

Egypt Weekly Update
Syria Operation
May 28th – June 3rd 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of Syrian refugees registered and awaiting registration with UNHCR in Egypt stands at 75,920 individuals as of 3rd of June 2013, with 57,467 Syrians registered to date.

Total Gender and Age Breakdown

Age (years)	F	M	Total
0 - 4	4145	4319	8464
5 - 11	4958	5275	10233
12 - 17	3333	3890	7223
18 - 59	14811	14314	29125
60+	1171	1251	2422
Total	28418	29049	57467

Heads of Households	Total
F	5824
M	15240
Total	21064

REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

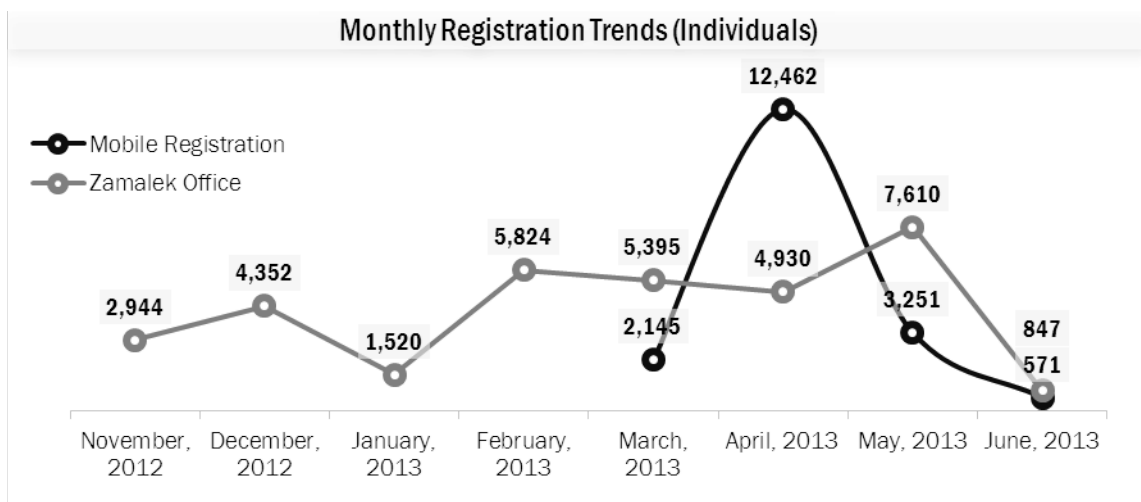
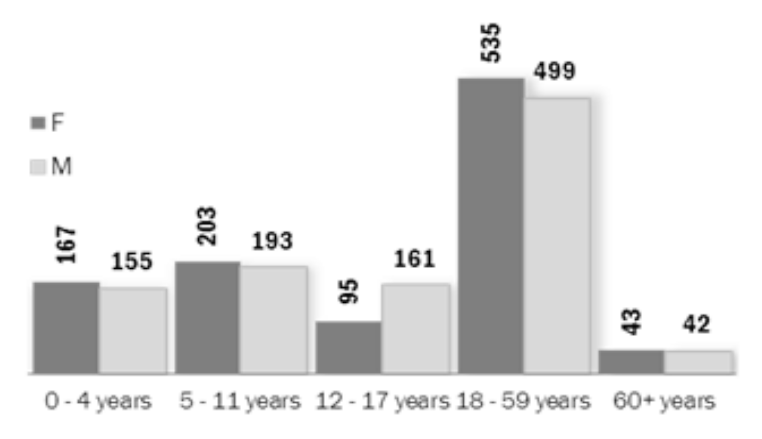
The total number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Egypt stands at **57467 individuals / 21064 families** as of June 3rd, 2013. Additional **18453** individuals are awaiting registration.

During the reporting period, the total number of Syrian refugees registered is 2093 individuals / 729 families. The Zamalek registration center registered 1294 individuals/ 443 families.

The registration team conducted a mobile registration in 6th October city in Greater Cairo during the reporting week that is still ongoing until June 6th. The total number of Syrian refugees registered during the mobile registration is 799 individuals /286 families. 47 individuals were fast tracked and registered on the spot. 300 individuals are scheduled on daily basis.

The number of families scheduled for registration in Zamalek registration centre until 18th September is 5,559 families / 14,633 individuals. The applicants, with an earlier date of arrival who were given appointments between 1st-22nd September will be rescheduled for registration between the 9th and 20th of June. The number of families awaiting registration in Alexandria is 974 families /1454 individuals and in Damietta 950 families/2366 individuals. Each registration assistant is expected to register a minimum of 10 individuals in an hour as per the regional registration standards for the Syria operation.

The sex and age breakdown was the same as in the previous weeks. The majority of registered individuals are males. When looking more precisely at the adult population, the largest age group is 18 – 59 years old and counted as 1034 individuals representing 50% of the total registered individuals.

