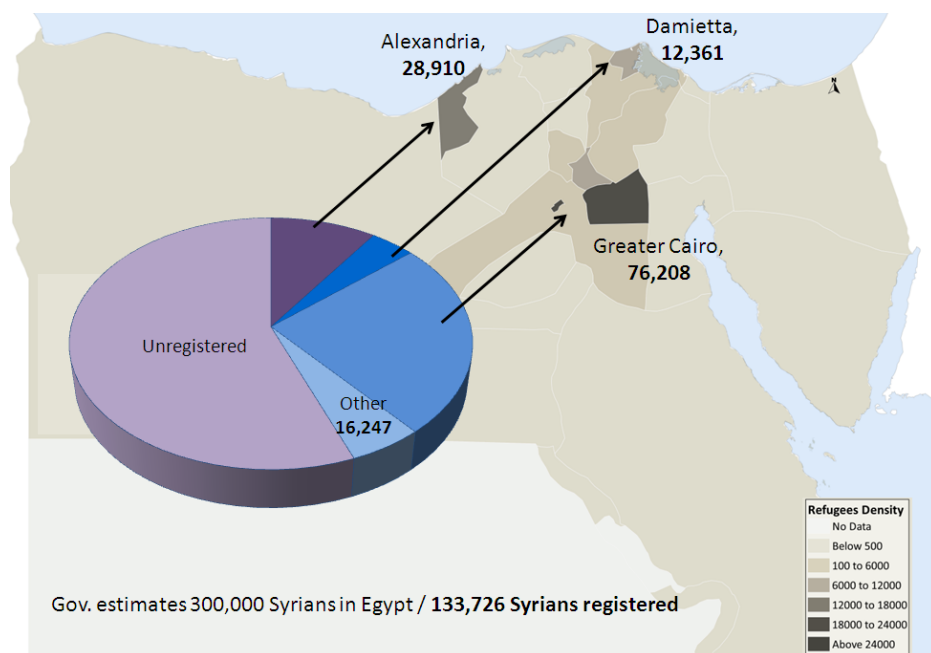


EGYPT WEEKLY UPDATE SYRIAN OPERATION 11-17 February 2014



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 133,726 individuals as of 15 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 15 February)

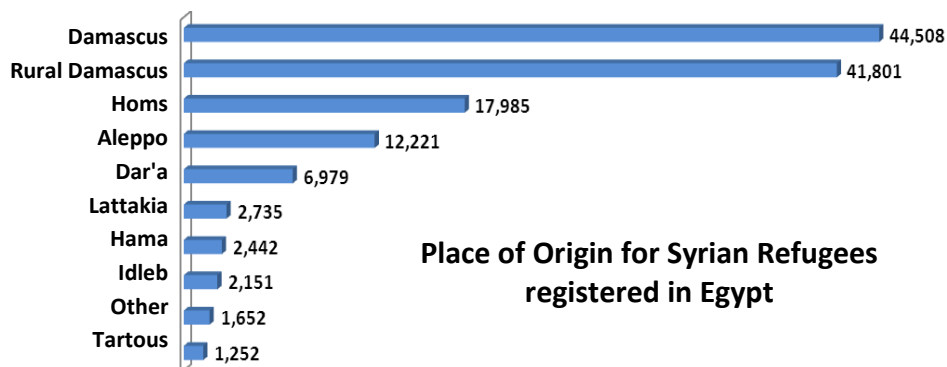
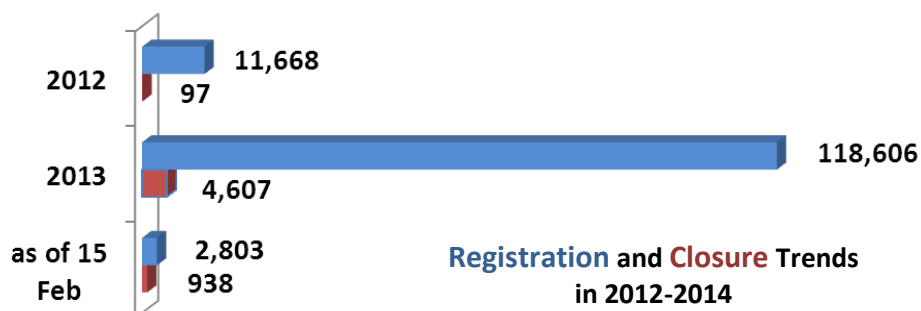


50.5% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 76.6% passed through Lebanon, 12.3% through Jordan, and 11.1% through others countries.

During the week, 508 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre; 23 persons were identified with specific needs.

Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8,808	9,222	18,030
5 - 11	11,690	12,521	24,211
12 - 17	7,584	8,567	16,151
18 - 39	24,488	25,627	50,115
40 - 59	9,823	9,734	19,557
60+	2,833	2,829	5,662
Total	65,226	68,500	133,726



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

For further information:

Teddy Leposky • Associate Reporting Officer
leposky@unhcr.org

Marwa Hashem • Assistant Public Information Officer
hashemma@unhcr.org

Syria Regional Refugee Response
Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal
<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

Protection

UNHCR received reports of four women who had experienced sexual gender based violence (SGBV); three were survivors of domestic violence and the fourth of sexual harassment. Two of the women reside in Damietta, one in Alexandria and one in Cairo. UNHCR is in touch with the women concerned and has referred them to partners. UNHCR is also strengthening its response to SGBV in the Field Office in Alexandria to carry out protection interviews, provide counselling to survivors and to follow up closely with service providers in Alexandria and Damietta Governorates.

