

EGYPT

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

January 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

189,634

Total people of concern

1,235

Registered during January 2015

86,576

Syrian refugees received WFP food vouchers in January

210

Refugees departed for Resettlement since January 2015

1,785

Child protection cases identified since January 2014

FUNDING

USD 85,000,000 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 as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation:

Big Heart Foundation|Canada| European Union |Germany| Kuwait |Japan |Switzerland | UN CERF Fund |UK |USA |

- On 14 January 2015, UNHCR Regional Representative Elizabeth Tan and Alexandria Head of Office Dinesh Shrestha met with the Governor of Marsa Matrouh General Staff Mr. Badr Tantawi El Ghandour at his office. The main purpose of the visit was to express UNHCR's appreciation for the crucial support provided by the Egyptian authorities and the local community in hosting refugees in Salloum Land Port from 2011 to 2014. During the meeting both parties discussed potential cooperation for humanitarian response to the refugees and other persons of concern. On the occasion, certificates of appreciation and souvenirs were also exchanged.



Ms. Tan handing over UNHCR plaque to the Governor, Photo © UNHCR

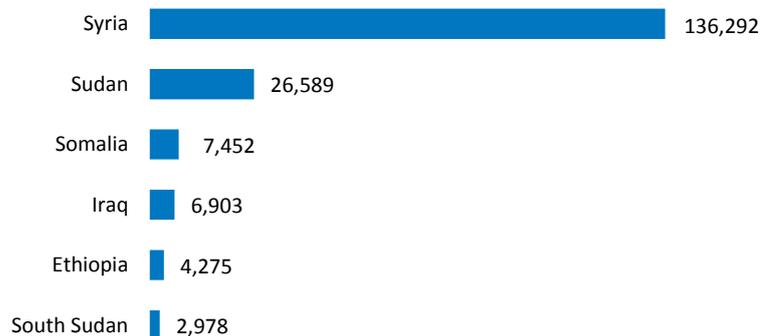
- Ms. Tan attended a ceremony at the Othman Ibn Affan public school in Salloum marking the handover of 200 school desks, as part of UNHCR's support to the local community for its support for the Salloum refugee camp.



Ms. Tan visiting Othman Ibn Affan public school in Salloum, Photo © UNHCR

Population of concern

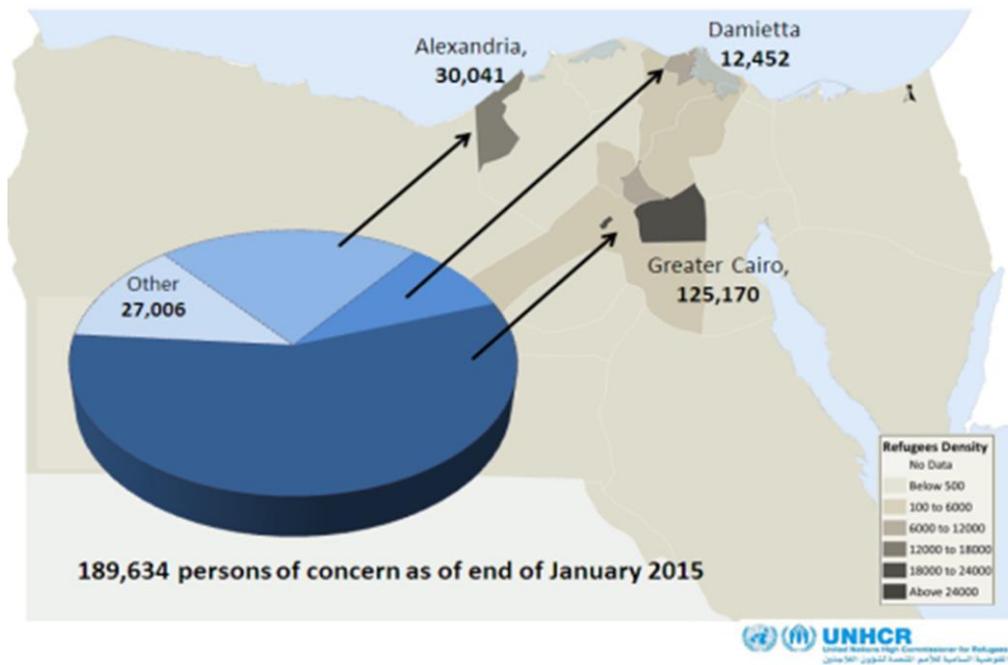
A total of **189,634** people of concern



