

Response in Egypt to Syrian Crisis

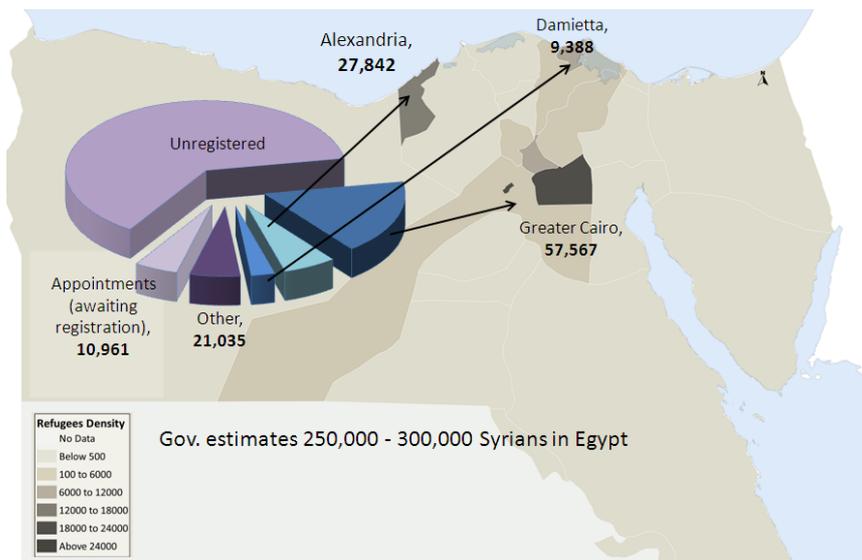
As the conflict in Syria continues to escalate, the number of people fleeing into other countries in the region in search of refuge has been increasing. Some 250,000 to 300,000 Syrians currently reside in Egypt according to Government estimates provided in June, of which UNHCR has registered 115,832 individuals as of 28 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, there has been a sharp increase in the number of refugees closing their files with UNHCR and 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. There has also been increasing reports of departures by sea to Europe.

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.

Registration of Syrians in Egypt (as of 28 September)



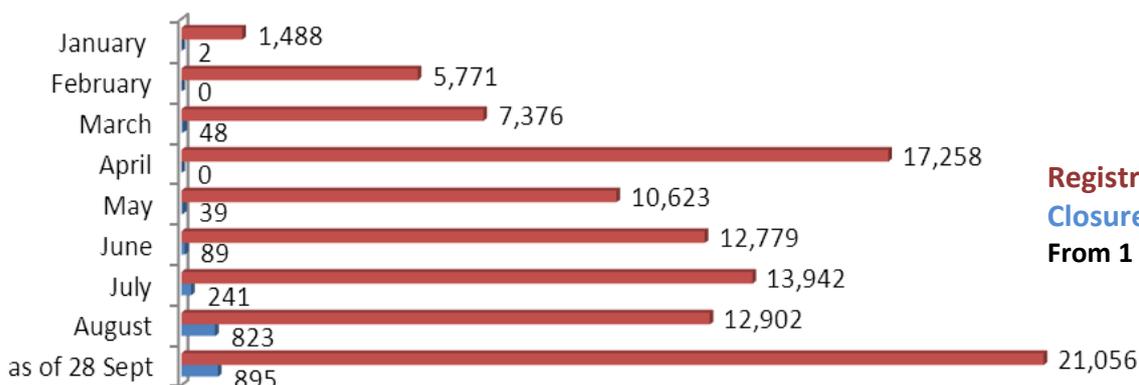
49.2% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 77.4% passed through Lebanon, 12.4% through Jordan, and 10.2% through others countries.

During the week, 6,260 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centres; 298 persons were identified with specific needs.

