

Egypt Weekly Update
Syria Operation
June 18th – June 24th 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of Syrian refugees registered and awaiting registration with UNHCR in Egypt stands at 85,878 individuals as of 24th of June 2013, with 67,558 Syrians registered to date.

Total Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	4868	5124	9992
5 - 11	5877	6203	12080
12 - 17	3920	4539	8459
18 - 59	17434	16709	34143
60+	1397	1487	2884
Total	33496	34062	67558

Head of House-Holds	Total
F	6838
M	17729
Total	24567

REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

The total number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Egypt stands at **24,567 families/67,558 individuals** as of June 24th, 2013. Additional **18,320** individuals are awaiting registration.

To date, the total number of Syrian refugees registered in Greater Cairo stands at 34,406 individuals, Alexandria 14,088 individuals, and Damietta 7,666 individuals. 11,398 Syrian refugees are residing in other governorates in Egypt.

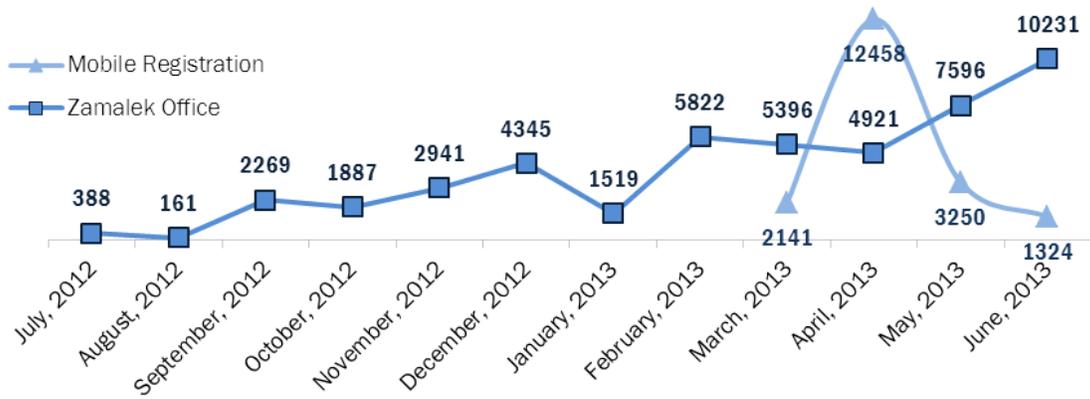
During the reporting period, the total number of Syrian refugees registered is 3903 individuals/ 1363 families were registered and 394 specific needs were identified in Zamalek Registration center.

A total of 156 individuals were fast tracked by different agencies and partners, and 23 home visits were carried out during the course of the week.

The number of individuals scheduled for registration in Zamalek registration center is 14,500 people. The number of families awaiting registration in Alexandria is 974 families/1454 individuals and in Damietta 950 families/2366 individuals.

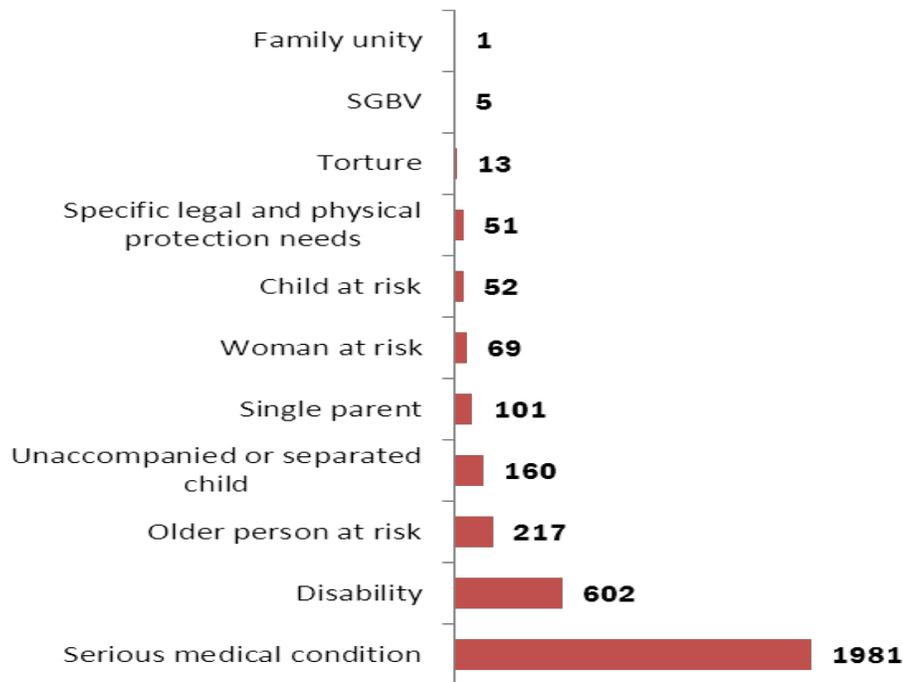
Each registration assistant is expected to register a minimum of 10 individuals in an hour, as per the regional registration standards for the Syria operations.