*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>

JANUARY STATISTICS

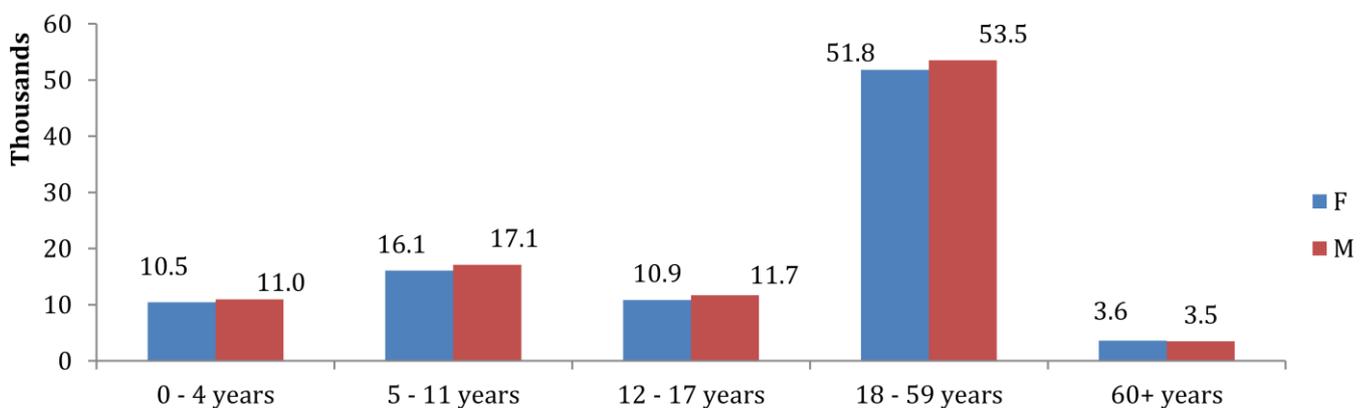


Registered in January	
Nationality	Total
Eritrea	44
Ethiopia	77
Iraq	96
Somalia	11
Sudan	283
South Sudan	32
Other	11
SUBTOTAL	554
Syria	651
TOTAL	1,205

Resettlement departures (January 2015)											
Nationality	Australia	Canada	Denmark	Finland	France	Norway	NZL	Sweden	UK	USA	Total
Eritrea										9	9
Ethiopia										2	2
Iraq										16	16
Somalia										49	49
Sudan				29						47	76
Syria							34	17		5	56
Other										2	2
TOTAL				29			34	17		130	210

Closures in January	
Eritrea	8
Ethiopia	1
Iraq	26
Somalia	4
Sudan	17
South Sudan	4
Other	2
SUBTOTAL	62
Syria	120
Total	182

Age/ Gender



Achievements



Protection

Detention

- UNHCR is aware of 27 registered Syrian refugees in detention for reasons other than irregular movement. UNHCR is following up on their respective cases with the Egyptian authorities. UNHCR referred these cases to the legal implementing partner (EFRR).

Irregular Movements

- During 2014, more than 3,000 individuals, including more than 1,400 Syrian nationals, have been arrested for attempting to irregularly depart Egypt.
- UNHCR is aware of at least 100 individuals including 58 Palestinians from Syria, 18 Syrian nationals and 24 Somalis being held as at the end of January at several detention facilities in Alexandria and its surrounding governorates for attempting irregular movement.
- The current practice observed by UNHCR indicates that asylum-seekers who had residency permits on their UNHCR asylum-seeker cards at the time of their arrest have been able to renew their permits for six months upon release from detention. For those not registered with UNHCR, an initial three months residency permit is generally granted, although the practice varies from case to case.
- 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. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) also provided medical assistance.

Child Protection

- There are 1,231 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) of African and Iraqi origin and 581 UASC of Syrian origin as of January 2015.
- Best Interest Assessments (BIA) were conducted for a total of 65 (54 Africans and 11 Syrians) since the beginning of 2015.
- While there was a continuous and notable decrease in 2014 of Somali UASC registering with UNHCR, the numbers have increased since the beginning of January 2015.
- The event of the "Social Capoeira Initiative 2014" took place in the Sayeda Zeinab Cultural Park on the 3 January, 2015. Youth and Children who participated in the 12 weeks program enjoyed a Capoeira day with local Capoeiristas, intercultural music and food. They were accompanied by their friends and families. Around 250 people in total from the Refugee Community attended the event.

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 January, the RSD unit conducted 206 interviews and issued 92 decisions on eligibility for refugee status.

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.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- There are 194 active cases of SGBV registered to date.
- During the month of January 10 new cases were reported.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR will continue to implement the Graduation Approach Pilot Project during 2015 in Egypt which aims at providing safe livelihoods and graduation out of extreme poverty for identified persons of concern. During 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 with cash grants on a monthly basis. In January, 24,606 vulnerable Syrian refugees were assisted in Egypt representing 18 % of the registered population. The value of cash assistance varies between EGP 400 (US\$ 57) and EGP 1,300 (US\$ 185) based on to the level of vulnerability and household size. The monthly cash assistance programme injected US\$ 680,922 into the local economy in January.
- During January, UNHCR provided cash assistance to a total of 4,459 African and Iraqi refugees; it is worth noting that an estimated 10% of the African and Iraqi refugees identified with specific needs benefit from the cash assistance programme benefits due to budget constraints.



Education

- UNHCR continues to support more than 11,600 African and Iraqi students who are registered for education grants for the 2014/2015 academic year.
- Refurbishment and construction for the provision of eight new classrooms in Burj Al Arab primary school has been completed. The Burj Al Arab refurbishment improved WASH facilities and provided eight extra classrooms to the school that has resulted in a reduced density in classrooms. The current student teacher ratio has improved the quality of education provided in this school and has allowed for an improved relationship between refugee and host community children in the area as they no longer have to compete for a seat within the classrooms. This was a part of the funds received from the Big Heart Foundation.



Health

- UNHCR Public health unit organized a medical NGOs partners meeting with the Arabic Association for the Study of Diabetes and Metabolism (AASD), member of the International Federation of Diabetes to progressively standardize diagnostics and treatment protocols between partners. A referral pathway was agreed upon, that can standardize the management and follow up of all new and old diabetic patients based on AASD Diabetes specialists.
- UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR are meeting regularly to prepare for all actions needed to address the Syrian refugees' mainstreaming in the public primary health care (PHC) system in Cairo planned to start in April 2015 and the related joint communication strategy.



Food Security and Nutrition for Syrian refugees

- Food voucher distribution for the January round ended benefitting 86,576 beneficiaries meeting 96% of the target. Given the lack of available funds region-wide, WFP decreased the value of food voucher to US\$17 instead of US\$24, applying 30% reduction.

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 • UNDP • UNFPA • UNHABITAT • UNICEF • UNOPS • UNV • WFP • WHO

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Links:

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

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