



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

GRADUATION APPROACH

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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 December 31)

Total individuals employed:

789

Total individual who have started a business:

657

Target:

AT A GLANCE

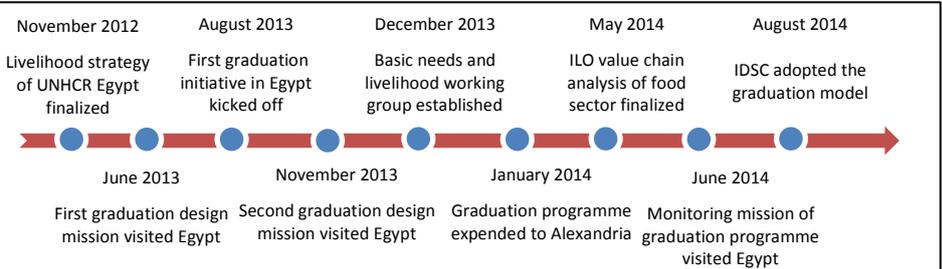
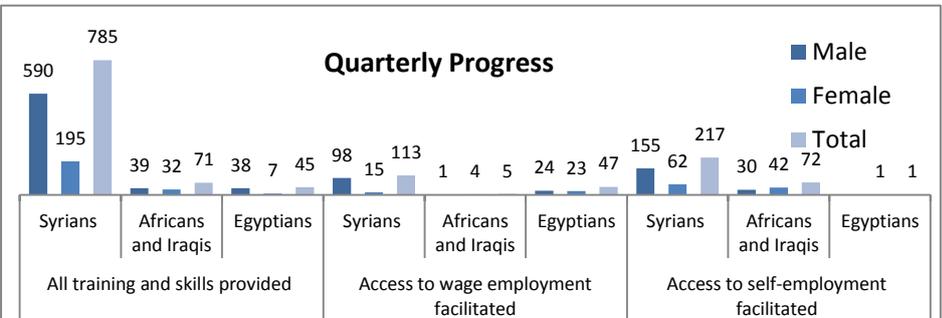
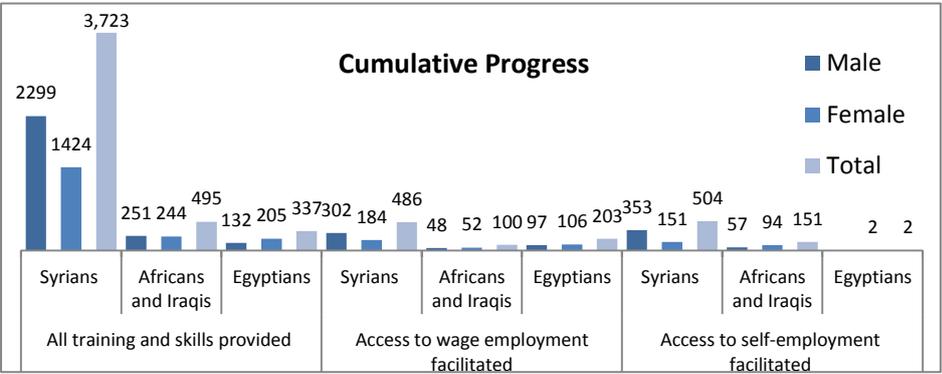
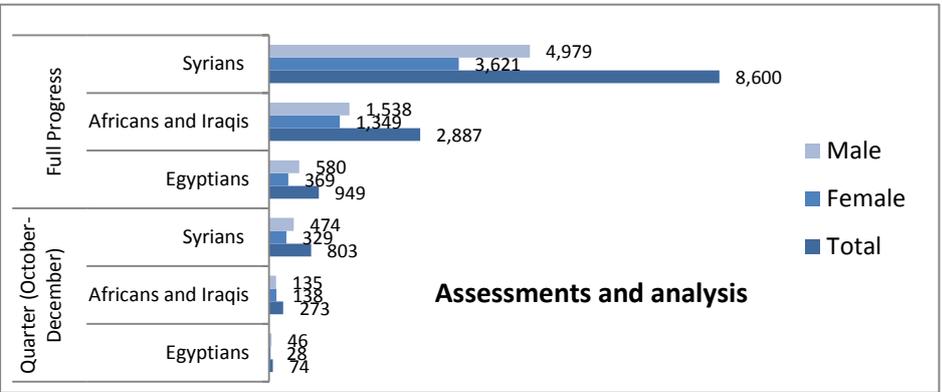
2000 beneficiaries in Greater Cairo
840 beneficiaries in Alexandria
50/50 - female/male

Timeframe:

Starting date: August 2013
Duration: 28 months

Partners:

Catholic Relief Services (Cairo)
Caritas (Alexandria)
International Development Services Consultancy (Cairo)

