

Egypt Weekly Update Syria Operation May 14th – May 20th 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of Syrian refugees registered and awaiting registrations with UNHCR in Egypt stands at **70,130 individuals** as of 20th of May 2013, with **50,784** Syrians registered to date.

Total Gender and Age Breakdown

Age	F	M	Total
0 - 4 years	3633	3856	7489
5 - 11 years	4339	4644	8983
12 - 17 years	2983	3419	6402
18 - 59 years	13079	12707	25786
60+ years	1030	1094	2124
Total	25064	25720	50784

Head of Family Gender	Total
F	5209
M	13545
Total	18754

REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

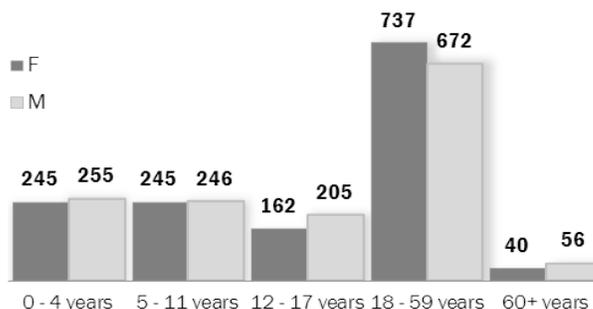
The total number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Egypt stands at **50784 individuals / 18754 families** as of May 20th, 2013. Awaiting registration for Syrian refugees in Egypt stands at **19382** individuals.

The number of families scheduled for registration in Zamalek registration center is 15564 individuals / 5345 families. 908 individuals / 817 families were recorded as pending registration during the mobile registration (19-23 March) in 6th of October city, 1456 individuals / 550 families (25-28 March) in Obour, 1454 individuals/ 974 families (01-10 April) in Alexandria are waiting to be registered by UNHCR.

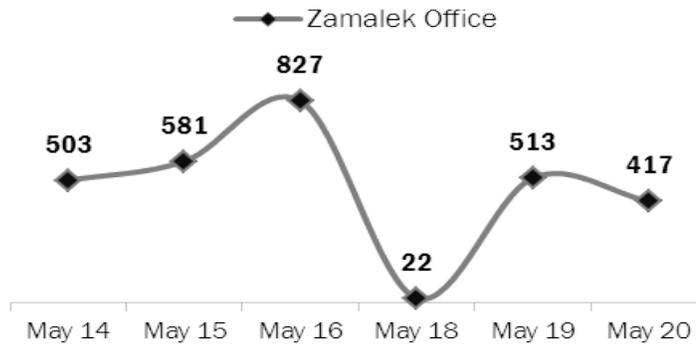
During the reporting period, UNHCR registered 2863 individuals / 968 families in Zamalek registration center.

The sex and age breakdown was the same as previous weeks. The majority of registered individuals are males. When looking more precisely amongst the adult population, the largest age group is 18 – 59 years old and counted for 1409 individuals representing 49% of the total registered individuals.

The registration team is currently carrying out a mobile registration exercise in 10th of Ramadan city, in greater Cairo between the 19-23 May. The team is targeting to register 350-400 individuals per day.



Trends by Registration date (Individuals)



It is note worthy to mention that out of 50,784 Syrian refugees, 12199 refugees arrived in 2012, and registered in the same year. 16069 refugees arrived in 2012 but registered in 2013 and 21525 Syrians individuals arrived and registered in 2013. There is a significant increase in registration in the 2013 during which UNHCR has registered 37594 Syrian refugees.

1. PROTECTION

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

The Protection team continued to provide counseling to Syrian refugees approaching the Zamalek center in addition to addressing legal issues and administrative procedures related to the Egyptian residency permits, school registration and education grants. Syrian refugees can obtain residency visas either through UNHCR registration or school registration. Some of the refugees expressed their reluctance to register as a result of their fear of being detained, upon their return to Syria, if they were registered with UNHCR as the Egyptian authorities stamps on their passports show, "residency transferred to UNHCR registration card". The protection unit is working on addressing these fears with systematic information sharing and briefings regarding the Government of Egypt's policy before they register. The unit also continued to profile the vulnerable cases for fast track registration.

Four protection interviews were conducted for unaccompanied minors (UAM):

- One UAM is enrolled in school but cannot support himself
- One UAM fled to Egypt out of fear of being recruited into the Syrian army
- Two UAMs have been identified in Alexandria, and the cases were referred to the protection and the registration units.

