

Egypt Weekly Update Syria Operation May 7th – May 13th 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of Syrian refugees registered and awaiting registrations with UNHCR in Egypt stands at 66,420 individuals as of 13th of May 2013.

On Wednesday the 8th of May 2013, a fund raising event for the aid of Syrian refugees, took place at the Cairo Opera House. The event was organized by the British Embassy and UNHCR and was under the patronage of the Secretary General of the Arab League Dr. Nabil Al-Arabi.

Total Gender and Age Breakdown

Age (years)	F	M	Total
0 - 4	3400	3615	7015
5 - 11	4088	4392	8480
12 - 17	2822	3222	6044
18 - 59	12336	12025	24361
60+	991	1036	2027
Total	23637	24290	47927

REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

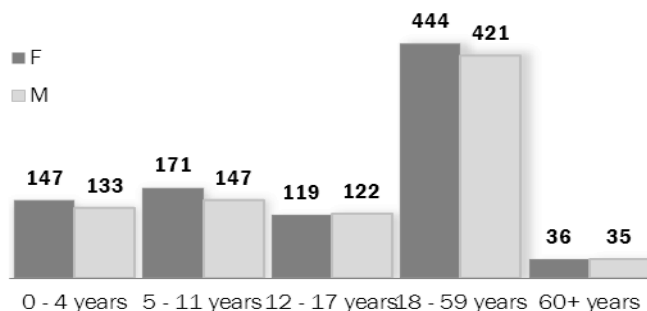
The total number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Egypt stands at **47,927 individuals / 17,790 Cases** as of May 13th, 2013. Awaiting registration for Syrian refugees in Egypt stands at **18,493** individuals.

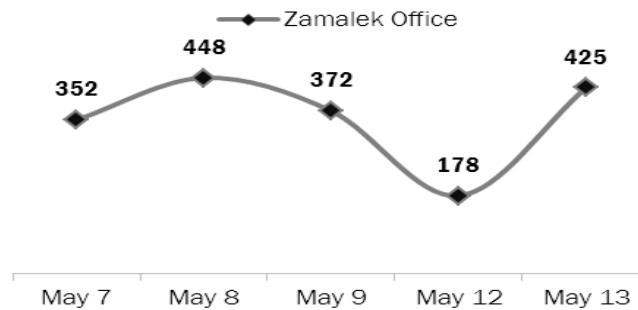
The number of families scheduled for registration in Zamalek registration center is 14,675 individuals / 5345 families. 908 individuals / 817 families were recorded as pending registration during the mobile registration (19-23 March) in 6th of October city, 1456 individuals / 550 families (25-28 March) in Obour, 1454 individuals/ 974 families (01-10 April) in Alexandria waiting to be registered by UNHCR.

During the reporting period, UNHCR registered 1775 individuals / 622 families in Zamalek Office. 38 families were given a registration appointment on urgent basis and entered the premises.

The sex and age breakdown was different to previous weeks. The majority of registered individuals are Females. When looking more precisely amongst the adult population, the largest age group is 18 – 59 years old and counted for 865 individuals representing 49% of the total registered individuals.

Breakdown by Age and Gender for the reporting period





Starting Tuesday 14th May 2013, Zamalek registration center will embark on a two shifts pattern (mornings and afternoon shifts) to reduce the current waiting period from two months to one month.

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 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. Thus, counseling was provided to such cases. The unit also continued to profile the vulnerable cases for fast track registration.

The unit conducted two protection interviews for unaccompanied minors: one fled from Syria for Egypt out of fear of being forcibly recruited into the Syrian army; the other fled from Syria to Egypt out of fear of arbitrary detention.

The unit continued to follow up with UNHCR's legal partner on 17 Syrians who that have been sentenced to seven years in prison for demonstrating in front of the Syrian Embassy in Cairo. Moreover, UNHCR and its legal partner secured the release of 31 Syrians who had been detained and sentenced to six months in prison for attempting to illegally enter Libya from Egypt. They are currently awaiting registration in Alexandria.

In two separate cases in Damietta, refugees reported that thugs had attacked and tried to force them from their homes. The incidents were immediately reported to the local authorities and action was taken accordingly. The Protection unit is following up closely on these incidents.

Four cases were counselled on closing their files with the office to depart to a third country (Turkey, Germany, Australia and U.A.E). They departed in an attempt to find job opportunities and/or to seek asylum in another country.

