

More than 9,684,355 USD injected into the local economy through the monetization of assistance since the beginning of 2015

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

- A total of 31,291 vulnerable Syrian refugees were assisted in Egypt through the provision of monthly cash grants.
- The initial assessment has been finalized with the whole Syrian population that was initiated in the of 2014. Preliminary results of the socio-economic assessment by UNHCR and WFP have indicated that over 80 per cent (98,000 individuals) of those assessed to date are in situations of severe or high vulnerability . These results indicate that the refugees are living on less than half of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of EGP 592.4 (USD 75.6) per month per refugee, and require support - including through cash grants - to meet their basic needs. Reassessment is foreseen for all current beneficiaries every six months.
- ILO has developed a range of tools for aspiring existing entrepreneurs. Community-Based Enterprise Development (C-BED) is quite unique because of its 'learning without a trainer' methodology that is applied through action-based group learning. In a two-day workshops, entrepreneurs were able to help each other understand formal business concepts, such as costing or marketing, and develop stronger skills for business improvement. An Introduction and Demonstration Training on C-BED was implemented in Alexandria from 7 – 9 December with livelihood actors in Egypt including ILO, UNHCR, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas which was followed by a demonstration training with groups of refugees from Alexandria. Positive feedback was received with suggestions on how to best adapt the tool to the context in Egypt. UNHCR and ILO decided to test this cost-effective business training with urban refugees in Egypt. C-BED will be included as part of the business training for the self-employment track in 2016.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The majority of Syrian refugees in Egypt have been facing challenges in responding to their households' basic needs. Savings have been considered the main source of income for Syrians arriving to Egypt in 2012, but these savings have since significantly depleted. Many Syrians arriving in Egypt as of the second half of 2013 were destitute and devoid of basic financial assets.

Agencies participating in the basic needs and livelihoods sector will work together to achieve two objectives: 1) the refugee population has sufficient basic and domestic items; 2) their self-reliance and livelihoods are improved.

In order to protect Syrian vulnerable households from negative coping mechanisms, unconditional cash-based interventions will continue to be implemented. Those interventions will target only vulnerable households with either one-off payments (emergency) or monthly payments that last between three and six months. Due to increased vulnerabilities, protection risks, and destitution, it is estimated that 21% of the registered population will benefit from cash based interventions in 2015.

The self-reliance programme will be expanded during 2015 to achieve either self-employment or wage-employment. These programmes will include members of host communities as well. Beneficiaries may receive training, business advice, job placement, and seed grants to start up micro businesses. Greater Cairo, Damietta and Alexandria will be targeted with self-reliance activities in 2015.



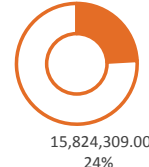
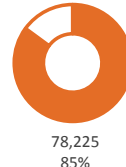
Syrian women displaying their food under livelihood projects, Cairo, Egypt UNHCR

Key Figures:

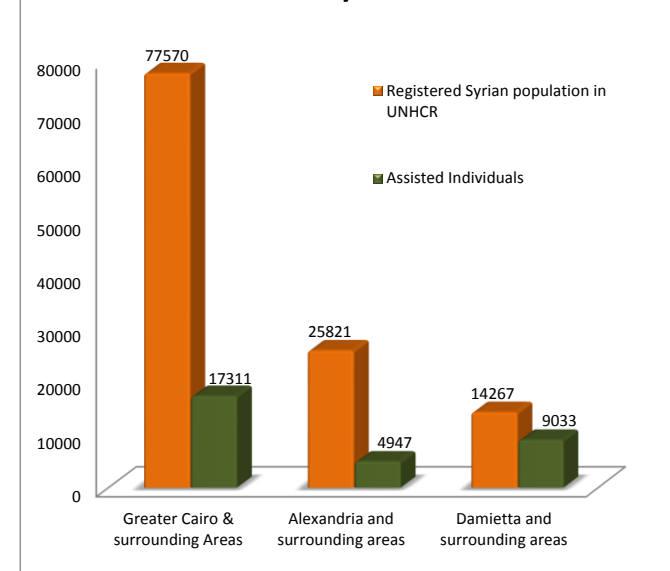
Planned Sector Response:



Status:



Breakdown by Governorate



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: DECEMBER 2015

