



Note on Syrians in Egypt

General Information

There is an estimated figure of at least 40,000 Syrians present in Egypt, the majority of which are believed to be residing in 6 October, Al Haram, Faysal, Al Obour, Nasr city and Al Rehab; while another big group resides in Alexandria.

Despite the big estimated figure, Syrians registered with UNHCR Cairo were few and haven't exceeded 1000 individuals until the end of June 2012. However, UNHCR has been receiving an increase in number of asylum requests from the Syrian nationals in Egypt recently because of the efforts exerted by the office to communicate with the Syrian community.

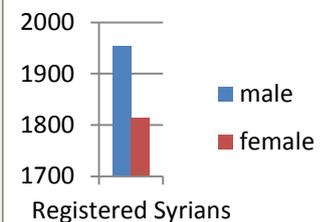
The office has registered so far 3,767 individuals as of 1stth October 2012, including 1,278 individuals registered in only three days during the last mobile registration that took place in Shaikh Zayed Islamic Complex, 6th October city, from 20 to 22 September. The mobile registration was organized in coordination with the Egyptian Women Association which is composed of Syrians and Egyptians assisting the Syrian community in Egypt.

In addition, Some 2500 Syrians from 6th October city and 1500 individuals from other areas in Cairo are awaiting registration. It is expected that numbers of registered Syrians will increase to reach 10,000 - 12,000 persons by the end of the year if the rate of registering Syrians continued in the same pattern.

The majority of Syrians registered with UNHCR are coming from Homs. Other main cities include Aleppo and Tartous. UNHCR Cairo noticed in recent weeks an increase in number of families coming from Damascus due to the intensification of fighting in the capital and neighboring outskirts of the city.

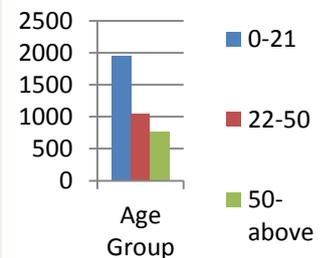
All flights departing from Damascus and Aleppo are fully booked. Moreover, some Syrians are leaving by road to Lebanon and eventually reach Cairo.

Total Registered Syrians: **3767 individuals**



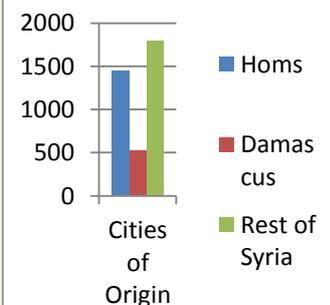
Males: **1953** - Females: **1814**

Age Group



0-21 years: **1947 individuals**
 22-50 year: **1052 individuals**
 51-above: **768 individuals**

Cities of Origin



Homs: **1449 individuals**
 Damascus: **528 individuals**
 Rest of Syria: **1790 individuals**

The Government of Egypt does not require entry visas for Syrians. They are able to enter Egypt freely for three months as tourists. Afterwards, they need to regularize their stay in the country through the Department of Immigration of the Interior Ministry.

UNHCR Strategies on Influx of Syrians

Mobile Registration

UNHCR Cairo has started exceptionally, since March 2012, to conduct mobile registration in different areas of Cairo and Alexandria in weekends. This method is applied to facilitate the registration of Syrians near their areas of concentration and to hand them the yellow cards of asylum seeker identification on the same day rather than extending the regular registration waiting period, which is 6-8 weeks.

Other mobile registrations will take place, in 6th October city, on 6th, 12th, and 13th of October. UNHCR will have a permanent registration presence at All Saints Cathedral in Zamalek for the registration of Syrians by mid-October. The team is expected to register 100-120 persons on daily basis.

Community Outreach

UNHCR is meeting and coordinating with Syrian community leaders to facilitate registration of Syrians, know the needs of the Syrian community in Egypt, and work on providing the needed assistance.

Humanitarian Assistance

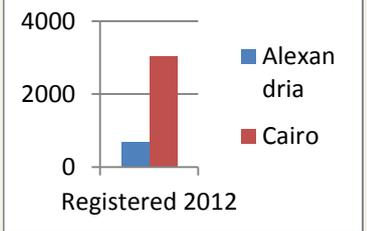
At this stage, vulnerable cases among Syrians are assisted by UNHCR partners; Caritas Egypt, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Refuge Egypt and are absorbed under the existing programs.

UNHCR is developing a needs assessment analysis for Syrians during the registration process to facilitate the design of programs to provide financial and emergency assistance as well as healthcare and educational grants.

The majority of those already registered or pending registration are families composed of 5 to 8 individuals.

