

## Egypt Weekly Update

### Syria Operation

March 26<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013

### HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of Syrian nationals registered with UNHCR in Egypt stands at 27,857 individuals as of 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2013.

10 days Mobile Registration in Alexandria started.

Information Brochure about UNHCR services produced

#### Total Population Breakdown by Gender

Age	F	M	Total
0-4	1919	2067	3986
5-11	2428	2544	4972
12-17	1646	1898	3544
18-59	7185	7010	14195
60+	564	296	1160
<b>Total</b>	<b>13742</b>	<b>14115</b>	<b>27857</b>

### REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

During the reporting period, UNHCR registered a total of **1554 individuals/ 580 families**. Total registration in Zamalek office was **1010 individuals /387 families**. Registration team registered a total of **544 individuals / 193 families** during Al Obour city mobile registration.

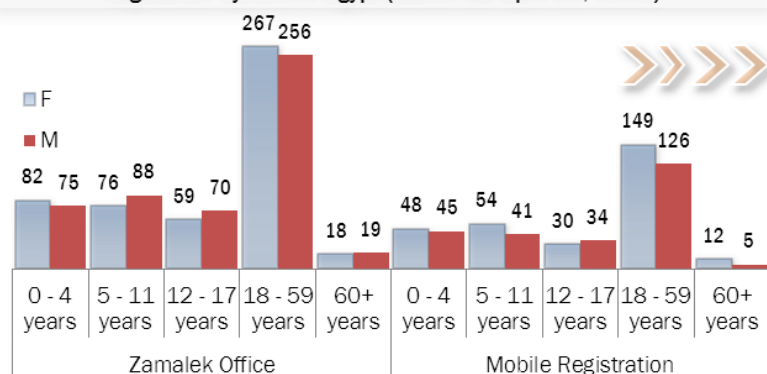
The sex and age breakdown was different from previous weeks. The majority of registered individuals are Females.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, the mobile registration exercise started in Alexandria and will continue for ten days. The current number of pending individuals pending registration is reported to be close to 10,000 by implementing partners and NGOs.

UNHCR Community Services and Protection staff continued to counsel 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.

Moreover registration unit provided support by phone through the registration info/hotline. Phone calls were received from Syrians who were mainly inquiring about services such as financial assistance, how and when they could benefit from it, and the required documents for the new arrival registration, the location of Zamalek registration center, and the expected date of mobile registration activities in other governorates.

Registered Syrians in Egypt (March 26-April 01, 2012)



## PROTECTION

During the reporting period, the protection unit continued identifying specific needs for detected vulnerable cases of new arrivals during the registration process and mobile registration missions through accelerated registration. 71 vulnerable cases have been identified most of which are either with disabilities and/or serious medical conditions, in addition to a small number of single mothers.

Seven separated and unaccompanied children have been identified during the reporting period. The separated minors arrived with paternal uncles and aunts; Protection staff have been conducting Best Interest Assessments (BIA) interviews with these children and three BIAs have been finalized while the other four are ongoing.

During the reporting period, the protection unit conducted two in-depth protection interviews; one of which was with a Syrian who allegedly lost his passport. The applicant was advised to provide a police report further to which the registration process was completed. The second interview was conducted with an applicant who was politically active in Syria and was seeking a durable solution for himself and his family.

The Protection Unit continued to assess closure requests from applicants that have previously registered with UNHCR Cairo. Seven individuals have closed their files throughout the reporting period as they were travelling abroad.

The Protection unit continues working on developing SGBV SOPs. In co-ordination with the protection staff and Health Officer a meeting was held with Mahmoud Hospital Coordinator to discuss the protection of women and SGBV among the Syrian community. It was agreed to hold a training session on SGBV by UNHCR at the Hospital. One case has been so far referred by PSTIC to the hospital for medical treatment.

Additionally, the case of a Syrian Refugee, accused of dealing with stolen merchandise, is under follow up and was offered legal assistance through UNHCR legal partner ACSFT.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The World Food Program (WFP) completed the March distribution that reached 12,443 Syrian refugees in greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. This represents 94 percent in terms of outreach compared to February's outreach that was 86 percent. This is attributed to WFP's new SMS software system, which sends out mass text messages to the refugees about distribution schedules. Each refugee received USD 26 worth food voucher that enabled the refugees to purchase food commodities of their choice from WFP partner supermarkets.

