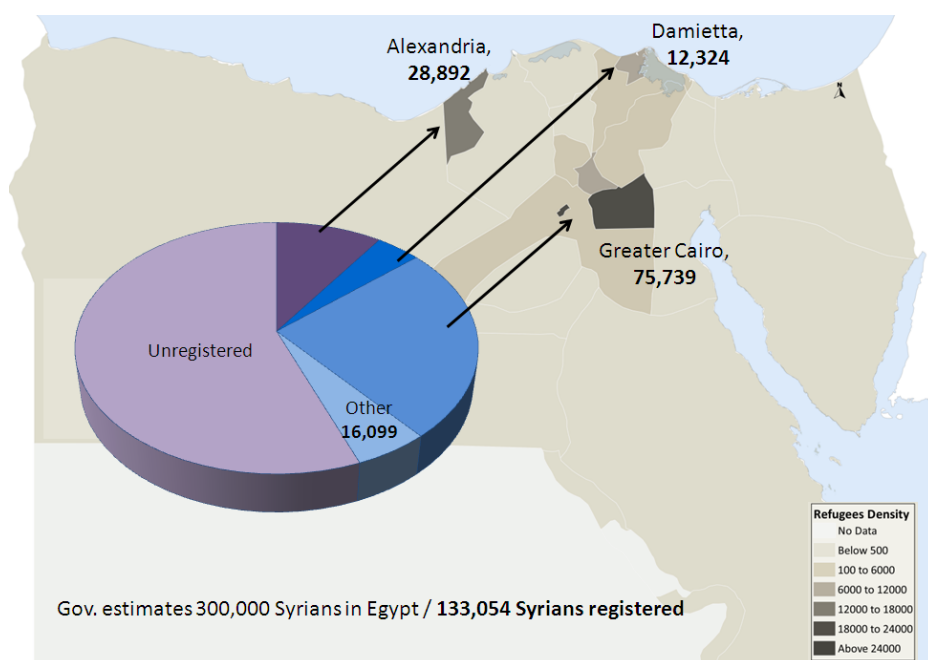


EGYPT WEEKLY UPDATE SYRIAN OPERATION 21 January – 3 February 2014



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 2013, of whom UNHCR has registered 133,054 individuals as of 1 February. 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.

Registration of Syrians in Egypt (as of 1 February)

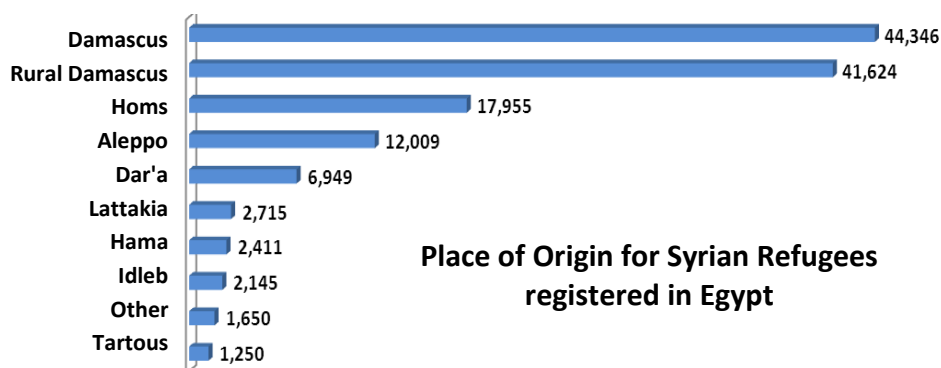
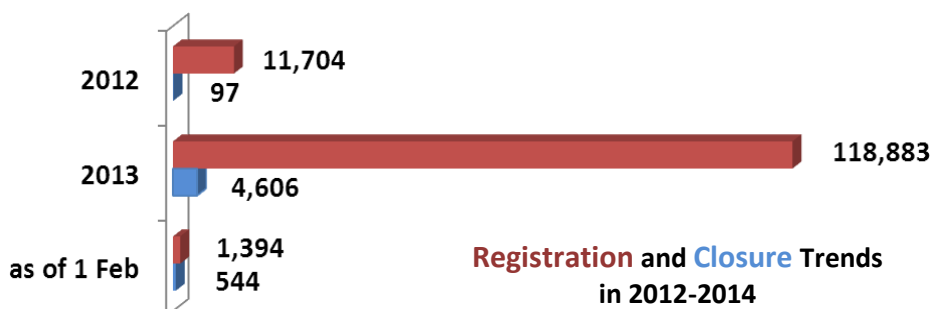


50.5% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 76.7% passed through Lebanon, 12.3% through Jordan, and 11% through others countries.

