



POLICY BRIEF

ON THE IDENTIFICATION NEEDS OF EGYPT'S MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Introduction

Children born in displacement could be at risk of statelessness if their parents fail to register their birth. Many of the refugees and migrants in Egypt are unaware of the process and procedure for registering their newly born. Others might carry no identification documents, having fled their countries of origin without these documents, or having had their documents stolen or lost during their journey to Egypt. With their parents lacking identification papers, recognizing the right of children born in displacement to a nationality and establishing it becomes more difficult. Rejected asylum seekers often continue to live in Egypt without valid residence permits or other forms of documentation. As they continue to live in the country irregularly, they struggle to issue the identification documents essential to establish their identity, nationality, and/or enable their access to basic services in Egypt.

In an attempt to reduce the risk of statelessness and to understand the barriers that prevent recognition of, and respect for, the rights of refugees and migrants in Egypt to documents that officially confirm their identity and nationality, the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) at the American University in Cairo (AUC) and the Middle East Studies Center of the London School of Economics carried

out a qualitative study to assess the access and obstacles to issuing identification documents. The study covered the largest five refugee communities in Egypt: Syrians, Sudanese, South Sudanese, Ethiopians, and Eritreans. In addition, the study included some members of the Nigerians community as an example of the growing West African migrant community in Egypt. To complement the interviews with the migrant and refugee communities, representatives of organizations, and experts working in the field were also interviewed. Among the organizations interviewed were UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, Plan International, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, Tadamon, and the Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights.

This policy brief and the recommendations it puts forward are based on the findings of the above mentioned study which aspire towards the future prevention of statelessness.

Legal Framework

The right to acquire a nationality is a basic human right guaranteed by international law. Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that:

- “1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
 2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality”
- (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948).

Similarly, the obligation on states to register all births is well-established in international law. A number of United Nations (UN) treaties highlight the right of children to registration and confirm the right of every child to acquire a nationality (of either parent or of the state of birth). Article 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW) all uphold this right.

These obligations are also established in regional human rights systems which are applicable to Egypt. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) provides for a child’s right to a name, birth registration, nationality, and that a child’s country of birth should give him/her the right to a nationality if the child would otherwise be stateless (African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990). The Arab Charter on Human Rights adopted in 1994 and updated in 2004 confirms the right to maintain one’s own nationality and the right to acquire another nationality (Arab Charter on Human Rights, 1994). The Organization of Islamic Cooperation adopted a Covenant on the Rights of the Child in Islam in 2005. Article 7 of the Covenant stipulates that “a child shall, from birth, have right to a good name, to be registered



with authorities concerned, to have his nationality determined and to know his/her parents, all his/her relatives and foster mother” (Covenant on the Rights of the Child in Islam, 2005).

One of the longest-standing principles relating to nationality and statelessness in international law was established by the Hague Convention of 1930 and states that children of unknown parents found in a country should be presumed to have been born there and to parents holding the nationality of that state. Furthermore, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness provides that a child who would otherwise be stateless shall acquire the nationality of the state where he or she is born. Egypt signed the Hague Convention but has not ratified it. Similarly, Egypt is not a party to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. However, Egypt is a party to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

The preservation of a child’s right to nationality of the parents’ country of origin is particularly complicated in the case of children of asylum seekers and refugees. According to Article 1(C)(1) of the Refugee Convention, the convention will cease to apply if the refugee/asylum seeker voluntarily re-avails himself/herself to the protection of his/her country of origin. Similarly, migrants staying in a country in an irregular manner are usually reluctant to approach their own authorities or host state authorities.

Article 6 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights acknowledges the right of every person to be recognized as a person before the law regardless of documentation (Article 6, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948). Yet, there are no international treaty provisions or guidance on identification documents for adults similar to those for birth registration, and no international consensus on documentation requirements more generally. However, the 2014 UNHCR campaign to end statelessness has both birth registration and the issue of documentation for those entitled to nationality listed within its ten-point action plan (UNHCR Statelessness Campaign). Furthermore, the two “Global Compacts” adopted in 2018 on refugees and migration include commitments to facilitate the access of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to registration, documentation, and legal identity (Global Compact for Refugees) (Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration).



