



130 refugees were provided with legal counselling and assistance

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

Following the Government of Egypt's introduction on 8 July 2013 of visa restrictions security clearance requirements for Syrians entering the country, the number of Syrians arriving to Egypt from Syria and other countries continues to be low. They are mostly students and business persons with previously obtained residence permits in Egypt.

The trend continued of arrests, followed by quick release of Syrians who have no residence permits or expired permits. UNHCR has also observed a similar trend for those arrested or detained for irregular migration.

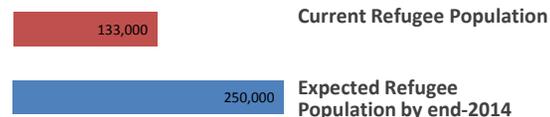
UNHCR's Field Office in Alexandria opened and is increasing its staffing capacity to provide a greater level of assistance to Syrian refugees residing or in need of protection in Alexandria, Beheira and Damietta.

UNHCR conducted 79 Best Interest Assessments for unaccompanied minors, separated children and child spouses who are registered with UNHCR.

Case identification and referral mechanisms for resettlement were put in place during January.



REFUGEE POPULATION IN COUNTRY EGYPT:



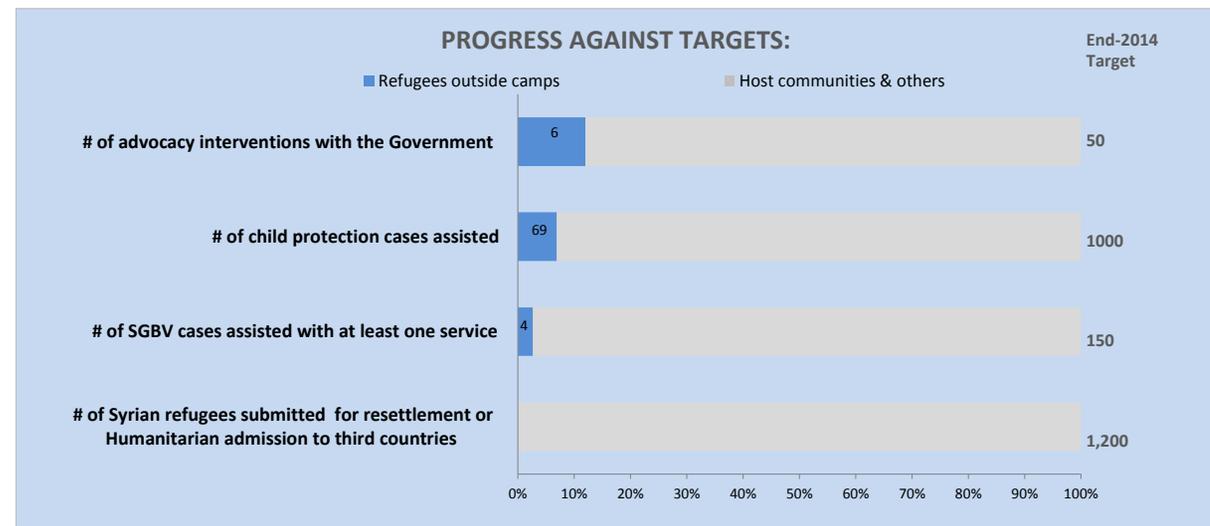
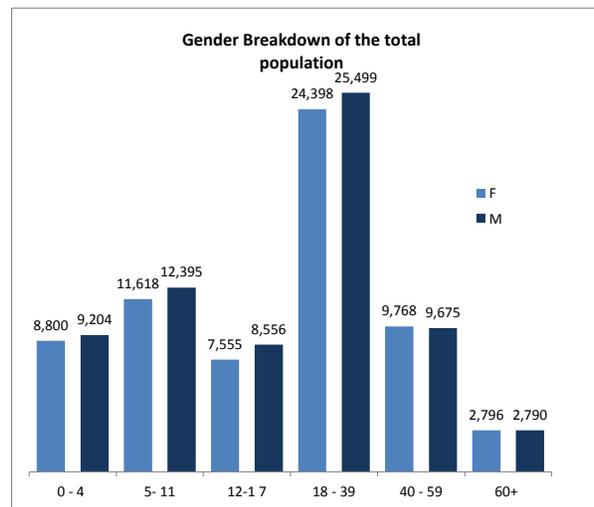
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Updated data on registered refugees is needed for profiling and programming purposes. Preparations have begun for a verification exercise to begin in April 2014. In addition, UNHCR will conduct a survey in order to have a better overview of protection gaps.

Child-friendly spaces remain insufficient and the capacity to conduct Best Interest Assessments for all separated children is limited, including regular monitoring visits for most separated children. UNICEF plans to increase its child-friendly spaces in Alexandria from three to seven by the end of March 2014. Child-friendly spaces in Damietta, however, do not exist. There continues to be few programmes assisting refugee youth, as well as children with disabilities.

The operational capacity of partners remains largely concentrated in Greater Cairo and to some extent Alexandria, affecting services to sexual gender based violence (SGBV) survivors in particular. CARE International plans to expand its services, including case management, to Alexandria after June 2014. Damietta, where the third largest concentration of Syrian refugees, remains without similar services.

Challenges remain in identifying legal aid partners with sufficient coverage of major and smaller urban centers around the country.



Targets based on expected population of 250,000 Syrian refugees in EGYPT by end-2014. There are currently over 133,000 refugees in EGYPT.