

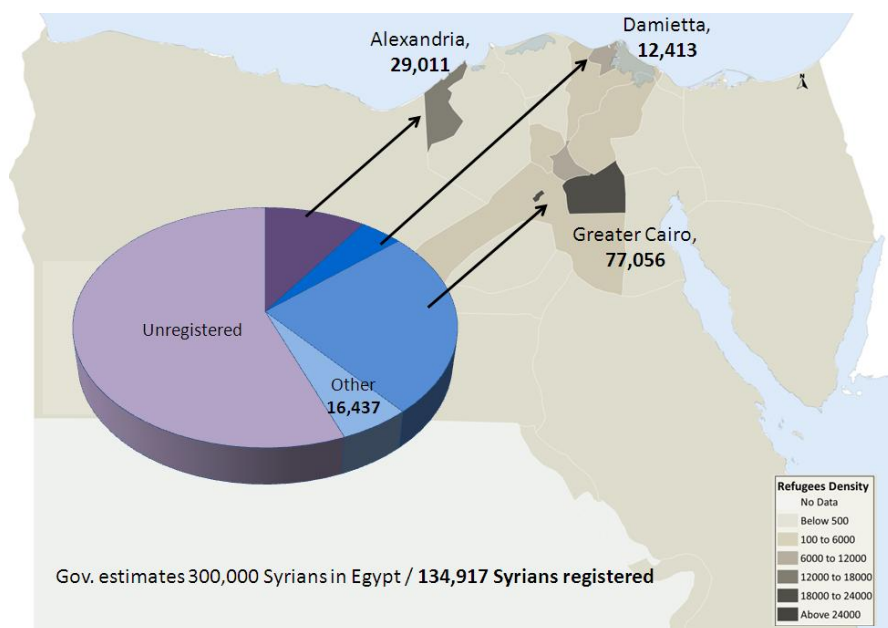
EGYPT WEEKLY UPDATE SYRIAN OPERATION

4 – 11 March 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 134,917 individuals as of 8 March. 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 8 March)

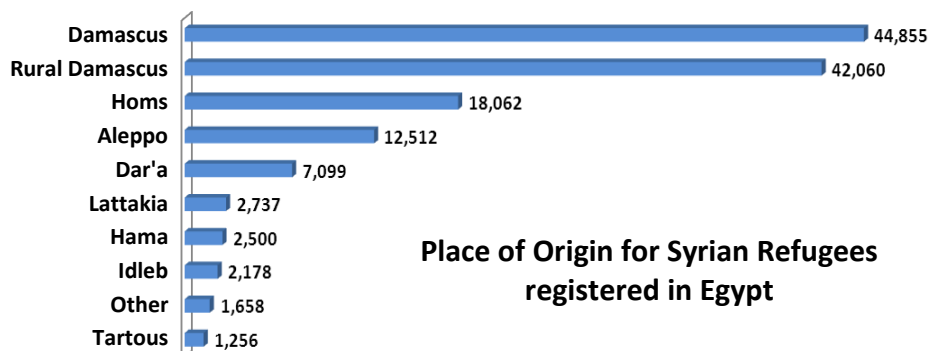
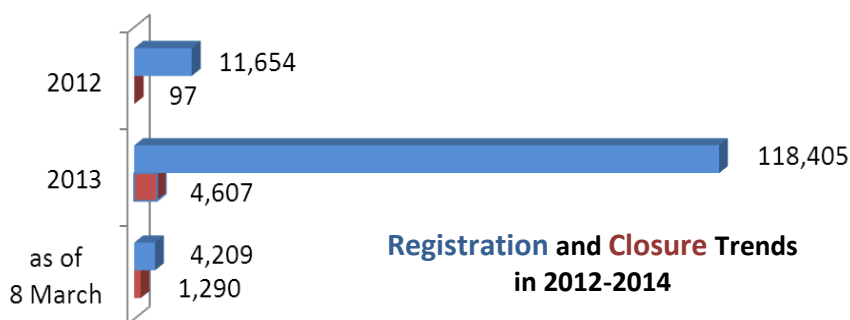


50.7% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 76.5% passed through Lebanon, 12.3% through Jordan, and 11.2% through others countries.