Challenges in the issuance of identity documents in Egypt

Marriage certificate requirement

Parents wishing to issue birth certificates for their children in Egypt must submit their marriage certificate. Migrants and refugees who get married in Egypt are often unaware of the requirements for acquiring a marriage certificate. Those familiar with the requirements may not have the documents needed to apply for a certificate. Foreign couples wishing to apply for a marriage certificate must acquire a letter from their relevant embassy and submit it to one of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs authentication offices. This can be challenging for asylum seekers, refugees, and irregular migrants alike, who may hesitate to approach their embassies or government offices because of their seeking asylum, or due to the irregular nature of their stay in Egypt.

Marriages in some countries are customary without the issuance of official papers. As such, some migrants and refugees arrive in Egypt without a marriage contract. Once in Egypt, they are unable to issue a statement from the embassy due to lack of cooperation on the embassy's part. It is worth noting that according to Egyptian law, in the absence of a marriage certificate, the health office should use any proof of the relationship between parents to issue a birth certificate for the child. Unfortunately, there is no uniform implementation of this law, and not all health offices register births without marriage certificates.

Residence permit requirement

Parents hoping to register a birth in Egypt must show a valid residence permit. The residency must be stamped in a valid passport for migrants, or on valid UN cards for asylum seekers and refugees. Migrants and UN yellow and blue card holders hold residencies valid for six months, and it takes them around two extra months to receive a new one. According to FGD participants, the process of applying for residency can be very long and daunting. White certificate holders (those without identity documents from their countries of origin) cannot apply for residency, which prevents them from applying for birth certificates for their children.

The 15-day time limit for registering a birth

Parents must register a child's birth within 15 days of the birth which can be challenging for migrants who are not always familiar with the documents required for birth registration. In fact, migrants often only find out about the required documents upon approaching the health office to register the birth of their children. Once they become aware of the requirement, they find it very difficult to obtain the required documents



within the 15 days' time-limit, with the need to authenticate a marriage certificate, obtain valid documentation from the relevant embassy, get a residence permit, or find a solution for a father's absence, taking much longer than that.

Challenges faced by each category of migrants

The study revealed that some categories of migrants/refugees face exceptional challenges when it comes to acquiring identification documents.

Single mothers

The father is expected to be the main applicant for a birth registration. In case the father is deceased, a death certificate must be attached to the marriage certificate when applying for a birth certificate. The situation becomes more complicated if the father disappears, if he refuses to recognize the child, if he has remained in his country of origin, or has returned there prior to the registration, thus putting the mother in a vulnerable position. One way of responding to this challenge would be to register the child under the name of the mother's father or brother, which is only possible if the mother carries a valid marriage certificate, valid identification documents, and a valid residency. In cases where the requirements are met and the child is actually registered, the child becomes, on paper, the sibling or nephew/niece, of his actual mother.

Abandoned children/foundlings

There are many cases of guardians looking after abandoned children who are not related to them. Individuals who take care of abandoned children/foundlings are often from the same community as those children. In cases where those guardians are refugees, they often approach UNHCR and manage to add the child to their UNHCR Card. However, this alone is not sufficient to issue a birth certificate for the child, nor to provide any officially recognized guardianship.

Adding a foundling/abandoned child to a guardian's UNHCR Card can potentially create a problem for the guardian when trying to renew their residency, because if the child is on the guardian's UNHCR Card, their birth certificate must be submitted along with the guardian's residency application. This is particularly the case for Sudanese, South Sudanese, and Eritrean guardians. Generally, there is a lack of awareness of the law stating that any foundlings in Egypt are considered Egyptian unless there is substantial evidence to suggest otherwise.



Children of foreigners born outside Egypt

Egypt cannot register births that happen outside the country because the international system of civil registration is concerned with the registration of civil status events taking place in the country of registration only. As such, parents who are unable to acquire birth certificates in their countries of origin for their children born there often find it impossible to register these births once they arrive in Egypt. This is also the case for children born in a transit country on their way to Egypt.

