

**More than 3,500,000 USD injected into the local economy through the monetization of assistance since the beginning of 2015**

**MAY HIGHLIGHTS:**

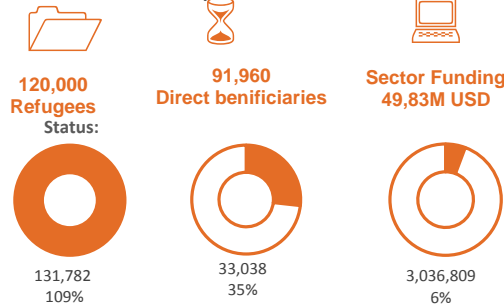
- UNHCR and Caritas work together to assist vulnerable Syrian refugees meet their basic needs by providing them with cash grants on a monthly basis. In May, 26,396 vulnerable Syrian refugees were assisted in Egypt representing 20% of the registered population. The value of cash assistance varies between EGP 400 (US\$ 57) and EGP 1,300 (US\$ 185) based on the level of vulnerability and household size. The monthly cash assistance programme injected US\$ 731,949 into the local economy in April.
- A total of 237 individuals were provided with emergency cash grants.
- Egyptian Red Crescent in cooperation with UNHCR provided 809 Syrian households with cash assistance during the reporting period. Those households scored as severely vulnerable through the on-going socio-economic assessment/vulnerability assessment framework. The prioritization was for cases that are not currently receiving food or cash assistance and are single headed households, large family size and households with a medical condition. UNHCR has participated in the monitoring of the distribution process.
- In Greater Cairo, the modality for scheduling interviews for the socio-economic assessment shifted from out-bound calls made by the Save the Children retained Call Centre to in-bound calls coming from persons of concern to the call centre.
- On 28 May 2015, an exhibition was held at El Mosta'abal Club, organized by women from Damietta. Some persons of concern to UNHCR presented handicrafts and food at the exhibition. The PoCs got the opportunity to market their products and expand their customer circles at the exhibitions. Earlier in the month, exhibitions were also held in Kafr Abdu and at the Royal Hall in Bitash where participants of the graduation approach displayed their products comprising Syrian food and accessories as well we linen products.



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

**Key Figures:**

**Planned Sector Response:**



**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

**REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: MAY 2015**

