

1,311 refugees have been provided with legal counseling and assistance since the beginning of 2015

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Registration

- Registration of Syrian refugees in Egypt by UNHCR continues. By 31 October 2015, the population of Syrian refugees in Egypt registered with UNHCR amounted to 127,681 individuals. By mid-2015, 108,312 individuals had been verified, representing 84.56% of the active registered population.
- During 2015, 6,264 Syrian refugees have registered with UNHCR. Only 3,082 of those registered with UNHCR in the course of 2015, represent new arrivals to Egypt, as the entry visa requirement for Syrian nationals remains.

Counselling and Detention

- In total, 18 Syrian nationals were detained this month, which represents a significant decrease in the arrests of Syrians attempting to depart by sea since July 2015. Syrians are now the third top nationality attempting to reach Europe by sea from Egypt, after Sudanese and Somalis, in comparison to 2014 where Syrians were the majority of those departing.
- As of 31 October 2015, a total of 3,612 refugees and migrants alike have been arrested for attempting to depart Egypt irregularly by sea, including 553 Syrians, who were detained at Police Stations in Alexandria, El Beheira and Kafr El Sheikh Governorates.
- Most detainees are provided with humanitarian assistance, NFIs and psycho-social support by UNHCR and partners. Syrians refugees, whether registered or unregistered with UNHCR, are generally released from detention. UNHCR also continued to monitor the situation of Syrians subject to administrative detention related to residency issues and ensured legal assistance. Legal intervention by UNHCR and its legal partners ensured the release of 17 Syrians.

Child Protection and SGBV

- In October, recreational, psychosocial and health activities addressing the protection concerns of children and parents/caregivers were held in 6th of October and Obour City. A core component of the activities include the HEART methodology with aims at resilience and overcoming displacement and traumatic experiences through art therapy. A total of 1,690 refugee girls and boys were reached in both locations, the majority being refugee children from Syria.
- In cooperation with Insan NGO, Save the Children addressed the psychosocial and recreational needs of 317 children enrolled in Al-amal Al-moshreq Community School in 6th of October. The introduction of 'complaint boxes' at schools to encourage children to anonymously express their concerns and day-day to problems effecting their school attendance and performance, was shared with the view of establishing good practices for the protection children in schools and strengthening their resilience.
- In Tiba Community School in 6th of October, Save the Children psychologists provided 9 child rights awareness sessions to 433 children. 60 children from Beit Eleila attending Tiba Community School were provided with after-school activities aimed at promoting their well-being and developmental needs through art, music and puppet theatre. In Al-Ghad Community School, 450 children enjoyed access to recreational and psychosocial activities. 329 children benefitted from such services in Bashayer Alyasmin Community School.
- A total 101 children with learning difficulties and 119 parents and caregivers, predominately mothers and female children, benefitted from group activities. 40 parents, caregivers and guardians attended a day workshop with two group sessions and received practical tools and techniques for dealing with children with behavioural difficulties.
- Peer-to-peer community based protection was strengthened through a 2-day camp meeting benefitting 23 children and adolescents, who were equipped with communication, presentation, team work and leadership skills. Suggested initiatives in the peer-to-peer training included raising awareness on irregular migration, alternatives to child-friendly spaces and the start-up of a mobile library.



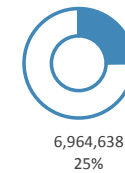
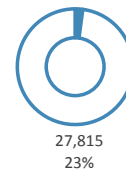
Verification Exercise- Cairo. S.Nelson/UNHCR

Key Figures:

Planned Sector Response:



Status:



Highlights Con't

- As part of their commitment to the resilience component under the 3RP, UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Health has been rolling out a national program on positive parenting. This included representatives from Alexandria, Assiut and Greater Cairo. The first step has been a comprehensive training on positive parenting skills. A total of 358 front liner workers including primary health case workers, pediatricians and members of the Ministry of Health (MoH) attended.
- UNICEF has designed and finalized a CPIE booklet on service delivery, a booklet on positive human stories as a result of psycho-social support (PSS) interventions, and a video on community outreach through family centres and mobile units. Assistance to children in detention in the Northern Governorate continued through the provision of non-food items and PSS by UNICEF partners in coordination with UNHCR and other NGOs and community-based organisations. In October, a total of 96 children, including 18 Syrian refugee children benefitted from such services.
- In October, CARE facilitated two art therapy days benefitting a total of 109 female participants. Female survivors of SGBV were given the platform to openly speak about their traumatic experiences. Issues discussed included early marriage, domestic violence and work discrimination.
- 5 health awareness sessions were conducted reaching 193 female adults and adolescents from Syria Al-Ghad School. A specialised consultant facilitated the discussions on sexual harassment and how to respond in these situations. Early marriage and its consequences was addressed with older female adolescents and awareness and training sessions on early marriage and its negative impact on children from a medical

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Updated data on registered refugees is needed for profiling and programming purposes. A verification exercise began in May 2014 and by December 2014, 70% of 138,000 has been verified. A socio-economic assessment of the refugee population is currently on-going, after which UNHCR and partners would have a better understanding of the protection needs and profile of the most vulnerable in order to ensure targeted assistance and responses.

New innovative approaches with regards to sexual gender based violence (SGBV) activities are being tested to increase identification of SGBV cases and to better target coordinated protection responses.

The operational capacity of partners remains largely concentrated in Greater Cairo and to some extent Alexandria, affecting services to most vulnerable, including (SGBV) survivors, children and disabled in particular. Challenges remain in identifying specialized services and coverage of major and smaller urban centers around the country.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: OCTOBER 2015

