



# UNRWA REGISTRATION VERIFICATION REQUESTS

## STATISTICAL REPORT

1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

### Introduction

UNRWA regularly receives registration verification requests from outside its fields of operations.<sup>1</sup> The Eligibility and Registration Division within the Relief and Social Services Department processes these requests on the basis of its Registration Verification Manual, and coordinates with the Protection Division and other departments when needed. To safeguard confidentiality and privacy rights, requests are only processed upon receipt of a signed copy of the UNRWA Registration Verification Form<sup>2</sup> by the person whose registration records are to be verified.

The following statistics refer to the period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and are drawn from the Registration Verification Database, in which the requests are recorded and tracked. The database includes key information about the requests (i.e. the date the request was received, the date it was completed, the country the request came from, the issuer and type of request) and about the persons in question (i.e. registration status, field of registration, sex and date of birth).

### Received and completed requests

A total of 1129 requests were received by the Eligibility and Registration Division during 2020. In the first half of the year, the number of requests decreased from 81 in January to 74 in February and 54 in March; increased again to 75 in April; dropped to 39 in May; then peaked at 132 in June. In the second half of the year, requests increased from 88 in July to 121 in August; peaked at 134 and 133 in September and October; then dropped to 114 in November and 84 in December (see Figure 1 in the attachment).

Out of the total 1129 requests, 1108 (98.1%) were completed<sup>3</sup> by the time this report was prepared in January 2021. The remaining cases (21 requests; 1.9%) are not completed yet for different reasons: some requests have been sent back to the issuers because the Registration Verification Form was either missing or incomplete, while others have been forwarded to the Protection Division or other departments for advice on how to proceed (see Figure 2). Therefore, the following analysis is based on the 1108 completed requests.

### Geographical origin of requests, issuers and motivations

Out of the 1108 completed requests, 1078 (97.3%) came from European countries (see Figure 3). Most of the requests were issued from Belgium (392 cases; 35.4%) and Germany (362 cases; 32.7%), followed by Spain (147 cases; 13.3%).

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<sup>1</sup> UNRWA's five fields of operations are Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> The Registration Verification Form can be downloaded from UNRWA's website: [https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/verification\\_of\\_registration\\_form.pdf](https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/verification_of_registration_form.pdf). Once filled and signed, it can be sent to: [verofreg@unrwa.org](mailto:verofreg@unrwa.org).

<sup>3</sup> "Completed request" means that the Eligibility and Registration Division has received all the necessary documentation to process the request and has replied to the issuer providing the information needed.

In 469 cases (42.3%) the requests were issued by governmental authorities (see Figure 4). The second most common issuer are individuals (434 cases; 39.2%), followed by UNHCR (181 cases; 16.3%) and legal operators (22 cases; 2.0%). One request was issued by the Red Cross (0.1%) and one by an NGO (0.1%)

The main motivation behind the requests is to verify the registration status of the person in question (685 cases; 61.8%). In 423 cases (38.2%), the issuers requested further information related to assistance and protection provided to the registered person or other official documentation (see Figure 5).

### Characteristics of verified persons

Nearly all persons whose status was verified are registered with UNRWA, 1000 (90.3%) as Palestine refugees and 27 (2.4%) as other persons of concern.<sup>4</sup> In 428 cases (41.7%) the field of registration is the Gaza Strip, in 358 cases (34.9%) Syria and in 195 cases (19.0%) Lebanon. A relatively lower number of persons are registered with UNRWA in the West Bank (23; 2.2%) and Jordan (23; 2.2%) (see Figure 7). The remaining 81 persons (7.3%) were found not to be registered with UNRWA.

Among the 1027 registered persons, 797 are males (74.6%) and 230 are females (25.4%). Most of them (950; 92.5%) are adults between 18 and 59 years. Requests regarding children under 18 years and older persons aged 60 years and above were 40 (3.9%) and 37 (3.6%) respectively (see Figure 8).

Out of the 428 persons registered in the Gaza Strip, 302 (70.6%) are currently in Belgium. The main destination for those registered in Syria (358 persons) is Germany (280 cases; 78.2%). Those registered in Lebanon (195 persons) are scattered between Belgium (58 cases; 29.7%), Spain (42 cases; 21.5%), Germany (38; 19.5%) and the United Kingdom (26 cases; 13.3%). Those registered in the West Bank (23 cases) are mostly in Spain (16 cases; 69.6%). Lastly, for those registered in Jordan (23 persons) the most common destinations are Germany (9 cases; 39.1%), Spain (4 cases; 17.4%) and Belgium (3 cases; 13.0%) (see Figure 9).