During the protection unit mission to Damietta city', the Protection unit conducted five Focus Group Discussions; four focus groups with women, and another with children. The team also provided counselling sessions to Syrian refugees during the food distribution.

The Protection unit was successful in setting up a Community Based Protection Networks (CBPN) with 15 members (4 women, 9 men and 2 children) residing in various parts of Damietta. The purpose of the CBPN is to identify vulnerable cases, flag cases with protection concerns, prepare reports on problems and concerns they encounter in their own communities, raise awareness and disseminate information.

The CBN reported that they are working on a project proposal to establish an education community centre for refugee children in the community. Soon the CBN will create a list of teachers willing to volunteer and locate a space for the centre.

The women who participated in the FGDs identified that access to health care and estimated increase in rent rates by 50% in the summer are their biggest challenges.

The Protection unit conducted an orientation session for immigration officers that covered detention, rights and duties of refugees and asylum seekers. The participants acknowledged the importance of such training in relation to their day-to-day responsibilities.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Since the beginning of its cooperation with UNHCR, the Islamic Relief World Wide in Cairo, has thus far registered 3332 families / 11020 individuals. Total Syrian refugees who received financial assistance is 781 families / 2869 individuals, and number who received emergency assistance is 831 families / 3028 individuals. IRW has completed its clothing distribution vouchers that benefited totals to 3666 families / 12308 individuals at a cost of 2 million Egyptian Pounds.

The Islamic Relief World Wide (IRW), UNHCR's partner, registered in Cairo 326 families / 1199 individuals, during the reporting period. The number of registered refugees eligible for assistance increased as a result of the improved awareness among the Syrian refugees regarding IRW's services. 230 families / 622 individuals were identified as vulnerable. 57 families / 278 individuals received immediate emergency assistance due to their conditions and their cases will be discussed in the committee regarding monthly financial assistance. In addition to 57 families / 213 individual who received a one- time emergency assistance

During the reporting period, 99 families / 278 individuals received financial assistance through the post office. IRW conducted home visits to 13 families / 48 individuals; and counselled 379 families / 986 individuals. IRW and Tadamon centre are cooperating smoothly. Tadamon refers vulnerable families, who need immediate assistance, and IRW fast tracks those cases.

UNHCR's Partner, Caritas, has registered in Alexandria 387 new families / 1156 individuals. 34 families/ 136 individuals received financial assistance and 25 families received ATM cards while 24 families / 93 received emergency assistance. During the reporting period, Caritas has identified 138 vulnerable cases and counseled 1205 individuals. Six home visits were carried out and it has been decided to assign two social workers especially to undertake home visits three days a week to assist more Syrian refugees. Three Syrians received vocational training.

3. FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The World Food Programme (WFP) is preparing for May food voucher distribution in Greater Cairo in 6th of October and Obour cities and Alexandria. The April target of 27,234 refugees is being maintained; in addition to the vulnerable cases referred by UNHCR.

During the reporting period, Damietta food distribution vouchers have been finalized. A total of 2,866 beneficiaries were targeted and WFP distributed 2,855 or 99.6% of the targeted total.

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community services staff provided counseling to all applicants who approached the Zamalek office. During counseling, 45 individuals were identified to have specific needs and were fast tracked for registration, among whom two were scheduled for home visit registration.

During the reporting period, community service staff took part together with Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) in the financial assistance committee to interview 30 cases. Most of the cases interviewed were eligible for financial assistance.

A meeting was held with the manager at One World organization. One World organization is a Montessori project program for underprivileged Egyptian children. They organize summer camps' activities for privileged and unprivileged children from 8-12 years with emotional distress due to various suffering. The camp is meant to integrate the children back into the society by providing them with psychosocial support and offering opportunities and experience in many various areas. The manager offered to include five Syrian children in this year's summer camp, from 22nd June until 6th July. The summer camp will include 5 days in Cairo and 10 days in Norebe area. There will be also one supervisor for every 5 children in each group. The cost for each child will be EGP 4000. As for the Syrians One World Organization raise the funds to support them during the summer camp. The manager of One World organization requested UNHCR to help them to identify 5 Syrian children because of their trust in the sound criteria UNHCR will apply.

5. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the reporting period, Tadamon referred 10 vulnerable families to Islamic Relief Worldwide in Cairo, including three with disabilities.

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 31 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 29 children from the age group 10-13 years.

Accessories and Handicrafts activities continued to attract 29 Syrian refugee women.

