

Response in Egypt to Syrian Crisis

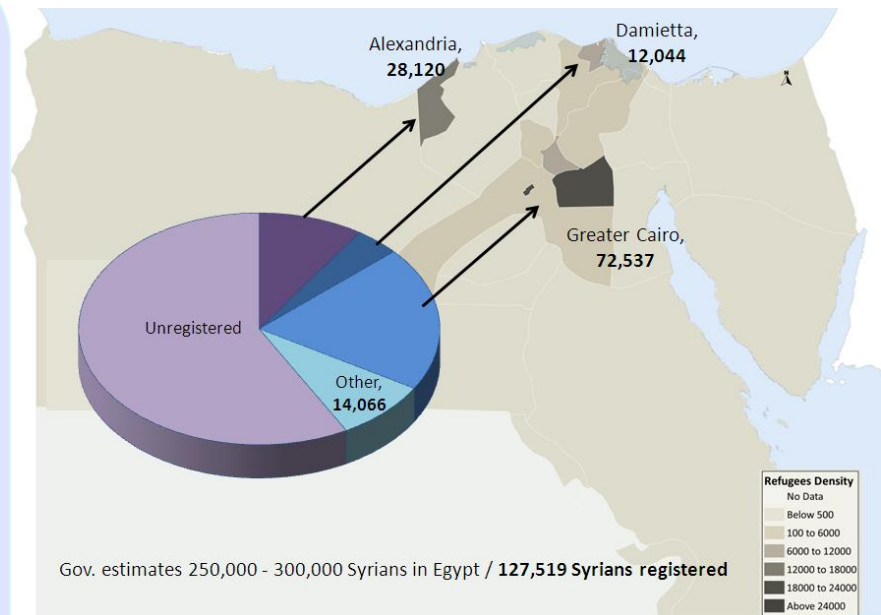
As the conflict in Syria continues to escalate, the number of people fleeing into other countries in the region in search of refuge has been increasing. Some 250,000 to 300,000 Syrians currently reside in Egypt according to Government estimates provided in June, of which UNHCR has registered 127,519 individuals as of 16 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 16 November)



50.1% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 77.1% passed through Lebanon, 12.3% through Jordan, and 10.6% through others countries.

During the week, 947 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre and 752 were registered through mobile registration; 31 persons were identified with specific needs.

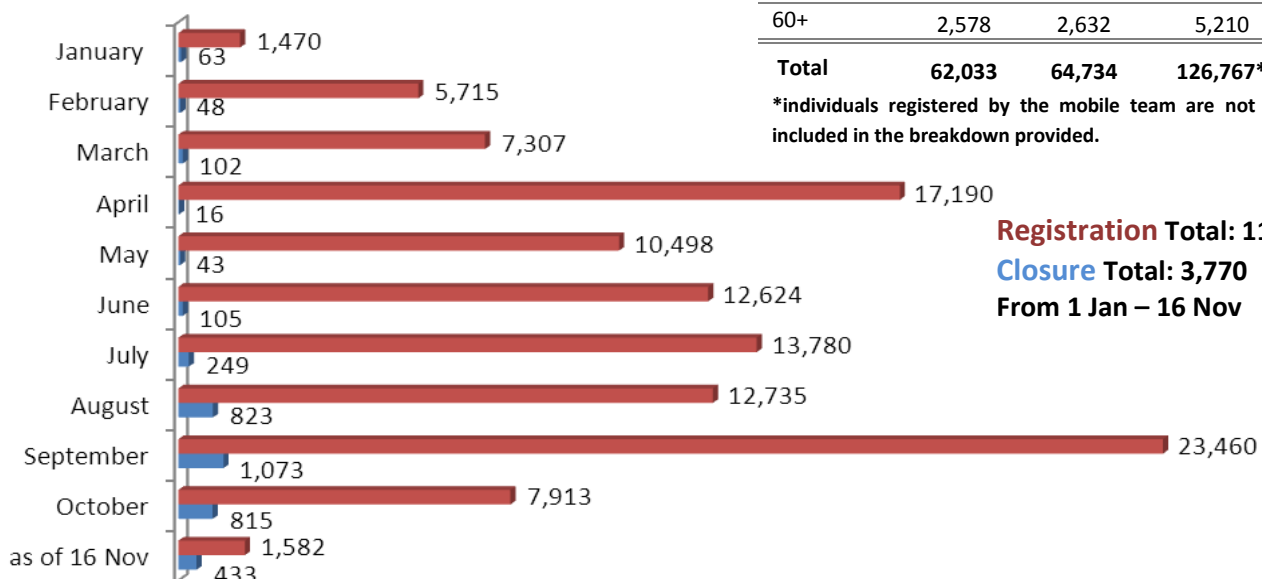
Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	9,075	9,485	18,560
5 - 11	10,936	11,606	22,542
12 - 17	7,184	8,335	15,519
18 - 39	22,971	23,477	46,448
40 - 59	9,289	9,199	18,488
60+	2,578	2,632	5,210

