

Egypt Weekly Update
Syrian Operation
March 19th -25th 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of Syrian nationals registered with UNHCR in Egypt stands at 26,003 individuals as of 25th March 2012.

Substantial registration continues in Zamalek, Cairo

6th of October Mobile Registration Activities for 5 days

Al Obour Mobile Registration started on the 25th of March

RRP5 sectorial meetings

Regional Representative Interviewed in several newspapers and a TV talk show

Breakdown by Day & Gender

Date	F	M	Total
19-Mar	261	246	507
20-Mar	234	244	478
21-Mar	256	253	509
22-Mar	197	206	403
23-Mar	205	211	416
24-Mar	158	189	347
25-Mar	194	208	402
Total	1505	1557	3062

REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

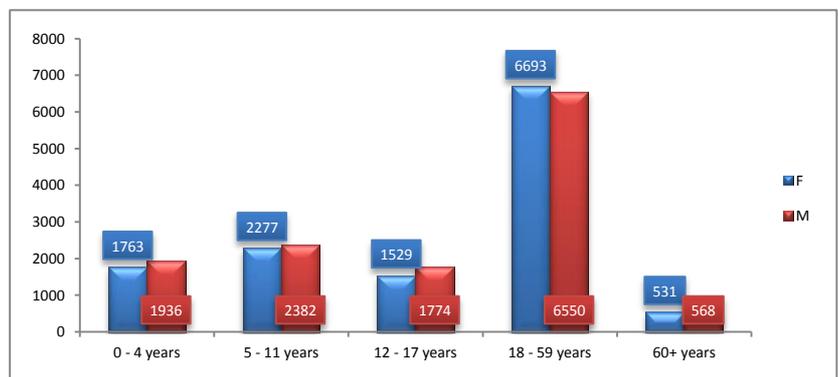
During the reporting period, UNHCR registered **1738 individuals/652 families** in Zamalek Office. The sex and age breakdown was very similar to previous weeks. The majority of registered individuals are males. 2037 individuals/781 families are awaiting registration in Cairo and they are scheduled between the 8th and 29th April. The waiting period for new arrival registration in Zamalek is 29 days.

The registration team registered a total of **1324 individuals/477 households** during the mobile registration at 6th of October that was carried out for 5 days from 19th to 23rd March.

On 25th March, the mobile registration exercise started in Al Obour City where the current number of families pending for registration is reported to be close to 200 by implementing partners and NGOs.

UNHCR Community Services and Protection staff counseled the applicants regarding documentation and the completing of the registration forms in addition to identifying persons with specific needs through individual and group counseling at review desk.

Demography by Age and Gender for Total population



PROTECTION

During the mobile registration mission at 6th of October it has come to the attention of the protection team that some of the apartment owners are taking the passports tenant family members, mainly minor children, as a guarantee for the rental properties. Individuals have been therefore registered based on copies of their passports.

During the reporting period, protection team conducted four in-depth protection interviews, one of which was for a separated Palestinian woman with two minor Syrian national children, and the other one was for a Syrian man who the Egyptian authorities at Salloum port confiscated his passport for having forged entry/exit stamps on his passport; however, they released him given the fact that his wife and daughter were in Egypt. The third is of young man who has arrived Egypt through Jordan with a genuine passport but illegally due to his political affiliation in country of nationality. And the fourth interview was conducted with a single applicant reporting threats by the Syrian embassy in Cairo.

Three separated children have been identified as well as persons with either disabilities and/or serious medical issues. A numbers of single mothers have been also highlighted for fast track registration and further support.

Protection team has attended a workshop organized by the National Council of Women and NGOs with two EU experts discussing a draft law put forward by the Council on violence against women in Egypt. UNHCR has highlighted the importance of including refugee women and girls in this context and has discussed challenges when it comes to shelters/safe havens for refugee survivors of SGBV.

Protection Unit has also continued meeting with applicants seeking to close their files at Cairo office. Twelve individuals have closed their files throughout the week. Two cases complained about the lack of financial assistance for living. The two families requested rent for their apartments. The families were counseled, and eventually did not close their files. Other applicants closed their files to travel either back to Syria for family commitments or traveling to Turkey.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In the past two weeks, over 10,000 beneficiaries who reside in the more disadvantaged areas of Cairo as well as in Alexandria and Damietta have received food voucher assistance from WFP. WFP is on track to reach the planned 13,000 refugees by the end of the month. This week's distribution in Cairo is ongoing and is running smoothly with significant support and involvement of refugee communities.

