

EGYPT

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

December 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mr. Amin Awad, MENA Bureau Director visited Egypt early December. During his visit, he met with government officials, toured the Zamalek registration centre and visited UNHCR projects in Alexandria.
- Resettlement targets have been achieved with 1,579 Syrian individuals submitted to the regional hub, of which 829 individuals (53%) submitted to the USA. In addition to African and Iraq 2,077 individuals of which 1463 individuals (70%) submitted to the USA.
- Verification of refugee population completed for 2/3 of Syrians and initiated for regular caseload
- Refugee Status Determination and Resettlement units have been moved to a separate building in 6 October area.



Mr. Amin Awad during his tour of Zamalek registration office, Photo/ © UNHCR

KEY FIGURES

191,496

Total people of concern

2,028

Registered during December

96,861

Syrian refugees received WFP food vouchers in December

1,493

Refugees departed for Resettlement since January 2014

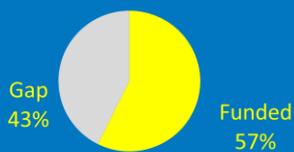
1,785

Child protection cases identified

FUNDING

USD 81,300,000 m

requested for the operation

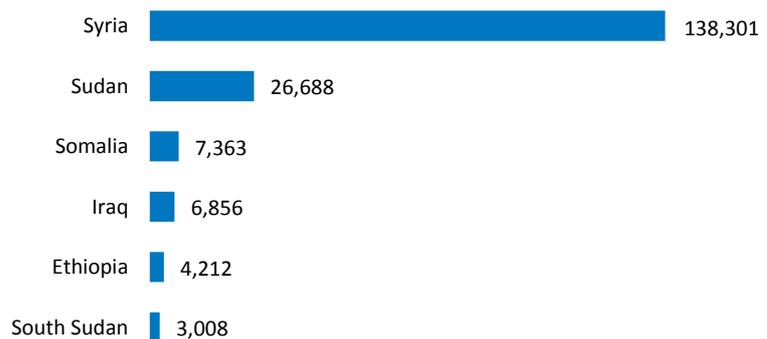


UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation:

