

Egypt Weekly Update

Syria Operation

June 11th – June 17th 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of Syrian refugees registered and awaiting registration with UNHCR in Egypt stands at **81,140 individuals** as of 17th of June 2013, with **62,870 Syrians** registered to date.

Total Gender and Age Breakdown

Age	F	M	Total
0 - 4 years	4537	4722	9259
5 - 11 years	5468	5778	11246
12 - 17 years	3667	4252	7919
18 - 59 years	16218	15558	31776
60+ years	1296	1374	2670
Total	31186	31684	62870

Heads of Households	Total
F	6478
M	16740
Total	23218

REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

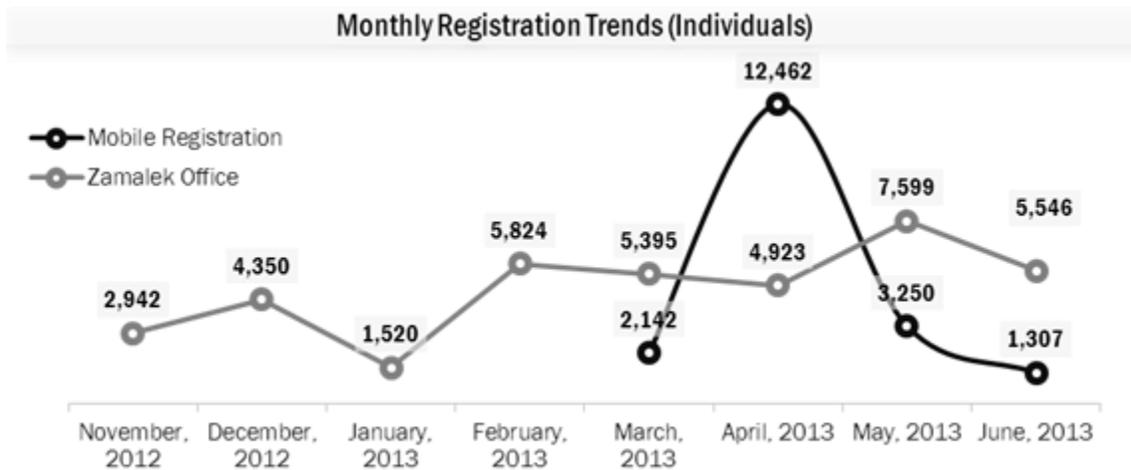
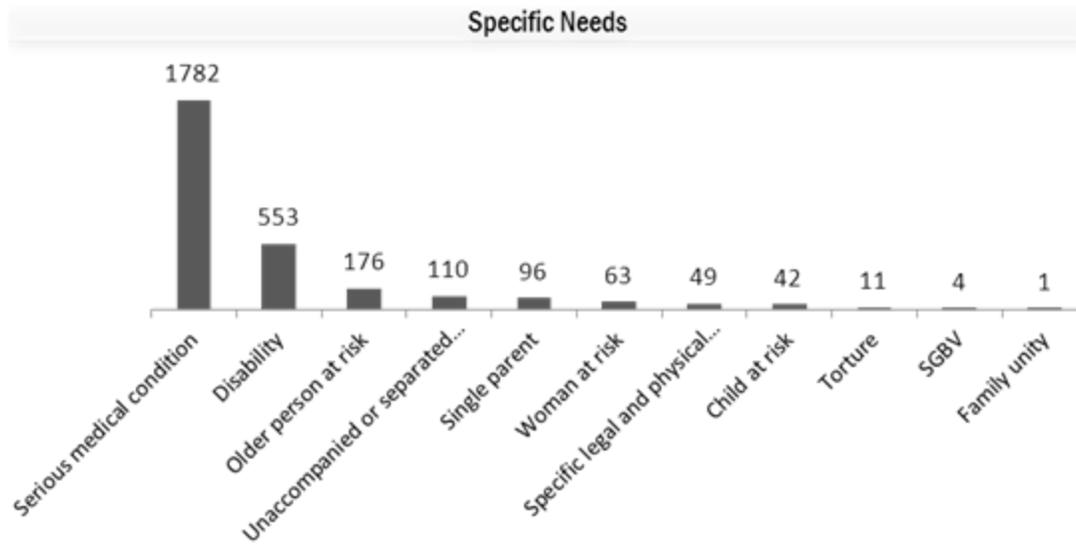
The total number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Egypt stands at **23,218 families/ 62,870 individuals** as of June 17th, 2013. Additional **18,270** individuals are awaiting registration.

To date, the total number of Syrian refugees registered in Greater Cairo stands at 31,409 individuals, Alexandria 14,043 individuals, and Damietta 7,548 individuals. 9,870 Syrian refugees are residing in other governorates in Egypt.