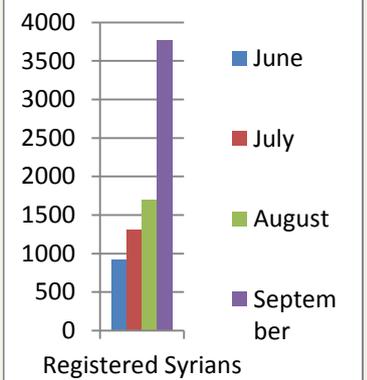
Different actors for the Syrians in Egypt have established a strong and active social support network. Egyptian NGOs and religious charity groups provide different types of assistance ranging from monthly financial assistance to food items. However, the increase in arrivals makes the capacity of these networks to cater for all the Syrian families more limited. Noteworthy that the average rent Syrians are paying for a furnished apartment in Cairo ranges from EGP 1000 to EGP 1200 and in Alexandria ranges from EGP 1200 to EGP 1500.

Total Registered in 2012 only: **3711 individuals**



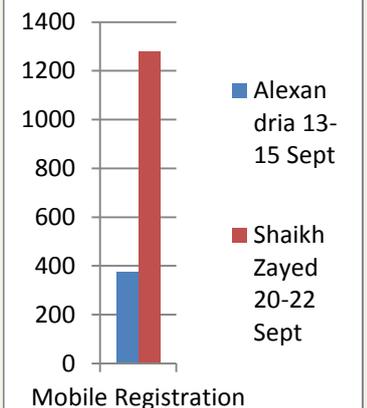
Alexandria: **675 individuals**
Cairo: **3036 individuals**

Increase in Registered Syrians since June 2012



Syrians registered until End of June 2012: **924 individuals**
End July: **1313 individuals**
End August: **1695 individuals**
End September: **3767 individuals**

Last Two Mobile Registrations



Alexandria Mobile Registration 13-15 September: **375 individuals**

Shaikh Zayed Mobile Registration 20-22 September: **1278 individuals**

Work permits are not easy to obtain, some of the Syrian men work in the informal market like restaurants, house painting and decorating. However and due to the cultural proximity, feeling of solidarity, hospitality and common language, Syrians have stronger chances in securing jobs in the informal labor market.

Psycho-social support has been flagged as a need by the Syrian community. UNHCR Cairo is working with its partner Psycho-Social Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) to train a group of Syrian psycho-social workers and is looking into the possibility of setting up a community centre in 6th October city to serve the Syrian community.

Meetings with partners to review programs

If the number of registered Syrians increases to reach 10,000 - 12,000, UNHCR will not be able to absorb this big number in its on-going programs. Therefore, UNHCR Cairo is in the process of exploring expansion of programs to assist the increasing number of Syrians.

Education

Education is one of the basic human rights that cannot be overstated. UNHCR Cairo was informed that some Syrian families started to return back to Syria, despite the generalized violence there, in order not to miss the current educational year. The office was apprised that at least 3 cases returned back to Syria.

Further to a presidential instruction to the Ministry of Education to facilitate the enrolment of Syrian nationals in the public system, a meeting took place between the Deputy Minister for Education and UNHCR Regional Representative to follow up on the presidential decision and work with the Ministry on possible support to implement this decision.

Some 30% of the Syrians present in Egypt are children of school age, and some 15% are youth of university age. Despite the Presidential decision to provide access for Syrians to the public education system and universities at the same cost of nationals, so far a small portion of both groups has been able to enroll in the public schools. UNHCR and CRS have worked with the Syrian community and the Ministry of Education in Alexandria and have succeeded in getting places for 200 children so far and in developing a mechanism for enrolling Syrian children in public system. This exercise will be repeated in Cairo and 6th October City in the coming weeks.

Several Syrian students were able to obtain scholarships to study at Al Azhar schools, and others have enrolled in private schools. Most of the

Pictures of Last Mobile Registration in Shaikh Zayed, 6th October city, 20-22 September 2012



Mobile Registration, Islamic Complex, Shaikh Zayed, 6th October city, 20-22 September 2012



Mobile Registration, Islamic Complex, Shaikh Zayed, 6th October city, 20-22 September 2012



Mobile Registration, Islamic Complex, Shaikh Zayed, 6th October city, 20-22 September 2012

Syrian families have 3 to 5 children, and do not have the financial resources to enroll all their children in private schools.

Furthermore, UNHCR welcome the decision taken by the Supreme Council of Universities (SCU) in Egypt, headed by Minister of Higher Education Dr. Mostafa Mosaad, of facilitating Syrian students' admission to Egyptian universities. SCU decided to extend the time limit for the Syrians to allow them to finish all the formalities needed for the current educational year.



Mobile Registration, Islamic Complex, Shaikh Zayed, 6th October city, 20-22 September 2012

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UNHCR Cairo
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