Children of parents who have no documents

It is very common for parent-refugees, particularly those from Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, to arrive in Egypt without identification documents. They often experience considerable difficulties in obtaining these documents from their relevant consular representatives in Egypt. Those who do not claim asylum are left with no identity documents of any kind. The Government of Egypt only issues identification documents to those carrying UNHCR ID cards. Parents who are unable to acquire the required identification documents (especially due to the unwillingness of the relevant consular authorities) are left with no way to acquire identification documents for themselves or their children.

Rape

Handling registration for children born of rape, particularly in cases where the rape occurred prior to the mother's arrival in Egypt, can be very sensitive. This is primarily due to two factors: 1) the absence of the father who according to the law should be the one registering the birth and 2) having to submit proof showing whether the rape incident took place in Egypt or abroad. This is a particularly common problem for migrants and refugees coming from Eritrea, Ethiopia, and also through Sudan.

Challenges in dealing with their consulates

Accessibility

Participants in FGDs from the aforementioned communities repeatedly mentioned being unable to approach their embassies. The reasons they cited varied: some were registered with UNCHR and did not want to risk their refugee status by approaching their embassies, others were rejected by UNHCR and approached their embassies which in turn refused to support them. Participants also argued that their embassies keep records of those who seek asylum and punish these asylum-seekers by



denying them any services.¹ Other participants reportedly refused to approach their embassies because they left their countries without permission and consequently feared retaliation from their governments.

With the exception of the Syrian embassy, the only viable way to approach their embassies is by calling or by physically going to the embassy. Both solutions are usually unfeasible and are of limited success. Embassies sometimes fail to take calls and do not always respond to the needs of those queuing outside their parameters.

Fees

Another challenge is the high service fees requested by embassies or consulates. Consular representatives request that the fees be paid in US dollars which, when converted to Egyptian pounds, often amount to a significant sum. For example, renewing a Syrian passport valid for two years only costs 300 USD, and 800 USD for an expedited process. For the Sudanese and South Sudanese communities, the fee for renewing a passport valid for five years is 100 USD. While the cost of passport renewal is relatively lower and secures a longer validity period, compared to that for Syrians, the Sudanese and South Sudanese communities still find this fee high compared to their monthly income. Eritreans, Ethiopians, and Nigerians pay a similar amount to renew their passports.

Unrealistic procedures

This is particularly the case with consulates that require the presence of witnesses to attest that the applicant is a national of their country. For example, to be eligible as a witness for the Eritrean embassy, you must be registered with the consular section and be paying a 2% income tax monthly. It is exceptionally difficult to find witnesses that fulfill these criteria as they are required to submit documents they often do not have and would not be able to acquire in Egypt.

In addition to the above mentioned common challenges, there are challenges specific to some communities

Syria

Challenges mentioned by Syrian participants in this research included the high fees required for issuing a new passport (300 USD for one passport valid for two years), the required submission of a military service certificate for males between 17 and 42 years of age, the required presence of a woman applicant's legal guardian for the

¹ This is purely the perspective of the individuals interviewed with no evidence to prove that UNHCR or the Egyptian government shares the names of asylum seekers with their embassies in Egypt.



issuance of a marriage certificate, and finally, that some of the required documents cannot be issued outside Syria or may take time.

Sudan

On November 25, 2015, all (old) Sudanese passports were nullified. Only machine-readable passports were now accepted by Sudanese authorities at home and abroad. Sudanese nationals willing to renew their passports were now asked to provide valid documentation proving their Sudanese citizenship. This included the required submission of a nationality certificate. The process of obtaining a nationality certificate is a long one, and requires that the applicant provide their birth certificate and that two witnesses (the father, brother, uncle, mother, sister, aunt or grandparents) submit valid proof of their Sudanese citizenship. In case the applicant is a child, they must be accompanied by their parents. If the child is of a Sudanese mother and a foreign father, a valid marriage certificate must be presented to the authorities (Sudan Tribune, 2015).