During the reporting period, the total number of Syrian refugees registered is 3124 individuals/1089 families were registered and 226 specific needs were identified in Zamalek Registration center.

A total of 77 individuals were fast tracked who were referred by different agencies and partners. 40 home visits were carried out during the course of the week.

The number of individuals scheduled for registration in Zamalek registration center is 14,450 people. 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 operations.



1.PROTECTION

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

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. There are regular direct flights between Damascus

and Cairo, Hurghada, and Bourg Al Arab airports. Ticket prices for a single adult on Syrian airlines from Damascus to Cairo vary between 100 – 120 USD.

UNHCR is frequently present at Cairo International airport and efforts are underway to access other airports and ports in order to get further reliable information for the next reporting period.

UNHCR has placed a monitoring mechanism in place according to the flight schedule of flights arriving from Damascus, Lebanon and Jordan to Cairo International and Bourg Al Arab airports. This will help observe and monitor the situation of new comers. The majority of Syrians arrive directly from Syria or through Lebanon and few through Jordan.

UNHCR and its legal partners have access to detention centres and provide training on international refugee law to immigration authorities and police officers at the ports and officers working at the police stations in order to disseminate awareness on refugee rights to prevent Syrians from being detained or *refouled*. UNHCR is working closely with legal partners and refers cases of detention accordingly.

UNHCR has so far succeeded in establishing fifteen Community Based Protection Networks (CBPNs), to complement its presence as Syrian refugee communities are widely scattered throughout the numerous urban areas in Egypt. The CBPNs established in Sadat City, Damietta, in greater Cairo, (Helwan, 10th of Ramadan, Obour, Haram) Mansoura and Alexandria have been in direct contact with UNHCR referring vulnerable cases and sharing needs of their communities. UNHCR is in direct contact with the CBPNs through telecommunications and regular visits to gather first hand information from the community and follow up on the needy people.

Several people of concern approached the Zamalek registration centre for legal assistance. The incidents the refugees reported varied from being attacked by neighbours, one was shot in the arm during an attempted carjacking, loss of yellow card, missing persons and one couple to issue an authentication for their marriage. All PoCs were referred to the legal partner for further follow up.

The protection unit interviewed five unaccompanied minors and nine separated children. The minors were flagged for fast track registration and referred to implementing partners for assistance.

Ten cases requested the closure of their files with the office. Five cases departing to Libya in an attempt to seek job opportunities, while three were departing to Syria to reunite with their families, one case was departing to Saudi Arabia to perform pilgrimage and one was staying in Egypt but does not want UNHCR's assistance. All applicants applying for closure of their files are briefed on the security situation in Syria, the procedures to leave the country legally, and the option of re-opening their files.

Due to large number of Syrians refugee influx in Alexandria, the protection unit will continue to have regular presence through field visits in Alexandria at least one week each month.

Many Syrians have not yet registered for assistance with UNHCR either because they have sufficient means of their own, or are reluctant due to perceived political concerns, are not informed and/or unable to come forward. Due to the wide geographic locations where Syrian refugees have settled, accurate information about the purpose of registration is not reaching the entire communities.

Under such context it is difficult to reach all Syrian refugees throughout the country. Therefore, hotline telephone services have been set up and the numbers have been disseminated among the Syrian communities in Egypt.

UNHCR conducted a one-day training workshop to Caritas office in Alexandria on June 16th 2013. The workshop was attended by all the staff of Caritas office in Alexandria (the management, social counselors, data entry staff, receptionists, security guards, etc. . .) with a total of 42 participants. The workshop focused on giving the participants a better understanding on UNHCR's mandate, the principle of international protection, the refugee definition, rights and duties of refugees in Egypt. Moreover the workshop discussed the various services provided to the refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt with a special emphasis on the criteria of granting financial/cash assistance to Syrian refugees. In addition, the participants were briefed on the special consideration for protection refugee women and children. Last but not least, the workshop shed light on the nine principles of UNHCR Code of Conduct.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

During the reporting period, the Islamic Relief World Wide in Cairo (IRW), UNHCR's partner, registered in Cairo 378 families / 1504 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.

777 families / 2914 individuals were identified as vulnerable. This is in addition to 128 families / 386 individuals who received a one-time emergency assistance. During the same period, 321 families / 1324 individuals received financial assistance through the post office.

IRW counseled 352 families / 1357 individuals. IRW and Tadamon community center have set up smooth coordination mechanisms. Tadamon refers vulnerable families, who need immediate assistance and IRW fast tracks those cases.

UNHCR's Partner, Caritas, has registered in Alexandria 237 new families / 651 individuals. 136 families/ 374 individuals received financial assistance and 400 families received ATM cards while 228 families /854 individuals received emergency assistance. During the reporting period, Caritas has identified 32 vulnerable cases and counseled 984 individuals. 5 home visits were carried out and it has been decided to assign two social workers suggest specifically to undertake home visits three days a week to assist more Syrian refugees.

