

**Response in Egypt to Syrian Crisis**

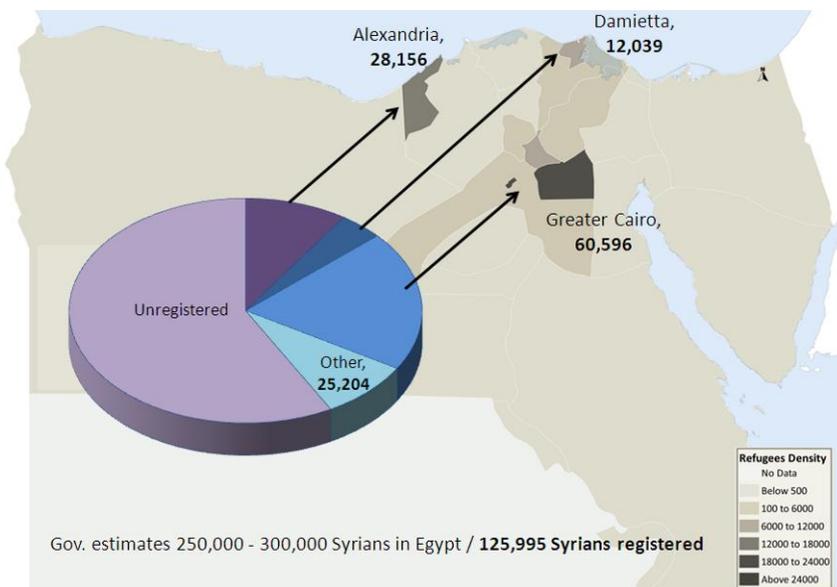
As the conflict in Syria continues to escalate, the number of people fleeing into other countries in the region in search of refuge has been increasing. Some 250,000 to 300,000 Syrians currently reside in Egypt according to Government estimates provided in June, of which UNHCR has registered 125,995 individuals as of 9 November.

As a result of alleged involvement of a few Syrians in the recent political turmoil, there has been a shift in perceptions and the level of sympathy afforded to the Syrian community. Syrians in Egypt have also been experiencing increasing incidents of verbal threats, physical assaults, detention and deportation.

Most Syrians in Egypt are scattered in urban neighbourhoods, renting and sharing accommodation. Lately, Syrians have expressed concerns over economic opportunities and anxiety over their security in Egypt. Some have indicated they will depart to Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon among other destinations. Some have also noted they intend to return to Syria. There have also been increasing reports of departures by sea to Europe.

UNHCR conducts registration, provides counselling, and works with partners to provide legal assistance and address the social needs of vulnerable Syrians in Egypt. UNHCR also operates hotlines for emergencies and inquiries, and sensitizes refugees of the dangers of involvement in political activities.

**Registration of Syrians in Egypt (as of 9 November)**



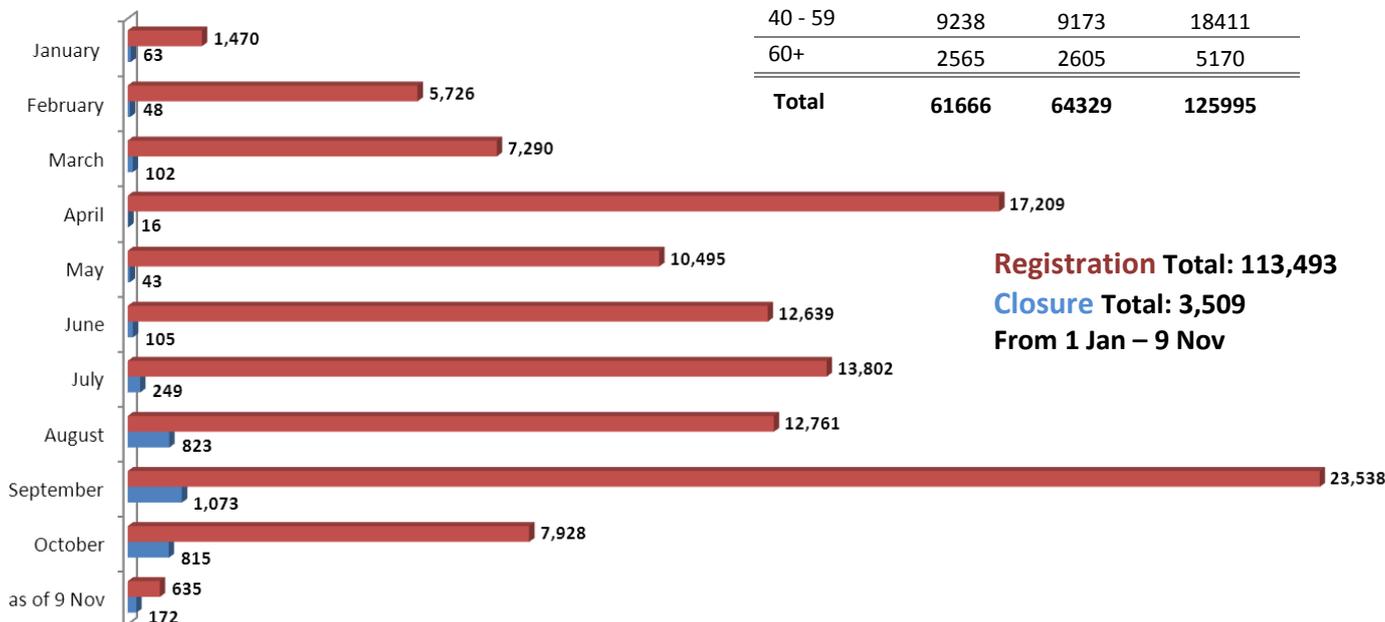
50% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 77.2% passed through Lebanon, 12.3% through Jordan, and 10.5% through others countries.