South Sudan

As stipulated in the South Sudan Passport Regulations of 2011, an applicant seeking to renew or issue a new passport from the South Sudanese embassy must provide a copy of a nationality certificate issued under the Nationality Act of 2011. The applicant must also provide a copy of his or her birth certificate or an assessment of age certificate issued by the relevant authority as well as recommendations from witnesses who must be a next of kin. In accordance with the South Sudanese Nationality Regulations of 2011, the Nationality Certificate can be obtained upon submission of the administrative documents, birth certificate or assessment of age certificate, copies or details of previous identity documents, and in the presence of witnesses who have first-hand knowledge of the applicant. Witnesses must be South Sudanese and in possession of a nationality certificate and should also be from the same tribe as the applicant, or a relative of theirs.

Such requirements are difficult to meet in the context of migrants and refugees from South Sudan. Without obtaining a nationality certificate, an applicant cannot register with the embassy, neither can they obtain a passport or any other documents.

Ethiopia

To apply for an Ethiopian passport, a number of supporting documents proving Ethiopian origin must be presented to the consular authorities and authenticated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These include previous passports, including expired or damaged passports, birth certificate, “kebele” ID card authenticated by the Ministry



of Foreign Affairs in Ethiopia, the marriage certificate, and copies of the parents' Ethiopian passports or Ethiopian Kebele ID cards.

A court order showing Ethiopian origin and authenticated by the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or copies of relatives' (brother or sister) Ethiopian passports, Kebele ID, or testimonies of three Ethiopians, must also be submitted in support of the application for Ethiopian documents (Proclamation No. 378/2003 on Ethiopian Nationality, Article 3(1)). Obtaining such documents, especially in the migration context, is particularly difficult.

Eritrea

Eritreans hoping to acquire national ID cards and birth certificates can obtain these from the Eritrean embassy. However, applicants must be registered with the embassy and be paying a monthly tax of two percent of income from 1992 to present. There is a special form for military service deserters and objectors that serves as a confession "admitting to treason and failing to fulfill one's national duty" (Human Rights Watch, 2009). Both these requirements constitute severe obstacles for Eritreans trying to obtain any sort of documentation from the embassy.

It is very difficult to obtain an ID card if the applicant cannot prove their nationality due to lack of required documentation (Migrants Rights, 2011). The embassy requires the submission of an old national identity card, parents' Eritrean IDs, birth certificates, along with other documents confirming ethnicity, place and date of birth, and personal background (work, education, property, field of experience, etc.). A large number of Eritrean migrants and refugees arrive in Cairo without any documents (Interviews with Eritrean community leaders in Cairo). It is often difficult to submit the required parents' identification cards, as there are many cases of migrants and refugees – whether adults or children - migrating without their parents and without any means of providing their parents' identification documents.

Consequences of the lack of identification documents

The lack of birth registration and identification documents have severe consequences on the access of migrants and refugees to certain services.

Education

A child wishing to enroll in a public school in Egypt must have a birth certificate and a valid residency. This explains why some children who belong to the communities that have access to public schools, mainly Syrians, Sudanese, and Yemenis, often



send their children to community schools. However, students attending community schools that do not require identification documents cannot sit for high school certificate exams. Finishing their studies without taking these exams means that they won't receive a certificate confirming completion of studies, which prevents them from seeking higher education.

Health

In 2014 and 2016, Egypt's Ministry of Health and UNHCR Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance access of persons of concern to UNHCR to public primary health care and referral to curative care services. The agreement covers public primary, referral, and emergency maternal and neonatal care services to any UNHCR card or certificate holders. As such, children without birth certificates and adults without valid documents who are not under UNHCR's mandate cannot receive treatment in public hospitals.

Starting 2018, all compulsory vaccinations were to be taken in the health office following the submission of a child's birth certificate. The health office gives the vaccinations free of charge and records them on the child's birth certificate. According to the new vaccination system, the public health office will only vaccinate children with birth certificates. Whether these children are able to receive vaccination in privately run clinics or hospitals remains unclear.

Housing

Landlords often require that refugees/migrants show them any kind of identification document in order to draft rent contracts. However, there are cases of landlords who rent out their apartment to refugees/migrants without identification documents, but without issuing a contract in return, which puts the rights of tenants at stake.