Canada | Germany | Kuwait | Japan | UK | USA |

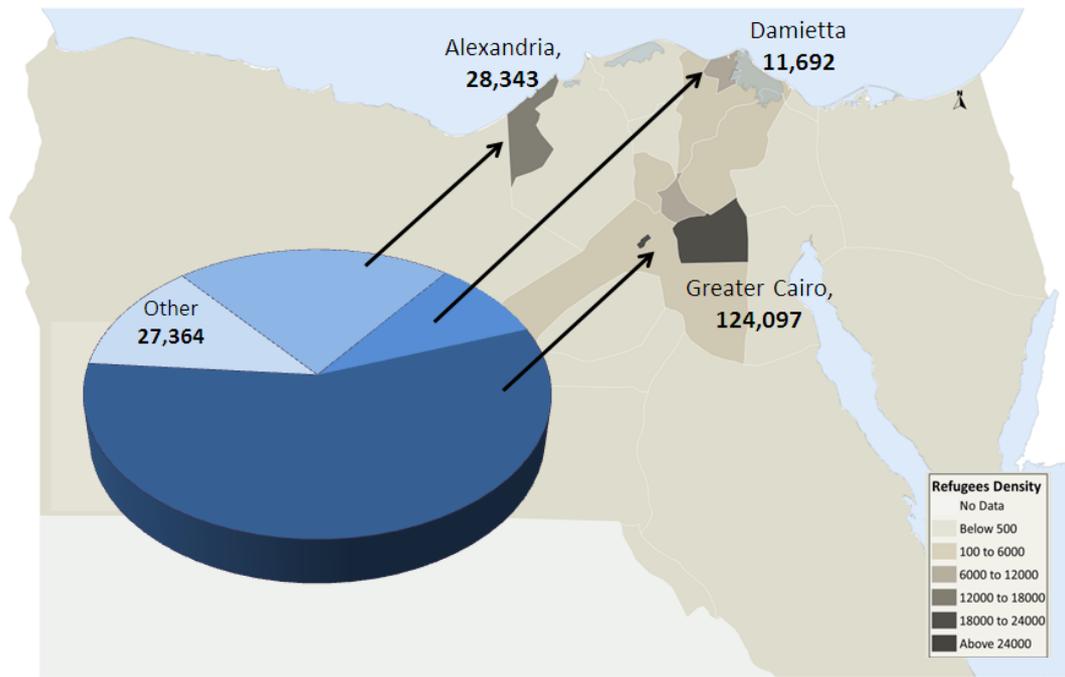
Population of concern

A total of **191,496** people of concern



*Statistics for the Syrian caseload are updated regularly and can be found at the Syria Regional Refugee Response Inter Agency Information Portal <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=8>

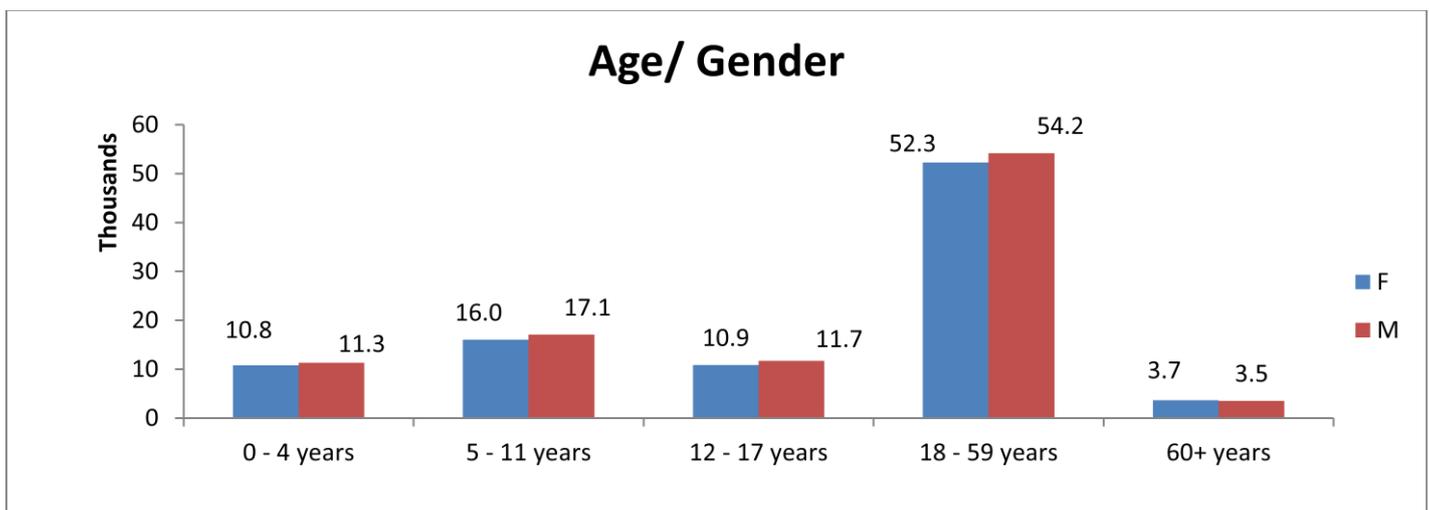
DECEMBER STATISTICS



Registered in December	
Nationality	Total
Eritrea	37
Ethiopia	103
Iraq	116
Somalia	26
Sudan	369
South Sudan	73
Other	13
SUBTOTAL	737
Syria	1,291
TOTAL	2,028

Resettlement departures (Jan to 31 December 2014)											
Nationality	Australia	Canada	Denmark	Finland	France	Norway	NZL	Sweden	UK	USA	Total
Eritrea	3	26				1		28		67	125
Ethiopia	4	30						24		24	82
Iraq		81				9				101	191
Somalia		28			6					187	221
Sudan		18	6	74		6		35	4	462	605
Syria	31	1			28		16	139	24	19	258
Other		4								7	11
TOTAL	38	188	6	74	34	16	16	226	28	867	1493