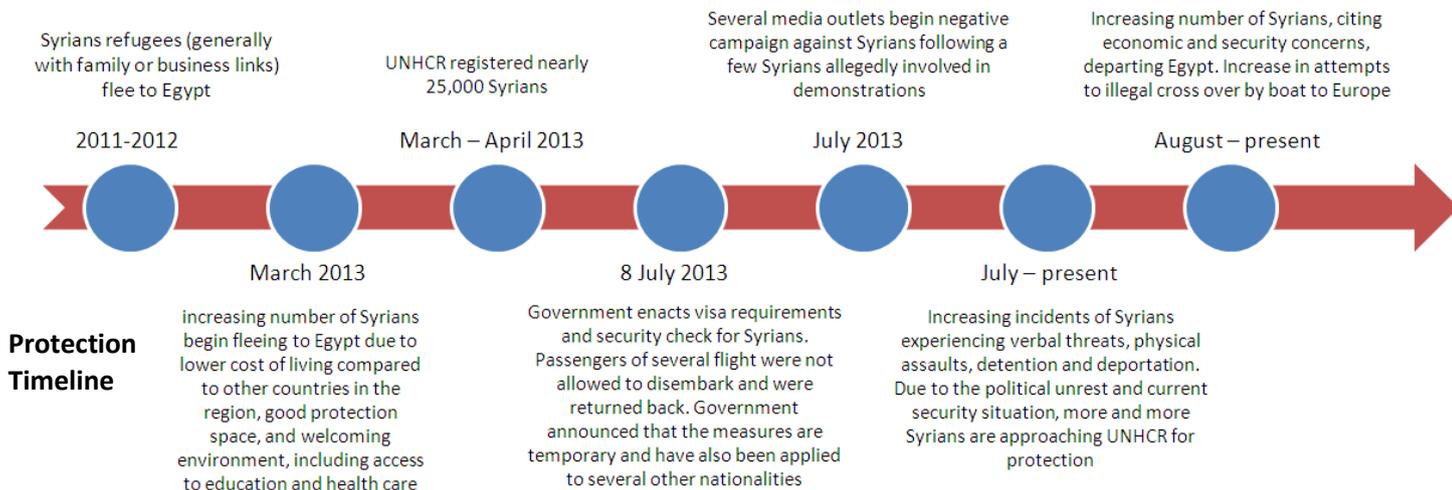
Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8197	8638	16835
5 - 11	10105	10695	20800
12 - 17	6653	7727	14380
18 - 39	21031	20916	41947
40 - 59	8579	8515	17094
60+	2354	2422	4776
Total	56919	58913	115832

Registration and Closure Trends in 2013



Registration Total: 103,195
Closure Total: 2,137
From 1 Jan – 28 Sept



Protection/Field

UNHCR and implementing partners organized a meeting with Syrian and host community leaders in Masaken Othman, in 6th of October City, during which the Syrians raised issues of access to schools and hospitals, an increase in the number of theft and armed robbery, and hostility from the Egyptian community. The participants also considered ideas for coexistence projects between Syrians and the host community.

UNHCR continued awareness raising efforts in Obour, Alexandria and Damietta on the importance of obtaining residency permits and risks as well as legal consequences of illegal departure.

Detentions/Deportations/Releases

During the last two months, UNHCR is aware of **145** arrests of Syrians related to lack of proper residency, out after curfew, or suspicion of violence. Of these, **34** were released, **65** deported and **46** remain in detention, including some children.

Authorities have ordered a number of those detained to leave the country, whereby family members are instructed to purchase tickets for their departure. Most have departed to Turkey, Lebanon, or other countries where they do not require a visa to enter, while some have opted to return to Syria.

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

Illegal Departures

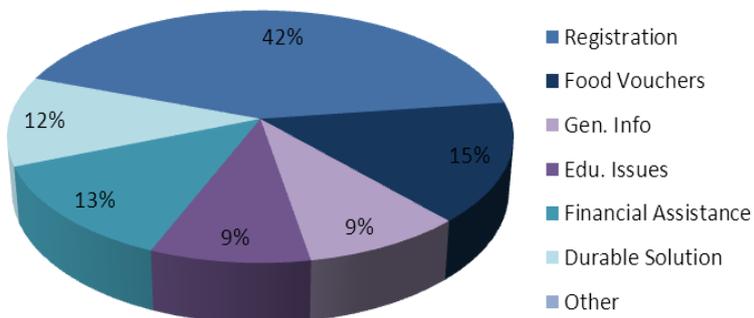
Since August there has been a dramatic increase in the number of Syrian crossing the Mediterranean from Egypt to Italy. An estimated 6,000 Syrians have arrived along the coast of Italy since the beginning of 2013; over 3,000 of whom have arrived along the coast of Italy since August. This is compared with an estimated 350 Syrians who arrived in 2012. Once in Italy, most of the Syrian refugees are continuing on to other countries in Europe.

Of the Syrians that have attempted the crossing to Italy, UNHCR is aware of **946** Syrians arrested in this regard; **76** were released, **146** deported (of which at least **46** were children) and **724** remain in detention, many of whom are women and children (around **55** children).

UNHCR and its legal partners have had difficulties in accessing the detained in order to properly verify numbers, conditions, and needs, or provide legal assistance.

Hotline

UNHCR also responded to 542 calls, nearly half regarding inquires about registration.



Breakdown by type of inquires

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

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