Employment

The overwhelming majority of irregular migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt work in the informal sector which places them in a vulnerable position. Individuals without identification documents perceive their working conditions to be much worse than those with valid documentation papers. Employers are more likely to violate the rights of migrant-workers who have no documents, as the latter would not be able to approach the police. These violations often include the withholding of salaries as well as physical, mental, and sexual abuse (Abdel Aziz, 2017)



Voluntary repatriation

Lack of documents, such as birth certificates for children, also adds a significant burden on individuals willing to voluntarily repatriate back home, which requires that they collect valid identification documents from the embassy. As adults, they must possess documents proving where they come from. In case the parents have identification documents but their child does not have a birth certificate, the parents will not be able to return with their child unless they have a document that proves that this child is biologically theirs.

Lack of documents also creates further obstacles for children returning to countries which they have no official links to in terms of documentation. This is particularly relevant in cases of children who are registered under different parents because their original parents did not have the requirements necessary to issue birth certificates. The consequences of registering children under individuals who are not their biological parents are not yet known. This act, which is considered fraud, can have severe future consequences for these children.

Resettlement

A parent with a child who is offered a resettlement opportunity cannot be resettled unless the child has a birth certificate that proves lineage.

Travel

Without documents or birth certificates for children, traveling, even within Egypt, is restricted. There are police and sometimes military checkpoints monitoring movement between governorates by checking the identification documents of all passengers, especially foreigners.

Arrest and detention

Arrest is also a major consequence for not having valid identification documents.

Burial, inheritance, and other services in the country of origin

Without valid documents, migrants and refugees have no access to inheritance from family members back home. It is equally difficult to bury a deceased member of the community in their home country unless the community provides the embassy with documents proving that the deceased is a citizen.



SIM cards and bank accounts

Telecommunication companies in Egypt require valid documents to provide any customer with a SIM card. Banks are restricted by the regulations set forth by the Central Bank of Egypt for opening bank accounts for non-Egyptians. A valid passport is the only document accepted for opening a bank account. Without bank accounts, migrants and refugees are unable to seek the financial support of family and friends who live elsewhere. Restriction of remittances is thus a major challenge.

Recommendations

Many of the challenges encountered by Egypt's migrant and refugee communities could be eased through the right kind of support. Below are recommendations for different stakeholders, be they international organizations, civil society organizations, or government institutions, on how to effectively tackle the challenges presented in this report:

Recommendations to the Government of Egypt

Facilitate access to birth registration for migrants and refugees

- Adopt regulations providing for the registration of births by refugees and migrants who cannot approach their embassies, in particular by:

Removing the requirement for a marriage certificate to be provided in order to register a birth, especially in the case of foreigners;

Providing for alternative means by which the marriage of foreigners can be authenticated to enable the late registration of a birth where a marriage certificate from a country of origin is not obtainable;

Simplifying procedures for registration of marriages that take place in Egypt;

Providing exceptions to allow birth registration in cases where the father's whereabouts are unknown;

Removing the requirement for presentation of a valid residence permit in order for a birth to be registered;

Providing for refugee cards issued by UNHCR or for expired identity documents from countries of origin to be accepted as sufficient proof of identity for registration of a birth;

Considering alternative forms of authentication of the identity of the



parents where no documents are available, including the testimony of persons known to the parents;

Extending the deadline for registration of a birth beyond 15 days in case of the children of foreigners.

- Provide information brochures in different languages directed to migrants and refugees from different countries of origin on how to register births and other life events in Egypt.
- Provide training to civil registration officials and others on the difficulties faced by migrants and refugees, and on the importance of directing migrants to register the births of their children with the relevant consular authorities.

Simplify residence permit procedures

- Reduce the waiting time for processing residence permits and making them valid for one year instead of six months.
- Reform the procedures in Mugamaa (government building where residence permits, and other documents are issued) to ensure that migrants and refugees are treated with dignity and that their rights are respected.
- Consider drawing on the example of Morocco to conduct campaigns for the regularization of irregular migrants in Egypt.

