

## 17 refugees have been provided with legal counseling and assistance in January

### JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- The protection of refugees and asylum-seekers travelling as part of irregular mixed migratory movement continues to pose increasing challenges to countries affected such phenomenon, including asylum and transit countries such Egypt. During the year of 2014, UNHCR Egypt was aware of the arrest of **3,051** individuals, including **1,411 Syrian** nationals for attempting to depart Egypt by sea in an irregular manner. Since the last quarter of 2014, the number of detention facilities being recently used to hold those attempting to depart Egypt in an irregular manner by sea, such as Anfoshy in Alexandria, Zaafrana in Kafr Al Sheik, and Ezbet Elborg in Damietta Governorates, indicate that different routes are being taken for irregular departures by sea. It is also noted that Matrouh Governorate appears to have become another new route for irregular departure by sea and by land via Libya.
- By the end of January, a **total of 100 individuals, including 17 Syrians**, remained in detention at three police stations in Alexandria Governorate for attempting to depart Egypt irregularly by sea, although UNHCR was not aware of any new arrests for irregular departures by sea during this month. UNHCR continues to monitor the situation of 70 Syrian Refugees and Palestinian Refugees from Syria that remain in detention since November 2014 after being apprehended by the Egyptian Coast Guard off the Egyptian coast. UNHCR continues its efforts and advocacy with the authorities towards their release and finding a prompt solution for this group. Since the beginning of 2015, UNHCR has also been alerted of the arrest of six Syrian nationals at Cairo International Airport for reasons related to either possession of forged renewal of national passport (received from Turkey) or forged Egyptian residency permits. UNHCR advocacy with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has resulted in the release of four of them, who are in the process of regularizing their stay in Egypt, while the two other individuals remain in detention.
- Care International conducted the first part of the first Village Savings and Loans (VSLA) project for Syrian refugee women in Cairo. This project specifically caters to the needs of refugee women and has been developed following the positive experiences of VSLA in the development context in Egypt. The training included 30 staff (23 females and 7 males) from Community Based Organisations in Cairo. The training introduced participants to the basic principles and components of the VSLA project, and on group development, money management and basic financial records.



Verification Exercise- Cairo, S.Nelson/UNHCR

### Key Figures:

#### Planned Sector Response:



#### Status:



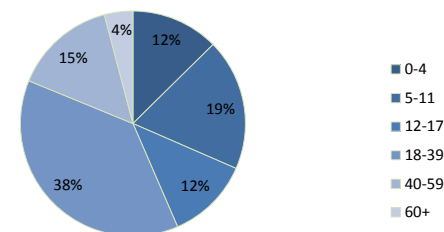
### NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Updated data on registered refugees is needed for profiling and programming purposes. A verification exercise began in May 2014 and by December 2014, 80% of the refugee population 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.

#### Population Breakdown by age



### REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY 2015

