

KEY FACT OF THE MONTH


Resettlement / humanitarian admission submissions exceeded the end-2014 target

HIGHLIGHTS:

31,050 Syrian refugees were registered in September, and 24,250 requested appointments. This was the lowest number of newly registered refugees since the beginning of the year and a 40 % reduction compared to new registrations in the first few months of 2014. The average waiting period countrywide increased by nine days to 31 days. The increase of the waiting period was due to resources being re-allocated to the verification process. By the end of September, 1,185,378 Syrian refugees were registered or awaiting registration. The number of PRS recorded with UNRWA stabilized at almost 43,400.

In September, legal awareness sessions were provided to approximately 9,000 individuals. This constituted a 30% increase over the previous month, partly due to intensification of legal awareness regarding a circular facilitating regularization of stay in Lebanon. The total number of refugees that have participated in legal awareness sessions in 2014 stands at over 92,367 persons.

UNHCR REGISTRATION FIGURES

 1,132,849	Total
1,123,150	Total Registered
9,699	Awaiting

With continued high needs for individual legal counseling, 2,792 individuals benefited from legal counseling, in particular in respect to obtainment of civil or legal stay documentation. Since the beginning of the year, over 24,000 refugees have been provided individual legal counseling in order to access their rights.

In September, 13,365 individuals, 65% of whom were female, benefited from empowerment activities, primarily group information sessions to increase awareness of available services and assistance. Since the beginning of the year, over 145,000 persons have benefited from these types of activities, already exceeding the end-2014 target.

At the field level and in Beirut, protection partners continued to monitor the effects of the border restrictions and the gratis regularization process through General Security.

In September, 1,505 persons were submitted for resettlement or humanitarian admission, bringing the total number of persons submitted for relocation in a third country to over 6,000 in 2014.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

While targeting new registrants, registration will focus on the process of renewal/verification in order to update data and foster accuracy. Efforts to improve access to registration will continue through various modalities, including transport support to registration facilities.

Following the introduction by the Government of a gratis regularization period, legal aid partners have intensified their awareness and counseling activities, ensuring that as many refugees as possible are aware of the regularization process and can make an informed choice to regularize their stay in Lebanon. Messages regarding regularization are being harmonized, and a mass information campaign on regularization will be rolled out.

Systematic protection monitoring by sector partners will contribute to increased analysis of common protection issues and trends countrywide. Particular attention has been, and will be, devoted to the continued high number of evictions affecting vulnerable refugee families throughout the country. Monitoring of eviction trends has been reinforced through improved information collection tools across the country, and the protection sector is coordinating with the shelter sector, particularly through field-based Eviction Committees/Technical Groups.

As evident in falling registration numbers, restrictions on entry imposed at border points have significantly reduced the number of Syrians and PRS gaining admission to Lebanon. In light of the restrictions, intensified border monitoring and border interventions will contribute to persons seeking international protection having access to territory. It will also aid in the sharing of information on the border situation as well as in developing advocacy messages regarding border policies.

PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS

		End-2014 Target
# of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in 2014	335,380	850,000
# of PRS recorded with UNRWA in 2014	3,243	3,300
# of Lebanese returnees profiled	-	50,000
# of persons provided with individual legal counselling	29,693	35,000
# of persons reached with legal awareness	100,996	110,000
# of persons benefitting from empowerment activities	159,959	140,000
# of persons with specific needs receiving specialized support	29,330	85,000
# of persons submitted for resettlement of humanitarian admission	7,207	7,000

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Reporting Agencies:

Source: figures reported above reflect the information reported to Sector Coordinators by Partners participating in Working Groups