

Inter-Agency Thematic Update: An Overview of Registration



June 27, 2014

#FutureOfSyria



LEBANON

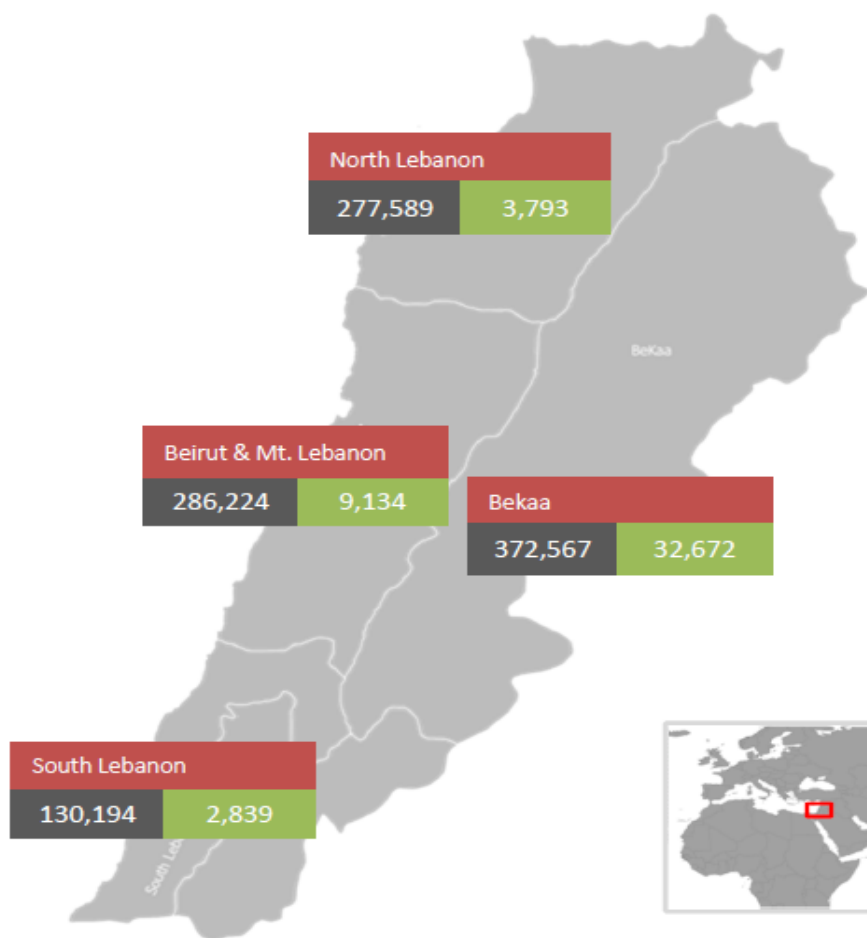
Agencies and the Government of Lebanon requested US\$1.89 billion in the latest inter-agency funding appeal. US\$390 million have so far been received – 21 per cent, as of 3 June.

REGISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS

- An average of 7,450 individuals is assisted on a daily basis through registration (2,350), registration appointments (3,100), verification and renewal of documents (2,000);
- Approximately 45,000 individuals have been inactivated to date after verification;
- 30% of registered households are headed by women;
- Average waiting period for registration is 27 days for all field offices in Lebanon;
- The registration operation in Lebanon is one of the largest and most complex urban registration programmes in the world;
- 1,115,000 refugees are currently registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR;

Prior to the spring of 2011, the UNHCR operation in Lebanon was a relatively modest one – meeting the needs of 10,000 mostly Iraqi refugees. Since that time, due to the unrest in Syria, the refugee population has grown exponentially. Currently, more than one million refugees are registered with the Office, of which all but 5,000 are from Syria. This weekly overview will shed light on the registration activities in Lebanon, its achievements and challenges.

1,115,000 refugees are currently registered with UNHCR in Lebanon



Over 1,115,000 refugees are currently registered with UNHCR. (1,066,500 people registered and 48,400 awaiting registration).

REGISTRATION CRITERIA

Based on the registration criteria agreed upon with the Government of Lebanon in 2011, UNHCR ensures that refugee status is reserved for only those in need of international protection including civilians who have fled persecution or the violence in Syria.

Registration teams capture the bio-data of every individual, reason for flight, living conditions in Lebanon, preliminary vulnerabilities, as well as any protection concerns and risks.

