



EGYPT

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE – SYRIAN REFUGEES IN EGYPT

November 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- 109 Syrians were newly registered with UNHCR, while 235 individuals closed their cases.
- On 1st of November, “Schoolyard for All” inaugurated new projects at five schools in Montazah, in Alexandria. It creates child-friendly spaces for Egyptian and Syrian children, enabling them to play together in a safe environment. The projects build on a partnerships between, UNHCR, Ecumene Studio, Faculty of Fine Arts at University of Alexandria, Ministry of Education. This project has been supported by the funding from the Kuwait government for 2015 to Egypt.
- On Friday 13th November, Caritas organized its third exhibition for Syrian refugees at the Engineers’ Club in Alexandria to show-case their products which are funded by UNHCR micro-grants livelihood project. The exhibition featured a wide range of products from 13 different exhibitors.



UNHCR Deputy Representative Ms. Bernadette Castel-Hollingsworth presented certificates of recognition to participants who contributed to the Schoolyard for All. ©UNHCR/ P. Costa Gomes

KEY FIGURES

524

Unaccompanied minors assisted

31,470

Refugees provided with cash grants in November 2015

58,557

Refugees received WFP food vouchers in November

2,174

Refugees submitted for Resettlement since the beginning of 2015

12,481

Refugees with specific needs identified in Syrian population

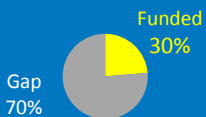
1,348

People provided with legal counseling since the beginning of 2015

FUNDING

USD 189,581,596

requested by agencies for 3RP response



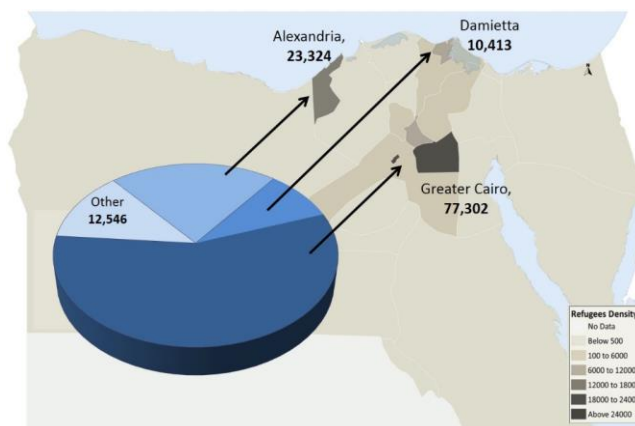
PRIORITIES

- Improve access to basic health and education services through coordination and capacity building for selected government ministries.
- Save lives by enhancing targeting assistance and follow-up of most vulnerable cases.
- Enhance access to livelihoods and skills training both to enhance self-reliance in Egypt and to prepare for eventual return to Syria.
- Promote coexistence between Syrian communities and their Egyptian hosts.
- Coordinate protection response with particular emphasis on child protection, SGBV and prevention of irregular

Population of concern

A total of **123,585** people of concern (POC)

Custom Age Group	F	M	Total
0-4	7,228	7,592	14,820
5-11	11,725	12,461	24,186
12-17	7,115	7,638	14,753
18-59	31,753	32,780	64,533
60+	2,607	2,686	5,293
Total	60,428	63,157	123,585



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- As the Syrian conflict enters its fifth year, the refugee response in Egypt continues to address the rights and needs of Syrian refugees in Egypt, in addition to advocacy with the Government.
- Most Syrians in Egypt are living in urban neighborhoods, renting and sharing accommodation but also benefitting from access to public services in education and health care. UNHCR conducts registration, provides counseling, and works with partners to provide legal assistance. The interagency operational partners work to address the social, education and health needs of vulnerable Syrians in Egypt.
- The 3RP Resilience component lead by UNDP aims to bring together humanitarian and resilience-based responses to achieve common objectives such the protection and support for Syrians refugees and impacted host communities.

