

**Response in Egypt to Syrian Crisis**

As the conflict in Syria continues to escalate, the number of people fleeing into other countries in the region in search of refuge has been increasing. Some 250,000 to 300,000 Syrians currently reside in Egypt according to Government estimates provided in June, of which UNHCR has registered 103,316 individuals as of 14 September.

As a result of alleged involvement of a few Syrians in the recent political turmoil, there has been a shift in perceptions and the level of sympathy afforded to the Syrian community. The Government of Egypt announced temporary measures on 8 July requiring Syrians coming to Egypt to obtain a visa and prior security approval. Syrians have also been experiencing increasing incidents of verbal threats, physical assaults, detention and deportation.

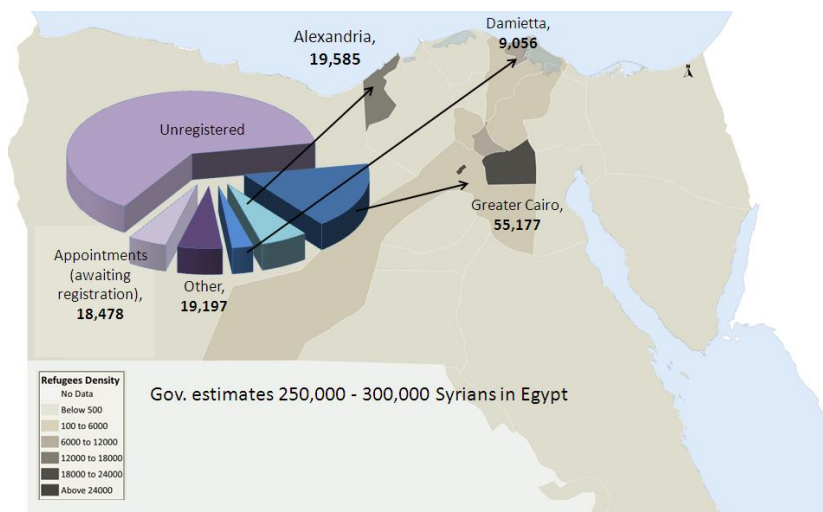
Most Syrians in Egypt are scattered in urban neighbourhoods, renting and sharing accommodation. Lately, UNHCR has noted a sharp increase in the number of refugees closing their files, and increasing reports of departures by sea to Europe. Furthermore, loss of livelihood opportunities is leading to increased levels of vulnerability among Syrians.

UNHCR conducts registration, provides counselling, and works with partners to provide legal assistance and address the social needs of vulnerable Syrians in Egypt. UNHCR also operates hotlines for emergencies and inquiries, and sensitizes refugees of the dangers of involvement in political activities.

**Gender and Age Breakdown**

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	7257	7645	14902
5 - 11	9021	9534	18555
12 - 17	5957	6963	12920
18 - 39	18745	18253	36998
40 - 59	7699	7693	15392
60+	2083	2165	4248
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,762</b>	<b>52,253</b>	<b>103,015</b>

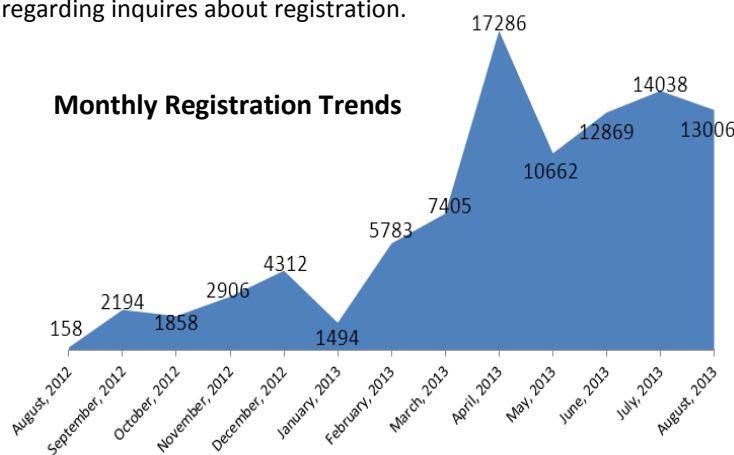
**Registration of Syrians in Egypt (as of 14 September)**



48% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 78.1% passed through Lebanon, 12.1% through Jordan, and 9.8% through others countries.