Caritas issued 761 credit cards to be distributed on Saturday the 15th of June to refugees who were interviewed in April and received their first financial allowance in May.

3. FOOD DISTRIBUTION

For the month of June, the World Food Programme (WFP) is planning to assist 28,000 food-insecure Syrian refugees in Egypt. Food voucher distributions have been completed in Damietta and Obour and are currently ongoing in 6th of October in Greater Cairo. Distributions in Damietta and Obour reached 99 and 97 percent of the target respectively with final numbers being confirmed for 6th of October. Remaining food voucher distributions are being planned for Alexandria next week.

WFP is investigating the use of electronic vouchers in Egypt similar to those recently adopted by WFP in Lebanon and Jordan. Electronic vouchers are expected to reduce administration requirements while promoting greater independence and choice for the refugees.

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community services unit provided counseling to all applicants who approached the Zamalek office. During counseling, 76 families were identified to have specific needs and were fast tracked for registration; among whom six were scheduled for home visit registration.

During the reporting period, the community service unit, together with Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), took part in the financial assistance committee to review cases and decide on the financial assistance eligibility. The Community service unit started assisting IRW in eliminating the cases that are pending for committees by conducting 3 parallel committees each with 50 cases and the support will continue till the pending cases are completed.

IRW shared with the Community Service unit a Master excel sheet with all the financial assistance, emergency assistance, monthly cash assistance and clothing, since February to date, to enable the unit to track for the PoCs inquiries.

The Community Service unit participated in the field assessment mission for the Syrian refugees located in 6th of October city and conducted home visits to assess their situation closely in terms of living conditions and vulnerabilities. Additionally, a meeting was conducted in Tadamon office to identify Community based protection networks.

The Community Service unit participated in the field assessment mission for Syrian refugees located in Faisal area for future interventions in terms of registration, identifying protection issue and services needed.

5. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the reporting period, Tadamon referred 14 vulnerable cases to Islamic Relief Worldwide, including three with disabilities. Tadamon continues to provide information about registration and services furnished by UNHCR to Syrian refugees.

In response to the Syrian Refugee parents' 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 24 children.

The project targets 3-5 age group and aims at giving children new tools of expression through innovative ways and enhancing their self- confidence. "El Sard El- Masrahy band" Theater project aims at teaching children ways to express their feelings and fears and to earn skills related to theater such as acting. The project attracted 40 children from the age group 10-13 years.

French language lesson continued during the reporting period and 20 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. 10 children and 8 adults benefited from the lesson.

Accessories and Handicrafts activities continued to attract 26 Syrian refugee women.

“My Bag” project continued to attract 8 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 189 Syrian Refugees (99 women and 90 men) have benefited from an adult program delivering information. Information training 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. Moreover, it provided employment opportunities that were posted on a bulletin board.

Other micro grants activities include health for all, waste recycling project, and Syrian Tuktuk; and an electronic newspaper for children. Since the summer started, preparations are underway to provide more activities for the children.

The number of participants, who benefited from the Syrian community center regular activities, was 1727 individuals and from irregular activities (micro-grants projects), was 329 individuals.

6. EDUCATION

During the reporting period, 260 students were registered for Education grants with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and 581 received educational grants. There was one new special needs case registered in this period. Thus, CRS registered a total number of 13 special needs cases to date.

7. HEALTH-CARE

During the reporting period, Caritas Alexandria and Cairo provided primary health care for 556 Syrians among whom 17 were children under five years and nine pregnant women who benefited from antenatal care services.

One patient was referred to the secondary health care level, in addition to 79 Syrians who benefited from chronic disease treatment; among them 23 patients were hypertensive, 9 patients with chronic nerve disease, 8 cardiac patients, 8 diabetics and 7 with chronic bone diseases.

8. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

During the reporting period, a total of 316 cases benefited from psychosocial services at UNHCR’s partner PSTIC; and 3 cases benefited from housing assistance. The total number of cases served by PSTIC was 58 cases / 255 individuals and 16 new cases /44 individuals were filed.

9. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, in celebration of the World Refugee Day, the Regional Representative was interviewed by Al Hurra and Al Arabiya both are renowned news channels about refugees in Egypt. The Public Information unit arranged for a round table discussion about (maybe 'regarding the' instead of about) refugees at the YOUM 7 newspaper, a well-known and prominent newspaper in Egypt.

Two events are arranged for the World Refugee Day celebrations. One event will take place at the Italian Cultural Institute on June 19th and the other event will take place at the Al Sawy Cultural Wheel on June 21st. The events will include theatre and song activities, arts and crafts exhibition and some children activities for the refugees.