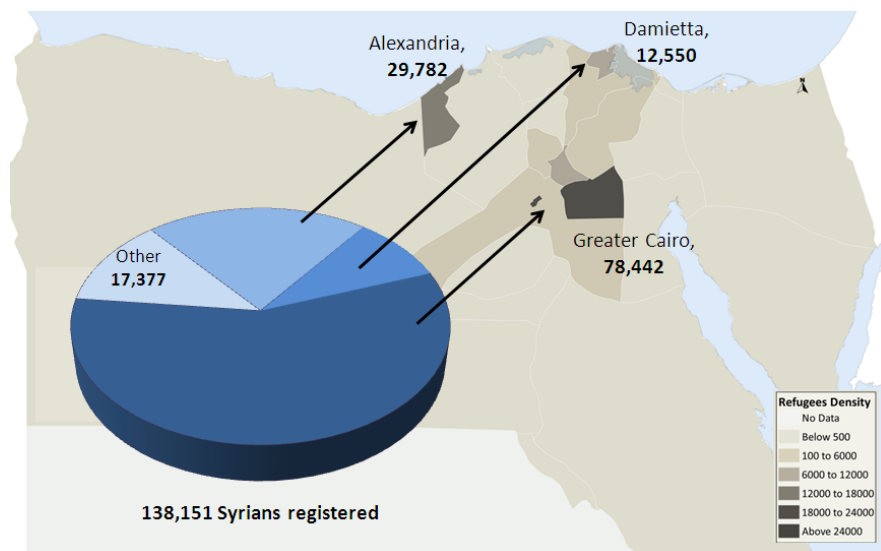


EGYPT WEEKLY UPDATE SYRIAN OPERATION

13-30 June 2014

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. New arrivals of Syrians into Egypt, however, have been nominal since the introduction on 8 July 2013 of visa requirements for Syrian entering the country. UNHCR has registered 138,101 individuals as of 28 June. Most Syrians in Egypt are scattered in urban neighbourhoods, renting and sharing accommodation, and benefit from access to public education and health care. 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.

Registration of Syrians in Egypt (as of 28 June)



Partners:

Arab Medical Union (AMU) • Care Int/USA • Caritas • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Mahmoud Mosque society • Refuge Egypt • Resala Association • Terre Des Hommes - Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) • Save the Children • Tadamon • UNFPA • UNHABITAT • UNICEF • WFP • WHO

For further information:

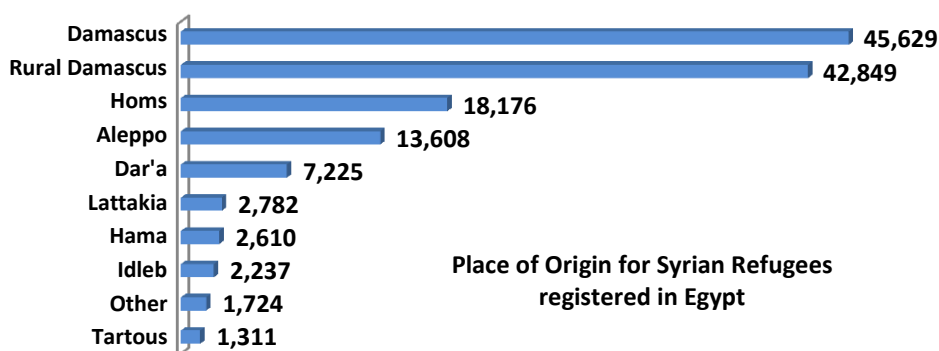
Teddy Leposky • Associate Reporting Officer
leposky@unhcr.org
Marwa Hashem • Assistant Public Information Officer
hashemma@unhcr.org

Syria Regional Refugee Response
Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal
<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>



51.4% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, **76.1%** passed through Lebanon, **12.3%** through Jordan, and **11.6%** through others countries.

During the last week, **218** individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre and **69** through Alexandria Field Office; **11** persons were identified with specific needs.

