

## Egypt Weekly Update

### Syria Operation

June 25<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013

### HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of Syrian refugees registered and awaiting registration with UNHCR in Egypt stands at 88,828 individuals as of 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2013, with 69,208 Syrians registered to date.

Since 30 June, security and political situation in Egypt is characterized by mass demonstrations and some clashes resulting in a number of casualties and hundreds of injured, as demonstrators demand that President Morsi steps down. Impact for refugees has been limited so far but UNHCR will continue to monitor the situation. There has been some disruption of services as UNHCR and partners had to close their offices for two days.

#### Total Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	4988	5247	10235
5 - 11	6024	6385	12409
12 - 17	3996	4639	8635
18 - 59	17860	17122	34982
60+	1426	1521	2947
<b>Total</b>	<b>34294</b>	<b>34914</b>	<b>69208</b>

#### REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

The total number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Egypt stands at **25,105 families / 69,208 individuals** as of June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Additional **19,620** individuals are awaiting registration.

To date, the total number of Syrian refugees registered in Greater Cairo stands at 35,395 individuals, Alexandria 14,146 individuals, and Damietta 7,696 individuals. 11,971 Syrian refugees are residing in other governorates in Egypt.

The total number of Syrian refugees arriving to Egypt directly from Syria stands at 40,391 individuals (58.4%) and 28,494 individuals (41.1%) arrived transiting through Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan and 323 individuals (0.5%) through other countries.

During the reporting period, the total number of Syrian refugees registered is 1665 individuals / 549 families were registered and 144 specific needs were identified in Zamalek Registration center. 74 individuals were fast tracked by different agencies and partners during the course of the week.

The number of individuals scheduled for registration in Zamalek registration center is 15,800 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 operations.

The registration team worked double shifts at Zamalek registration center from 08 AM to 07 PM during the reporting period. The office had to close at 06 PM on 26<sup>th</sup> June due to security concerns over demonstrations organized in Cairo. As a precautionary measure the office remained closed on 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June. Applicants who had registration appointments for 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June were given earlier appointments and registered on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Two registration staff will remain on standby during the upcoming week to send notifications via text messages to the applicants scheduled for registration if the office closes down due to expected worsening security situation in Cairo. Registration appointments for the first two weeks of July are kept at a minimum (between 200-500 individuals a day) so that the office can ensure earlier date of registration appointment for applicants whose appointments were postponed.

UNHCR Community Services staff provided counseling to all applicants who approached the Zamalek office. Community services staff continued to review and screen cases for specific needs to ensure appropriate entry into progress for further tracking and data analysis.

### Monthly Registration Trends



## 1. PROTECTION

Protection staff identified several detention cases during the reporting period. A Syrian male arriving from Libya was detained at Cairo International Airport for forging exit/entry visas to Egypt. He was allowed to leave for Jordan to join his mother and siblings there.

Another six Syrians were detained at Cairo International Airport after being deported from Tanzania for having forged Egyptian passports with the intention to leave for Europe. Five of the six had previously entered Egypt legally with genuine Syrian passports. The fifth, a military defector, had attempted to enter Egypt on a Syrian passport belonging to someone else. The military defector was given an entry visa valid for six months on a separate card since he does not have an official passport. The military defector claimed that the opposition forces would send him an official passport. The other five were allowed to leave to Turkey on their Syrian passports.

During a mission to Alexandria, the protection team identified some of the most vulnerable cases in urgent need for medical assistance, assessed protection needs, and raised awareness about the importance of registration and services available to the Syrian community. A number of vulnerable cases who had not yet registered, including some urgent medical cases were referred for assistance.

The team also provided guidance on protection issues to internal and external interlocutors, in order to ensure legal assistance and documentation is accessible to persons of concern (PoC).

In Alexandria Syrian families are concentrated mainly in areas where rent and living costs are comparatively cheaper such as Faisal City, Mandara, and Sidi-Bishr, Khamsa-a-Arbaeen Street, Asafira, Jamal Abdunasir, Montaza, walAbul Air and Ajami.

