



EGYPT INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE – SYRIAN REFUGEES IN EGYPT

AUGUST 2015

KEY FIGURES

524

Unaccompanied minors assisted

31,846

Individuals provided with cash grants in July 2015

55,418

Refugees received WFP food vouchers in August

1,058

Individuals submitted for Resettlement since the beginning of 2015

11,794

Individuals with specific needs identified in Syrian population

1,189

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 migration.

HIGHLIGHTS

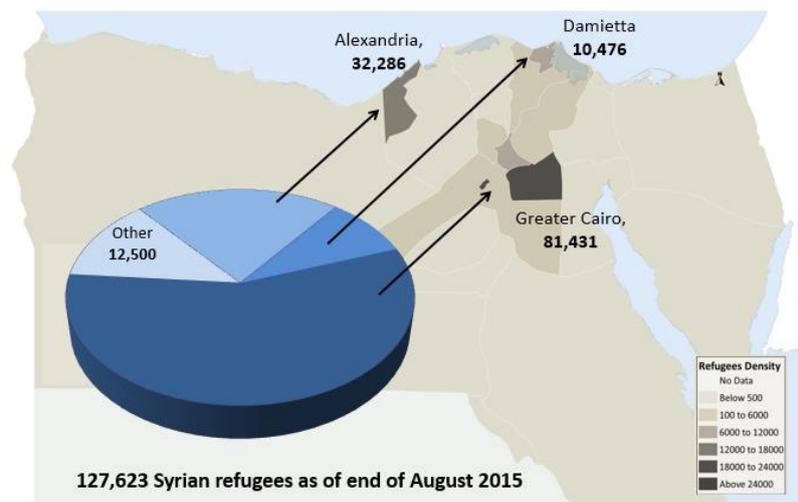
- By mid-2015, 107,887 individuals had been verified, representing 81.50% of the active registered population.
- Approximately 4,200 Syrian refugee students enrolled in Egyptian public universities and higher education institutes.
- In Alexandria, UNICEF's implementing partners offered recreational activities including games to help identify children with learning difficulties in need of assistance.
- Preparations for the 2016 Refugee and Resilience Response Plan have started. All working groups have been meeting to discuss their plan for next year.

Syrian Population of concern

A total of **127,623** people of concern (POC)

Custom Age Group	F	M	Total
0-4	7,442	7,794	15,236
5-11	12,179	12,875	25,054
12-17	7,424	7,977	15,401
18-39	23,332	24,291	47,623
40-59	9,483	9,455	18,938
60+	2,668	2,703	5,371
Total	62,528	65,095	127,623

Places of Concentration in Egypt



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

Irregular Movements

- In August, 285 individuals were arrested including 64 Syrians.
- All detainees are provided with food, non-food items, legal, medical and psychosocial support by UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and partners.

Registration

- During 2015, 4,915 Syrian refugees have registered with UNHCR, which represents a decrease of 56.34%, as compared to the numbers recorded at the same time last year with 11,126 individuals registered between January and August 2014. Only 1,754 of those registered with UNHCR in the course of 2015 represent new arrivals to Egypt, as the entry visa requirement for Syrian nationals remains.
- Departures of Syrians have also been reported, with the vast majority having returned to Syria or Turkey or with the intention to travel to third countries. By mid-2015, 107,887 individuals had been verified, representing 81.50% of the active registered population.

Child Protection

- In August 36 children received individual case management. Identification of these children occurred during community-based and recreational activities organized by Save the Children (SCI) or through referrals from other organizations.
- Trained SCI psychologists provided individual sessions to nine children and seven parents. As part of an ongoing follow up process, three referrals were made to specialized mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) facilities including AL-Hussain Hospital and the Childhood Institute in Ain Shams University.
- As part of the psycho-social support service utilizing the HEART methodology, SCI caseworkers and a psychologist organized events benefitting a total of 123 children in 6th of October City and Obour; these are two locations in Greater Cairo where Syrian refugees predominantly reside.
- In August, 20 psycho-social group counseling sessions for 64 children were led by the SCI psychologist. In line with this year's overall topic "Team building and Cooperation, Child's Rights and Child's Empowerment" the sessions this month focused on the issue of fear, how to express and combat fear as well as adopting positive coping mechanisms.
- In August, 761 parents accessed community-based child protection and psycho-social support through UNICEF led partners.
- In Alexandria, UNICEF's implementing partners offered recreational activities including games to help identify children with learning difficulties in need of assistance. In preparation for the upcoming academic school year and the prevalent issue of violence in schools, focusing on raising awareness about harassment in schools and how address it.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

- Three health awareness sessions were conducted in 6th of October City and Obour benefitting 168 participants. The lecturer briefed on types of SGBV and the consequences of early marriage, a common practice among the Syrian community.

