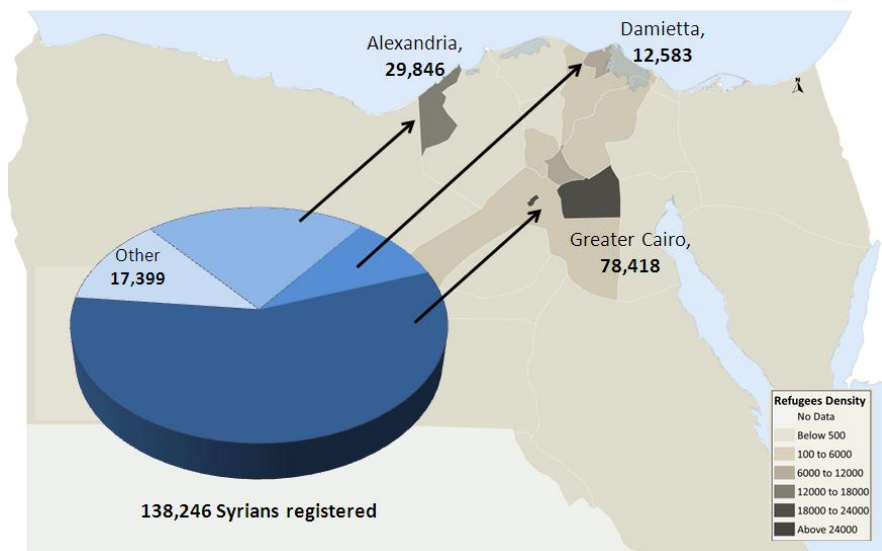


EGYPT WEEKLY UPDATE SYRIAN OPERATION

25 June-8 July 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 138,246 individuals as of 5 July. 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 5 July)



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

For further information:

Teddy Leposky • Associate Reporting Officer

leposky@unhcr.org

Marwa Hashem • Assistant Public Information Officer

hashemma@unhcr.org

Syria Regional Refugee Response

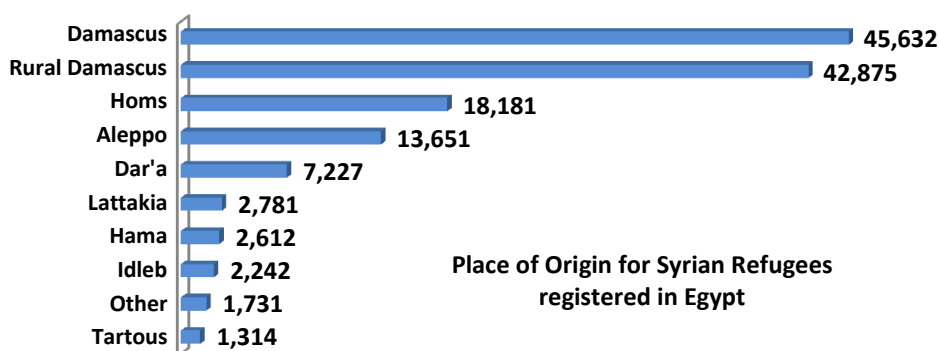
Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>



51.6% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 76.1% passed through Lebanon, 12.3% through Jordan, and 11.6% through others countries.

During the last week, 84 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre; 4 persons were identified with specific needs.

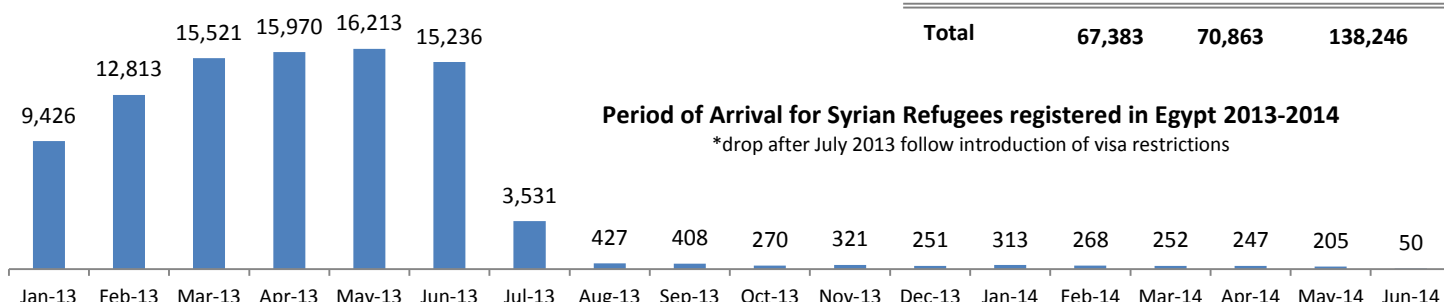


Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8,896	9,354	18,250
5 - 11	12,187	13,018	25,205
12 - 17	7,775	8,706	16,481
18 - 39	25,351	26,760	52,111
40 - 59	10,202	10,100	20,302
60+	2,972	2,925	5,897
Total	67,383	70,863	138,246

Period of Arrival for Syrian Refugees registered in Egypt 2013-2014

*drop after July 2013 follow introduction of visa restrictions



Irregular Movements

In 2014, some 647 Syrians have been arrested for attempting to irregularly depart Egypt, with the most recent arrests occurring on 27 and 30 June involving 110 Syrians. As part of a positive trend, however, Egyptian authorities have been conducting regular releases of groups of individuals from detention shortly after their arrest. UNHCR is aware of 116 Syrians presently in detention in Alexandria and its surrounding governorates. Those released consist mostly of families, children and the elderly and those with immediate relatives in Egypt. Authorities are issuing 3 month residency permits to Syrians who are being released. UNHCR's partners Caritas and Resala have been providing emergency assistance to detainees in the form of food, blankets and medical care.

