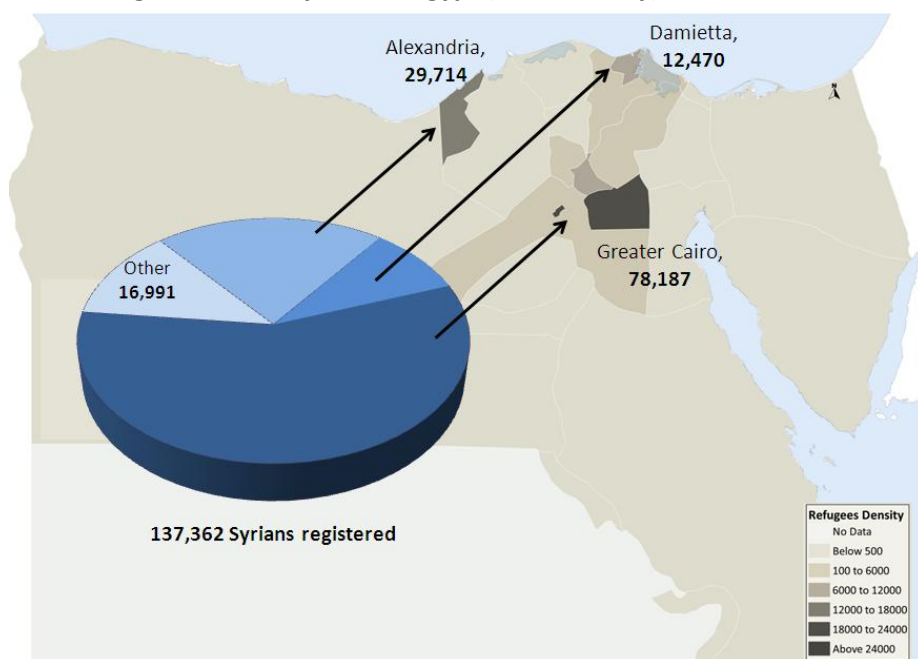


EGYPT WEEKLY UPDATE SYRIAN OPERATION 20-26 May 2014



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. New arrivals of Syrians into Egypt, however, have been nominal since the introduction on 8 July 2013 of visa requirements for Syrian entering the country. UNHCR has registered 137,362 individuals as of 24 May. 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.

Registration of Syrians in Egypt (as of 24 May)

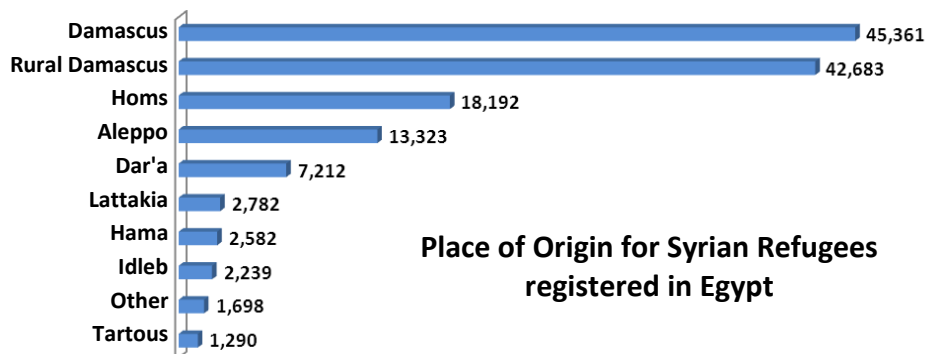


51% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 76.2% passed through Lebanon, 12.3% through Jordan, and 11.5% through others countries.

During the week, 249 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre; 13 persons were identified with specific needs.

Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8,862	9,350	18,212
5 - 11	12,090	12,893	24,983
12 - 17	7,746	8,683	16,429
18 - 39	25,142	26,518	51,660
40 - 59	10,150	10,049	20,199
60+	2,964	2,915	5,879
Total	66,954	70,408	137,362



Partners:

Arab Medical Union (AMU) • Care Int/USA • Caritas • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • 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>

Irregular Movements

On 22 May, the Italian Navy assisted 488 people (which included 247 Syrians) to shore in Augusta (Sicily) after the two ships they were travelling on experienced serious difficulties. The passengers from one of the ships had disembarked from Egypt near Alexandria 12 days earlier. Smugglers had loaded the passengers onto small wooden boats which carried them out to the high sea; once there people were transferred to a kind of ferry boat which transported them to the main vessel that carried them on the rest of the journey.

UNHCR is aware of 96 Syrians who were arrested for attempting to irregularly depart Egypt and are in detention in Alexandria and its surrounding governorates. As part of positive trend, however, Egyptian authorities have been conducting regular releases of groups of individuals from detention shortly after their arrest. Those released consist mostly of families, children and the elderly and those with immediate relatives in Egypt. Egyptian authorities are reportedly issuing 3 month residency permits to Syrians who are being released. UNHCR's implementing partners Caritas and Resala have been providing emergency assistance to detainees in the form of food, blankets and medical care.

Protection

On 21 May, UNHCR held a meeting with the Syrian community in Haram and Faysal to raise awareness on residency issues and, particularly, the risks of irregular movements, and on the resettlement process – stressing that it was done exclusively through UNHCR and always for free. At the end of the meeting, UNHCR identified several vulnerable cases and referred them to the concerned units.



Syrian refugees in the reception area of Caritas Alexandria awaiting an interview with social workers. Caritas Alexandria provides counselling, cash assistance and health care services to Syrian refugees. Photo © L. Cecco

Child Protection

In preparation for upcoming coexistence workshops in June for Syrian and Egyptian children who attend the Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) in Obour, 10th of Ramadan and 6th of October (Greater Cairo), Save the Children held a three-day training for staff in the CFSs. The training focused on cultural diversity and conflict resolution, which children will be introduced to through the workshops. The children will also develop their own mini-city within the CFSs, where they will learn citizenship values and explore ideas around social unity. The workshops will also include media sessions encouraging children to write their own news articles and use social media to express themselves.

Education

On 25 May, UNHCR signed an agreement with the Ministry of Education to assist in the absorbing of Syrian children into the public education system in Egypt. Through the joint agreement, UNHCR is supporting the refurbishment of existing classrooms and construction of new classroom spaces in 9 schools in areas with a high concentration of Syrian refugees. The Director of the General Authority for Education Buildings Projects, Mohamed Fahmy, highlighted the historic ties between the Egyptian and Syrian people and thanked UNHCR for its commitment to assisting Syrian refugee students. "Today signifies the beginning of a fruitful and continuous cooperation in favour of our fellow Syrians living in Egypt," he said. UNHCR's Regional Representative in Egypt, Mohamed Dayri, praised the Ministry of Education and the General Authority for Education Building Projects on their efforts in assisting Syrian refugee students.

Food

WFP conducted the May food voucher distributions between 17 to 22 May, so as not to overlap with the presidential elections on 26-28 May. Beneficiaries can redeem their food entitlements until the end of May.

Ahead of the joint WFP/UNHCR multi-sector household-level vulnerability assessment of refugees throughout Egypt, WFP is planning to set-up a Sub-Office (SO) in Alexandria in order to better reach and assist beneficiaries.

Comparative analysis of February and March post distribution monitoring (PDM) versus the pre-assistance baseline has indicated an overall improvement in the food consumption of beneficiaries. Over the 10 day distribution period in April, in Greater Cairo refugees redeemed a half a million US dollars' worth of food from Carrefour stores.

Top food items purchased
in Greater Cairo in April

