

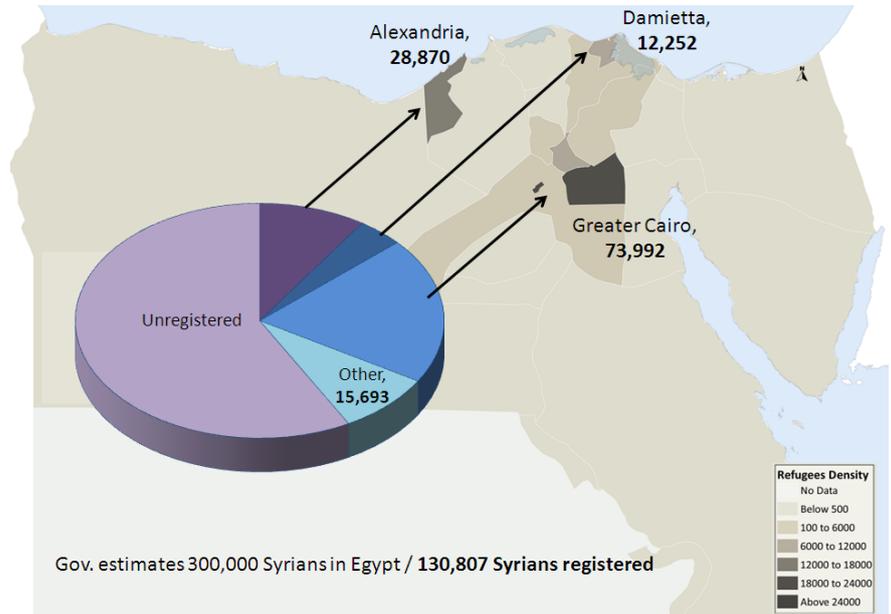
Registration of Syrians in Egypt (as of 21 December)

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 300,000 Syrians currently reside in Egypt according to Government estimates provided in June, of whom UNHCR has registered 130,807 individuals as of 21 December.

Most Syrians in Egypt are scattered in urban neighbourhoods, renting and sharing accommodation, and benefit from access to public education and health care.

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.



50.29% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 76.9% passed through Lebanon, 12.3% through Jordan, and 10.8% through others countries.

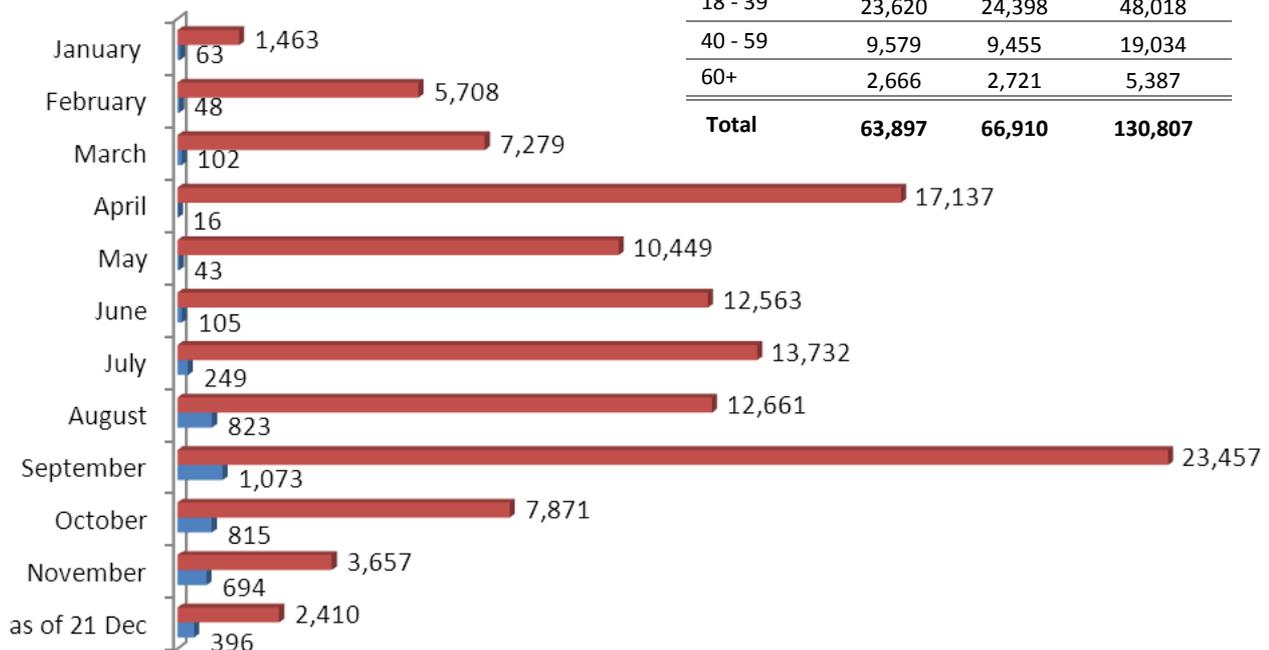
During the week, 373 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre; 22 persons were identified with specific needs.