The Syrian community was informed about postponement of scheduled mobile registration in Alexandria during June due to current security development in the country. The community expressed strong frustration to UNHCR about delays in mobile registration and pointed to a number of affected cases. The number of new arrivals in Alexandria is also increasing. There are regular flights from Basel Assad International Airport in Syria to Borg El Arab International Airport, and also some arrive by sea. There are some families arriving with no savings and many are unable to work or find work.

UNHCR met with the Arab Doctor's Union (ADU) in Alexandria which provides limited direct medical services to local communities and some Syrian refugees. Through its partners in Alexandria, the ADU provide primary secondary and tertiary health care. In addition the ADU provides food, Non Food Items assistance in Alexandria and housing assistance to few vulnerable Syrian families.

## 2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

During the reporting period, the Islamic Relief World Wide in Cairo (IRW), UNHCR's partner, registered in Cairo 619 families / 2,522 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. 486 families / 1,916 individuals were identified as vulnerable. This figure includes 55 families / 159 individuals who received a one-time emergency assistance. 13 home visits were conducted during the same reporting period. Total number of families who received monthly assistance as of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013 through the post office transactions is 1686 families.

IRW counseled 523 families / 2,115 individuals. IRW and Tadamon community center have set up smooth coordination mechanisms. Tadamon refers vulnerable families, who need immediate assistance and IRW fast tracks those cases.

Community Services staff assisted Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) in processing the pending cases. Three parallel committees each with 55 cases were conducted and this joint process will continue until the backlog is cleared.

The financial assistance eligibility criteria was revised, updated and shared with relevant partners and colleagues to start its implementation.

Precautionary measures were taken due the demonstrations that were planned for June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Interviews that were scheduled during the week of June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup> were rescheduled between June 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. IRW rescheduled the appointment during afternoon shifts to reduce the number of interviews in case of any unforeseen security circumstances. Emergency phone numbers were distributed so that families would be able to communicate with IRW in case of any emergency.

### 3. FOOD DISTRIBUTION

For the month of July, World Food Programme (WFP) is planning to scale up assistance by an additional 10,000 beneficiaries, pending receipt of additional beneficiary lists. This would bring the total to 40,000 food-insecure Syrian refugees assisted with food vouchers this month.

Food voucher distributions are being planned to start the first weekend of July in Damietta followed by Obour, 6<sup>th</sup> of October in greater Cairo and Alexandria. Distribution schedules may need to be adjusted depending on the security situation to ensure the safety of staff and beneficiaries. Currently, WFP staff who do not live within proximity to the office are working from home, otherwise business is continuing as usual.

In a new initiative, the Government of the French Republic signed an LOU with UNHCR to distribute food packages to vulnerable Syrian refugees living in 6<sup>th</sup> of October city, Cairo on the occasion of the upcoming month of Ramadan. The Distribution was based on a thorough assessment executed by UNHCR's partner Tadamon Association. Tadamon volunteers distributed 2,000 food packages to 1,000 Syrian refugee families over a three-day period. During the home distribution community services staff identified six vulnerable families who were not registered with UNHCR. The families were given a letter to approach UNHCR registration office in Zamalek for "fast track" registration.

### 4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Tadamon community center held several meetings with Syrian refugees and community members to raise their awareness on responding to any security emergency. French and English language lessons continued during the reporting period and 49 Syrian children and adults benefited from it. A professional Syrian guitar teacher teaches the 10 children and 8 adults at the center and accessories and Handicrafts activities continued to attract 26 Syrian refugee women.

A total of 2,000 Syrian Refugees (1100 women and 900 men) have benefited from an adult program delivering information. Information training provided information related to protection training provided by the UNHCR, information sessions on the community center services and NGOs & CBOs that support refugees, including places that offer assistance to Syrian refugees. Moreover, it provided employment opportunities that were posted on a bulletin board.