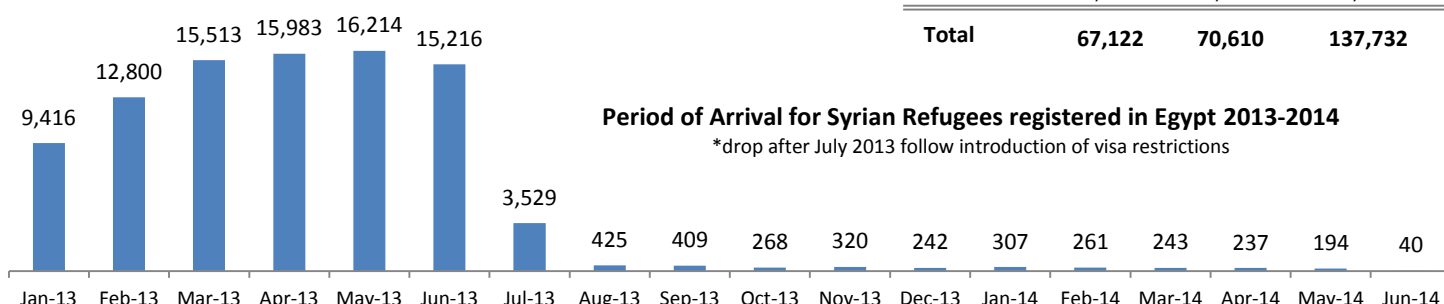


Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8,876	9,354	18,230
5 - 11	12,125	12,935	25,060
12 - 17	7,750	8,699	16,449
18 - 39	25,237	26,626	51,863
40 - 59	10,168	10,076	20,244
60+	2,966	2,920	5,886
Total	67,122	70,610	137,732

Period of Arrival for Syrian Refugees registered in Egypt 2013-2014

*drop after July 2013 follow introduction of visa restrictions



Irregular Movements

On 11 June, UNHCR met with 15 Syrians in 3rd Settlement (New Cairo) who had been arrested for attempting irregular departure and were later released. The refugees confided that they have repeatedly attempted to leave Egypt through irregular means because it has become difficult to renew their passports, obtain work permits and there is a lack of employment opportunities. As their savings become depleted they are finding it increasingly difficult to survive and see refugee in Europe as their only hope.

On 27-30 June, there were a series of new arrests and detentions of Syrian refugees following unsuccessful attempts to depart Egypt through irregular means – UNHCR is awaiting confirmation of reports although the Egyptian authorities have been conducting regular releases of groups of individuals from detention shortly after their arrest. Those released consist mostly of families, children and the elderly and those with immediate relatives in Egypt. Egyptian authorities are issuing 3 month residency permits to Syrians who are being released. UNHCR's partners Caritas and Resala have been providing emergency assistance to detainees in the form of food, blankets and medical care.

Protection

On 9-10 June, UNHCR conducted 2 awareness sessions for 58 Syrians in Borg Al-Arab and Marsa Matrouh on the dangerous consequences of irregular departure from Egypt and the importance of respecting Egyptian laws and regulations, in particular obtaining the residency permits on UNHCR Asylum Cards. Participants were also briefed on the services that UNHCR provides to Syrian refugees in Egypt and how to access them.

Food

On 11 June, WFP and UNHCR held a community meeting at Tadamon's community centre in 6th of October (Greater Cairo) in preparation for the upcoming food distribution. WFP briefed Syrian refugees about fraud measures and on the switch to vulnerability targeting. UNHCR counselled Syrian refugees on protection issues and provided a briefing on services available through UNHCR and its partner.

Community Support Projects

On 26 June, UNHCR participated in the inauguration ceremony of the playground in Sayeda Hadiga School in Ain Shams (where around 82 Syrian and 10 Sudanese refugees are accommodated) as part of Learn, Move, Play Ground 3 in collaboration with Baladilab studio. The project has combined the development of a 'playing landscape', designed and built on site in the school courtyard, along with cultural and art workshop activities and additional material support to the school.

Egyptian University architecture, art, and urban planning students along with the school's children and teachers together participated in designing the playground, and the building was carried out by local craftsmen. The inauguration ceremony showcased a performance by some of the children who took part in the workshops as well as an introduction by the director of the school. Over the project has helped develop an improved feeling among the teachers and principal towards having Syrians in their school, and the director also handed out certificates of participation to parents attending the PTA workshops.



On the 13 June, UNFPA in partnership with FARD Foundation, the Ministry of Health and Cairo Runners, held a marathon 5th Settlement (Greater Cairo) to raise awareness and promote action to stop violence against women, and enrich the relationship between Syrian refugees and the Egyptian host community. Syrian women have been especially vulnerable to gender based violence, partially due to negative media reports and prevailing hostilities within the host community. Sports activities and campaigns help reduce social tensions, and promote messages of respect, human rights and gender equality. Thousands of people of varying ages took part in the run. © UNFPA

UNHCR and the League of Arab States Celebrating World Refugee Day

On 23 June, for the first time ever, UNHCR and the League of Arab States (LAS) jointly commemorated World Refugee Day, at the initiative of UNHCR's Regional Representative in Egypt, Mr Mohamed Dayri. The event, which took place at the LAS headquarters in Cairo, was chaired by the Secretary General of the Arab League, Mr Nabil Al-Araby, and moderated by Sheikha Hessa, a Special Envoy to LAS and Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs. It was attended by several permanent Ambassadors to LAS, including Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the Arab League Ambassador Aziz Al-Deehani, who is also Kuwait's Special Envoy to Syria; the Moroccan Ambassador, Ambassador Mohamed Saad AL Alami, who chairs the 141st session of the Council of the Arab League; and Ambassador Khaled Zeyada, Lebanon's Permanent Ambassador to LAS.

