

Egypt Weekly Update

Syria Operation

1-6 January 2014

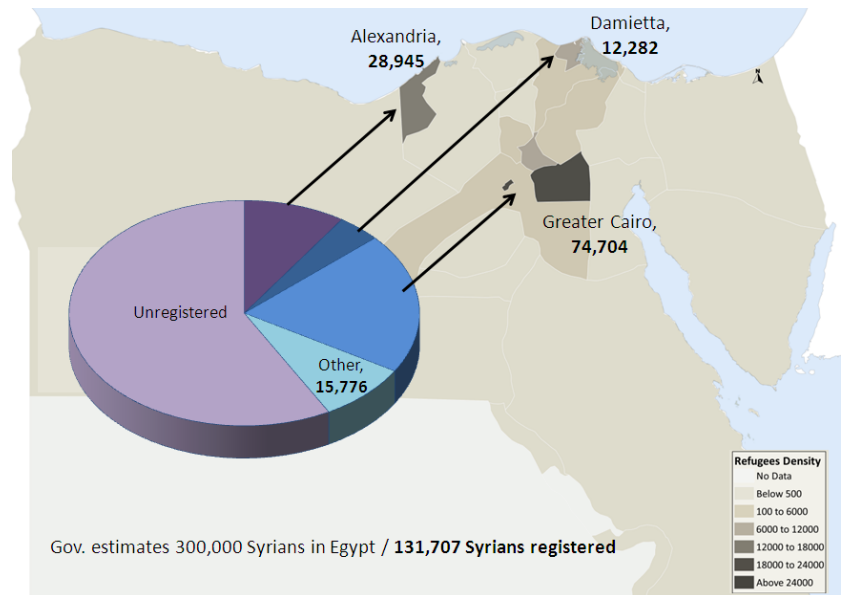
Registration of Syrians in Egypt (as of 4 January)

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 131,707 individuals as of 4 January.

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

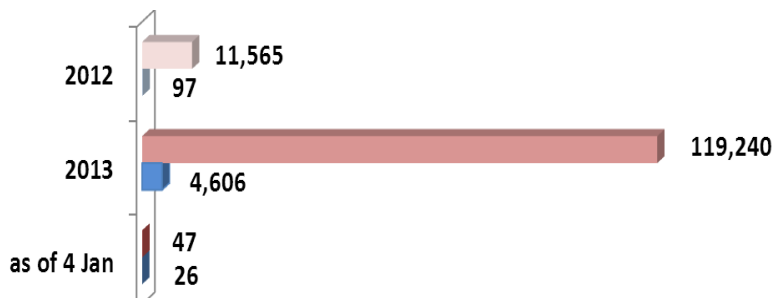
UNHCR conducts registration, provides counselling, and works with partners to provide legal assistance and address the social needs of vulnerable Syrians in Egypt. UNHCR also operates hotlines for emergencies and inquiries, and sensitizes refugees of the dangers of involvement in political activities.



50.3% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 76.8% passed through Lebanon, 12.3% through Jordan, and 10.9% through others countries.

During the week, 435 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre; 14 persons were identified with specific needs.

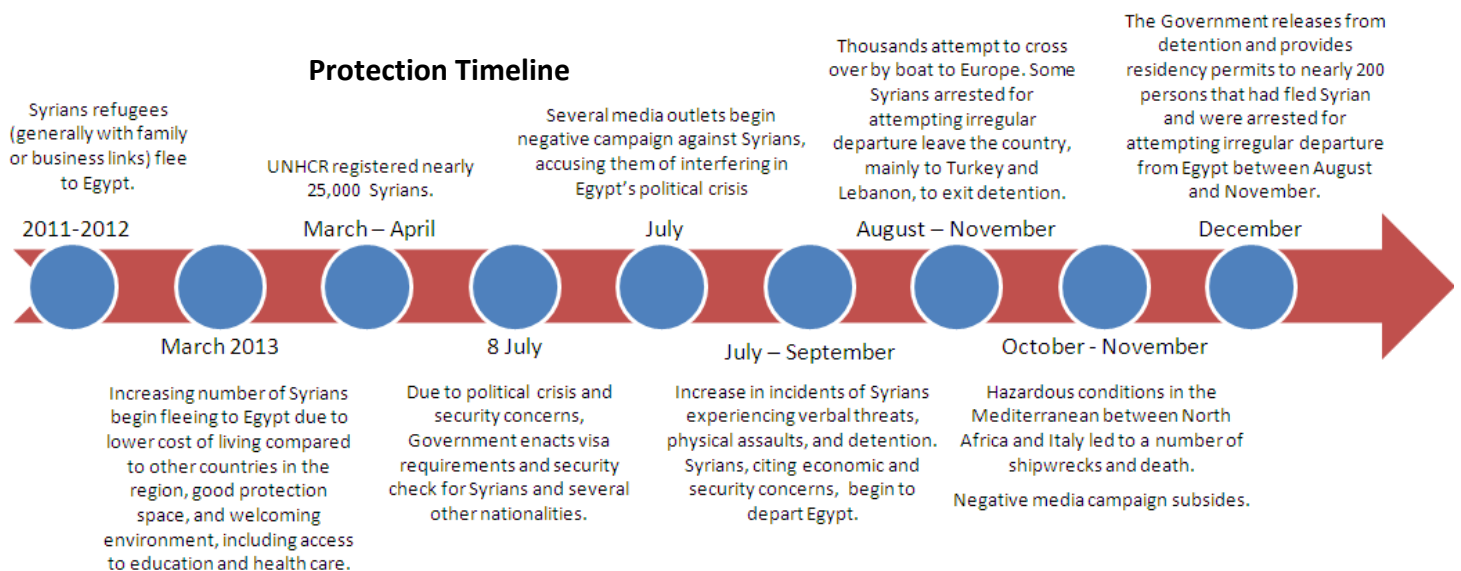
Registration and Closure Trends in 2012-2014



Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	9,030	9,432	18,462
5 - 11	11,419	12,122	23,541
12 - 17	7,442	8,541	15,983
18 - 39	24,061	25,006	49,067
40 - 59	9,645	9,541	19,186
60+	2,722	2,746	5,468
Total	64,319	67,388	131,707

Protection Timeline



Detention

On 3 January a new group of Syrians were arrested in Beheira Governorate for attempting irregular departure from Egypt. UNHCR's field team visited Rahmanyia Detention Facility and found 33 in detention (including 2 children). Four of the Syrians had been released in December and one of them claimed he was compelled to reattempt irregular departure because his wife needs medical treatment that cannot be received in Egypt. Another detainee said that the smugglers refused to refund the cost of the voyage, and instead offered to try to transport him again. The local authorities requested UNHCR's assistance in improving the detention conditions and to provide food assistance. UNHCR was informed of some 36 persons were also in detention in Shabrakheet police station (including 12 children and 1 pregnant woman). UNHCR delivered 76 blankets to detainees in the detention facilities in Beheira Governorate and is following up with partners for further protection and assistance.

Protection

UNHCR is aware of recent Facebook pages advertising to Syrian refugees in Egypt about resettlement services to European countries. UNHCR continues to stress to the refugee community that UNHCR protection and resettlement services are free of charge and that anyone with any questions about the procedures should contact UNHCR.

QIPs

UNHCR in Egypt is prioritizing some 40 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), small-scale low cost projects designed to assist refugee and host communities, for 2014. The projects are aimed at addressing the existing lack of services in deprived host communities and promoting coexistence between the refugee and host communities. Through the FARD foundation, UNHCR has begun implementation of a shuttle service for Masaken Othman (Greater Cairo) to connect the Syrian refugee and host population with the local transportation network. UNHCR has facilitated the development of operating practices of the mini-buses with the city administration, in conducting follow up meetings with the community, and will be purchasing the mini-buses in coordination with the city administration. Upcoming projects under consideration include the creation of safe public spaces and child-friendly spaces, as well as upgrading of some services in refugee populated urban areas.

Health

UNHCR conducted in close coordination with Ministry of Health (MOH) an Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) for the 2nd National Polio campaign from 29 December to 1 January. A MOH flyer about the 2nd campaign was widely disseminated among UNHCR partners and throughout the Syrian community. More than 17,000 SMS were sent to refugees households with children age 5 and below. Also, UNICEF shared an informative youtube message on the Polio campaign to showcase in the reception centre, community centres and in the offices of partners. UNHCR shared with the MOH the most updated data on locations of residency by governorates and districts to assist in the vaccination distribution and planning for the deployment of mobile teams.



On 3 January at the Immaculate Conception Church of the Greek Melkite Catholics, UNHCR's Regional Representative for Egypt Mohamed Dayri and other UNHCR staff members congratulated the Syrian Christian community on the occasion of Christmas. UNHCR contributed to the organization of a festive gathering held in the presence of Patriarch Gregorios III Laham, the Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarch of Antioch and All The East. Around 160 Syrian Christian refugees and some Egyptians participated. The event comprised of different recreational and spiritual activities. *(Church photographer)*

UNHCR also highlighted some districts, mainly in Alexandria, where there were gaps in coverage during the 1st National campaign from 17-20 November, in order to increase awareness among refugee families in these areas on the importance of bringing their children for vaccination. UNHCR also coordinated with the MOH on the distribution dates of WFP food vouchers in 6th October and El Obour to coincide with the vaccination efforts.

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

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