Closures in December	
Eritrea	4
Ethiopia	2
Iraq	26
Somalia	5
Sudan	14
South Sudan	9
Other	3
SUBTOTAL	63
Syria	814
TOTAL	877



Achievements

Protection

Detention

- UNHCR is aware of 39 registered refugees and asylum seekers in detention for reasons other than irregular movement. UNHCR is following up on their respective cases with the Egyptian authorities. UNHCR referred 23 cases to the legal implementing partner (ACSFT): 21 cases of legal/criminal cases and 01 case for administrative support in issuance of birth certificates.

Irregular Movements

- During 2014, more than 3,000 individuals, including more than 1400 Syrian nationals, have been arrested for attempting to irregularly depart Egypt.
- The groups detained during 2014 are usually detained in 23 detention centers in Alexandria and surrounding governorates. There are a number of new detention facilities being used recently, such as Anfoshy, Zaafrana and Ezbet Elborg, which indicate that different routes and paths are being considered for irregular departures. It is also noted that Marsa Matrouh appears to have become another new passage route for irregular departure by sea.
- UNHCR is aware of at least 146 individuals being held until the end of December at several detention facilities in Alexandria and its surrounding governorates for attempting irregular movement.
- UNHCR's partners, Caritas and Resala, have been providing emergency assistance to detainees in the form of food, blankets and medical care. IOM has also provided assistance in the form of sanitary kits and non-food items.

Child Protection

- There are 1200 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) of African and Iraqi origin and 585 UASC of Syrian origin as of December 2014.
- Best Interest Assessments (BIA) were conducted for a total of 1042 (619 Africans and Iraqis and 423 Syrians) since the beginning of 2014.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

- UNHCR is not undertaking RSD for Syrians except for cases with specifically identified vulnerabilities and meeting resettlement criteria. For other nationalities, UNHCR conducts RSD for all asylum seekers. During 2014, the office processed 3,360 RSD interviews and issued 2,383 decisions on eligibility for refugee status.
- During December, the RSD unit dedicated its capacity to processing of pending and complementary interviews aimed at finalizing decision making, thus conducted 165 interviews and issued 182 decisions on eligibility for refugee status in December.
- The office started piloting simplified approach for Eritrean, Somali and South Sudan persons of concern deriving from the high presumption of eligibility on the basis of the situation in their countries. The forms are intended to serve as merged Interview and assessment forms and provide for standard paragraphs under the assessment parts including whenever required the country of origin information reference.
- The process of status determination of legacy backlog of Sudanese has been progressing towards its completion with a large number of unreachable asylum seekers for whom the office started the process of inactivation and subsequent closure. The Office started processing South Sudanese legacy backlog as of 15 September through an expeditious processing.

Victims of Trafficking (VoTs)

- There are 293 active VoT cases registered to date.
- The government of Germany allocated additional funds to UNHCR Egypt for VoTs; subsequently, all VoTs resumed receiving their financial assistance.
- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and The Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) continue to provide medical and psychological support to the VoTs while Caritas remains UNHCR partner in providing financial assistance and medical services.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR continued to implement the Graduation Approach Pilot Project in Egypt which aims at providing safe livelihoods and graduation out of extreme poverty for identified persons of concern. In December, a total of 197 individuals were socio-economically profiled and had their livelihood capacities assessed. In the same period, 57 persons were provided with skills training, 43 persons were also supported to access employment with an additional 93 businesses created.
- By the end of 2014, 4,876 persons were provided with training sessions for employment purposes with 885 persons employed and 632 businesses created.



