight early childhood education classes. In addition, UNICEF will establish in partner with KG other classes for age groups 3-5 and 6-11 years in Alexandria, Damietta and greater Cairo.

During the reporting period, 264 students were registered for Education grants with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and 333 received educational grants. There was one new special needs case registered in this period. Thus, CRS registered a total number of twelve cases to date.

7. HEALTH-CARE

At Refuge Egypt clinic, 76 under five children received primary health care among them only two needed referral to secondary level of care, 61 women benefited from the antenatal care among them 29 cases were new and 32 cases for follow up with four deliveries of live birth child.

During this reporting period, 24 Syrians got health education sessions about calcium and vitamin D supplement, Breast feeding and weaning and oral health, HIV and indications of cesarean section or HIV and dangerous signs during pregnancy.

Refuge Egypt reported on many stories that refer to the health improvement of the patients they follow and satisfaction of their patients through getting many thanks and very encouraging words about the quality of their health services in comparison to Syria.

8. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

During the reporting period, a total of 255 cases benefited from psychosocial services at UNHCR's partner PSTIC and two families benefited from housing assistance. The total number of cases served by PSTIC was 50 cases / 201 individuals and nine new cases /39 individuals were filed.

The Psychosocial workshop (PSW) held their first Community Awareness Workshop about the Management of Stress on Friday 7th of June for 22 people. The workshop was held at Tadamon community center in 6th of October and will continue to be held weekly. It included drama, role-play, discussion about stress and methods to manage it including communication with family and relaxation exercises.

9. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, the Regional Representative was interviewed, by Al Youm 7 newspaper that is highly circulated in Egypt, about Syrian refugees and other related refugees issues.

The Public information unit is working on producing a mass information leaflet/booklet that summaries important information about UNHCR services, visa renewals, education grants, health and financial assistance. The booklet is intended as a reference for Syrian refugees.