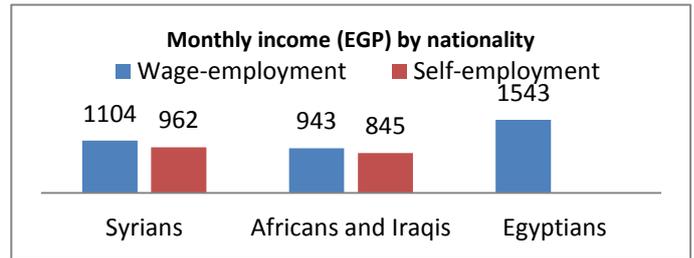
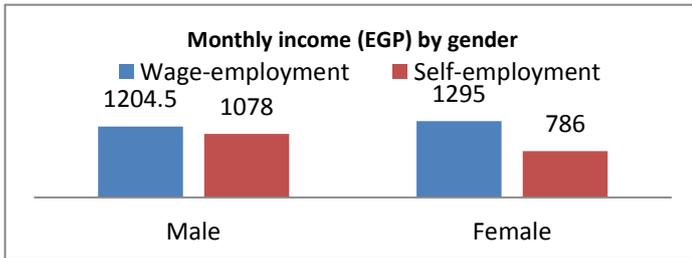


For more information

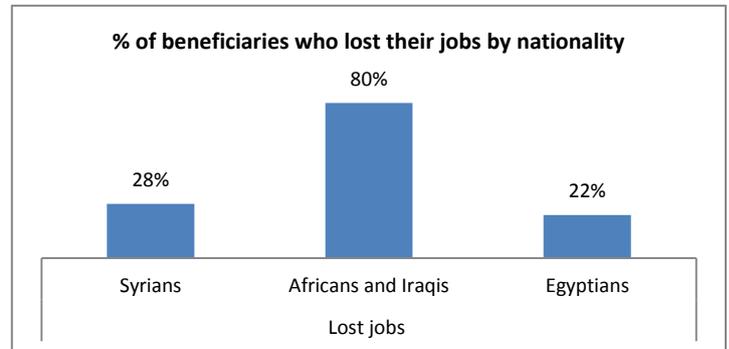
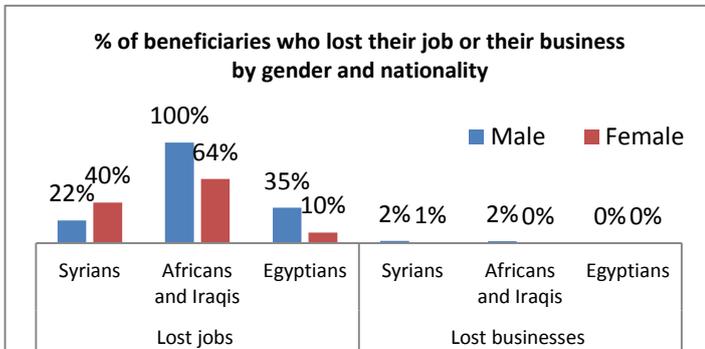
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Keys findings

During the last quarter of 2014, monthly income results disaggregated by sex and nationality confirm trends observed during previous quarter (July to September). Beneficiaries of the programme engaged in wage-employment generate more income than those who started businesses. Though the gap has slightly narrowed this quarter, female beneficiaries were able to make 65% more income than their male counterparts who similarly



started businesses. Hairdressing and sewing related activities appear to be the most lucrative activities for female. Based on indications from partners and confirming ILO/UNHCR value chain study issued in 2014, the food sector seems also very promising for both men and women, notably for Syrians as the demand is relatively high for Syrian food. When looking at the difference by nationality, the results obtained these last three months confirm as well initial findings. Indeed, we observe the same ranking with Egyptians generating almost 70% more income than Africans and Iraqis, while Syrians maintain almost the same level of earning during this last quarter. Cultural and language barriers appear clearly to be the main difficulties faced by beneficiaries who are non-Arabic speakers to access the labour market. There are efforts to mitigate this. In 2014, 219 individuals from non-Arabic speaking populations were provided Arabic language courses.



Regarding job retention, once again, African and Iraqis obtain the lowest results (the reasons for this trend will be examined further in 2015). For Syrians and Egyptians, job loss rates seem stable compared to the 3rd quarter and overall relatively acceptable as less than one third of Syrians lost their jobs while this figure drops to less than one quarter for Egyptians. A major challenge faced again this quarter is the underrated business failure. This is mostly due to difficulties in following up closely with beneficiaries after the business creation. Close monitoring and follow-up of self-employed beneficiaries will be a priority in 2015 to understand better the situation and tailor the programme accordingly.

Highlight

During the month of December, UNHCR selected 3 partners to expand the project in 2015 and the Graduation Model will thus be implemented in all 3 main areas where refugees are living: Greater Cairo (CRS), Alexandria (Caritas) and now Damietta (Resala). In 2015 the targets will be the following: 870 wage-employed and 508 self-employed, which includes 50% of female beneficiaries.

Stories from the field

Nadia Gaber El Sheikh



Nadia is living alone here in Egypt with her 16 year old son while her husband is still in prison in Syria. With the 5,000 LE grant she was able to buy a sewing machine and raw material and is now sewing clothes from her home.

Monzer Mohamed Sawas



Mohamed is 35 years old and started a small street bakery selling Syrian specialties in Alexandria. He used the grant to buy basic tools to produce bread and with the income generated he was able to diversify his production.