The interview also includes a counseling session on assistance, available services and service providers, confidentiality and information sharing guidelines, and renewal procedures, amongst other things. At the end of the interview, each individual is photographed separately and those over the age of seven are iris scanned (automated method of biometric identification through video images of an individual's eyes).

UNHCR does not register active combatants or ex-combatants who have not genuinely or permanently renounced their arms as per the global guidelines for maintaining and ensuring the civilian character of asylum.

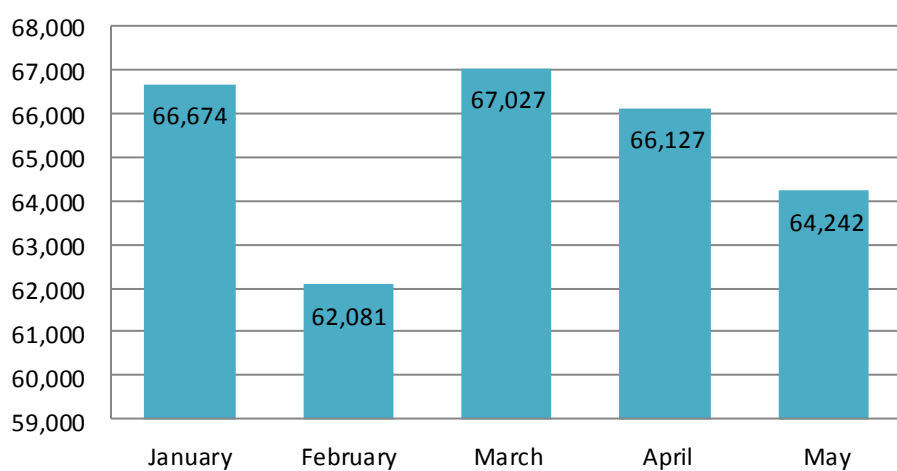
Once their refugee certificate has expired, refugees undergo a verification renewal interview to update their information, record any new vulnerability, inclusion in iris scanning and finally issuing them with a new certificate. To date, over 245,000 individuals have been verified and 45,000 individuals have been inactivated after verification.

REGISTRATION TRENDS

Request for appointments has been consistent from January till May 2014 with approximately 65,000 appointments requested on a monthly basis.

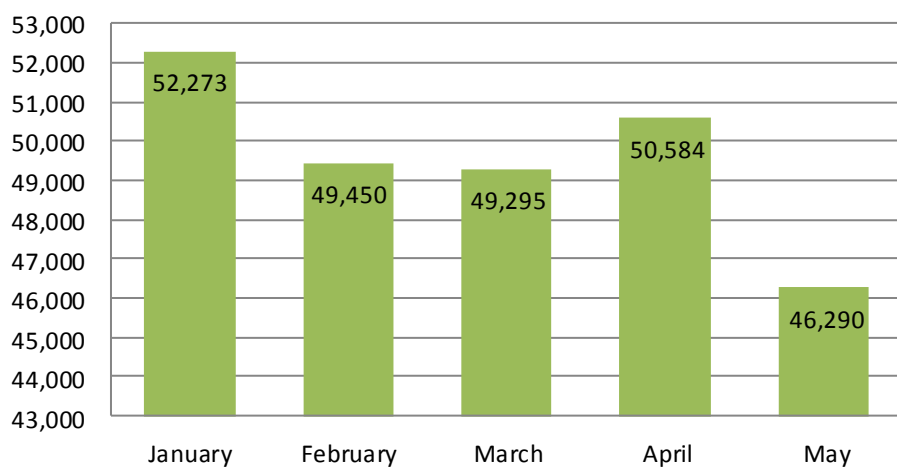
On average, 65,000 appointments have been requested on a monthly basis since January 2014

Registration Appointment Requested per Month



Between January 2014 and May 2014, a monthly average of 65,000 appointments have been requested and almost 248,000 Syrian refugees have been registered in Lebanon with 38 per cent having registered in Beirut and Mount Lebanon.

Individuals Registered per Month



30% of registered families are headed by women

Demography

Females make up 52 per cent of the registered population in Lebanon with the majority of them aged between 18 and 59 years. Women and children combined make up 79 per cent of the registered population.

Areas of Origin

Seventy per cent of all registered Syrians are originally from four governorates of Syria (Homs, Aleppo, Idleb and Rural Damascus).

IRIS SCANNING

In November 2013, UNHCR introduced iris scanning and staff was trained on the use of biometrics. Iris scanning helps UNHCR limit fraud and child trafficking.