Monthly Registration Trends



Individual with specific needs

It is worth noting that more than 60 % of specific needs are serious medical condition.



1. PROTECTION

During the reporting period, the Protection team continued to cover the Zamalek registration center.

The protection unit conducted two visits to the Cairo international airport to monitor flights arriving from Damascus, Lebanon and Jordan. Most Syrians arrive either directly from Syria or through Lebanon and few numbers arrive through Jordan. There has been an increase in the number of Syrians returning to Syria. They either claim that the security situation in Damascus has improved or that they have run out of savings and can no longer afford to stay in Egypt. After diplomatic ties between Syria and Egypt were cut flights from Damascus continued as usual with a few delays.

Many Syrians reportedly now arrive at Al Bourg Al Arab airport in Alexandria since these flights are cheaper compared to those arriving at Cairo airport. The protection team will conduct a visit to Al Bourg Al Arab airport to monitor the situation of newcomers there in the following two weeks.

Six cases approached UNHCR requesting that their files be closed. Four stated they wished to return to Syria because of difficult living conditions in Egypt and a perceived improvement of the security situation in Damascus. Two cases wished to return to Lebanon.

Two protection interviews were conducted during the reporting period. In one case, passports were retained by the police following a fight with an Egyptian shop owner, but were returned the next day. The other case concerned a refugee who believes that unknown persons due to an imputed political opinion are following him.

Several counseling sessions were conducted for persons of concern who were worried about the closure of the Syrian embassy and the impact this would have on continued access to education, as some Egyptian schools continued to demand that documents be certified by the Syrian embassy.

Five Best Interest Assessments (BIA) were conducted for unaccompanied and separated children. Four separated teenagers were working in order to help support the extended family and did not express any interest in enrolling in school. One child wife without official marriage documents was among those for whom a BIA was conducted. The marriage had taken place in Syria.

A field mission has gone to Alexandria to prepare the conditions for the upcoming mobile registration mission that will take place between 3rd and 11th July and to monitor the implementation of our assistance programs. Preliminary findings indicate the need to improve medical assistance, for which refugees complain of long delays in referrals.

UNHCR conducted two training workshops for UNHCR partners. A total of 85 staff from 10 partners participated – Caritas, Refugee Egypt, PSTIC, IRW, CRS, Tadamon, ACSFT, Resala, Mahmoud hospital and Save the Children. The workshop focused on giving the participants a better understanding on UNHCR's mandate, the principle of international protection, the refugee definition, durable solutions and rights and duties of refugees in Egypt, as well as UNHCR's funding mechanism and an overview of the various projects being implemented for Syrian refugees in Egypt. Resource persons were staff from both the regular and the Syrian operation.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

During the reporting period, the Islamic Relief World Wide in Cairo (IRW), UNHCR's partner, registered in Cairo 734 families / 2985 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.

818 families / 2963 individuals were identified as vulnerable. This figure includes 147 families / 408 individuals who received a one-time emergency assistance. 14 home visits were conducted during the same reporting period.

IRW counseled 336 families / 1352 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.

3. FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In the month of June, World Food Programme (WFP) is assisting 28,000 food-insecure Syrian refugees. Distributions have been completed in Damietta, Obour and 6th of October providing food vouchers to 14,023 Syrian refugees or 98% per cent of the targeted beneficiaries. Distributions in Alexandria are currently being completed with actual numbers to be finalized.

WFP is planning, pending availability of funding, to scale up assistance by an additional 20,000 beneficiaries for July, providing food vouchers to up to 50,000 Syrian refugees on a monthly basis.

For the second time in Alexandria, WFP faced disruptive behavior and threats from a group of Syrian refugees who were not included in the voucher distribution list. Eventually, they were persuaded to leave the site and the distribution was able to be completed although they continue to call WFP and aggressively pursue being added to the list for next month.

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community services unit 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.

UNICEF proposed to establish three child friendly spaces in Alexandria, where children with special needs can be referred.

5. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Tadamon community center held several meetings with Syrian refugees to raise their awareness on responding to any security emergency.