The number of participants, who benefited from the Syrian community center regular activities, was 8,547 individuals.

### 5. EDUCATION

UNHCR and Ministry of Education (MoE) are on the road to formalizing their working relationship. MoE Under-secretary advised that the Egyptian Minister for Education has accepted the points raised in the UNHCR Letter of Understanding, a meeting is to be organized in the next couple of weeks to embark on the details of the assistance that UNHCR can offer the MoE in order to facilitate access to public schools for Syrian refugees.

During the reporting period, 200 students were registered for Education grants with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and 251 received educational grants. CRS registered one special needs child. To date, a total number of 14 special needs children. It worth mentioning that the total number of Syrian refugee students who received educational grants, to date, through CRS reached 4,911 students.

Support to the Syrian community school in 6<sup>th</sup> of October city continues in order to address needs identified by the School management representative. The school management submitted a proposal was detailing their needs in order to accommodate more than 1,000 additional children who applied to join the school for next academic year.

The number of children taking part and benefitting from the various educational and recreational activities over the summer holidays has increased and 60 beneficiaries of the Simplified Science classes are finishing their classes this week. Sports activities to address school age children physical well-being are on going.

## 6. HEALTH-CARE

During the reporting period, the total number of Syrians refugees who benefited from the primary health services at Mahmoud Hospital was 337, among whom 20 were under 5 children and eight women who benefited from antenatal care. Seven women benefited from the natal services, 120 from secondary health care services among them 12 children under 5 years and 21 from the tertiary health care services, in addition to 30 Syrian patients who were admitted to the hospital and 192 chronic patients who benefited from the treatment, most of them were Hypertensive, Diabetic and Cardiac respectively.

At refuge Egypt clinic, 91 under 5 children received primary health care with one referral to malnutrition clinic and two referrals to secondary health care. Some 49 women benefited from the antenatal care, one of them was suffering from serious medical condition affecting the baby's heart rate, however, she was closely monitored and successfully treated and the baby's condition improved. Moreover, two Syrian patients benefited from natal care services, two from family planning services and four from gynecologist consultation.

Some 20 Syrians benefited from the health education sessions held at Refuge Egypt clinic during the reporting week, they were about Calcium and vitamin D supplement, Breast feeding and weaning and oral health, complementary feeding, mother's diet.

## 7. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

During the reporting period, a total of 317 cases benefited from psychosocial services at UNHCR's partner PSTIC; and 6 cases benefited from housing assistance. The total number of cases served by PSTIC was 79 cases / 289 individuals and 25 new cases / 116 individuals were filed.

As a precautionary measure responding to the upcoming demonstration in Egypt, PSTIC prepared "PSTIC and Emergency Preparedness" document which includes the telephone numbers of Emergency Team and 24-7 Mobile Numbers, in addition the documents includes safe locations in case of the emergencies.

MSF conducted a needs assessment mission for Syrian refugees in 6<sup>th</sup> of October city, Greater Cairo and Alexandria. The aim of their mission was to get a clear picture of the needs of the Syrians refugees in terms of acute and immediate mental health needs that would constitute an emergency response. Some of their findings were shared with UNHCR the final report will be shared with UNHCR once finalized.

## 8. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, the Regional Representative was interviewed about refugees in Egypt by Al Ahram newspaper, the most prominent newspaper in Egypt.

Regional Representative and the French Ambassador distributed 50 packages to 25 Syrian families at the Tadamon community center in an event to celebrate the French donation of 2,000 food packages for vulnerable Syrian refugee families. During his speech at the Tadamon community center, the French ambassador praised Egypt's role in assisting Syrian refugees, despite the economic and political instabilities existing. In addition, he said that France allocated 25 million Euros in aid of Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. Syrian beneficiaries thanked the French ambassador for his support and stressed their gratitude to the Egyptian people who welcomed them in Egypt.

### French Ambassador and Regional Representative distributing food packages