During the week, 435 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre; 9 persons were identified with specific needs.

Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8,844	9,250	18,094
5 - 11	11,833	12,660	24,493
12 - 17	7,646	8,633	16,279
18 - 39	24,700	25,884	50,584
40 - 59	9,928	9,815	19,743
60+	2,868	2,856	5,724
Total	65,819	69,098	134,917



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

UNHCR conducted a field visit to Rehab city on 10 March and held a meeting with the Syrian community at the office of the Syrian Women Association to discuss the community's main concerns and problems as well as raise awareness on registration and residency. The community noted that many have been living on savings, which has run out for some families. They noted that 2-3 families have been sharing flats in order to cut down on costs, and increasing vulnerability to sexual gender based violence (SGBV). UNHCR is strengthening the Community Based Protection Network (CBPN) in Rehab to flag protection concerns and disseminated information throughout the community about the services available through UNHCR and its partners.

On 9 March UNHCR organized colloquium in Agamy, Alexandria to commemorate International Women's Day, which brought together the Egyptian and Syrian communities to discuss ways to empower refugee women to become more productive and less vulnerable. The participants explored ways and means to address refugee needs, and during two hour long programme, five Syrian and two Egyptian women dwelled on the difficulties the Syrian women have been facing and the crucial support provided by the host community. "Women are the greatest advocates of peace because they are the ones who ultimately pay the price and suffer most from a war," said Ms. Rehab El-Sayed, a prominent Egyptian woman, currently serving as Consultant Legal Advisor at Ministry of Youth and in various national and international committees for women, who was among the seven speakers at the event. Safeguarding women's well-being is one of the key challenges globally, and becomes more difficult when they have to leave their home and take refuge in a foreign land. The forum offered a channel for women from both communities to communicate on the challenges they have in the current uncertain environment, shared stories of success and struggle, and ways to play a more positive role to promote coexistence between the refugee and host communities.

Food

WFP completed the February food voucher distribution cycle on 9 March. Assistance was provided to 81,500 Syrian refugees as well as 3,500 Palestine refugees from Syria with UNRWA, with food vouchers valued at approx. US\$30 per person. This covered nearly 25,000 refugees in Alexandria, 14,000 in Damietta and 46,000 in Greater Cairo. Vouchers for beneficiaries living in Greater Cairo were redeemed again this month at Fathallah supermarket pending finalization of the contract with a new supermarket partner which is expected in March. Once the agreement is finalized the food assistance to the Syrian refugees in Greater Cairo will be provided through a pre-paid e-card which can be redeemed in a dozen supermarkets throughout Cairo.

Community Support Projects

On 11 March UNHCR attended the inauguration of the German University in Cairo (GUC) project 'Learn, Move, Play, Ground 2' in Asmaa Bint Abi Bakr school in 1st settlement which accommodates approximately 2,500 pupils, including 250 Syrians. This inauguration was part of a Community Support Programme/Quick Impact Project (QIPs) that UNHCR in collaboration with the GUC, Germany Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Man Ahyaha and the British Council. German and Egyptian architecture students began engaging the students in the designing of the 'playing landscape' on 1 March, and building ran from 6 to 11 March. Some 130 students also participated in a number of workshops held in the school. Workshop activities included sports, team building, arts and crafts as well as a workshop simulating the experience of visiting France. The project will continue over the next two months and will include psycho-social support activities, further workshops, and designated activities to improve the social and physical infrastructure of the school and will focus on the promotion of coexistence. The mother of one of the Egyptian students told UNHCR that, 'I'm so happy that you are doing all this in our children's school. The school is much better now.' Syrians and Egyptians felt the project helped create a stronger social and educational environment.



(UNHCR/T. Leposky)