- 21 Syrian women, between the age 25 and 55, took part in a ten-session workshop on interactive theatre. Participants acquired new skills in acting, storytelling and script writing.
- A workshop for a group of 35 children and adolescents was conducted in 6th October City, aimed at encouraging young participants to express and overcome their pain and feelings toward the violence they experience at home/or in schools.

Community Activities

- UNHCR Community Support Project (CSP) arranged a creative session in coordination with Sting, Tadamon, and GUCon on 27th of August. It was part of the NilFurat project which aims at developing intercultural handicrafts of Egyptian, Syrian, and African refugees based on Khiyamieh (tent-making) hand skills of more than 70 refugees and host community women.
- Red Tomato and Tawsul teams arranged an entertainment event in Masaken Othman, as part of UNHCR intervention in this area on the 28th of August. The two partners set up a Festive Day that included cooperative games and a clown show. The event had an audience of approximately 350 spectators, children and adults. The event marked the launch of Red Tomato's new community arts project in Masaken Othman.
- In coordination with Care International, UNHCR CSP arranged meetings with the 6th October City Administration and Directorate of Social Solidarity in order to discuss the management plan of "Meet and Play Area" in Masaken Othman and the installation of public utilities inside it.

Education

- UNHCR provided the education grant to some 1,617 families, enabling their families to pay school fees, pay for uniforms and provide safe transportation to schools. It is worth noting that UNHCR plans are to assist 13,198 families to meet the cost of their children's education for this academic year.
- Capacity building and improvement to public schools hosting Syrian refugees continues in 4 locations under the current agreement between UNHCR and Egypt Ministry of Education. The general Authority for Educational Buildings, with funds from UNHCR constructed and delivered 10 classes in Nasr City Area, 16 new classes in Damietta, and 39 classes in Obour City. These newly constructed classrooms will enhance the capacity and reduce the density in these schools. This, in turn, will have a positive impact on the teachers, students and foster better community relations as it will benefit both refugee and host community children.
- UNHCR's education unit continues to assess the needs of community schools serving the refugees, in order to assist in the provision of safe and certified education programmes. During August, ten schools in 6th October, Obour City and 10th of Ramadan City underwent an assessment. The initial findings indicate teacher and management training; as well educational materials and books supplies are required. With education partners, UNHCR will assist the schools to meet these needs.
- Approximately 4,200 Syrian refugee students enrolled in Egyptian public universities and higher education institutes. The Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education predicts an increase in the number of Syrians registering in universities by the end of the enrollment process next month.

Health

- In August, trained community health volunteers conducted 1,906 home visits and 112 visits to public health (PHC) facilities. Through their visits the women volunteers assisted Syrians' access to health services at these facilities and assessed their satisfaction in the quality of services provided.
- PSTIC, UNHCR's mental health provider partner counseled 186 Syrians. Of which 41 were assisted at PSTIC clinics, 143 referred to other outpatient clinics and two referred to inpatient psychiatric hospitals.

Basic Needs and Livelihood

- 31,846 Syrian refugees received unconditional cash grants.
- In August, a total of 2,674 individuals were interviewed as part of the vulnerability assessment framework for Syrian refugees.
- A new targeting mechanism was put in place, utilizing, MEB Gaps Analysis Approach to select beneficiaries, resulting in identifying a total of 53,340 as most vulnerable to access food vouchers for August. The final list of beneficiaries for the assistance reflected a reduction of 12,917 individuals from the previous distribution figures of whom 7,278 were also receiving cash assistance.

- The Caritas self-reliance team held two events; a bazaar at the Royal Hall in Bitash, Alexandria from 16th - 18th of August 2015, and an exhibition at Laialy El Hanovel in Alexandria on the 31st of August 2015. Syrian refugees who received the grants have participated in the events.



Food Security and Nutrition

- A total of 55,418 beneficiaries (52,588 Syrian and 2,830 Palestinian refugees) received World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers during the August distribution, meeting 99 per cent of the month's target.
- The voucher value will remain at 17 US\$ per person/month, a 30 percent reduction from the initial US\$ 24.2.
- WFP concluded a shift from paper vouchers to e-card modalities in the Fathallah supermarket chain, with a 15 percent use of paper voucher use remaining in the Hyper supermarket chain in Damietta.
- Total of 12,594 individuals were excluded from the WFP food voucher list in July, and 800 re-included based on the re-insertion criteria from the appeal forms received.

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 • Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trials and Human Rights (ACSFT) • Arab Medical Union (AMU) • Care Intl/USA • Caritas • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) • ILO • IOM • Mostafa Mahmoud Society • Refuge Egypt • Refuge Point • Save the Children • St Andrews Refugee Services (StARS) • Terre des Hommes - Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) • UNDP • UNFPA • UNICEF • UNOPS • UNV • WFP • WHO •

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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