### Conclusion

During 2020, the Eligibility and Registration Division completed 1108 registration verification requests. Most of the requests came from Belgium (392 cases; 35.4%) and Germany (362 cases; 32.7%), followed by Spain (147 cases; 13.3%). Nearly all persons in question were found to be registered with UNRWA, 1000 (90.3%) as Palestine refugees and 27 (2.4%) as other persons of concern. Their fields of registration are mainly the Gaza Strip (428 cases; 41.7%), Syria (358 cases; 34.9%) and Lebanon (195 cases; 19.0%).

During 2021, the Eligibility and Registration Division will continue to record and track incoming requests in the Registration Verification Database. A comparative report will be prepared to examine changes and similarities in the characteristics of the requests and of the persons in question.

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<sup>4</sup> For UNRWA's operational definitions of Palestine refugees and other persons of concern, please refer to Agency's Consolidated Eligibility and Registration Instructions (CERI): <https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/2010011995652.pdf>

## ATTACHMENTS

Figure 1

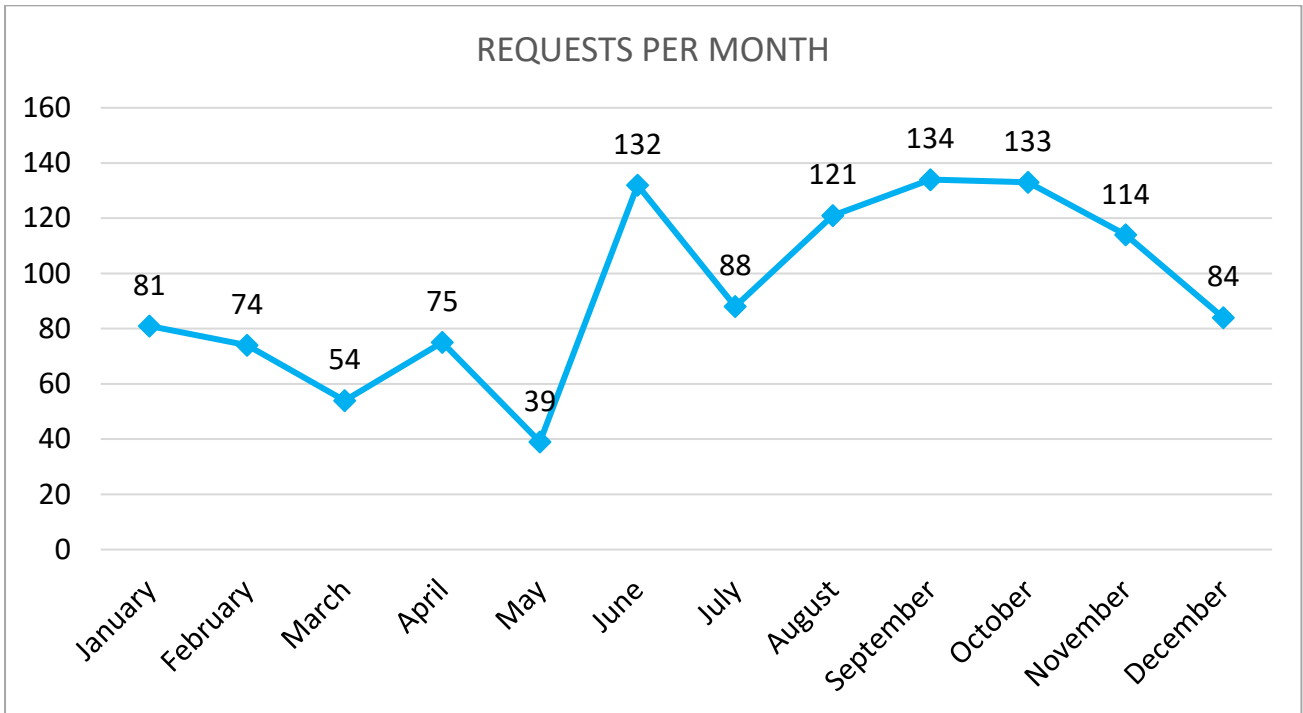


Figure 2

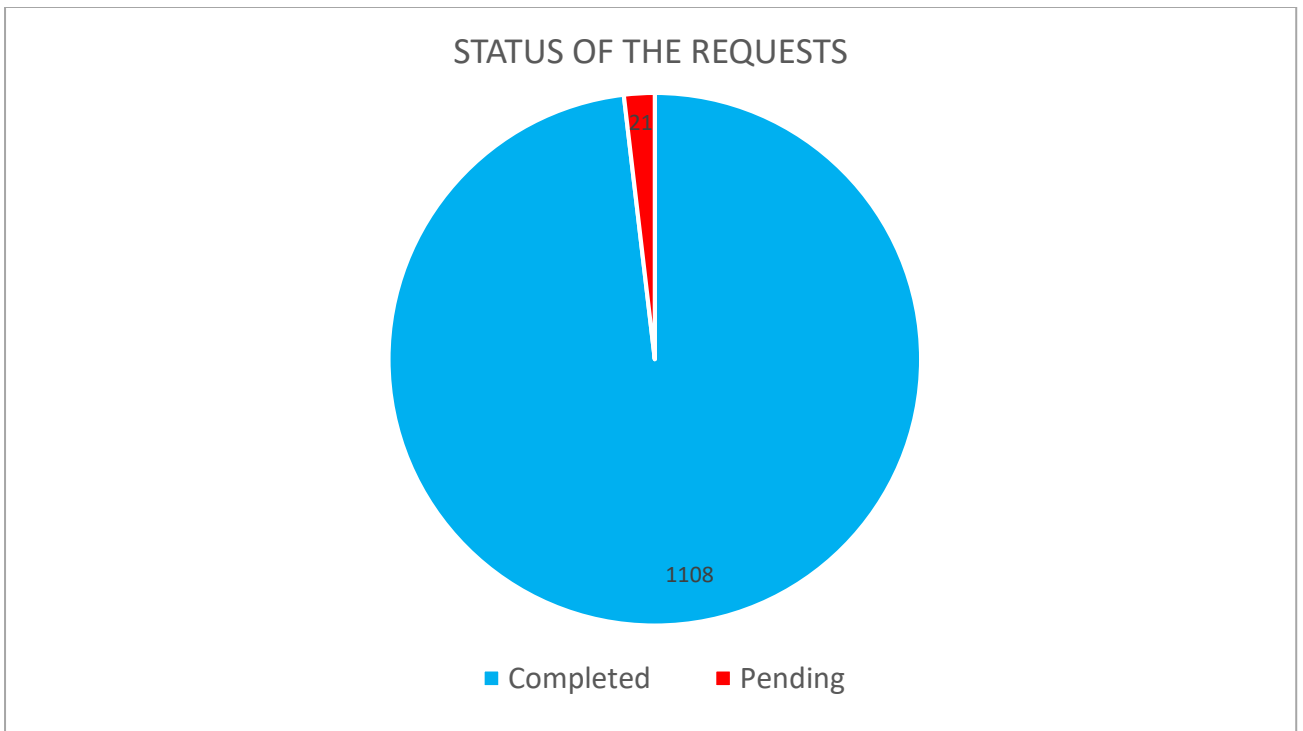


Figure 3

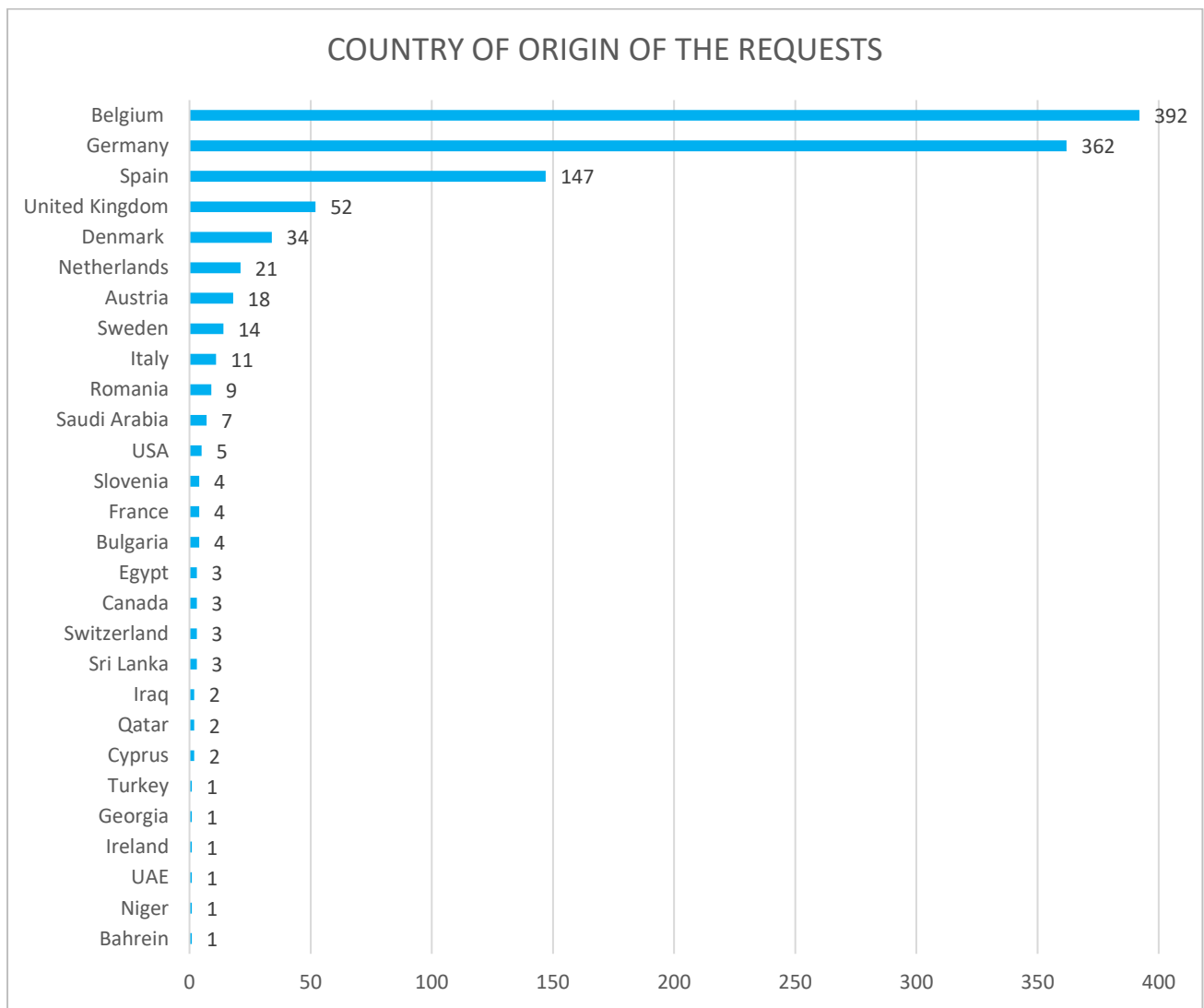


Figure 4

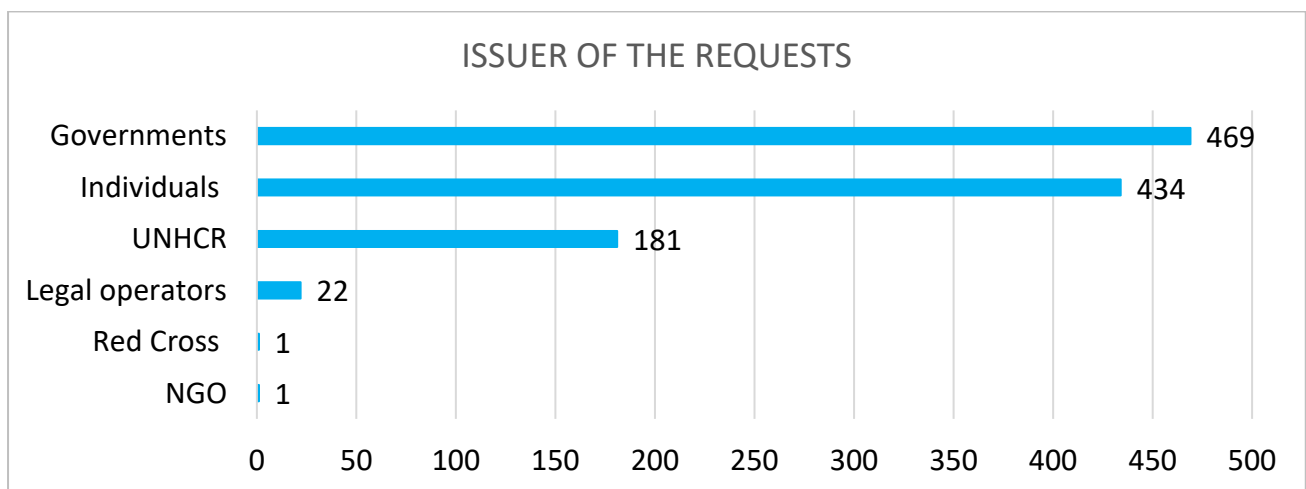


Figure 5

