

## Egypt Weekly Update

### Syria Operation

July 2<sup>nd</sup> – July 8<sup>th</sup> 2013

### HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of Syrian refugees registered and awaiting registration with UNHCR in Egypt stands at 88,960 individuals as of 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2013, with 70,140 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.

Demonstration continued during the reporting period resulting in the closure of UNHCR offices three days.

The Egyptian authorities enacted new procedures requiring Syrians entering Egypt to have a valid visa and prior security approval from the Egyptian government. This led to the deportation, of 259 Syrians on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

There has been some disruption of services as UNHCR and partners had to close their offices for several days.

### REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

The total number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Egypt stands at **25,393 families / 70,140 individuals** as of July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Additional **18,820** individuals are awaiting registration.

To date, the total number of Syrian refugees registered in Greater Cairo stands at 36,119 individuals, Alexandria 14,185 individuals, and Damietta 7,696 individuals. 12,140 Syrian refugees are residing in other governorates in Egypt.

The total number of Syrian refugees arriving to Egypt directly from Syria stands at 41,053 individuals (58.53%) and 29,087 individuals (41.47%) arrived transiting through Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan. 80% of the total number of Syrians who came through transit countries came from Lebanon; 11 % from Jordan, and 9% from other countries.

During the reporting period, the total number of Syrian refugees registered is 845 individuals / 262 families in Zamalek Registration center. 92 families with specific needs were given priority and registered on the spot. The team carried out one emergency registration at the hospital for an in-patient on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The team did not undertake any home visit during the reporting period due to the movement restrictions in force.

The number of individuals scheduled for registration in Zamalek registration center is 15,000 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.

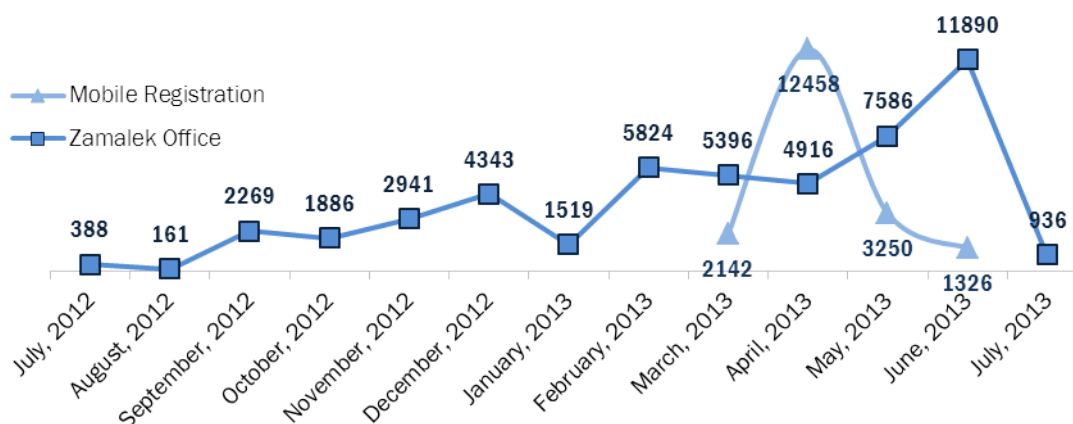
UNHCR continued providing support by phone through the registration information hotline. Two registration staff remained on standby during the reporting week to send notifications via text messages to the applicants scheduled for registration if the office closes down due to expected worsening security 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 and responded to all calls on the UNHCR hotline due to the closure of the registration center.

### Total Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	5039	5301	10340
5 - 11	6134	6500	12634
12 - 17	4047	4685	8732
18 - 39	12780	12002	24782
40 - 59	5317	5344	10661
60+	1446	1545	2991
<b>Total</b>	<b>34763</b>	<b>35377</b>	<b>70140</b>

### Monthly Registration Trends



## 1. PROTECTION

Egyptians have been polarized during the political crisis and ensuing street violence over the last week. This polarization has also affected perceptions and sympathy towards the Syrian refugee community, as part of the Egyptian political discourse has also included opposing views over the Syrian crisis. As such, there is a perception that Syrians against the regime in Syria have engaged and aligned with supporters of the ousted former Egyptian president Morsi.

According to Syrian community leaders, Egyptian activists have begun distributing leaflets and other forms of xenophobic propaganda denouncing the presence of Syrians in the country, and the campaign is spreading quickly. A few Egyptian social media networks have been abuzz with calls for the arrest and deportation of Syrian refugees, and there have been reported cases of verbal and physical threats made against People of Concern. Further concerns have been raised following media reports of a Syrian national allegedly involved in a shooting incident against protestors.

Three protection cases were reported and provided with medical and legal assistance. These concerned a Syrian woman injured during clashes in Cairo, theft and conflict with a landlord. No protection cases directly linked to the demonstrations were reported.

Two people of concern requested that their cases be closed. They both cited family reasons and the lack of employment opportunities in Egypt. The current political/security situation had not been a consideration in these decisions. A revision of the questionnaire and entry into proGes is being revised in order to better capture reasons for closure and reporting with proGes generated data.

On Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup>, one family - a father and his two daughters - was denied entry to Egypt at Cairo International Airport due to lack of valid travel documents of the two daughters. The family was travelling from Saudi Arabia where the father had a residence permit, but the daughters did not. Despite UNHCR intervention, the daughters were deported to Saudi Arabia, accompanied by their father, where they were readmitted.

On Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2013:

- 159 Syrian passengers arriving from (LTK) Latakia Airport on Syrian Airlines flight 203 to (CAI) Cairo International Airport were not allowed to disembark and were returned to Syria on board the same flight.
- 55 Syrians arriving on a Middle East Airlines flight from (BEY) Beirut–Rafik Hariri International Airport were denied entry and were returned to Lebanon on the same flight.
- 6 Syrians arriving from Abu Dhabi International Airport to Cairo were denied entry due to forged documents and were returned to the UAE on the same flight.
- A further 39 Syrians arrived to Cairo International Airport from different locations and were not allowed to enter Egypt.
- In Alexandria, 25 Syrians arriving from Jordan have been detained in Borg Al Arab Airport. 13 of them had already been deported back to Jordan at the time of writing. UNHCR has been in contact with the Egyptian authorities in order to seek the release of three families previously registered with UNHCR who have not been allowed in at the time of writing.

Staff worked from home for most of the reporting week. A hotline was operational for protection concerns and staff kept in touch with Syrian community leaders during this period. A message was sent out to the Syrian community from the Zamalek registration center as well as through implementing partners, advising refugees of the various UNHCR hotlines, how best to remain safe and to avoid protests and large gatherings.

## 2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

During the reporting period the Islamic Relief World Wide in Cairo (IRW), UNHCR's partner, registered in Cairo 58 cases / 173 individuals. 502 cases / 1989 individuals were identified as vulnerable. This is in addition to 72 cases / 219 individuals who received a one-time emergency assistance.

IRW counseled 131 cases / 530 individuals. IRW and Tadamon center are cooperating smoothly. Tadamon refers vulnerable families, who need immediate assistance and IRW fast tracks those cases.

IRW maintained its emergency plans and was receiving inquiries by phone due to the closure of the office for most of the reporting week.

UNHCR's Partner, Caritas, has registered in Alexandria 16 new families / 53 individuals. 227 families/ 795 individuals received financial assistance and 62 families received ATM cards. Caritas Alexandria worked all days during the reporting period in order to respond to any emergencies in addition to its emergency response plans. In addition Caritas contacted all the families who had appointments with UNHCR mobile registration mission that was supposed to take place in Alexandria and was cancelled as a result of the current events.

## 3. FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Due to the ongoing security situation and concerns for the safety of staff and the Syrian refugees, WFP food voucher distributions in July have been delayed. Distributions are being planned to start the second week of July in Damietta followed by Obour, 6<sup>th</sup> of October and Alexandria assuming an improvement in the security situation. WFP staff have been responding to Syrian refugee concerns through the hotline to assure them that distributions will commence as soon as safety conditions prevail.

For the month of July, World Food Programme (WFP) is planning to scale up assistance and reach 40,000 food-insecure refugees, pending receipt of additional beneficiary lists.

In a new and independent initiative, International Relief Worldwide will distribute Ramadan packs to the most vulnerable Syrian refugees families on July 11<sup>th</sup> 2013.

## 4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Due to the current events in Egypt recently the community center created an emergency committee in the 6<sup>th</sup> of October center in collaboration with Egyptian/ Syrian NGOs. The main purpose of the committee was to respond to any emergencies in the neighbourhood experienced by refugees.

All regular activities were put on hold of during the reporting week in order to preserve the safety of the refugees and children.

Due to current crisis in the country Tadamon has prepared a new program for Ramadan. There has been a need to have more social interaction and support for the refugee community.

Tadamon signed a new agreement with Maraik Media foundation to implement a one year project under the name of "We are Here". This project targets Egyptian and Syrian refugee children in the age group between 12-16. The project aims at portraying and advocating for childrens' rights especailly the refugee children. The project will be implemented through the children participation and use of media tools such as research, online social media to present their issues/concerns and dreams. 20 children are set to benefit from this media training project and another 100 children will benefit from art workshops.

The number of participants, who benefited from the Syrian community center emergency committee was 810 individuals.

## 5. EDUCATION

During the reporting period, 111 students were registered for Education grants with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and none 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 remains the same as last week as 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. During the reporting week a cheque with a total amount of EGP 92,000 was delivered to the NGO, this amount represent the rent for 4 months for the school premises.

## 6. HEALTH-CARE

Arab Medical Union submitted a revised edition of their proposal that was submitted in RRP5. The core of the proposal is to support Syrian health providers' network and centers through capacity building, procurement of equipment and supplies and link them to the relevant syndicate; secondly, community health awareness through providing training to a number of community health workers from the Syrian community, the proposal is still under discussion.

UNHCR is working on development of standards of Practice to support the unregistered Syrians and fast track their registration in case of medical emergency and serious medical conditions.

The current events in Egypt affected the health service provision by Caritas Alexandria; the clinic was closed for 3 days during the reporting period. Caritas Alexandria clinic provided primary health care services for 59 Syrians among whom one child under 5 years and only one case needed referral to secondary level of care, in addition to 10 Syrians who benefited from chronic disease treatment.

## 7. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

During the reporting period, a total of 101 cases benefited from psychosocial services at UNHCR's partner PSTIC; and 2 cases benefited from housing assistance. The total number of cases served by PSTIC was 14 cases / 50 individuals and one new case was filed.

As a precautionary measure responding to the unrest in Egypt, PSTIC maintained its emergency preparedness "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.