Basic Needs

- UNHCR, Caritas and Resala are working together to assist vulnerable Syrian refugees meet their basic needs by providing them on a monthly basis with cash grants. In December, 25,567 vulnerable Syrian refugees were assisted in Egypt representing 19 % of the registered population. The value of cash assistance varies between EGP 400 (equivalent to US\$ 57) and EGP 1,300 (equivalent to US\$ 185) based on to the level of vulnerability and household size. The monthly cash assistance programme injected US\$ 738,818. into the local economy in December.
- During December, UNHCR disbursed supplementary cash allowance as winterization assistance to 47,718 Syrian refugees and 8,785 African and Iraqi refugees. This support was provided due to the cold weather season, and due to the fact that most buildings in Egypt are not well insulated. Each refugee received an amount equivalent to US\$29, with a total expenditure of US\$ 1,384,535. The cash was distributed to the Syrian refugees through the Egyptian post office and through ATM for the African and Iraqi refugees.
- During December, UNHCR provided cash assistance to a total of 9,498 African and Iraqi refugees; it is worth noting that an estimated 11% only of the African and Iraqi refugees identified with specific needs benefit from the cash assistance programme benefits due to budget constraints.
- At the end of 2014, a total of 9,858 households had been interviewed Save the Children International as part of the ongoing socio-economic assessment for Syrian refugees in Greater Cairo.



Education

- More than 11,600 African and Iraqi students were registered for education grants for the 2014/2015 academic year. This represents an increase of around 2000 students over the projected grants. During December, 2,445 students received the second installments for their education grants.
- During December 2,459 Syrian students benefited from the Education grants in Egypt. In total 25,000 grants were distributed for the 2014/2015 academic year.
- UNICEF, Save the Children and UNHCR continued to support the Ministry of Education with teacher training, capacity enhancement through the provision of supplies, school furniture, and construction of new classrooms as well as well management training for inspectors of Education in all governorates hosting Syrian refugees. Since the beginning of the year 433 administrators and school personnel from 135 schools were provided with training about high- density classroom management. 95 new classrooms were added in four public schools hosting the highest number of Syrian refugees in Cairo, Giza, Qalyoubeya, Damietta and Alexandria at a total cost of approximately 1,119,000USD.



Health

- UNHCR's health providers Caritas and Refuge Egypt continue to support asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons providing primary and referral health services and health education around various themes related to primary health care, reproductive health, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.
- During December, 4,969 primary health care consultations were conducted for African and Iraqi POCs at Caritas and Refuge Egypt clinics with 1,209 referrals to secondary and tertiary care. Among the referrals, 132 patients needed hospitalization including nine patients who needed major operations ranging between open heart surgeries, neurosurgery and orthopedic surgeries

- UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR are conducting regular field visits to ensure the necessary support to the mainstreaming of health services for Syrian refugees in Alexandria and Damietta into public health facilities. This regular monitoring aims to overcome any obstacles encountered to the access of services at this initial mainstreaming phase.
- WHO and UNHCR are mapping the health facilities and health services available for Syrians. A dedicated GIS software was presented at the health working group meeting, followed by a discussion on the information to be included and the layers to be displayed.



Food Security and Nutrition for Syrian refugees

- Food voucher distribution for the December round ended benefitting 96,861 beneficiaries. To date, more than US\$ 40 million has been injected into the local economy through food vouchers.

UNHCR PARTNERS

- Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trials and Human Rights (ACSFT) ● Arab Medical Union (AMU) ● Care Int/USA ● Caritas ● Catholic Relief Services (CRS) ● Central Association for Kindergarten's Supervisors League ● Danish Refugee Council (DRC) ● Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR) ● ICMC ● IOM ● Mahmoud Mosque Society ● Refuge Egypt ● Refuge Point ● Resala Association ● Save the Children ● Terre Des Hommes - Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) ● Tadamon ● AOHR ● UNFPA ● UNHABITAT ● UNICEF ● UNOPS ● UNV ● WFP ● WHO

Contacts:

Ragnhild Ek, Senior Mass Information Officer, EK@unhcr.org, Cell +20 120 042 1996

Marwa Hashem, Assistant Public Information Officer, HASHEMMA@unhcr.org, Cell +20 122 191 2664

Links:

Regional portal: data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php

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