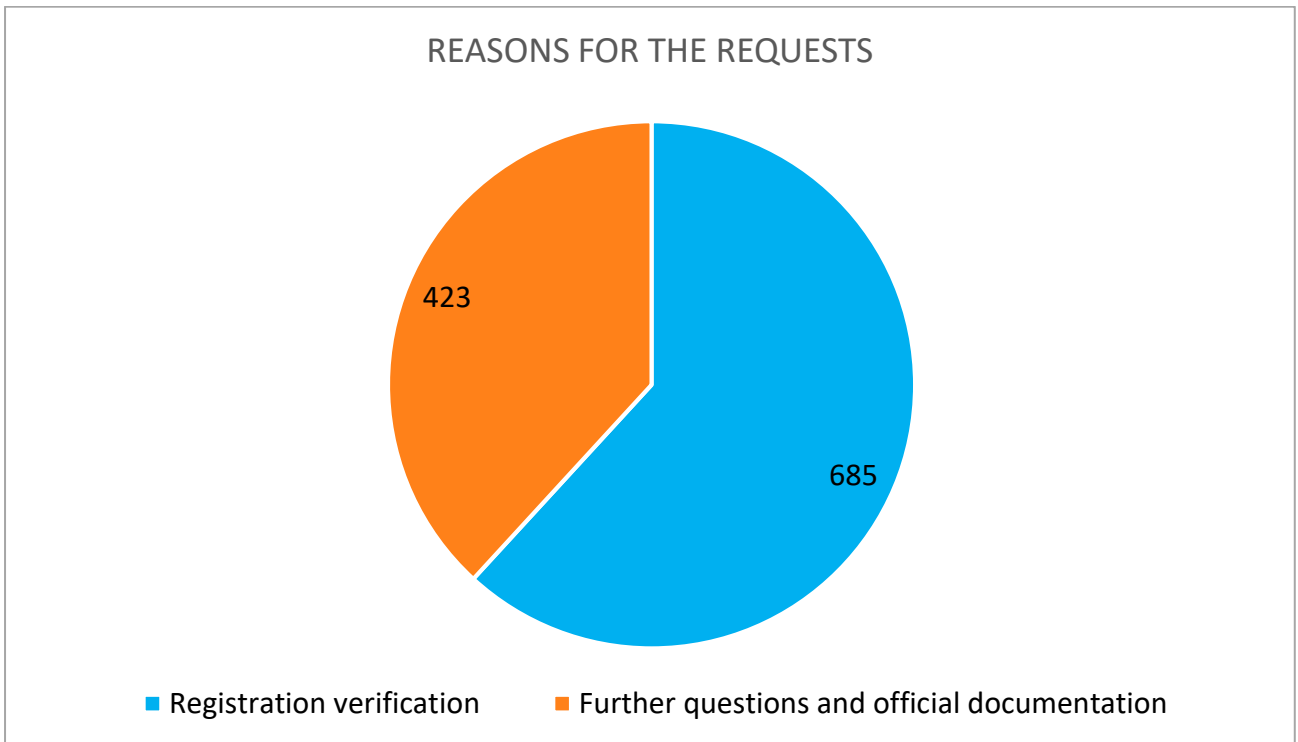


Figure 6

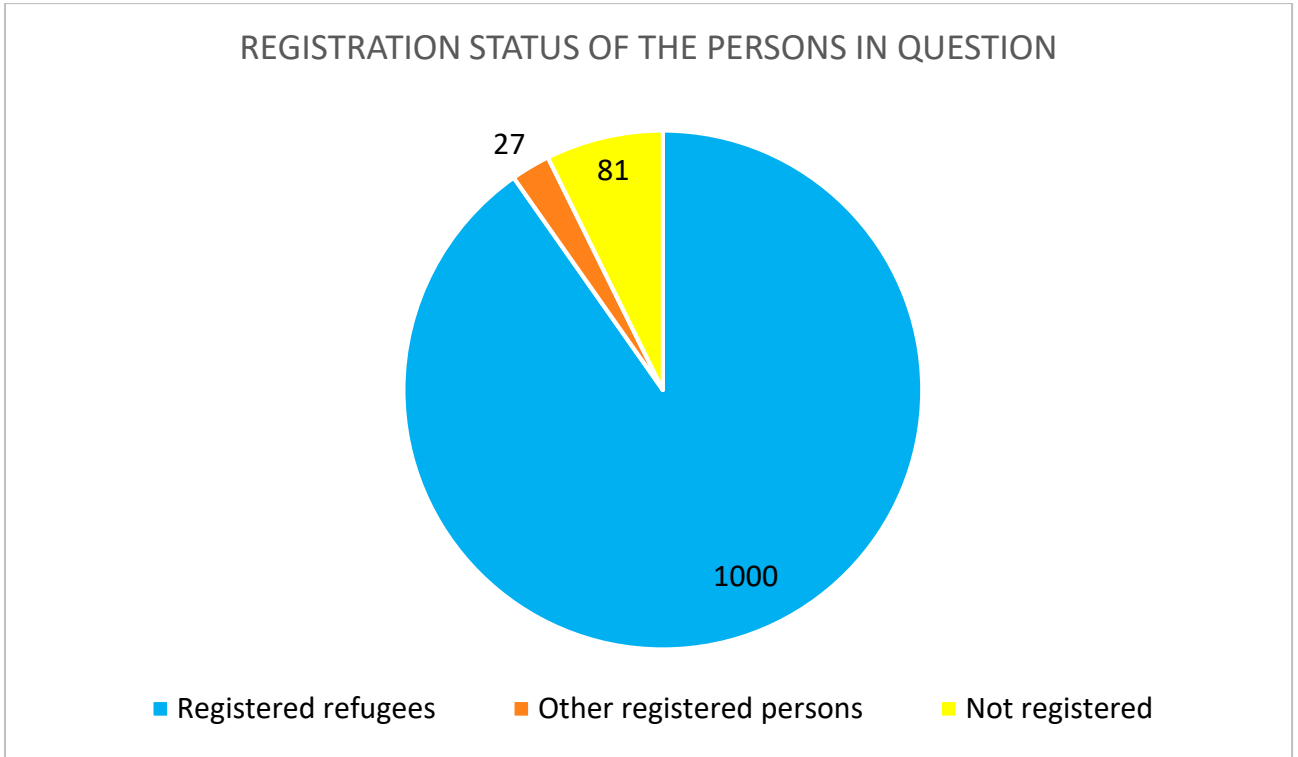


Figure 7

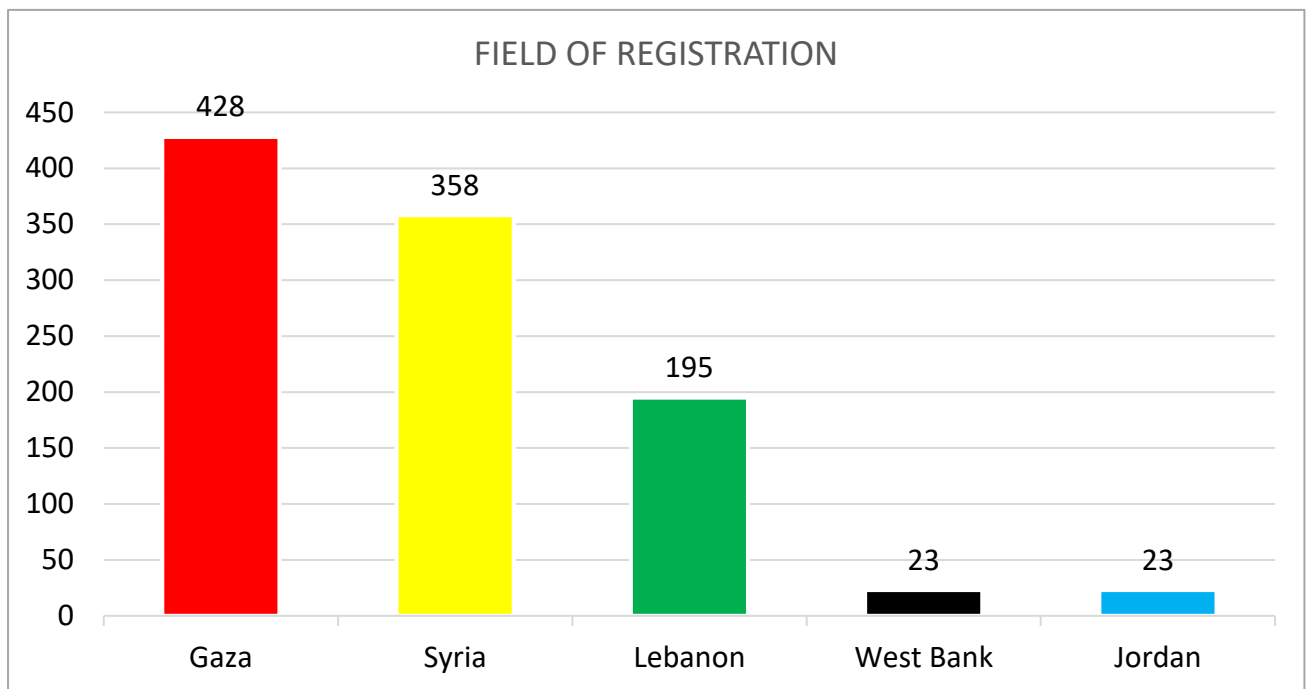


Figure 8

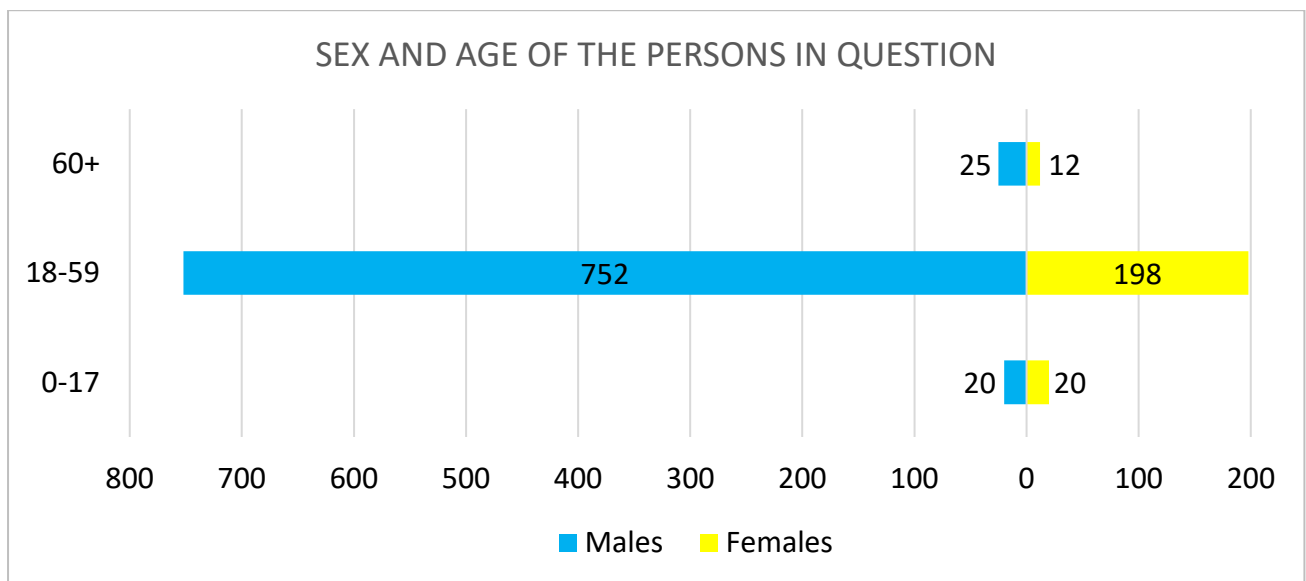


Figure 9

FIELD OF REGISTRATION AND  
CURRENT RESIDENCE OF THE PERSONS IN QUESTION