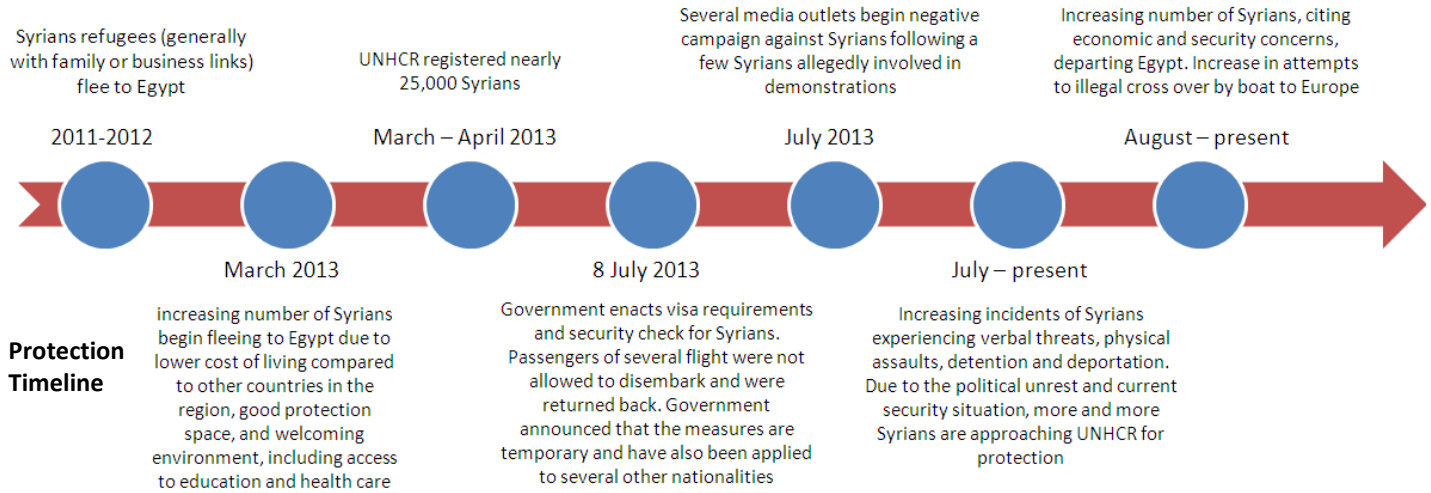
During the week, 3,798 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centres; 213 persons were identified with specific needs, 20 cases were referred to health facilities, 81 cases were referred to Islamic Relief, Caritas and Resala for financial assistance, and 3 cases were referred to PSTIC for psychosocial counselling. UNHCR also responded to 632 calls, nearly half regarding inquires about registration.

**Monthly Registration Trends**



**Partners:**

- Caritas • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Islamic Relief Worldwide • Mahmoud Mosque society • Refuge Egypt • Resala Association • Terre Des Hommes - TADAMON and Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) • Save the Children • UNICEF • WFP



**Protection/Field**

During the week, UNHCR concluded an exercise in Alexandria to identify Syrians who wish to register in order to provide appointments and vulnerable cases for fast-track registration; 7,320 Syrians were identified. UNHCR also conducted 5 community meetings in Damietta, Gamsa and Raes Elbar to disseminate information about the identification/registration exercise and provided training to Community Based Protection Networks (Syrian community leaders and volunteers) on an awareness campaign over the risks of illegal departure and procedures to acquire residency.

UNHCR held 10 focus group discussions in the delta region on challenges Syrians have been facing, such as verbal threats and physical assaults, and brain stormed on ways to improve coexistence between the Syrian and Egyptian communities.

**Detentions/Deportations/Releases**

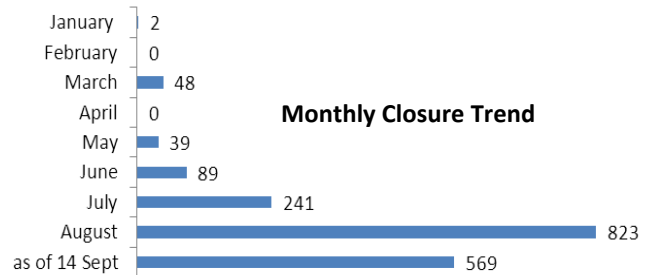
During the last two months, UNHCR has confirmed 146 arrests of Syrians related to lack of proper residency, out after curfew, or suspicion of violence. Of these, 35 were released, 65 deported and 46 remain in detention, including at least one minor.

Since the beginning of August there has also been an increasing number of Syrians attempting to cross illegally by boat to Europe, and several cases of attempting to illegally cross the border to Libya or transit through Egypt with fraudulent documents. UNHCR is aware of 289 individuals arrested in this regard; 33 were released, 91 deported and 165 remain in detention, of whom at least 24 are minors. This includes 23 Syrians arrested in Beheira on 11 September attempting to illegally cross by boat to Italy. According to reports, the Syrians had agreed to pay between 2500 to 4000 USD upon arriving in Italy, and cited increasing difficulties surviving in Egypt as the reason for attempting the voyage.

There have been further reports of arrests but due to lack of access, UNHCR has as of yet been unable to verify. UNHCR, UNICEF (for the minors) and Egyptian legal partners are following up on all the cases reported.

**Closures**

Although Syrians are continuing to register with UNHCR, an increasing number of individuals have been closing their files with the intent of leaving Egypt, citing economic concerns, an interest in re-joining family members in other countries, and anxiety over their security in Egypt. Most have indicated they will depart to Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon among other destinations. Some have also noted they intend to return to Syria.



**Health**

UNHCR, in coordination with Refuge Egypt, conducted a 2-day training in Alexandria on under 5 children growth monitoring and reproductive health for staff from the health implementing partners. Training covered ante natal care protocols, standardization of new born clinical examination, identification of frequently encountered congenital illnesses for referral care and frequently encountered early childhood infectious illnesses.

**Education**

The League of Arab States (LAS) announced 1,000 Scholarships for Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in in Syria’s neighboring countries as well as in Egypt. The LAS, the Office of the former President of Portugal Mr. Jorge Sampaio, the Council of Europe and the Union for the Mediterranean and several European and Arab universities are funding the initiative that will allow Syrians lacking financial means to pursue opportunities in higher education to reach their full potential.

**For further information:**

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