Total Gender and Age Breakdown during the reporting week**1. PROTECTION**

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

The Syrian refugee communities reported that as school final exams end in Syria, many Syrians are expected to arrive to Egypt. It is worth noting that the Egyptian authorities have shown a great deal of flexibility in admitting Syrians into the country.

UNHCR has started establishing Community Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) to complement the Implementing Partner and the UNHCR presence. The Syrian refugees are widely scattered throughout several urban areas in Egypt. CBPNs identify and flag cases with protection concerns, and report on problems and concerns that the refugees encounter in their own communities. They also raise awareness and disseminate information. Moreover, the members of the CBPN work as focal points

between their community and UNHCR. UNHCR has established CBPNs in 10th of Ramadan, Obour, Helwan, in Greater Cairo and Alexandria, Dameitta, and Mansoura.

Eight protection interviews were conducted for unaccompanied and minor children:

- Three unaccompanied minors, whose parents are residing in Damascus, are studying in Al-Azhar School in Cairo and working to provide for themselves. Two are working as embroiders and one works in a Syrian restaurant. One is included in his uncle's file and the other two are registered separately and linked to their relatives' files.
- Two unaccompanied minors, whose parents were killed in combat, came through Lebanon and are currently residing in 6th of October. Both have been added to their uncle's file and have been referred to the Community Service unit for necessary medical attention.
- Three separated children have been fast-tracked for registration. They work in restaurants and are not enrolled in school since they have just arrived to Egypt and missed the school year.

A protection interview was conducted separately for a 16 year old and her husband. According to the spouse she was not forced into marriage and wishes to remain with her husband. There were no signs of abuse. They have been registered separately pending receipt of the documentation of their marriage and have been referred to UNHCR's legal partner.

Four cases were counselled at the time of closing their files with the office to depart to a third country and others have decided to return to Syria. They departed in an attempt to find job opportunities and/or to seek asylum in another country. Persons of concern have been counselled on the current situation in Syria, as well as the importance of legal residency and other benefits provided by UNHCR and partners in Egypt.

UNHCR conducted two workshops on International Protection of Refugees for 42 Immigration and Police Officers working in Alexandria Sea Port, Salloum and Taba entry points, and in Alexandria (Al Nozha), Borg Al-Arab, Hurghada and Sharm Al-Sheikh airports). The workshops focused on UNHCR's Mandate, definition of refugee, mass influx, and the rights and duties of refugees in Egypt. In addition, the workshops discussed the International Protection Considerations in respect to people fleeing the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as UNHCR guidelines on the detention of asylum-seekers. The workshops involved active discussions on the principle of non-refoulement, cases of Syrian asylum seekers with forged travel documents, and the increasing numbers of Syrian entering Egypt. The two workshops were facilitated by three protection staff from UNHCR Cairo in addition to a Colonel from the Police Academy.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

During the reporting period the Islamic Relief World Wide in Cairo (IRW), UNHCR's partner, registered in Cairo 480 families / 1889 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. 183 families / 709 individuals were identified as vulnerable. IRW also conducted 20 emergency interviews for refugees who were extremely vulnerable. This is in addition to 66 families / 213 individuals who received a one- time emergency assistance.

During the same period, 99 families / 357 individuals received financial assistance through the post office. IRW conducted home visits to 15 families / 65 individuals; and counselled 363 families / 1439 individuals. IRW and Tadamon centre are cooperating smoothly. Tadamon refers vulnerable families, who need immediate assistance and IRW fast tracks those cases. Moreover, the IRW team conducted a mission to Damietta to meet with Resala, UNHCR's partner in Damietta to support the Resala team and extend cooperation between the partners. 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 346 new families / 998 individuals. 550 families/ 2234 individuals received financial assistance and 250 families received ATM cards while 349 families / 1396 individuals received emergency assistance. During the reporting period, Caritas has identified 131 vulnerable cases and counseled 1087 individuals. 34 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. Five Syrians received vocational training.

Caritas Alexandria has started using the SMS messages service to inform the people of concern about ATM distribution times. In addition Caritas has finalized an agreement with SETI center rehabilitation center to improve the quality of life for the largest number of people of concern with disability. The contract will allow Syrian refugees with disability to pay only a quarter of the treatment session bill. Additionally, if the patient needs more than 20 sessions, Caritas will issue a certified letter explaining the medical condition and the necessity of the treatment, which will in return be authenticated by the SETI center.

3. FOOD DISTRIBUTION

During the reporting week, World Food Programme (WFP) has been completing the financial reconciliation for May food voucher distributions and coordinating the voucher distribution plan for June. Approximately 28,000 Syrian refugees are targeted for food voucher distributions in the month of June in greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. A joint UNHCR/WFP rapid assessment will be conducted in Alexandria on the 12th and 13th June in response to the increasing number of registered refugees there and the need to identify the most vulnerable and food-insecure Syrian refugees.