Total 62,033 64,734 126,767*

*individuals registered by the mobile team are not yet included in the breakdown provided.

Registration and Closure Trends in 2013

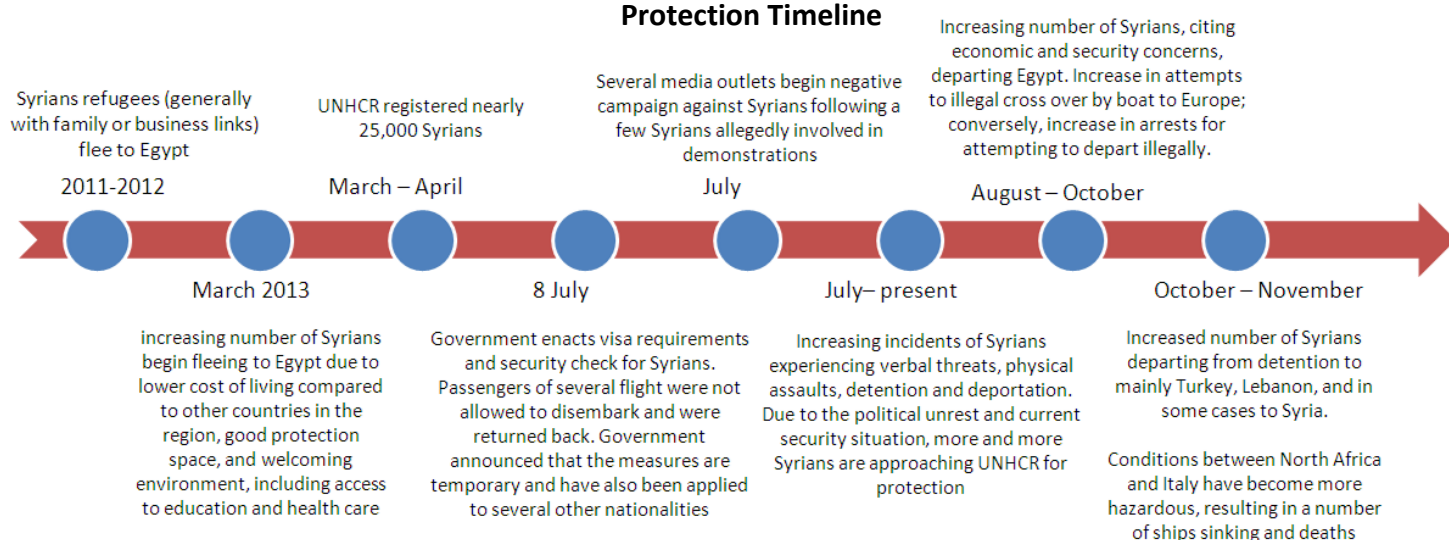


Registration Total: 114,274

Closure Total: 3,770

From 1 Jan – 16 Nov

Protection Timeline



Irregular Departures/Detentions/Departures from Detention

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 **208** 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 at their own expense.

UNHCR has continued advocacy efforts for the release of women and children, and is currently identifying serious medical cases and will request their release from detention. UNHCR has been providing humanitarian assistance through Caritas (food, water, mattress, hygiene kits), and a doctor to attending to some of the needs, and psychosocial counseling. UNHCR's partner PSTIC has already one psychiatrist present with additional support coming. UNHCR has also been providing legal services and representation through local legal partners, and intervention in individual cases. There continues to be a need for dental care. Syrian refugees in detention who need urgent dental treatment can be temporarily released to go to a hospital for such treatment.