The March food distribution has been completed smoothly with significant support and involvement of UNHCR and the Syrian refugee communities. It should be noted that a group of Syrian refugees provided their facilities to be used for voucher distribution. They refused to receive rental contribution from WFP indicating that it is free contribution to their Syrian fellow countrymen.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community services staff continued to provide counseling to all applicants who approached the Zamalek office and during Al Obour mobile registration during the period of 25<sup>th</sup> till 28<sup>th</sup> of March.

The Community services unit had a meeting during the reporting period with the Egyptian focal points, who are a group of women volunteering to help Syrian Refugees, had expressed interest in supporting the playroom in the Zamalek office. They agreed to equip the room with toys, TV,

Satellites, DVD and a refrigerator. In addition they will provide milk and yoghurt on a daily basis to Syrian children.

The Community services staff, together with the programme and finance unit staff, took part in a mission to Damietta in order to monitor the emergency financial assistance to the Syrian refugees. UNHCR staff assisted in organizing the distribution of the emergency cash assistance and identified 30 new cases that were not accounted for in the previous list. The list of Syrians who did not receive the emergency financial assistance was shared with the senior field officer for his follow up.

During the mission to Damietta, the community services staff reviewed 30 files of cases that were evaluated by Resala in which the reason for their eligibility was unclear. Consequently, the Community Services staff trained Resala staff on the eligibility criteria and held individual interviews with 10 Syrians. UNHCR and Resala staff conducted four home visits to vulnerable cases. Resala shared a list of 34 medical cases with UNHCR staff to follow up with them, as Resala did not receive funds from UNHCR to support medical cases. During the mission, Resala reported a sexual harassment case by Egyptians against three girls from the same family. The case was referred to the protection unit for follow up.

## EDUCATION

UNHCR and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) carried out an assessment for the four Syrian community Schools in 6<sup>th</sup> of October city to identify their needs and draw plans on the best ways to support these schools to continue their assistance work. The assessment is now completed and the findings will be circulated next week.

The UNHCR CRS project will support refugee community schools in order to build their capacity and improve the quality of the provided education. This education support for schools is subject to CRS's evaluation of the schools during the academic year. Schools eligible for this financial assistance must have at least 50 documented and registered refugee students enrolled in their school. The financial assistance for each school will be determined by the committee according to the most pressing needs set by school management, PTAs and CRS.

UNHCR conducted a 'Teacher Survey' on behalf of the Education Unit in Geneva. The survey was carried out with teachers in the community schools and, during the reporting period, 46 responses were received and forwarded to Geneva.

## HEALTH-CARE

During the reporting period, an awareness session delivered by UNHCR on refugee law and refugee health services was hosted by the Head of Preventative services, Ministry of Health 6<sup>th</sup> October at El Hossary Family health center

The session's purpose, which extended over three hours, was to raise awareness of MOH medical doctors, nurses and ambulance helpers on the rights and obligations of asylum seekers and refugees under the international human rights law, refugee law and other human rights instruments.

Moreover, to raise awareness on health services and responses supported by MOH and UNHCR partnerships in primary and referral health care services. International Organization for Migration (IOM) also participated in the session to raise awareness regarding aspects of migration and health.

This constructive step was occasioned during the anti- Polio vaccination campaign in Cairo, Giza and Kalyoubeya with MOH EPI teams reaching to Syrians and other PoCs in their Community center in 6<sup>th</sup> October, community schools and health facilities in many districts of Greater Cairo

Some 44,600 children were targeted by the campaign and actually reached children were some 51,000 i.e. surpassing the target. Some 2,700 children were Syrians and 3,500 of various nationalities

Additionally, some 236 Syrians benefited from primary health care services at Caritas Cairo and Alexandria, among whom 11 children were under-five. At Caritas Alexandria, 42 Syrians suffering from chronic illnesses benefited from specialists' treatment and follow up while three were hospitalized.

Five Syrians also benefited from secondary referral care services. Six Syrian women received antenatal care while none gave birth during the reporting period. Three Syrians benefited from cataract extraction while some 37 Syrians faced an emergency care need and were reimbursed by Caritas Alexandria

At Refuge Egypt clinics, 56 children benefited from primary health care services. Some 31 pregnant women were enrolled for antenatal care; 15 new visits and 16 follow up visits and one Syrian gave birth. One child was referred to secondary health care services and one hospitalized.

Refuge Egypt also sustained the health education sessions on HIV, the importance of antenatal care, reasons of emergency hospitalization in pregnancy, Calcium and vitamin D supplement, breastfeeding, weaning and family planning. Some 38 Syrians in total benefited from these sessions

During the reporting period, 216 Syrians received primary health care services at Mahmoud hospital and 111 received specialized secondary and tertiary care. 17 patients were hospitalized for different reasons and two women benefited from antenatal care while one woman gave birth.

