



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

GRADUATION APPROACH

THE GRADUATION APPROACH EGYPT NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2014

As a means to assist refugees successfully engage in sustainable livelihood activities, UNHCR has begun testing a Graduation Approach which takes into consideration how safety nets, capacity building and financial support can be sequenced to create pathways for the poorest to graduate out of extreme poverty. Through technical support from BRAC University in Bangladesh, the Trickle Up organization and UNHCR Geneva, in 2013 the first project kicked-off in Egypt, which hosts one of the largest urban refugee populations globally. Egypt offers an interesting opportunity to test the approach with two different populations requiring distinct UNHCR responses: an African refugee population that is in a protracted situation and Syrian refugees in an emergency situation.

A key tenet of the approach is the mainstreaming of prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). Refugees in Egypt are particularly vulnerable to harassment, abuse and exploitation. Through the support of the Safe from the Start project, UNHCR has been working to mitigate SGBV protection risks through a wide range of complementary responses such as identifying profiles of persons at risk of SGBV, monitoring programmes closely for harmful consequences (case management approach), and building up the capacity of UNHCR staff and partners. UNHCR is mainstreaming SGBV/ protection safeguards into all stages of the Graduation Approach to ensure: women control resources earned, effective monitoring and reporting on the increases/decrease of SGBV risks, referral pathways are in place, and that assessments are conducted on the risk of sexual exploitation in the workplace.

Key Statistics (as of 30 June)

Total individuals employed:

322

Total individual who have started a business:

105

AT A GLANCE

Target:

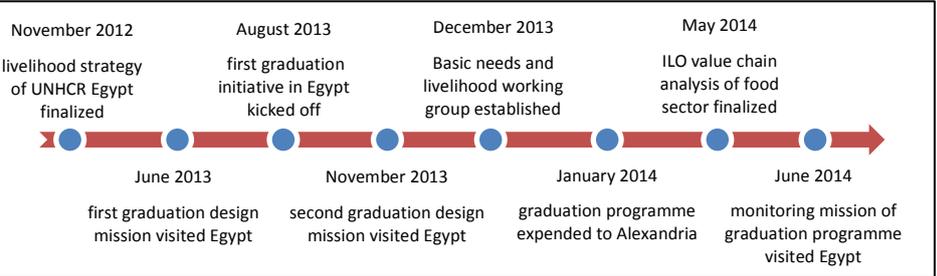
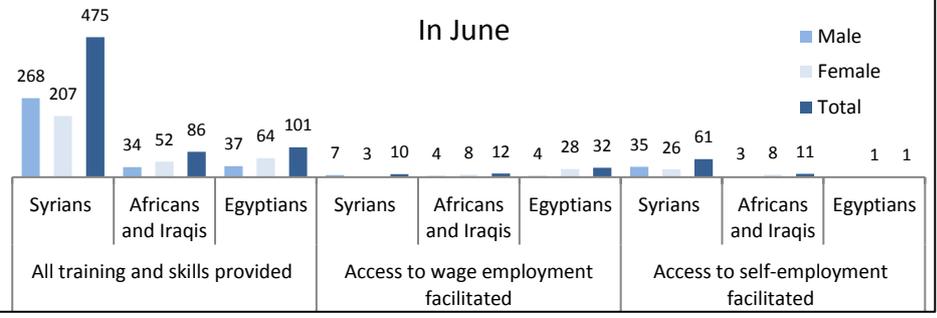
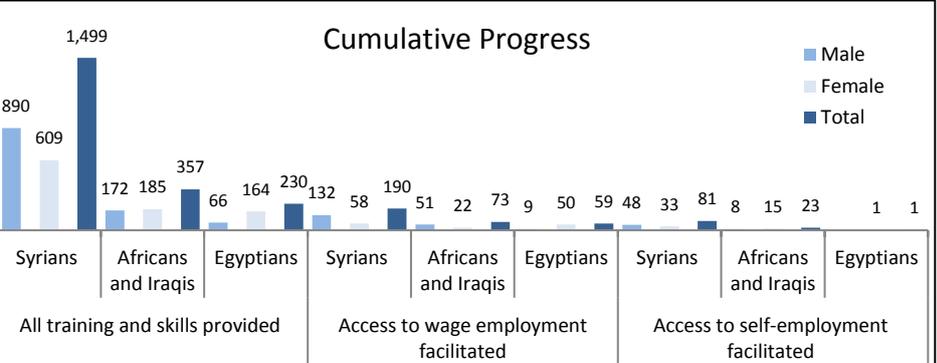
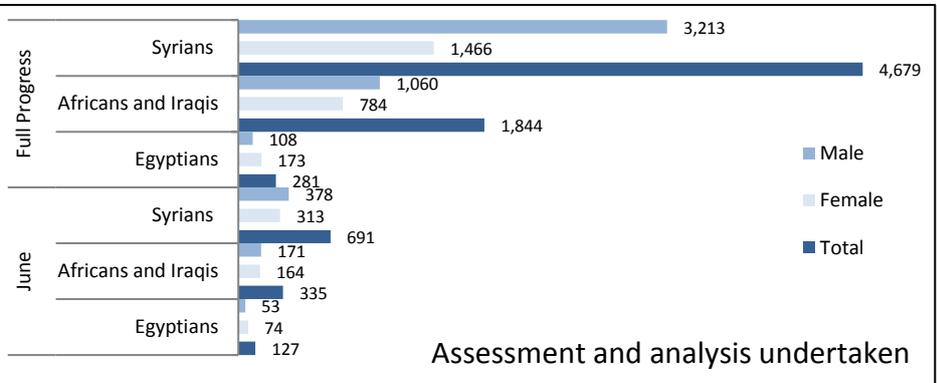
2,000 beneficiaries in Greater Cairo
840 beneficiaries in Alexandria
50/50 - female/male