During the week, 1,470 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centres; 64 persons were identified with specific needs.

**Gender and Age Breakdown**

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8999	9425	18424
5 - 11	10868	11527	22395
12 - 17	7156	8303	15459
18 - 39	22840	23296	46136
40 - 59	9238	9173	18411
60+	2565	2605	5170
<b>Total</b>	<b>61666</b>	<b>64329</b>	<b>125995</b>

**Registration and Closure Trends in 2013**

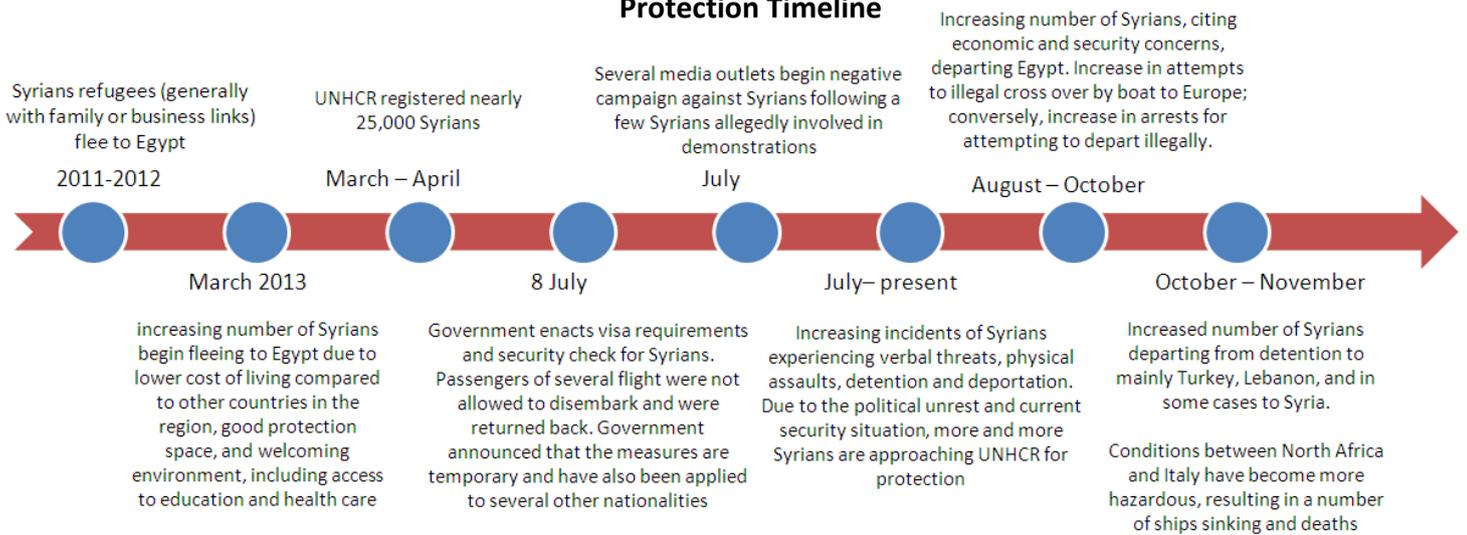


**Registration Total: 113,493**

**Closure Total: 3,509**

**From 1 Jan – 9 Nov**

### Protection Timeline



### Irregular Departures/Detentions/Departures from Detention

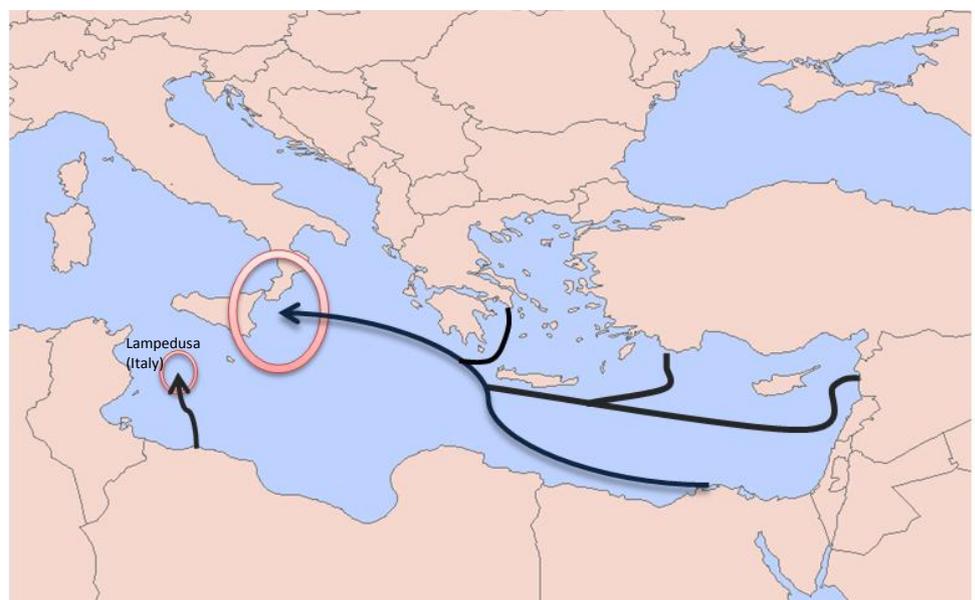
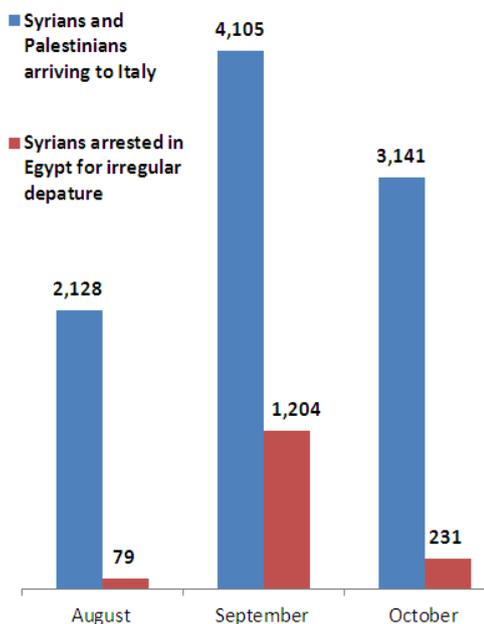
Since the beginning of the year until 31 October, **10,689** persons fleeing Syria are reported to have arrived along the coast of Italy from port in Egypt, Libya, Turkey, Syria, etc. In Egypt, Syrian’s have cited anxiety and despair, feelings of insecurity, diminished livelihood opportunities, and a desire for a better life and reasons why they were considering leaving Egypt. Reportedly, many persons fleeing Syria that have arrived in Italy have not sought asylum there, and have continued on to other countries in Europe. Attempts to depart Egypt by boat have primarily halted due to hazardous sea conditions in the Mediterranean at this time of the year.

Although there have been over 1,500 arrests of person fleeing Syria for irregular departure, the prosecutor’s office has not brought charges and has provided release order. However, UNHCR is aware of **252** persons that remain under administrative detention, based on national security considerations, and have been informed that they can depart to another country at their own expense. Currently the majority of the refugees are being detained in Alexandria, with other verified detentions in Shabrakheit, Port Said, and Cairo.

