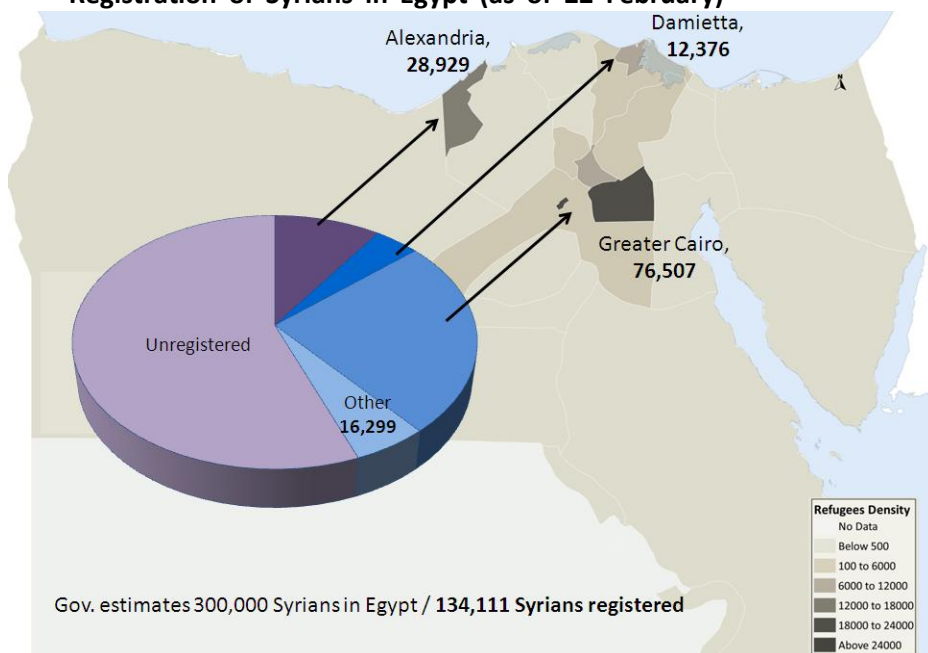


EGYPT WEEKLY UPDATE SYRIAN OPERATION 18-25 February 2014



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 134,111 individuals as of 22 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 22 February)

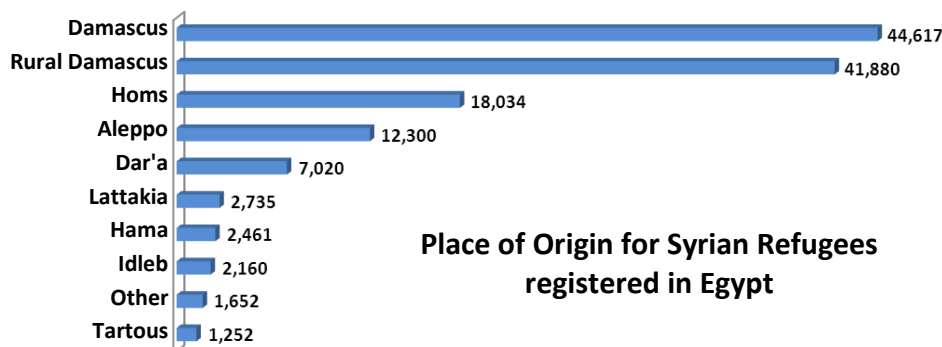
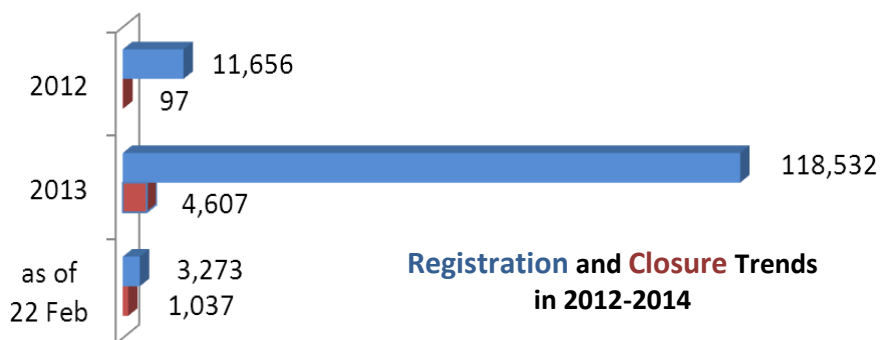


50.5% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, **76.6%** passed through Lebanon, **12.3%** through Jordan, and **11.1%** through others countries.

During the week, **473** individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre; **28** persons were identified with specific needs.

Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8,819	9,238	18,057
5 - 11	11,742	12,580	24,322
12 - 17	7,608	8,584	16,192
18 - 39	24,558	25,694	50,252
40 - 59	9,858	9,741	19,599
60+	2,845	2,844	5,689
Total	65,430	68,681	134,111



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

Protection

On the 16 – 20 February, UNHCR conducted 4 awareness sessions for 120 Syrian refugees residing in Asafra, Mandara, and Sidi Beshr areas in Alexandria and Agamy on the dangers of irregular migration from Egypt as well as the importance of respecting Egyptian laws and regulations, particularly in regards to obtaining the residency permits on UNHCR asylum cards. The participants were also briefed on the services that UNHCR provides and how to access them. In addition, the sessions addressed the issue of resettlement as a protection tool to minimize expectations around the topic. During the sessions, updated brochures reflecting the contact details of UNHCR's new office in Alexandria were distributed to participants.

On 20 February Tadamon held a workshop on human rights and cultural dialog between refugees and Egyptians at the Faysal community centre. Dr. Ibrahim Awad from the Center of Migration and Refugee Studies at American University in Cairo gave an address on the conditions of the refugees in Egypt and for Syrian in particular, the influence of the Egyptian economy on their daily lives, and the impact of Syrian refugees on the Egyptian economy. Professor Awad noted that Syrian refugees have been contributing significantly to the improvement of the Egyptian economy, and that several projects and factories were fully transferred from Syria to Egypt since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, alongside the contribution of small Syrian business, such as corner shops.

Education

The Ministry of Education has announced that it will offer placement tests for Syrian students in secondary schools who do not have their school certificate from their country of origin and wish to enroll in schools in Egypt.

Food

WFP food voucher distributions for February are currently underway in Damietta and Alexandria, and began in Greater Cairo on 25 February. February distributions are targeting 88,000 Syrian refugees as well as 3,000 Palestine refugees from Syria with UNRWA.

WFP Egypt participated in a senior management meeting in Amman on 16 February for the WFP Syria Crisis Response which also included Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq to discuss key issues in 2014 including targeting and prioritization of assistance. This was followed by a two-day planning workshop to develop common strategies that incorporated country-specific contexts and supported the preparation of detailed operational plans to assist Syrian refugees.

Health

WHO provided support to the Ministry of Health in capacity building activities of primary health care staff with trainings for 25 physicians and 75 nurses in Cairo and Giza Governorates; they were trained on Early Warning and Response Network systems, family filing, and management of non-communicable and emergency cases. As well, Specialised Medical Centres provided neurology, orthopaedic, otolaryngologic, gynecologic and outpatient services for 771 Syrian cases.



On 25 February UNHCR Representative Mohamed Dayri attended an event of Exchange of Shaikhs and Priests as part of Bayt Al-Aela's Together for Egypt project at All Saints Cathedral in Zamalek. Clerics of Islam and Christianity gave speeches about the tolerance of both religions, and UNHCR's Representative delivered a speech about the support of Islamic and Christian institutions toward refugees in Egypt and its positive impact. (photo credit: UNHCR/A. Abughazalah)

2013 Egypt Refugee Prize

UNHCR hosted the second annual Egypt Refugee Prize on 25 February in the Zamalek Registration Centre. The annual prize is designed to honour a refugee who has made a significant contribution in the service of their community alongside a person who has shown an exemplary commitment to helping refugees in Egypt.

The prize aims to encourage the role of refugees themselves in helping their communities to face the challenges in the country of asylum, and other individuals whose efforts have become an integral part of the policies applied to protect and safeguard their rights and wellbeing.

Candidates of the Egypt Refugee Prize were nominated by UNHCR's NGO partners active in the field of assisting refugees in Egypt. A panel formed of UNHCR, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, and the Centre for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo review the nominations and selected the winner in both categories. This year's winners were **Samah Abou-Rayia** for her extraordinary work with refugees in Salloum camp, and **Ding Bidit** for his commitment providing psychosocial support to all refugee communities in Egypt.

During the awards ceremony, UNHCR expressed its appreciation to the Arab Organization for Human Rights and the American University in Cairo for their wonderful participation; a special thanks to the International Community for their continued support; the Government of Egypt for the collaboration in endeavouring to meet the needs of refugees and asylum seekers; to partners and sister agencies for their wonderful dedication; and to the nominees and winners for their extraordinary efforts, and encouraged them to continue their important work in the service of refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt. *(photo credit: UNHCR/T. Leposky)*