Achievements



Protection

Counseling and Detention

- In the context of mixed migration, UNHCR recorded 3 incidents of irregular departure by sea in November though no Syrian refugees were involved, which represents a significant decrease in the arrests of Syrians attempting to depart by sea this year.
- However, Syrians remain the third top nationality attempting to reach Europe by sea from Egypt, after Sudanese and Somalis, in comparison to 2014 where Syrians were the majority of those departing.
- As of 30 November 2015, total of 3,635 refugees and migrants have been arrested for attempting to depart Egypt irregularly by sea, including 553 Syrians, who were detained at Police Stations in Alexandria, El Beheira and Kafr El Sheikh Governorates.
- Most detainees are provided with humanitarian assistance, NFIs and psycho-social support by UNHCR and partners.
- Syrians refugees, whether registered or unregistered with UNHCR, are generally released from detention. UNHCR also assisted 21 Syrians subject to administrative detention related to residency issues and other charges and ensured legal assistance. Legal intervention by UNHCR and its legal partners ensured the release of 20 Syrians.

Child Protection and SGBV

- CARE organized an **Art Therapy Day** in Obour City, attended by **83 women**. A further 12 females attended a 5-day long workshop at CARE's Women Friendly Space in 6th of October.
- Two separate **health awareness sessions** for women and female adolescents took place at Syria Al-Ghad School. A total of **83 women and 17 girls** attended the sessions.
- CARE conducted **three psycho-social sessions** focusing on anger management reaching **177 participants** at the **Women Friendly Space** in 6th of October.
- A session on **social empowerment** provided by CARE and attended by **53 women** in 6th of October, addressed different types of personalities, positive self-image, and decision making.

Community Activities

- The **Nilfurat project** aims at developing the Khiyamieh hand skills (tent-making) of over 70 refugee and host community women through engaging Egyptian master craftsmen, who help create modernized products through a refined blend of refugees' stories, drawings and traditional materials. **Sting**, one of UNHCR Community Support Projects (CSP) partners, arranged a field visit to Al Darb Al Ahmar and surrounding areas for the project's beneficiaries, in order to introduce them to the Khiyamieh industry.
- On the 30th November, **Lo'met Aish Restaurant opened** in Damietta. As the restaurant and catering service aims at promoting co-existence and diversity between the host and refugee communities, it will be managed and operated by people from both communities in the city.



Education

- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) distributed **education grants to 9,589 students in Cairo and Damietta**. In addition to 98 special needs grants and **1,024 students received additional financial assistance** under the vulnerable families with school children assistance program.

- Save the Children (SCI) and UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) conducted a two-day **workshop to discuss the ministerial decree on addressing violence in public schools**. The discussions during the workshop, which was attended by 35 school principals from 18 public schools, addressed issues such as the roles and responsibilities expected from school principals regarding school reform and eliminating of violence, the role of school-based children protection committees and how their role could be more effective in combating violence in schools.
- Save the Children conducted a one-day **Child Safeguarding training** for 13 teachers from Bashayer Al-yasmin community school in Obour City. The training focused on raising participants' awareness on child safeguarding mechanisms and provided them with necessary guidance to develop an internal child safeguarding policy that can be adopted in the school.
- A four-day **HEART training** was conducted with 17 teachers from Bashayer Al-yasmin community school and five SCI staff. The HEART (Healing and Education through the Arts) training provided participants with techniques to use for interacting with children in activities in addition to some active learning methods for teachers to use inside the classroom. The HEART approach helps children express themselves through different kinds of art such as drama, music, drawing and sculpting.
- 250 school desks were distributed** at four public schools in Obour City and 6th of October City; recent UNHCR/SCI assessment conducted in public schools with high density of Syrian students highlighted the need of school desks to accommodate the number of students in the classrooms.
- 42 DAFI scholarships** were granted by Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Under DAFI project UNHCR supports 50 students through CRS at universities across Egypt, enabling them to complete their higher education. The grant covers tuition fees, clothes allowance and books. The profile of DAFI beneficiaries is very diverse with many fields of academic faculties including Faculty of Engineering, Medicine, Mass communication, Economics, Translation, Foreign languages, Pharmacy and Commerce.
- The **Universal Children's Day was celebrated on 30th November** in partnership with the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed Al Tayyeb, Arab Organization for Human Rights, Soreyyat Association and UNHCR. The event focused on the situation of children in conflict zones and in countries of asylum and also included an art performance by gifted Syrian children from Cairo and Alexandria.