To register with UNHCR Lebanon

- If you live in the North, South or Mt Lebanon/Beirut, approach the Registration Centre in your area from Monday to Friday 8 am to 2pm.
- If you live in the Bekka Valley, call the info-line from Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm.
(Look the back of the card for details)

To renew your UNHCR certificate

- Return to the Registration Centre where you registered and take an appointment.
- If you live in the Bekka Valley, call the info-line from Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm for an appointment.

Registration with UNHCR is free of charge.

445,000 registered refugees have been iris scanned in Lebanon

Business card version of the registration leaflet is distributed to unregistered individuals by UNHCR staff and partners.

As of June 12, 2014, over 445,000 registered refugees had been iris scanned in Lebanon. This number constitutes 49 per cent of the individuals who need to be iris scanned.

Enhancing Access to Registration

Since the outset of the refugee influx to Lebanon, multiple efforts to accelerate registration have led to an increased number of people registered daily and a decrease in waiting periods across all registration centres.

This was done through the opening of new registration centres, using enhanced registration mechanisms, maintaining individual protection interviews, providing transportation assistance and introducing evening and weekend shifts.

Today, the average waiting period countrywide is set at 27 days in comparison to 35 days during the same period in 2013.

In the month of April 2013 alone, over 90,000 refugees were registered.

On a regular working day, UNHCR Lebanon's registration team registers an average of 2,350 Syrians, verifies and renews the documents of 2,000 Syrians and issues a registration appointment to 3,100 Syrians for a total of 7,450 individuals assisted per day countrywide. This is equivalent to assisting 16 individuals per minute per work day.

Given the rural spread of the refugee population (across over 1,700 locations) UNHCR's registration operation in Lebanon is one of the largest and most complex urban registration programmes in the world.

Fast Tracking

UNHCR recognizes that some individuals, due to their vulnerabilities, and specific needs are in need of accessing UNHCR and registering within the least waiting time possible.

To address the needs of these individuals, UNHCR has a procedure in place to enhance access to the registration centers, expedite appointments and fast track registration interviews.

Individuals fast tracked for registration include persons with disabilities, elderly people, individuals with serious medical conditions, unaccompanied children, individuals with serious protection concerns and pregnant women.

An average of 2,350 refugees are registered daily

Bussing Operations

UNHCR introduced bussing operations in order to facilitate access to registration. Individuals who have benefitted from this initiative include:

- The more vulnerable Syrian refugees (including economic vulnerabilities, i.e. financial limitations for transportation) ;
- Those who live far from registration centers;
- Those who have medical problems, disability, and protection/security concerns in Lebanon.

The bussing operations have been conducted in the Mount Lebanon area in coordination with Terre Des Hommes (TDH) and in the South in coordination with SHEILD.

Mobile Registration

UNHCR has conducted several mobile registration missions, mainly in Wadi Khaled, where individuals who are undocumented and/or have specific risks which prevent them from commuting to the registration center in their respective area. This month, UNHCR launched four days of mobile registration in Chebaa, south Lebanon.

Mobile registration for persons with disabilities, serious medical conditions, or in detention are ongoing.

One category that is of concern to UNHCR and the humanitarian community is Syrian refugees who are in need of protection and/or assistance but who are unable or unwilling to register with UNHCR. Agencies continue to identify these individuals through various outreach activities, including focus group discussions, Q&A sessions with Refugee Outreach Volunteers, bussing operations, unified inter-agency referral mechanism, mobile registration for normal and urgent cases, etc.

THEMATIC QUESTIONNAIRES

In February 2014, the registration unit designed and rolled out thematic monthly questionnaires to be used at the time of registration of new arrivals. These questionnaires focus on different sectoral issues and help to gain valuable information that can be used for programming and decision making.

The most recent questionnaire was conducted in May 2014 with 1,161 families.

The results revealed that 41 per cent of refugees were advised by the municipality in their area of residence to register with UNHCR. 96 per cent did not face problems getting access to and registering with UNHCR. Additionally, 56 per cent were displaced in Syria before coming to Lebanon.

DONORS

USA, Kuwait, EU, Japan, UK, Germany, Australia, Norway, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Russia, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Italy, Ireland, Austria, Republic of Korea, Spain, Luxemburg, Estonia, Czech Republic, Iceland, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Chile, Mexico, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Qatar, New Zealand, China, Ecuador, Estonia, Slovak Republic, Holy See and Slovakia.

Contributions have also been received from the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) as well as from private donors, national and international organizations.