Numerous persons that were detained have already departed, mainly to Turkey and Lebanon.

Most of detainees are kept in police stations which are ill-equipped to handle large numbers of detainees for long periods. Detainees are held in tents, prayer spaces, halls, or big offices. People are often detained regardless of age, gender or health conditions, and suffer from poor ventilation, lack of hygiene and dental care, mosquitoes, inadequate sanitation facilities, increased incidents of diseases (skin rashes, respiratory ailments, etc.) Many of the detained also suffer from serious medical problems (heart diseases, cancer, cerebral palsy, bladder infections, pregnancies), and psychological stress. Children also have no access to education. After a certain period of time, UNHCR was advised the remaining detainees will be transferred to a regular detention facility.

UNHCR has been providing humanitarian assistance through Caritas (food, water, mattress, hygiene kits) and volunteer doctors have been attending to some of the needs. UNHCR has also been providing legal services and representation through local legal partners, and intervention in individual cases.



**(cont.)**

UNHCR is working on coordinating assistance among different groups and activists, and there remains a pressing need for psychosocial support, vaccinations, dental care, and recreational activities for children

UNHCR has been advocating that children and vulnerable individuals should not be in detention, and has expressed concerns over children held in detention kept separated from families residing in Egypt.

UNHCR is also concerned about onward removal to Syria. Particularly in the case of Palestinians departing to Lebanon there is an indication that they are only given a transit visa and thereafter expected to return to Syria.

Through the intervention of UNHCR and partners, the deportation back to Syria of a man who was arrested in Cairo for photographing outside a government building without permission, was halted and he was released.

**Field/Protection**

UNHCR conducted a registration mission to Alexandria on 6-8 November to conduct mobile registration and closures.

UNHCR conducted a joint field visit with Islamic Relief (IRW) and WFP to 10th of Ramdan to provide information on WFP's new distribution policy, and the resumption of the distribution of food vouchers to Syrians residing in the area. IRW conducted information session, and individual counselling and assessment for almost 20 cases.

**Education**

UNHCR concluded the selection of fifteen Syrian students set to benefit from the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI Scholarship), which provides scholarships at 6<sup>th</sup> of October University and contributes towards the development of skills, empowerment and self-reliance by providing higher education that will lead to gainful employment.

**Community Outreach**

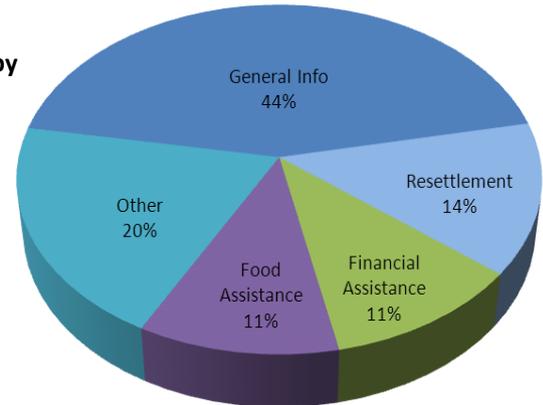
IOM conducted an awareness raising session for Community Health Volunteers (CHV) on 7 November. Participants included 9 Syrian, 3 Somali and 3 Sudanese refugees. UNHCR provided information on assistance to Syrians and participants were shown videos about the recent boat arrivals at the Italian shores including some interviews with migrants.

**Partners:**

Caritas • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Islamic Relief Worldwide • Mahmoud Mosque society • Refuge Egypt • Resala Association • Terre Des Hommes - TADAMON and Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) • Save the Children • UNICEF • WFP • UNHABITAT • WHO • UNFPA

**Hotline**

UNHCR responded to 636 calls:

**Breakdown by type of inquires**

UNHCR Regional Representative, Mohamed Dayri and President of National Council for Human Rights, Mr. Mohammed Fayek, speaking at the seminar on Mechanisms of Protection and Assistance for Syrian refugees in Egypt. (UNHCR/M. Hashem)

On 12 November, UNHCR in collaboration with the National Council for Human Rights and the Arab Organization for Human Rights, held a seminar in Cairo on Mechanisms of Protection and Assistance for Syrian refugees in Egypt. The seminar focused on the rights of Syrian refugees and participants discussed mechanisms to provide Syrians with assistance and to correct negative misconceptions perpetuated in the media. Sessions were held on legal/political, media, and psychosocial issues.

**For further information:**

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