Under field visit activities Tadamon organized several coordination meetings to assist in the American University in Cairo (AUC) research about Syrian refugees in four governorates (Alexandria, Mansoura, Ismailia and Damietta). Moreover, Tadamon organized focus group discussions (30 participants) in each governorate and provided logistic support to AUC.

Tadamon conducted an information session for Syrian refugee women to introduce Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) services for them regarding mental health & SGBV services. During the session the participants agreed to organize field visits to MSF clinics to introduce the services for the community and to address availability and accessibility for refugee women for benefiting from the provided health services.

During the reporting period, Tadamon referred 14 vulnerable cases to Islamic Relief Worldwide, including three with disabilities. Tadamon continues to provide information regarding the registration and other services furnished by UNHCR to Syrian refugees.

In response to the Syrian Refugee parents' request to provide services for children under-5 in terms of early childhood development activities during the summer vacation, Tadamon sustained its children activities during the reporting period. "Word & Letter" interactive play games project started this week with 26 children. The project targets 3-5 age group and aims at giving children new tools of expression through innovative ways and enhancing their self- confidence.

"El Sard El- Masrahy band" Theater project aims at teaching children ways to express their feelings and fears and to earn skills related to theater such as acting. The project attracted 80 children from the age group 10-13 years.

"Training for all IT Project" for children started this week and it was attended by 7 children. It is expected to receive more requests for this type of training considering the fact that children are interested in technology.

French language lessons continued during the reporting period and 25 Syrian children benefited from it.

The center continues to hold regular guitar lessons for both adults and children. A professional Syrian guitar teacher teaches the participants. 10 children and 8 adults benefited from the lessons.

Accessories and Handicrafts activities continued to attract 26 Syrian refugee women.

"My Bag" project continued to attract 8 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.

A total of 268 Syrian Refugees (145 women and 123 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 2286 individuals and from irregular activities (micro-grants projects) was 348 individuals.

6. EDUCATION

Support to the Syrian Community School in 6th of October City continues with the delivery of water coolers, fans and payments of rent through the agreement signed between UNHCR and the Catholic Relief Services. The school management team is now looking for other premises in Zone 4 in 6th of October to facilitate absorbing the increasing number of school age Syrian children in the area and to enhance the school's capacity.

Half of the community school teachers have now successfully completed their professional training at the Canadian Academy in 6th October City. The training is designed at three phases to allow the school management to get the best use of their teachers' skills and identify those who are able to work on curricula development for the future. Remedial classes are also taking place to prepare students to reset their exams in the middle of July 2013.

UNHCR's advocacy efforts continue with the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education to enhance access to university places for Syrian students who qualify for the Egyptian Universities. A meeting between the Regional Representative and the Minister of Education was held in the Ministry's premises. The minister pledged cooperation with UNHCR and reaffirmed the government's policies on ensuring Syrians' un-hindered access to Egyptian universities.

During the reporting period, 200 students were registered for Education grants with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and 581 received educational grants. CRS registered, to date, a total number of 13 special needs cases. It worth mentioning that the total number of Syrian refugee students who received educational grants, to date, through CRS reached 4709 students.

7. HEALTH-CARE

During the reporting period, the health officer conducted a one-day mission to Damietta. The purpose of the mission was to train Resala' health staff of on UNHCR health guidelines, medical assistance criteria, cycle of medical paper and the responsibilities of referral case manager.

During the reporting period, Caritas provided primary health care services for 532 Syrians among them 12 were children under 5 years and nine women for antenatal care. One case needed to be referred to secondary level of care in addition to 70 Syrians who benefited from chronic diseases treatment.

At Mahmoud Hospital, 460 Syrians benefited from the primary health care, among whom 114 referrals to secondary health care level, in addition to 240 patients who benefited from chronic diseases treatment.

8. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

During the reporting period, a total of 283 cases benefited from psychosocial services at UNHCR's partner PSTIC; and 4 cases benefited from housing assistance. The total number of cases served by PSTIC was 58 cases / 229 individuals and 15 new cases /60 individuals were filed.

9. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

In celebration of the World Refugee Day, the Regional Representative was interviewed about refugees in Egypt by “Sharek” program broadcasted in the Egyptian Satellite channel and Channel 2 local TV and by Al Ahram Online website.

The World Refugee Day, organized by both UNHCR and Tadamon, was very successful and was attended by many refugees who enjoyed the activities and celebrations. The events included theatre and song activities, arts and crafts exhibition and some children activities for the refugees.

Syrian Children acting in a play during the World Refugee Day Celebrations