Timeframe:

Starting date: August 2013
Duration: 28 months

Partners:

CRS for Greater Cairo
Caritas for Alexandria



For more information

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Alaa's Story

Fifty-four year-old Alaa from Syria is uneducated, married and responsible for 2 sons, a daughter in law and his grandson. His family fled the conflict in Syrian and found refuge in Agami, Alexandria.

He was working in Syria as a contractor, and since arriving in Egypt has learned how to make Ice cream and pastries. He rented a place next to his home and has set up a bakery.

He requested assistance to increase the number of ovens and invest in raw materials; considering the growing demand for his pastries and oriental pies, the self-reliance team helped him conduct simplified feasibility study for the project.

As a result, Alaa received a loan for 4,000 EGP to complete the upgrade in his business. In addition to his wife and daughter in law, he has also hired two women to help him in his work. ©CRS

UNHCR Graduation Approach Pathway

To move refugees from dependency to self-reliance, each participant works with a field worker to match his or her skills, abilities and interests with wage or self-employment opportunities. Participants receive business planning and legal and skills training for the activity they select. They receive soft skills training to prepare them to join the workforce or to establish their own business. Participants pursuing self-employment receive a seed capital grant to help kick-start their livelihood activity.

The **Self-employment track** includes grants for consumption support and small assets to jump-start an economic activity, skills training, business training for sustainable self-employment and health and social development inputs. Field staff members spend eighteen months closely monitoring and working with participants. By the end of the programme period participants gain confidence, develop sustainable a livelihood and graduate out of the ranks of the extreme poor.

The **Wage employment track** links participants who fit the qualifications for wage-employment and are not candidates for self-employment to wage employment opportunities within Cairo.

Both tracks target the most vulnerable persons of concern with potential for self-employment or undertaking wage employment. Time-bound cash assistance provides for food until new livelihoods start generating adequate earnings. The programme provides training in financial management skills to build discipline and resilience, and also on skills for a smooth transition into employment (wage-employment) and for economic enterprises (self-employment). There is also intensive supervision and coaching to assist with skill-building (wage employment) and economic enterprises (self-employment).

The programme aims to build up the confidence of participants throughout the whole process as a prerequisite to reach sustainable livelihoods.