As the speakers addressed the severity of the Syrian refugee situation and the worsening displacement in Iraq, they all emphasized the fact that the Arab region is currently witnessing the worst humanitarian crisis ever. "The number of internally and externally displaced people is growing in many Arab countries," stressed the Secretary General of the Arab League Mr Nabil Al-Araby, and called for upgrading the Arab Convention on Regulating Status of Refugees in the Arab Countries, adopted in 1994. He also added that LAS is reviewing Kuwait Arab Summit's resolution relative to the adoption of a unified Arab mechanism to coordinate humanitarian aid distribution.

Mr Dayri spoke highly of the great role played by Kuwait in supporting humanitarian causes, thanking Kuwait for delivering on their promises after hosting two international humanitarian aid pledging conferences for Syria. He also stressed on the generosity of other Arab countries such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Oman towards the Syrian refugees and their hosting countries. Mr Dayri thanked the GCC countries for their generosity in supporting both the Lebanese and Jordanian governments.

Sheikha Hessa spoke about the challenges faced in the humanitarian field, including lack of coordination between host governments and donors, the decrease in funding, pressure on the host communities, lack of education and the increasing problem of statelessness, caused by the lack of legal documents for the Syrians. Sheikha Hessa made a series of recommendations, including strengthening LAS' role in humanitarian affairs, and that refugees should be given more opportunities to express their needs and be part of the decision-making processes concerning their situation. She also suggested a better monitoring mechanism for the funds donated to the refugee crises in the Arab world.

All speakers called for a continuing generous response to the plight of the Syrian refugees and the need to urgently find a political solution.



Clockwise: Special Envoy to LAS Sheikha Hessa, UNHCR's Regional Representative in Egypt Mohamed Dayri, Secretary General of the Arab League Nabil Al-Araby; Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the Arab League Ambassador Aziz Al-Deehani; UNHCR and the League of Arab States commemorated World Refugee Day © UNHCR/E. Leposky



World Refugee Day Celebrations throughout Egypt

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, UNHCR and its partners organized several events to raise awareness about the issues faced by thousands of children, women and men who have been uprooted and dislodged from their homes, and have found refuge in Egypt.

Save the Children, in partnership with the Selmiyah Movement, organised coexistence workshops in three Child Friendly Spaces across Greater Cairo throughout June 2014. Each workshop lasted for five days and gave Syrian and Egyptian children the opportunity to explore key aspects of coexistence – team-building, group participation – within the safe environment of the Child Friendly Space. The central idea was for children to develop their own mini-city (“Our City”, or “Madenatona” in Arabic), which included writing its constitution and collectively agreeing on the core social values. 30 Syrian and 30 Egyptian children, aged 8-13 years old, participated in the “Madenatona” from 15-19 June in 10th of Ramadan (Greater Cairo).



Heba, a 12 year-old Syrian girl, with the first aid box in hand taking part in the hospital activity. “I liked being a doctor this week,” Heba said.



A group of Syrian and Egyptian children attending the theatre activity. The children were encouraged to explore their talents in acting, writing, and cooperating with others in order to produce their own plays.

© Save the Children/ R. Hassan



In collaboration with the Alexandria Marathon, UNHCR organized a mini marathon (8.6 km) along main road in Alexandria, the Corniche. More than 700 persons, including Egyptians, Syrian refugees and UNHCR staff participated in the race. © UNHCR



On 24 June, UNHCR and the American University in Cairo hosted an event in the Oriental Hall, AUC Campus Tahrir, which included opening remarks from Mr. Sajal Gupta, UNHCR’s Senior Operation Manager, a talk from Alexandra B. Parrs, PhD Assistant Professor of Sociology and Sociology Unit Head, followed by refugees telling their stories and the opening of the “Refugee Voices in Egypt: Refuge, Resilience and Exile” Photo Exhibition. During the reception Syrian musicians played the Kanoun and percussion. © UNHCR/T. Leposky



On 20 June, UNHCR in collaboration with Takween and Clowns Without Borders/Red Tomato organized an festive event to promote coexistence between refugees and the Egyptian community in Masaken Othman. © Takween