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community services staff provided counseling to all applicants who approached the Zamalek office and the 6th of October mobile registration mission. During counseling, 18 families were identified to have specific needs and were fast tracked for registration; among whom eight 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 55 cases and decide on the financial assistance eligibility.

Community Services continued to work together with the data management and programme colleagues in developing a ProGres Code table to identify assistance received by each refugee. The code will be sent to UNHCR partners so they can share it with CS staff on a monthly basis to be updated on ProGres. Emergency cash assistance started to be recorded on ProGres.

5. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the reporting period, Tadamon center referred 22 vulnerable families to the Islamic Relief Worldwide in Cairo. Tadamon continues to provide information about registration and services provided by UNHCR to Syrian refugees.

Tadamon held a meeting with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) to coordinate health services referral mechanisms, which aims to cover for current mental health gaps. MSF agreed with Tadamon to conduct a training session for the community center staff on case identification mechanisms.

In an effort to build the capacity of the community center staff and volunteers, Tadamon held a training session on the appropriate method of sharing information related to refugees to ensure the protection and confidentiality of refugees personal information.

As the summer vacation started, the community center hosted a musical event for 20 young people. The Syrian refugees enjoyed Dabka dancing, a traditional Syrian dance.

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 summer vacation 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 46 children from the age group 10-13 years.

French language lesson continued during the reporting period, 18 Syrian children benefited from the lesson.

The center continues to hold regular guitar lessons for both adults and children. A professional Syrian guitar teacher teaches the lessons. Twelve children and fourteen adults benefited from the lesson.

"My Bag" project continued to attract 24 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. The products will showcased during the World Refugee Day celebrations.

A total of 290 (156 women and 134 men) Syrian Refugees have benefited from an adult program delivering information. Training also provided information on the protection training offered by the UNHCR the information sessions on the community center services and the 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 20 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 summer vacation started.

The number of participants, who benefited from the Syrian community center regular activities, was 1441 individuals and from irregular activities (micro-grants projects), was 331 individuals. It is worth noting that the academic year has ended which will increase the number of children participants in the center's activities.

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 in accordance with the Egyptian Ministry of Education figures. To date, UNHCR has provided 3847 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.

The Education Working Group meeting took place during the reporting week to discuss the Education Strategy for each partner's planned summer activities. The Education Strategy will be finalized and consolidated in a workshop/meeting over a day and half on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th of June 2013. Many activities already started focusing on education such as remedial classes for those students who did not attend the final exams or those who failed a particular subject and need to retake the exams in the summer. These classes are designed to assist Syrian Children achieve better results in the coming exams and proceed to the next school grade level.

In addition to purely educational activities, there is a number of activities taking place such as Archery, Basketball, table tennis, football and arts /crafts classes are also held in the 6th October area. These activities are free of charge and cater for all age groups from the Syrian refugees community. The activities also address the issues of protection for the Syrian children during the summer break.

Negotiations are now in process with the Ministry of Education (MoE) on the areas of assistance that UNHCR will be providing to the MOE over the next 6 months to enable the MoE to facilitate easier access for Syrian refugees in Egyptian public schools.

During the reporting period, 231 students were registered for Education grants with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and 311 received educational grants. There were no new special needs cases registered during this period. However, CRS registered a total number of eleven cases to date.

7. HEALTH-CARE

At Refuge Egypt clinic, 72 under five children received primary health care; with two referrals to secondary level of care and one to the tertiary level of care. 29 Syrian women benefited from the antenatal care; among whom nine cases were new and 20 cases for follow up with two deliveries of live birth child, in addition to 2 women who benefited from family planning services.

The health education sessions given by Refuge Egypt were about calcium and vitamin D supplements, breast-feeding and weaning and oral health, HIV and indications of cesarean section.

In cooperation with Medecin Sans Frontiere (MSF) Refuge Egypt is planning to give health education sessions about Sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

During the reporting period, Mahmoud hospital provided primary health care for 215 Syrians; among them 11 were children under five years and 7 were women who came for antenatal care. The total number of referral to secondary level of care was 175, in addition to 3 Syrians who were referred to tertiary level of care. Moreover, the chronic disease treatment beneficiaries were 60; among them 24 hypertensive, 24 diabetic and 5 cardiac patients.

Caritas in Alexandria provided primary health care for 575 Syrians in Alexandria, among whom seven were under-five children and seven were women coming for antenatal care. Six referrals took place among whom three pregnant women were referred for delivery, in addition to 120 patients who benefited from the chronic disease treatment and 38 patients benefited from the Anba Takla hospital by getting their necessary medicament.

8. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

During the reporting period, a total of 243 individuals benefited from psychosocial services at UNHCR's partner PSTIC; and five families benefited from housing assistance. The total number of cases served by PSTIC was 52 cases / 205 individuals and 6 new cases / 23 individuals were filed.

9. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

The Public information unit is working on reproducing the information brochure distributed to Syrian refugees upon registration. The brochure summarizes all UNHCR provided services in Greater Cairo and Alexandria.