



KEY FACT OF THE MONTH

Persons provided with legal counselling exceeded end-2014 target

HIGHLIGHTS:

Some 13,400 Syrian refugees were registered in December, and 12,590 were awaiting appointments, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration to 1,146,405. The average waiting period countrywide increased from 13 to 21 days. The number of newly registered refugees increased for the first time since July, although the number of persons registered in December was over 70% lower than the monthly average number of registrations over the first six months of the year. The significant decrease is primarily a result of entry into Lebanon having become more difficult for Syrians.

In December, legal awareness sessions were provided to approximately 9,667 individuals, which is an 12% increase compared to the previous month. The total number of refugees that participated in legal awareness sessions in 2014 stands at over 124,000 persons, exceeding the target for the year. With continued high needs for individual legal counseling, some 2,070 individuals benefited from legal counseling, a 77% increase over the previous month, largely a result of intensification of counseling in respect to the gratis regularization process.

Since the beginning of the year, 35,436 persons have been provided individual legal counseling, meeting the end of year target. In December, over 20,689 individuals, over 60% of whom were female, benefited from empowerment activities, primarily group information sessions to increase awareness of available services and assistance. In 2014, almost 195,000 persons benefited from these types of activities, exceeding the yearly target by almost 40%. In December, 57 persons were submitted for resettlement or humanitarian admission. By the end of the year over 7,304 persons had been submitted for solutions in a third country, exceeding the end of year target of 7,000.

Governorate	Registered		Awaiting		Average waiting period	Total
	Persons	Households	Persons	Households		
Beirut & Mt Lebanon	320,024	81,298	7,824	2,679	24 days	327,848
North	285,235	70,210	529	218	11 days	285,764
Bekaa	404,914	90,932	3,882	1,125	20 days	408,796
South	136,232	30,344	355	107	9 days	136,587
Total Lebanon	1,146,405	272,784	12,590	4,129	21 days	1,158,995

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

	Actual	End-2014 Target
# of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in 2014	441,684	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	35,436	35,000
# of persons reached with legal awareness	124,180	110,000
# of persons benefitting from empowerment activities	194,786	140,000
# of persons with specific needs receiving specialized support	32,958	85,000
# of persons submitted for resettlement of humanitarian admission	7,247	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