WFP signed Field Level Agreements (FLA) with the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services and the Organization for the Development of Women and Children. These organizations are awaiting government clearance and have thus only provided limited support to WFP during the voucher distributions in Alexandria and Cairo. A third FLA is being finalized with Resala, which has also provided its volunteers to support voucher distributions in Damietta.

The Government of Egypt recently announced a plan to ration subsidized bread to Egyptians, signaling the challenging economic situation for refugees as well. Due the high inflation rate and high food prices, WFP will adjust the voucher value starting from April.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community services staff provided counselling to a total of 672 cases of applicants who approached the Zamalek office. During the mobile registration Community services counselled 460 cases. Two home visits were also conducted to vulnerable cases by CS staff.

Community Services had a meeting with the Egyptian focal points, who wanted to support the playroom in Zamalek office, and it was agreed that they bring toys, TV, Satellites, DVD and fridge. In addition, they will provide milk and yogurt on daily basis to offer to the Syrian children.

EDUCATION

UNHCR partner, CRS, registered 346 students in Alexandria for education grants during the reporting period. In addition, 774 students received education grant, among which 358 are females.

CRS has observed, during the registration in Alexandria, that most of the Syrian community is concentrated in the areas of Borg AL Arab, Agami, and Mandara.

HEALTH-CARE

A meeting also took place in Alexandria between UNHCR, MSF and Caritas Alexandria. MSF has an interest to expand mental health care responses to non-nationals in Alexandria including for Syrian refugees

During the reporting period, 57 Syrian children benefited from the Ministry of Health Polio vaccination outreach visit in Caritas Alexandria.

Furthermore, some 165 Syrians benefited from primary health care services at Caritas Cairo and Alexandria, among whom 9 children were under-five.

At Caritas Alexandria, 47 Syrians suffering from chronic illnesses benefited from specialists treatment and followed up by two hospitalizations. Some 84 Syrians, aged above 5 years benefited from secondary referral care services. Six Syrian women received antenatal care while none gave birth during the reporting period

One of the young Syrians, shot in his leg, needed a bone grafting in the metatarsal bones and was supported by Caritas Alexandria referral care services. Two Syrians were also referred for cataract interventions while some 44 Syrians faced an emergency care need and were reimbursed paid emergency bills. Additionally, a 6 years old Syrian child suffered from an extensive post burn disfiguration scar on his back and is currently receiving necessary treatment.

At Refuge Egypt clinics, 28 children benefited from primary health care services. Some 18 pregnant women were enrolled for antenatal care; 7 new visits and 11 follow up visits.

During the reporting period, some 155 Syrians received primary health care services at Mahmoud hospital and 125 received specialized secondary and tertiary care. Fourteen patients were hospitalized for different reasons. Two children were referred to the National Cardiac institute for open-heart surgeries with one child successfully undergoing his surgery.

Success stories from Refuge Egypt:

A health awareness session, about the importance of breast feeding for both the mother and the baby, was organized at the 6th of October clinic on Sunday March 24th; the session was attended by 15 Syrian ladies and 10 non-Syrian refugees including men. One of the elderly Syrian ladies noted during the discussion that they are used to give bottle-feeding in Syria and from now on she will be advocating for breast-feeding among young ladies among the Syrian refugee community in Egypt.

Furthermore, a Syrian father of two under-five children came after his children were attended to, at the Well baby child clinic and asked to volunteer in this clinic and said: Quote I would like to tell every Syrian about the importance of prevention of health problems among our young children. I live in El Haram and I am happy to help you here in Zamalek or even in 6th October. It took me long time to know about the services you are providing and would like to help my people” Unquote

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

During the reporting week, a total of 246 cases benefited from psychosocial services. At UNHCR’s partner PSTIC and 16 new cases were identified.

One emergency case has been identified by PSTIC during the reporting period. It is a case of a 61 years old man who arrived at UNHCR, without his family. PSTIC has provided him with an emergency shelter and is assisting him to find a more permanent home.