Protection

It is becoming increasingly difficult for Syrians to renew their residency permits in Egypt. This trend seems to apply only to Syrians who attempt to renew their residence permits on their passports rather than on their asylum (yellow) cards. Renewal of the latter type seems to occur without problems.

CARE International, UNHCR's partner for addressing sexual gender based violence (SGBV), has begun an assessment of current risks and needs within the Syrian refugee community. Through CARE, refugees now have access to a temporary women's shelter where immediate protection is available, as well as specialized legal aid. In addition, CARE is currently providing a specialized SGBV training in emergencies for partners and UNHCR staff.

Field

UNHCR conducted a field visit to Asyut Governorate, on 13 November to establish contact and set up mechanism for the exchange of information with local authorities. UNHCR also established contact with the local community and set up a Community Based Protection Network to assist in flagging protection concerns and disseminate information throughout the community, including raising awareness about the importance of registration and services available to the Syrian community.

The Governor's office estimates that there are around 200-300 Syrians in the governorate, and noted that Syrians in the area have the same access to public schools, public health and other social facilities as Egyptians. Many of the Syrians in the area are from Aleppo and had settled in Upper Egypt due to the similarity of culture and customs with the host community. However, the refugee community have been finding it increasingly difficult to survive as their savings become depleted and cannot afford to cover housing and other basic needs. An increasing number of families are in desperate need of financial assistance. As well, many Syrians in Asyut are concerned about their inability to obtain Egyptian visas for their relatives still in Syria.



UNHCR Regional Representative, Mohamed Dayri expressing appreciation for the continuous support of the French Government to France's Ambassador at Large for Human Rights Patriziana Sparacino-Thiellay. (UNHCR/T. Leposky).

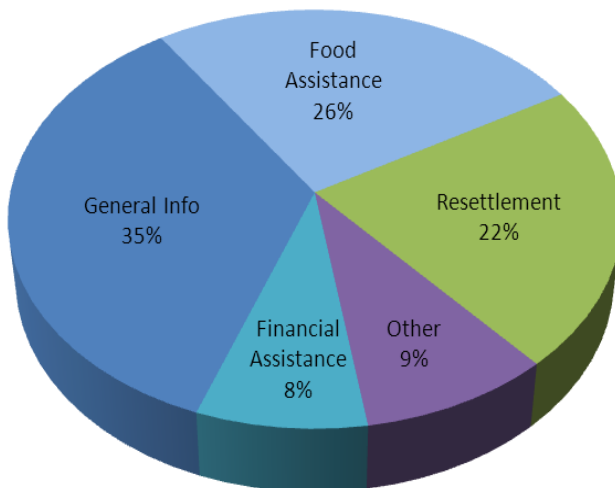
Community Outreach

On 14 November UNHCR conducted an awareness session for 20 volunteers from the Community Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) in 10th of Ramadan city. The session focused on UNHCR's mandate and information about registration and protection of Syrian refugees in Egypt. The session stressed the importance of respecting Egyptian laws and regulations and the illegality of any participation in demonstrations. In addition, participants were advised to get their residence permit on their asylum cards and to disseminate this advice among the Syrian community in their respective residential areas. The participants were briefed on the services UNHCR provides to Syrian refugees in Egypt and how to access them.

Hotline

UNHCR responded to 523 calls:

Breakdown by type of inquiries



UNHCR's partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) registering a Syrian parent to receive education grants, which will assist her in covering the costs such as transport, tuition fees, books, supplies for her children. Due to increasing demand for education grants among the refugee community, CRS moved to a larger office at the end of October in Cairo and extended their operations to Alexandria. This has allowed CRS to receive three times the number of Syrians on a daily basis, and they have assisted more than 7,000 refugees with education grants thus far in November. (UNHCR/T. Leposky)



UNHCR's partner Islamic Relief (IRW) provides a Syrian refugee with emergency cash assistance. (UNHCR/T. Leposky)

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

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