“My Bag” project continued to attract 9 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 247 Syrian Refugees (116 women and 131 men) have benefited from an adult program delivering information. Information training was also provided information on protection training provided 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 13 women attended the sessions.

The number of participants, who benefited from the Syrian community center regular activities, was 964 individuals and from irregular activities (micro-grants projects), was 136 individuals.

6. EDUCATION

There are currently 17546 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 3047 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 agreed with Sharkia Governorate Under-Secretary for education that the school registration staff will no longer ask Syrians to provide a letter or any other documents from their embassy.

However, more work is still needed with regard to the issue of MOE still demanding security clearance document to be obtained from each Directorate of education as a pre -requisite to enrolment. This security clearance document can involve a long journey and a lot of expenses. Example would be sending a Syrian refugee who lives in Obour City to Banha City to get this security clearance. UNHCR will continue it’s our advocacy efforts to ease the process of obtaining such documents.

During the reporting period, 151 students were registered for Education grants with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and 299 received educational grants. There were no new special needs cases registered in this period. However, CRS registered a total number of eleven cases to date.

7. HEALTH-CARE

During the reporting period, the total number of Syrian refugees who benefited from the primary health services at Caritas was 599, among whom 14 were under five years and 16 women benefited from antenatal care.

4 women benefited from the natal services, six refugees from secondary health care services and one from the tertiary, in addition to 116 chronic patients who benefited from the treatment.

At refuge Egypt clinic, 52 under-five children received primary health care with no need for referral to secondary or tertiary level of care, 16 women benefited from the antenatal care 10 of them were new cases. Two Syrian refugees benefited from HIV voluntary counseling and testing and one from family planning services.

Health education sessions held at Refuge Egypt clinic during the reporting week were about Calcium and vitamin D supplementation, Breast-feeding and weaning practices, oral health and HIV.

Mahmoud Hospital provided primary health care for 238 Syrian refugees, 14 of whom were under-five in addition to eight women benefited from the antenatal care services and one gave birth. Moreover, 83 referrals were done one of them was to the tertiary level of care.

8. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

During the reporting period, a total of 290 families benefited from psychosocial services at UNHCR's partner PSTIC; and 18 cases benefited from housing assistance. The total number of cases served by PSTIC was 69 cases / 280 individuals and 13 new cases / 68 individuals were filed.

9. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

In preparation for the Fund raising concert for the Syrian Refugees, the Public Information unit organized two Media briefings for the Regional Representative with International and National media newspapers. Moreover Voice of America interviewed the Regional Representative about Syrian Refugees in Egypt and their conditions. In addition, an interview was conducted for the Regional Representative by Al Watan newspaper, a prominent publication in Egypt.

On Wednesday the 8th of May 2013, a fund raising event for the aid of Syrian refugees, took place at the Cairo Opera House. The event was organized by the British Embassy and UNHCR and was under the patronage of the Secretary General of the Arab League Dr. Nabil Al-Arabi. The concert was a compilation of classical music - highlights from some of the most famous operas by Mozart, Bizet, Verdi and Puccini in addition to traditional Syrian music. The Principal conductor and artistic director Nayer Nagui led the Cairo Opera Orchestra. The concert included performances from famous musicians such as Iraqi Oud played by Naseer Shama, Syrian Soprano Rasha Rezk, Egyptian Tenor Ragaa El-Din Ahmed, and the traditional Syrian singer Abdel Kader Abul Seoud.

Mr. Mohamed Dayri, Regional Representative UNHCR, gave a speech in English accompanied by Arabic translation read out by Ms. Dina Zalaky.

During the event, some donations were received. After the concert several embassies contacted UNHCR to purchase tickets as donations for this humanitarian and noble cause.

The concert was attended by some representatives from the Egyptian government, key Donor Ambassadors, few Ambassadors accredited to the Arab League as well as key intellectuals and artists.

The audience, Syrians, Egyptians and other nationalities enjoyed the program and praised the whole concert and its initiative. Syrian refugees, who attended the concert, were delighted and expressed their gratitude.

The concert was covered by numerous TV stations such Al Arabia News channel, BBC Arabic, ONTV, Sada El Balad, Al Nahar, and Al Hura. Mr. Mohamed Dayri was interviewed by all the above-mentioned channels.

Proceeds from the concert will be handed over to the Egyptian NGOs, who have been helping and working with Syrian refugees in Egypt through UNHCR.