Registration and Closure Trends in 2013

Registration Total: 118,387

Closure Total: 4,427

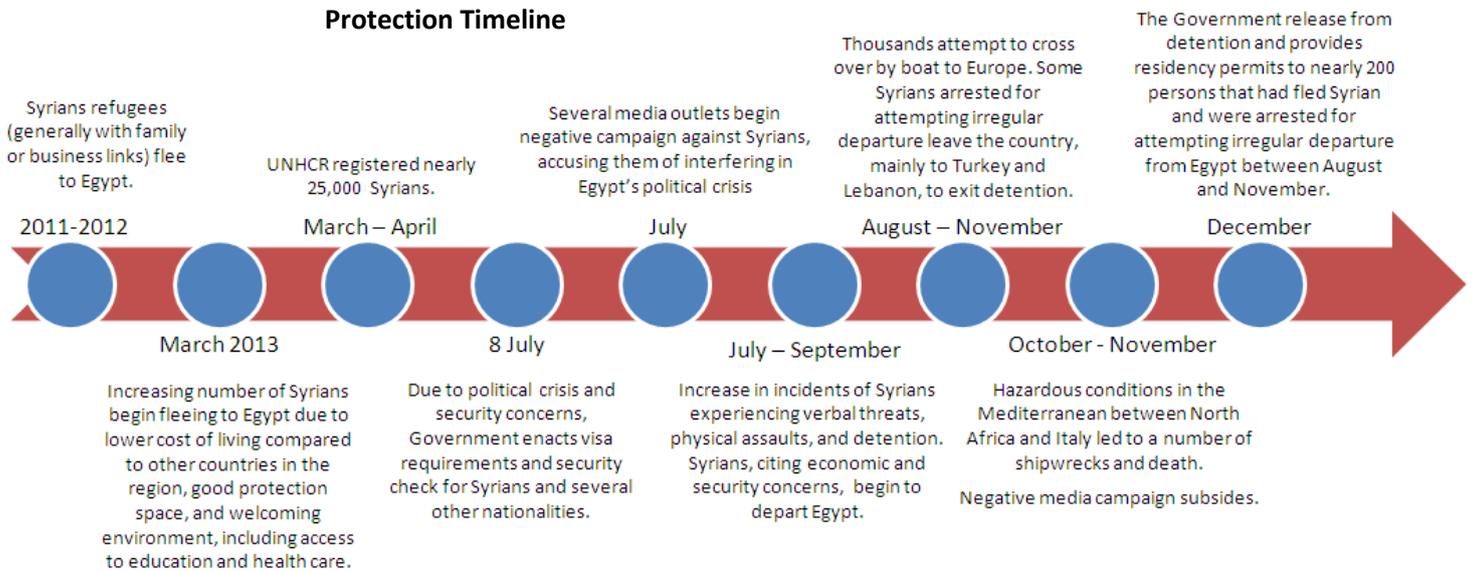
From 1 Jan – 21 Dec



Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	9,412	9,835	19,247
5 - 11	11,240	11,958	23,198
12 - 17	7,380	8,543	15,923
18 - 39	23,620	24,398	48,018
40 - 59	9,579	9,455	19,034
60+	2,666	2,721	5,387
Total	63,897	66,910	130,807