Health

- A **nation-wide measles and rubella campaign** was conducted by the Ministry of Health (MoH) between 31 October - 21 November. Children of all nationalities from 9 months to 10 years were vaccinated by teams deployed across the country. MOH, UNICEF and UNHCR supported awareness meetings held with refugee community leaders to mobilize all refugee communities.
- In order to raise the quality of care in the referral hospitals**, the Arab Medical Union (AMU) initiated an assessment of the MOH Damietta specialized hospital equipment infrastructure, management systems and care processes in both clinical and non-clinical areas. 30 healthcare professionals received healthcare quality training, and quality committees were activated to monitor and evaluate the quality of care through progressively up-scaling and improving patients' clinical and non-clinical care management systems.
- Clinical outcome and satisfaction surveys** were conducted at the referral network hospitals with the highest referral rates. Hospitals with the highest satisfaction rates and best clinical outcomes will be given the priority for referrals in 2016.
- The World Diabetes Day** was celebrated on 19 November. UNHCR and medical partners participated in an event organized by the Arab Association for the Study of Diabetes (AASD) at Kasr El Eini University, aimed to increase awareness and promote diabetics education; some 150 Syrian diabetic patients attended the event where they received awareness sessions about diabetes in addition to blood sugar screening.



A Syrian girl being vaccinated during the national measles and rubella vaccination campaign.
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Basic Needs and Livelihood

- A total of **31,470 vulnerable Syrian refugees were assisted** in Egypt through the provision of monthly cash grants.
- The consultancy firm conducting a **mid-term evaluation of the Graduation Approach finalized their data collection** in Alexandria and Cairo. A total of 300 people participated in the quantitative survey. The consultants, commissioned by UNHCR, also collected qualitative data through focus group discussion and site visits to businesses of project beneficiaries, community centres and training centres.

Food Security and Nutrition

- A total of **58,557 beneficiaries (55,684 Syrian and 2,873 Syrian/Palestinian refugees)** received **WFP food vouchers** during the November distribution, meeting 99% of the month's target.
- There has been no exclusion based on targeting in the November distribution cycle.
- WFP and UNHCR have developed and agreed on re-inclusion criteria, which take into consideration food security status, dependency rate, lactating and pregnant women, severe coping mechanisms and medical status.

Working in Partnership

- In 2015, the refugee response continues to be overseen by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG), chaired by the UNHCR Representative. The IAWG oversees the Sector Working Groups (SWGs) through the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG), and the related strategic, advocacy and funding processes. The ISWG encourages synergy between sectors to avoid duplication, and ensure coordination on common processes. The 3RP is a platform for the collaboration between SWGs in Egypt to coordinate, identify and raise relevant operational topics to ensure a standard approach.
- Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) • Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trials and Human Rights (ACSFT) • Arab Medical Union (AMU) • Care Intl/USA • Caritas • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Dr. Mostafa Mahmoud Society • Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) • ILO • IOM • Refuge Egypt • Refuge Point • Save the Children (SCI) • St Andrews Refugee Services (StARS) • Terre des Hommes (TdH) - Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) • UNDP • UNFPA • UNHCR • UNICEF • UNOPS • UNV • WFP • WHO

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds and to those who have contributed directly to the operation in 2014 and 2015.



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