Three cases were counselled on closing their files with the office to depart to a third country (Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and U.A.E). They departed to perform pilgrimage (Omra), join the rest of the family and to seek job opportunities.

An applicant re-opened his file after he failed to renew his expired passport. The Immigration office in Mogamma Al Tahrir refused to transfer his arrival data registered on his expired passport. As a result, the Syrian Embassy refused to renew his passport although he had a letter from UNHCR stating that he had closed his file. In Alexandria, the protection team conducted two reopening interviews for vulnerable cases.

The protection team in Alexandria identified a woman at risk and referred her to the registration unit for fast track registration. The Community Based Protection Networks in Damietta flagged one SGBV case (domestic violence); the office has scheduled an interview with the survivor.

Eight Syrians were arrested for "infiltrating" a military area in Matrouh. The military judge sentenced them to six months in prison suspended sentence. Five Syrians and three Palestinians were also arrested on the 14th May while trying to smuggle their way to Libya. Syrians require an entry visa to Libya.

A UNHCR mission to Mansoura took place on the 19th and 20th of May as part of the Protection Strategic Action Plan for the Syrian Operation in Egypt. The mission met with Dakahlia Governorate Office to discuss the situation of Syrian refugees in the Governorate. In addition, the protection team established direct communication lines between UNHCR and the refugee population in Dakahlia.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Since the beginning of its cooperation with UNHCR, the Islamic Relief World Wide in Cairo, has thus far registered 4069 families / 13867 individuals. The total Syrian refugees who received financial assistance is 987 families / 3354 individuals, and the number who received emergency assistance is 926 families / 3380 individuals. IRW has completed its clothing distribution vouchers that benefited totals to 3666 families / 12308 individuals at a cost of 2 million Egyptian Pounds.

During the reporting period the Islamic Relief World Wide (IRW), UNHCR's partner, registered in Cairo 411 families / 1648 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. 488 families / 1811 individuals were identified as vulnerable. 38 families / 139 individuals received immediate emergency assistance due to their conditions and their cases will be discussed in the committee regarding monthly financial assistance. This is in addition to 38 families / 139 individual who received a one-time emergency assistance.

During the same period, 107 families / 408 individuals received financial assistance through the post office. IRW conducted home visits to 20 families / 48 individuals; and counselled 364 families / 986 individuals. IRW and Tadamon centre are cooperating smoothly. Tadamon refers vulnerable families, who need immediate assistance, and IRW fast tracks those cases. Plans to work an evening shift are on their way to absorb the backlog of the registration.

UNHCR's Partner, Caritas, has registered in Alexandria 279 new families / 1003 individuals. 43 families / 157 individuals received financial assistance and 21 families received ATM cards while 98 families / 397 individuals received emergency assistance. During the reporting period, Caritas has identified 143 vulnerable cases and counseled 1189 individuals. 41 home visits were carried out and it has been decided to assign two social workers specifically to undertake home visits three days a week to assist more Syrian refugees. 17 Syrians received vocational training.

Starting this week, Caritas will increase the interviews per to day to 90 interviews in order to tackle the waiting registration. Moreover, Caritas will also provide, next week, new ATM cards for the newly registered.

3. FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The World Food Programme (WFP) is currently distributing the food vouchers in Greater Cairo: in 6th of October and Obour cities and Alexandria. The May target of 27,000 refugees; in addition to the vulnerable cases referred by UNHCR.

During the reporting period, the World Food Programme (WFP) is finalizing the food voucher distributions in Alexandria. The total number of beneficiaries in Alexandria to date reached 12,000, and 2,800 beneficiaries already assisted in Damietta.

The joint UNHCR/WFP Code of Conduct and list of distribution times for each beneficiary have resulted in improved crowd behavior in Alexandria and the prioritization of vulnerable groups, including the elderly.

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community services staff provided counseling to all applicants who approached the Zamalek office. During counseling, 38 families were identified to have specific needs and were fast tracked for registration, among whom four were scheduled for home visit registration.

During the reporting period, the community service staff together with Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) took part in the financial assistance committee to review 116 cases. Most of the cases interviewed were eligible for financial assistance.