Mahmoud hospital offered services covering hypertension, diabetes, strangulated inguinal hernia, liver cirrhosis with portal hypertension, Ischemic heart disease and prolapsed cervical disc. A PoC with renal impairment was admitted to the hospital for a renal stone. Additionally a cardiac angiography was conducted and a Thalasemia treatment with blood transfusion. Lastly an excision of a brain tumor was conducted during the reporting period

**Success story:** A Syrian woman approached Refuge Egypt clinic complaining of continuous vaginal bleeding. She has been to several doctors with no improvement. She indicated that she had no more financial means for further medical services as she has a large family with a lot of needs. Refuge Egypt comforted and sent her for an ultrasound examination that revealed an incomplete abortion in need for uterine curettage. She was admitted to the hospital and curettage was done. A week later, she was very grateful as the bleeding stopped. She indicated that currently she had new friends in Egypt. She was encouraged to inform other Syrian people about the received medical service so that they could also benefit from it.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

During the reporting period, a total of 314 cases benefited from psychosocial services at UNHCR's partner PSTIC; 14 new cases were filed and 14 cases benefited from housing assistance.

One emergency case has been identified by PSTIC during the reporting period. It is a case of a ten years old girl who needed emergency medical care. On the 31<sup>st</sup> March, the child was unconscious

and was moved by ambulance for a period of ten hours to different hospitals. No actual diagnosis could be determined. None of these hospitals could admit her due to the unavailability of beds in their respective intensive care units. Following the express intervention from UNHCR's Health Officer and PSTIC, Mustafa Mahmoud Hospital admitted her.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

25 Syrian women attended the Tuesday's women's forum. Their discussions focused on food distribution and school grants.

Idea and Art "Fekra wa Fan" Project which is one of seventeen micro grants projects. The project main idea is to make puppets, in large sizes, to enable Syrian Women to express their culture and explore their craftsmanship. This week "Fekra wa Fan" was attended by 15 Syrian women refugees who continued their weekly activities, setting plans for an exhibition at the 'Town House' gallery in June 2013.

Accessories and Handicrafts activities continued to attract 40 Syrian refugee women to sell their products through social media such as Facebook, blogs and Twitter.

60 Syrian refugee boys joined micro-grants sport project and are trained at the Hosary club in 6<sup>th</sup> of October every Friday and Saturday.

The Tadamon team visited more than 35 Syrian families in Alexandria on March 29<sup>th</sup> in different places in Al-Maa'moura and Sidi Bishr. The aim of the visit was to share information regarding the service providers in Alexandria and to provide assistance to these families.

The number of participants, who benefited from the Syrian community center activities was 250, and the total number of participants who benefited from the Syrian community center program was 1132.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Islamic Relief World Wide (IRW), UNHCR's partner registered 372 cases / 1280 individuals during the reporting period. The number of registration increased due to the improved awareness about IRW's services among the Syrian Refugees. 70 cases / 199 individuals were identified as vulnerable. 107 cases / 342 individuals received emergency assistance, and clothing coupons / vouchers were distributed to 478 cases/ 1815 individuals. IRW currently distributes clothing packages to the refugees who are being interviewed on a daily basis parallel with the list it had before.

During this week, IRW conducted home visits to 20 cases/ 62 individuals. One visit was conducted to a woman with two kids, whose husband has been abusing her. The protection unit located a suitable place to live safely and social workers visited her to assess the case. IRW counselled 309 cases / 1095 individuals during the reporting period

UNHCR's partner, Caritas, has registered 113 new cases/ 338 individuals. 210 cases/ 630 individuals received financial assistance and 15 cases received ATM cards while 286 cases / 858 individuals received emergency assistance. During the reporting period, Caritas has identified 17 vulnerable cases.

In Damietta Resala, UNHCR's partner, contacted 724 Syrians, who are registered with UNHCR in Damietta, to inform them of the date of their One-Time Emergency Assistance Payment and the address of the post office associated with this distribution. Payments started on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March and will continue until April 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES**

The Public Information unit has produced an information brochure that summarizes all UNHCR provided services in Greater Cairo and Alexandria. Distribution of the brochure started in Zamalek registration centre and through the on-going mobile registration in Alexandria.

Two interviews were conducted by Ms. Karmen Sakhr to the Messaa' Newspaper and to the German Radio focusing on Syrian refugees and UNHCR provided services.

UNHCR participated in the Cultural Event organized by the 6<sup>th</sup> of October University. Information booklets about refugees' status and situations were distributed to the university students.