UNHCR conducted Best Interest Assessments for six separated children (SC) (four girls and two boys) and 1 unaccompanied child (UA) (boy). The four girls are all child spouses; one is a child parent and one is pregnant. None attend school and only one was interested in attending, and was counselled on the possibility of obtaining an education grant. All child spouses expressed concerns about the lack of work for their husbands. One girl works as a tailor at home for 2 EGP per day, which the husband stated was a necessary source of income. Of the 7 children, only one child is enrolled in school in Egypt and two of the separated boys are working. The unaccompanied boy lives with other Syrians in Cairo and worked for some months in order to save money to attend the final grade of school. He is now in debt and was counselled on applying for education grant and cash assistance. All children are in contact with their parents in Syria. All six children were referred to IRW for possible cash assistance and one was referred to PSTIC for psychosocial counselling.

On 9-11 February UNHCR conducted a series of field visits in Greater Cairo to establish first-time contact or follow up with the communities, assess their needs, counsel them on services provided by UNHCR and its partners, and identify volunteers for community based protection networks (CBPNs) to flag protection concerns and disseminate information to the community. In Ain Shams, 80 Syrian refugees from the community noted that most of the community have exhausted their savings and employers have stopped hiring Syrians after the political crisis in 2013. As well, religious charities have ceased providing them assistance. UNHCR agreed to conduct another visit to identify and assist cases most at risk, and to follow up and train the new CBPN. UNHCR will also invite IRW to join its future meetings to facilitate access to assistance. In Nasr City, UNHCR assessed the needs of the Syrian community in Nasr City and Heliopolis, and the 20 Syrian refugees from the community were briefed on UNHCR mandate and reminded of the importance to register at UNHCR in order to access services. UNHCR also visited Rehab City and 30 Syrian refugees in the community to assess the needs of Syrians in Rehab City and Al Tagamoa Al Talet (3rd settlement). Many in the community expressed their need for family reunification, and their inability to bring family members from Syria. Others reported challenges in enrolling their children in schools due to the lack of a valid residence permit. UNHCR discussed procedures for getting residency permits on UNHCR Asylum Cards and is working with education authorities to facilitate access of Syrian children to Egyptian schools as provided by the Ministry of Education.

On 11-12 February UNHCR conducted two awareness sessions for 60 Syrian refugees residing in in Agamy and Borg Al Arab areas west of Alexandria. The sessions focused on the dangerous consequences of irregular movement from Egypt as well as the importance of respecting Egyptian laws and regulations, particularly obtaining the residence permits on UNHCR Asylum Cards. The participants were also briefed on the services that UNHCR provides to Syrian refugees in Egypt and how to access them. Finally, the sessions also addressed resettlement as a protection tool to minimize the expectations around the topic. During the sessions, updated brochures with contact details of UNHCR's new field office in Alexandria were distributed to the participants.

UNHCR also conducted a two day training on livelihood projects for Caritas staff in preparation for Caritas' rollout of livelihoods project with Syrian refugees in Alexandria.

UNFPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with FARD foundation to conduct a series of activities for Syrian Refugee women and youth in Egypt to promote coexistence between the refugee and host communities. The activities will be centred on increasing health awareness, strengthen channels of communication regarding community needs, develop strong alliances in implementation of the activities, and build a good community model of the integrity between the Syrian and Egyptian youth.

Education

Following UNHCR's advocacy with the Ministry of Higher Education, the Minister issued a decree on 5 February granting Syrians applying for post-graduate studies in all Egyptian universities and institutes equal standing as Egyptians for the university year 2013-2014 with regard to admission fees.



A Syrian refugee working in a tailoring shop; textile is one of the most important economic sectors for Syrian refugees in Egypt. CRS

Food

WFP food voucher distributions for February are scheduled to start on 22 February in Alexandria, 23 February in Damietta and 24 February in Greater Cairo, targeting 88,000 Syrian refugees in addition to 3,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) with UNRWA. WFP provided food vouchers to nearly 81,000 Syrian refugees and 2,700 PRS in January, reaching 91% of the target. The food voucher value is 200 Egyptian pounds per person per month and is redeemable at WFP partner supermarkets.

Proposals have been received from service providers for the joint WFP-UNHCR OneCard assistance platform. A WFP/UNHCR joint technical evaluation panel reviewed the proposals from 11-13 February. A joint financial panel will further review the proposals on 16-17 February. The expected timeframe for the launch of the OneCard is the second quarter of 2014. WFP conducted a refugee hotline workshop in conjunction with UNHCR on 12 February including customer service training, joint protocols, information sharing and reporting formats to ensure consistent and high quality service to Syrian refugees.

Health

WHO has been supporting the Ministry of Health with capacity building of staff in selected public health centres (PHC) with 5 training courses (75 physicians and 50 nurses) on early warning and rapid response to epidemics, medical family files, and detection and management of non-communicable disease (NCD). WHO will be conducting a further 9 trainings. Needs of the PHC centres were identified including medical and laboratory equipment, lab reagents, supplies, and essential medications of communicable and NCDs. Based on WHO-Specialise Medical Centres contract, 491 consultations were provided for Syrian patients at outpatient clinics in addition to seven surgical operations in the selected 4 specialized medical centres in Giza, Cairo, and Alexandria Governorates.



UNFPA and the Ministry of Health conducted a training in Bolak El Dakror General Hospital (Greater Cairo) for 91 Doctors and nurses working in primary health care units serving Syrian refugees in Cairo. The training focused on orientation and awareness about the magnitude of the Syria health needs, a briefing on patient and refugee rights, reviewing recent updates in family planning practices, highlighting SGBV as a social, psychological and medical problem and how to react, and receiving feedback regarding the challenges facing the Syrian refugees during seeking the medical advice.



1 Refugee without hope is too many