During the two weeks, 888 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre and 184 individuals during mobile registration; 38 persons were identified with specific needs.

Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8,800	9,204	18,004
5 - 11	11,618	12,395	24,013
12 - 17	7,555	8,556	16,111
18 - 39	24,398	25,499	49,897
40 - 59	9,768	9,675	19,443
60+	2,796	2,790	5,586
Total	64,935	68,119	133,054



Partners:

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

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Protection

The community based protection network in Alexandria flagged 68 vulnerable Syrian refugees, residing mainly in Faisal area in Alexandria in need of assistance. This included persons with specific medical needs or disabilities, children, adolescents at risk, and female heads of households whose husbands had left Egypt and have been unable to re-enter.

UNHCR conducted five (3 girls and 2 boys) best interest assessments for three separated children, a child spouse, and a child parent between the ages of fifteen and seventeen. Although all children had been attending school in Syria, only two are currently enrolled in school, and one boy is working. All children know the whereabouts of at least one of their parents. The children expressed a strong need for financial assistance in order to survive. UNHCR counselled the children on their rights and obligations in Egypt, and referred them IRW for financial assistance and CRS for education grants.

The child protection team accompanied the registration unit on mission to Mansoura from 28-30 January, during which they identified one child with medical needs and provided a referral to Resala for medical care.

This week the hotline received 589 calls mostly on food assistance (criteria of WFP), delays in delivery of financial assistance through partners and resettlement options for Syrians. Cases that needed intervention were referred to the Protection and Community Services Units for follow-up.

Health

In response to the significant increase in demand for UNHCR's support of health services for Syrian refugees in Egypt, UNHCR's health partners have moved towards decentralized primary health care access in Greater Cairo along with support to strengthen capacity of partners and Ministry of Health (MOH) public health facilities in areas of high concentration of Syrian refugees. Mahmoud Mosque Society, which has been the primary health care provider through UNHCR in Greater Cairo, is establishing 5 satellite clinics in close proximity of public primary health facilities that the Arab Medical Union (AMU), which has recently entered into a partnership with UNHCR, will enhance. AMU and Mahmoud Mosque will also be facilitating comprehensive preventative and curative public primary and referral care services. Syrians have equal access as Egyptians to public health service, and UNHCR is supporting this coordinated triangular approach between the MOH, AMU and Mahmoud Mosque Society to incrementally mainstream health care for Syrians into the public health system.

AMU's support of public health facilities and establishment of a community health worker programme (outreach) among the Syrian community will foster demand for MOH services. Mahmoud Mosque Society will continue providing primary and specialized medical care through the 5 satellite clinics and will also facilitate referrals to secondary and tertiary services in Greater Cairo.



On 15 January Islamic Relief held a winterization clothes fair in their Dokky office (Cairo) for over 200 Syrian refugees. (IRW)

Community Service

UNHCR is conducting a survey with partners that distribute financial assistance (IRW, Caritas, and Resala) to understand why some Syrian refugees that are registered with UNHCR have not registered with the partners to be assessed for financial assistance.

UNHCR's partner Resala in Damietta has established a feedback system to inform refugees the result of their social assessment interviews, and is now sending a SMS to Syrian refugees on whether they have been assessed as eligible for financial assistance. In Greater Cairo, to expedite the delivery of financial assistance, UNHCR's partner IRW has reached an agreement with the Post Office to begin the payment process for Syrian refugees with 48 hours of the financial transaction from IRW.

Food

WFP has targeted nearly 93,000 Syrian refugees and Palestine refugees from Syria with food vouchers in January. Food voucher redemption in greater Cairo was arranged at an alternative supermarket (Fathallah) as an emergency measure for the January cycle as the previously contracted supermarket was unwilling to continue redemption services. WFP and UNHCR organized community meetings and disseminated further messaging to inform beneficiaries regarding the change and voucher redemption at Fathallah. Final arrangements are being made with a new supermarket partner for February. As a precautionary measure, voucher distributions in Greater Cairo are currently not being held on Fridays due to the risk of security incidents and public protests that have occurred on Fridays.

Donor Relations

UNHCR facilitated a donor mission from ECHO and DFID in Alexandria and accompanied the mission on a field visit to Mandara in Alexandria. The delegation was briefed on challenges the refugees are facing as well as the efforts of UNHCR and partners in responding to their needs. In Cairo the mission visited UNHCR, WFP, Tadamon, PSTIC, and Save the Children projects.