Protection

Through the ongoing verification exercise, Syrians updating their registration with UNHCR have been informing staff about family members who have spontaneously departed Egypt without officially closing their file. UNHCR has been tracking the reports since mid-June and has thus far recorded reports of 69 individuals having spontaneously departed, of whom 38% have returned to Syria, 10% to Turkey while others have departed to other countries; primarily due to financial constraints and family needs.

On 25 June, UNHCR and Tadamon conducted a briefing in 2nd District in 6th of October (Greater Cairo) for 8 men and 8 women from the Syrian refugee community on the services provided by UNHCR and its partners. The community reiterated longstanding concerns over the placing of residency permits on their asylum seeker cards and potential implications if and when they decided to return to Syria.

On 30 June, UNHCR conducted a mission to Fayoum to follow up on recent reports of an informal refugee settlement. UNHCR held a community meeting with Syrian community representatives in Fayoum city. The community informed UNHCR that some Syrians scattered around the governorate do not wish to register with UNHCR as they are unfamiliar with UNHCR's role and the assistance available. UNHCR and community leaders identified some volunteers to form a Community Based Protection Network (CBPN) to flag cases with protection concerns, report on problems and concerns they encounter in the community, raise awareness, disseminate information, and specifically to look into the issue of informal settlements. Following the field mission, the community informed UNHCR about 20 families from a Syrian-Turkmen minority who are isolated from other Syrians and have been living in a remote area. The reports suggest that they are living in housing, not an informal settlement, and are almost entirely reliant on begging to sustain themselves. UNHCR is following up to assess any protection concerns.

Education

On 29 June, the Ministry of Education renewed its commitment towards supporting Syrian refugees residing in Egypt and issued a decree granting Syrian Students access to Egyptian public schools for the 2014/2015 new academic year.

Child Protection

On 22-26 June, Save the Children held a child safeguarding workshop for 29 participants from nine implementing partners of UNHCR. The training looked at theories and concepts around child safeguarding, as well as practical skills on how to develop reporting procedures and implementation plans to ensure appropriate action is taken by participating agencies following the workshop. Workshop participants were supported to develop their training and facilitation skills by learning about how to deliver child safeguarding training to colleagues. They were trained on how to deliver a one day introduction to child safeguarding, which can be adapted for different audiences within their organisations.

Following reports from the Community Based Protection Network in Port Said of 9 children ages 13-17 engaged in full-time work to survive, UNHCR conducted a mission on 24-26 June assess the protection needs. UNHCR found that most of the children were enrolled in school, and were working to support their education and contribute to their family income. UNHCR referred the case to partners for assistance.

Community Support Projects

On 3 July, UNHCR and the German University in Cairo presented the Director of Asmaa Bint Abi Bakr School in 1st Settlement (Greater Cairo), with a plaque of the Community Support Programme 'Learn, Move, Play, Ground 2' that was implemented in the school. Mr Osama thanked both organisations for the positive outcomes that the project has brought to the school, the children and the teachers and he expressed his openness to any future cooperation.



On 6-10 July, Save the Children is holding an animation workshop in the Child Friendly Space in 10th of Ramadan (Greater Cairo). At the end of the five days, participants will have produced a short animated video clip on issues facing refugee children. Seven children and four facilitators – Syrians and Egyptians – are learning animation technique so that the workshop can be repeated in other Save the Children projects. The workshop got off to a creative start, with eleven Syrian and Egyptian participants brainstorming initial ideas. © Save the Children

Opening of Community Centre

On 7 July, UNHCR participated in the opening of the Syrian Women Association's community centre for Syrian women in Heliopolis (Greater Cairo). The centre is supported by UNHCR and its partner the Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR). The centre provides different social activities such as language, cuisine, sewing, embroidery, computer skills, and hair dressing classes, and also provides a nursery for children.

The centre's coordinator Jan Abaza opened the event followed by addresses for the UNHCR's Regional Representative in Egypt Mohamed Dayri, the Secretary General of AOHR Alaa Shalaby, Head of the Syrian Women Association Nadia Abaza. Mrs. Abaza highlighted the important role of women as the cornerstone of the social balance of Syrians amid their psychological hardship and the refugee situation. The Representative thanked AOHR for allowing UNHCR to serve the community and opening channels of communication and cooperation with the Syrian refugee community. Mr. Shalaby thanked Egypt for its hospitality and support, and Nadia Abaza spoke of the importance of Syrian women participating in the social life of Egypt and encouraging them through similar centres. Young Syrian woman marked the occasion by performing music and reciting poems. © UNHCR/A. Abughazala

Report on Syrian refugee female headed households

On 8 July, UNHCR released a report, **Woman Alone – the Fight for Survival by Syrian Refugee Women**, which explores how more than 145,000 Syrian refugee families in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan – or one in four of all Syrian refugee households – are headed by women facing a lone fight for survival. Forced to take sole responsibility for their families after their men were killed, captured, or otherwise separated, they are caught in a spiral of hardship, isolation and anxiety.

The report is based on the personal testimony of 135 of women, given over three months of interviews in early 2014 in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan, and lifts the veil on a daily struggle to make ends meet, as the women battle to maintain their dignity and care for their families in run-down overcrowded homes, insecure makeshift shelters and tents. Many live under the threat of violence or exploitation, and their children face mounting trauma and distress.

<http://goo.gl/xZqj4p>



1 Refugee without hope is too many