Focus group discussions were conducted with Syrian refugees with different ages, gender, educational background, and marital status to discuss their needs. Some of the findings were that there was a consensus that Egypt because it is cheaper than Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan, in addition to the fact that they are not forced to live in a refugee camp. The problem they face in Egypt is the price of housing, especially in comparison to the low salaries they receive. Those who came with enough money were able to establish businesses; however, those who lost everything in Syria are forced to work to take up any job. The majority of the participants stated that Egyptians usually raise the prices when they know that they are Syrians. Most Syrians find the bureaucratic procedures that the Egyptian government has for foreigners, applying to schools or universities, as extremely long and frustrating.

Community Services together with data management and programme colleagues developed a ProGres Code table to identify assistance to each refugee received. The code will be sent to UNHCR partners so they can share it with CS staff on a monthly basis to be updates on ProGres.

5. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the reporting period, Tadamon referred 12 vulnerable families to the Islamic Relief Worldwide in Cairo, including three with disabilities and eight families to WFP. Tadamon continues to provide information about registration and services provided by UNHCR to Syrian refugees.

The Tadamon center held several meetings with Syrian businessmen to provide them with a better understanding of the Egyptian labor market needs in order to establish Syrian business network to share information on current private sector initiatives for support Syrian refugees seeking job opportunities.

In response to the Syrian Refugee parent's request to provide services to children under-5 in terms of early childhood development activities, Tadamon sustained its children activities during the reporting period. "Word & Letter" interactive play games project started this week with 32 children. The project targets 3-5 age - group and aims at giving children new tools of expression through innovative ways to enhance their self- confidence. "El Sard El- Masrahy band" Theater project aims to teach children ways to express their feelings and fears and to earn skills related to theater such as acting. The project attracted 35 children from the age group 10-13 years.

"My Bag" project continued to attract 21 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 241 (126 women and 105 men) Syrian Refugees have benefited from an adult program delivering information. Training also provided information on protection training offered by the UNHCR, information sessions on the community center services and NGOs & CBOs that support refugees including places that offer assistance to Syrian refugees. It also provided employment opportunities that were posted on a bulletin board.

During the reporting period, Tadamon held awareness sessions for girls and women on forced and early marriage and 19 women attended the sessions.

Other micro grants activities include, health for all, waste recycling project, and Syrian Tuktuk; an electronic newspaper for children. Preparations are under way for more activities for the children since the end of the academic year is approaching.

The number of participants, who benefited from the Syrian community center regular activities, was 1083 individuals and from irregular activities (micro-grants projects), was 178 individuals.

6. EDUCATION

There are currently 22874 school-age children (0-18 years) registered with UNHCR; out of whom 7693 are registered in public and private schools according to the Egyptian Ministry of Education figures. To date, UNHCR has provided 3227 education grants to KG children, Primary school Children and Secondary school students. Additional grants are to be offered to 100% of all school-age children, including KG, who are registered with UNHCR. These grants are offered to all children in public, private and community schools.

UNHCR is currently discussing with the Egyptian Ministry of Education areas where UNHCR can provide help to absorb the increasing number of Syrian refugees in public schools.

During the reporting period, 250 students were registered with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for Education grants. Total number of Syrian students who received educational grants is 3227. There were no new special needs cases registered in this period. However, CRS registered a total number of eleven cases to date. Furthermore, CRS signed MOU with Nasayam EL Ganna NGO to support Syrian refugees' schools that service around 1700 students.

7. HEALTH-CARE

During the reporting period, Caritas provided primary health care for 384 Syrians in Alexandria, among whom 12 were under-five children and 17 were women coming for antenatal care. Five referrals took place among whom three pregnant women were referred for delivery, in addition to 106 patients who benefited from the chronic disease treatment

At Mahmoud Hospital in Cairo, 181 Syrian refugees benefited from primary health care with 230 referrals to secondary and tertiary levels of care, in addition to seven patients who benefited from the chronic disease treatment.

8. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

During the reporting period, a total of 249 families benefited from psychosocial services at UNHCR's partner PSTIC; and 35 cases benefited from housing assistance. The total number of cases served by PSTIC was 64 cases / 242 individuals and 12 new cases / 38 individuals were filed.

PSTIC is planning to provide a community workshop on stress management titled "Managing Life in Egypt" Tadamon Community Center at the end of the month.

9. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, Reuters news agency interviewed the Regional Representative about the Syrian refugees in Egypt. Some of the main issues discussed were the social and economic impacts of Syrian refugees in Egypt.