15 cases benefited from housing assistance. There is a growing concern with regards to the availability of housing because of the increasing number of Syrians; inexpensive housing has become scarce.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

UNHCR, along with its partner Tadamon, held a Workshop titled “Legal Protection and Services Provided to Syrian Refugees in Egypt”. The two days workshop held on the 18th & 19th of March aimed at raising awareness on programs and services provided by UNHCR among refugees who fled to Egypt. The workshop covered topics such as the refugee definition in international legal instruments, the legal protection of refugees, child protection and early marriage, SGBV and refugees with special needs.

Tadamon Community Centre celebrated Mothers’ Day on March 21st. Community Centre staff and volunteers distributed white roses for 200 Syrian mothers at their homes in 6th of October City, this activity aimed at boosting their morale and establishing strong contacts with the Syrian community.

Idea & Art “Fekra wa Fan” project started its operation. This project is one of seventeen micro-grants projects. The main idea behind the project is to make puppets, in large sizes, to enable Syrian women to express their culture and explore their craftsmanship skills throughout collective work and art. 12 Syrian women attended the workshop.

20 Syrian women participated in the Handicraft workshop. The workshop aimed at supporting Syrian women to adapt better to their new social reality and overcome their displacement trauma through providing the opportunity of selling their accessories to raise their incomes.

The total number of participants who benefited from the Syrian community center program was 450, among whom 68 children benefited from English classes.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Islamic Relief World Wide (IRW), UNHCR's partner, registered during the reporting period 197 cases/ 718 individuals, out of which 45 cases /151 individuals (21%) were identified as vulnerable. IRW has hired extra staff to expedite the interviews and the registration process that helped to reduce the waiting period.

IRW is about to finalize an agreement with the Egyptian post office to disburse the financial assistance through its regular postal services. The money will be sent according to the beneficiaries' residence areas. Financial assistance was distributed among 54 cases/ 235 individuals. Emergency assistance and clothing vouchers were delivered to 80 cases/ 285 individuals.

During this week, IRW conducted home visits to 33 cases/ 101 individuals and 254 cases/ 901 individuals were counseled.

IRW and Islamic Relief Egypt have started an advocacy campaign, through their media section, to raise awareness about UNHCR and its mandated services.

UNHCR's partner, Caritas, has registered 88 new cases/ 254 individuals. 130 cases/ 420 individuals received financial assistance and 30 cases / 102 individuals received ATM cards while 230 cases / 712 individuals received emergency assistance. During the reporting period, Caritas has identified 46 vulnerable cases.

In Damietta Resala, UNHCR partner has enriched Damietta database for Syrian refugees, and classified the cases according to Age, Gender, Marital Status, and the number of individuals in every family. In addition RESALA has received 66 new cases and conducted interviews for them.

RESALA contacted 724 Syrians, who are registered with UNHCR in Damietta, to inform them about the date for receiving their One Time Emergency Assistance Payment and the address of the post office. Payments will start on March 25th. A team, from UNHCR, is on mission to Damietta to monitor the process

PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

Mr Dayri, Regional Representative for Egypt, was interviewed by several journalists during this week. One interview for AL Ahram Al Arabi, focused on the Syrian Refugees in Egypt following the Seminar Mr. Dayri held at Al Ahram newspaper.

Another interview for Al Tahrir newspaper, a prominent publication, in Egypt focused on Human Rights, refugee rights and obligations. Syrian Refugee Crisis is the main topic journalists converge nowadays. "Al Ashraa Masaan" talk show aired on Dream Channel also interviewed Mr.Dayri.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

UNHCR facilitated part of the ECHO mission to Cairo from 18th to -20th March. The ECHO mission was composed of Ms Marilena Chatziantoniou, ECHO Rapid Response Coordinator, Ms Sajeda Shawa, Programs Assistant. A meeting was arranged with local donor embassies, ECHO also met with UNHCR UN and NGO partners. The meetings were hosted by with Mr Mohamed Dayri, Regional Representative UNHCR Egypt, Ms Elizabeth Tan, Deputy Regional Representative and Ms Danita Topcagic, Associate Reporting Officer.

UNHCR organized home visits to three destitute Syrian families in 6th of October. The cases of these three families were noted for further follow up by Community Service staff.

UNHCR chaired five sectorial meetings to prepare the sector response for the Regional Response Plan 5.