Strengthen child protection systems

- Strengthen the protection systems for children who are unaccompanied or separated from their parents, and have no documentary proof of that link, or whose parents are unknown, in particular by:

Facilitating late registration of births;

Providing routes to legalize and facilitate the role of carers for those children, for example by adapting the existing system of kafala guardianship under Islamic law;

Ensuring that the foundling provision in Egyptian nationality law is implemented in practice and that children found in Egypt of unknown parents are confirmed as Egyptian citizens;

Providing alternative routes to obtain identity documents which record what facts are known about their identity, and provide them with a legal residence status in Egypt, if no connection to a country of origin is likely to be established.



- Collect and publish data on the number of migrants in Egypt, with nationality breakdown, so far as this is known.
- Make efforts to improve the collection of data on rates of birth registration of migrants and refugees through the Demographic and Health Surveys to ensure that statistics for coverage of birth registration include data for non-Egyptians.

Recommendations to Consular Authorities

- Improve access to official identity documents by nationals who are migrants (whether regular or irregular) in Egypt, in particular by:

Creating systems to authenticate marriages in a format that will be accepted by the Egyptian civil registration authorities;

Facilitating the issue of duplicate birth certificates from the country of origin, and creating procedures for late registration of births, where that did not take place, including by accepting alternative forms of authentication of the identity of the parents and place of birth where no documents are available;

Removing many of the requirements that are difficult to fulfill for issuing/renewing identification documents (i.e. The presence of a male legal guardian to register a marriage in the Syrian Embassy, the presence of witnesses for Eritreans, Ethiopians, South Sudanese, and Nigerians);

Reducing the fees associated with provision of consular services, or provide a sliding scale based on ability to pay;

Providing public assurances that there will be no consequences for migrants who are in Egypt with irregular status.

- Provide legal assistance for parents who are unable to register the births of their children born in Egypt, or to assist them in obtaining late registration of birth in the country of origin.
- Refer parents to existing legal and other support from civil society and international organizations in obtaining birth certificates and other identity documents.

Recommendations to the League of Arab States and African Union

- Call on member states to take initiatives to facilitate the access of their nationals to their consular services in countries of destination.
- Call on states to respect their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Charter on the Rights of the Arab Child, and the African Charter on the



Rights and Welfare of the Child to ensure that all children are registered immediately after birth and have the right to acquire a nationality.

- Call on states that have not ratified the UN Conventions relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and on the Reduction of Statelessness to do so.
- Adopt the simplification and facilitation of access to consular assistance in the provision of birth registration and other identity documents as a priority agenda item within the relevant bodies of the organization, and in particular within discussions of child protection.

Recommendations to International and Local Organizations

- Ensure adequate dissemination of information regarding UNHCR's support on birth registration.
- Advocate for improving the access to services available for refugees especially those with children without birth certificates.
- Call for marriages codified on UNHCR cards to serve as a substitute for a marriage certificate when registering a birth.
- Call for marriages codified on UNHCR cards to serve as a substitute for the letter requested from the embassy for registering the marriage in Egypt.
- Implement a major awareness campaign in community centers to inform the refugee communities of the type of assistance available regarding birth registration.
- Advocate for the inclusion of unregistered children in public or community schools since children without birth certificate cannot enroll in schools.
- Provide support to parents who are unable to register the births of their children as is the case with UNHCR.
- Implement activities particularly targeting children without birth certificates since services particularly tailored for children without birth certificates are limited;
- Fund the publication of instructions on how to register births in Egypt in the languages of the major migrant and refugee communities in the country to provide the target group with ways to overcome the challenge of acquiring identity documents.
- Partner with community centers to access cases of unregistered children and adults with no documents to limit the number of stateless individuals in Egypt.
- Provide services specifically tailored for the population under study since the number of local organizations working on statelessness is very limited.



Recommendations to Community Leaders and Community Schools

- Provide information to international organizations and UN agencies regarding members of their community who cannot access documents and birth certificates to give them assistance.
- Encourage community members to approach organizations that can support members of the community with the acquirement of documents.
- Play a role in disseminating information and raising awareness among community regarding the legal assistance services provided by UN agencies through their local partners, since there is a knowledge gap regarding the services available among the refugee and migrant communities.