Protection Timeline



Protection/Field

In collaboration with Save the Children, UNHCR conducted on 19-21 December a series of co-existence workshops for Syrian and Egyptian children in Asmaa Bent Abou Baker School in New Cairo (Greater Cairo). The workshops provided an opportunity to improve interaction and promote the spirit of cooperation between the Egyptian and Syrian students through extracurricular activities. Over 100 students participated each day, and more than 200 families (Egyptians and Syrians) attended the final ceremony, which included a play and musical performance.

UNHCR’s Regional Representative in Egypt, Mohamed Dayri, met with the Governor of Alexandria on 23 December in order to discuss the challenges Syrian refugees face in Egypt. During the meeting, Mr. Dayri thanked the Governor and the Egyptian authorities for the recent release of Syrians that had been detained for having attempted irregular departure from the Egypt.

UNHCR conducted 15 best interest assessments (BIAs) for 20 children (ages three to seventeen). 10 are separated minors, while 7 are unaccompanied minors and 2 are child parents. Many of these minors, especially the boys, were engaged in child labour. UNHCR coordinated appropriate responses with its partners CRS, IRW and Tadamon for vocational training, financial assistance and counselling.

Health

UNHCR initiated a coordination mechanism with relevant partners including UNICEF and MSF to provide medical care to Syrian refugees who had previously been detained for attempting irregular departure from Egypt. Prior to their release, UNHCR and partners provided primary and referral care. Along with Caritas, MSF played a key role early on in providing detainees with medicines and referral support. Since their release in early December the concerned NGOs have continued to provide primary and referral care to the released detainees.



A Syrian girl participating in a mural painting activity (above) and Egyptian and Syrian children watching a puppet show (below) as part of the coexistence workshop in Asmaa Bent Abou Baker School in New Cairo (UNHCR/A.Abughazala)



Education

The Ministry of Education affirmed that Syrian refugee students would not be required to have a residency permit in order to enrol and sit for the upcoming mid-term exams. Students, however, will be required to get their residency before the exam results are released.

UNHCR provided IT equipment to the Ministry of Education's central unit to support the registering of Syrian refugee student enrolment. UNHCR has also provided IT equipment to the El Kafrawi school computer lab in Damietta.

Winterization

On 21-26 December, in coordination with UNHCR, Tadamon has distributed blankets to 1,500 of the most vulnerable families in Greater Cairo, and distribution is ongoing for an additional 500 families.



A UNHCR Community Service colleague delivering blankets to Syrian families in Greater Cairo during a distribution with UNHCR's partner Tadamon (UNHCR/T.Aziz)

For further information:

Teddy Leposky • Associate Reporting Officer

leposky@unhcr.org

Marwa Hashem • Assistant Public Information Officer

hashemma@unhcr.org



French Embassy Contribution

The French Embassy in Cairo provided clothes (134 clothing items), and 180 blankets to the former detainees in Alexandria. The items were distributed in collaboration with UNHCR and its partner Caritas. The Embassy also provided 1,000 school bags to the most vulnerable Syrian students in Alexandria, including the formerly detained children. Caritas' Director in Alexandria Dr. Youssef Wahba (above), French Consul General in Alexandria Ms. Dominique Waag (above and below), and UNHCR Regional Representative in Egypt Mr. Mohamed Dayri (above) attended gathering of young Syrian students for them to receive their school bags on 19 December in the Caritas office in Alexandria. (UNHCR/A.Abughazala)



Partners:

Caritas • Care Int/USA • 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