

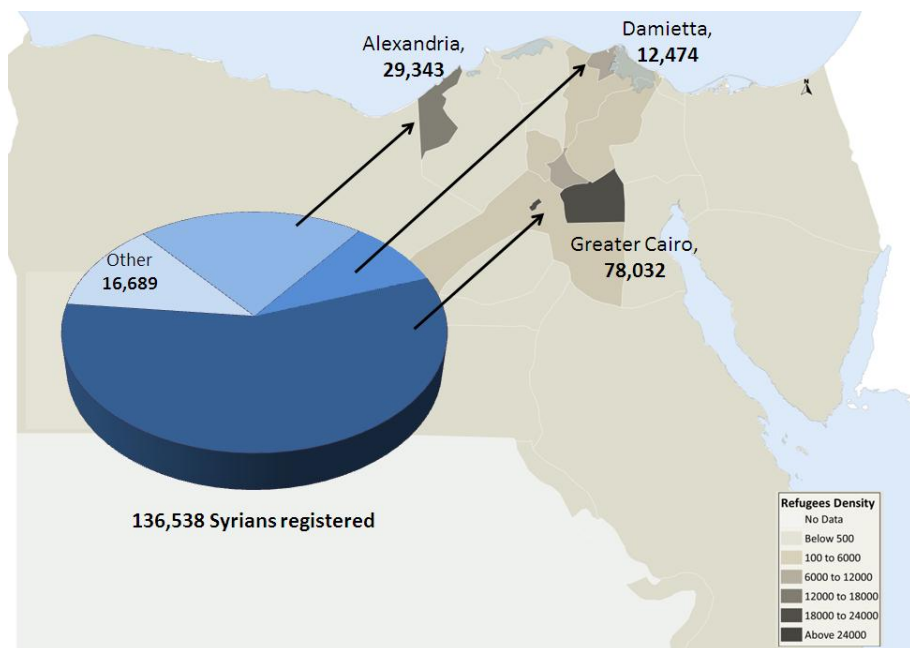
EGYPT WEEKLY UPDATE SYRIAN OPERATION

23 – 28 April 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 decreased dramatically since the introduction on 8 July 2013 of visa requirements for Syrian entering the country. UNHCR has registered 136,538 individuals as of 26 April. 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 26 April)

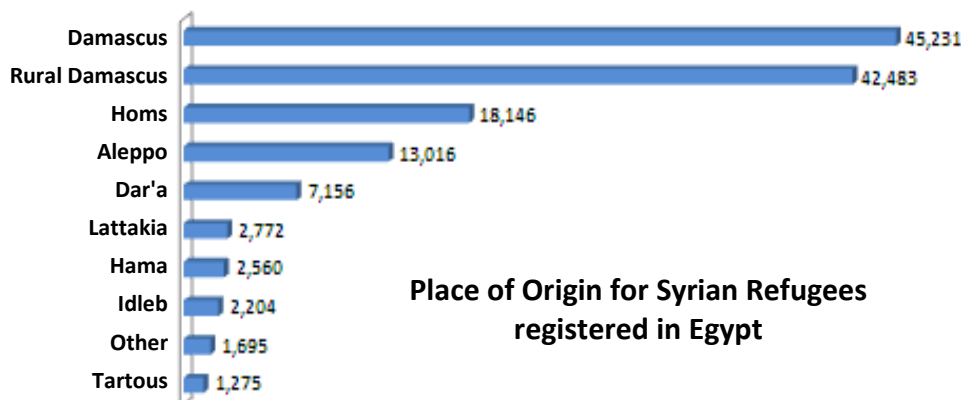
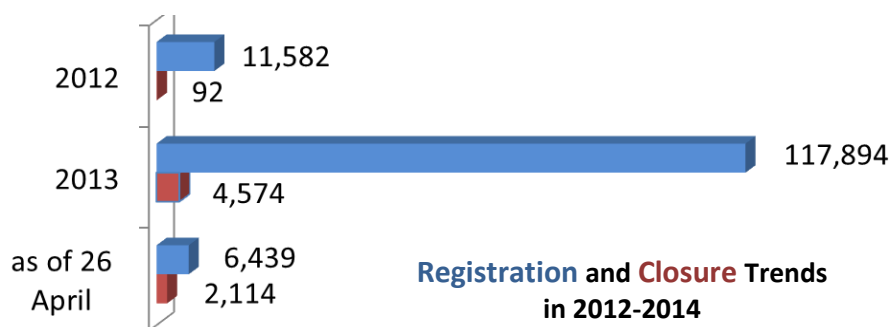


50.8% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 76.3% passed through Lebanon, 12.3% through Jordan, and 11.4% through others countries.

During the week, 208 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre; 20 persons were identified with specific needs.

Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8,843	9,322	18,165
5 - 11	11,998	12,838	24,836
12 - 17	7,728	8,676	16,404
18 - 39	24,974	26,241	51,215
40 - 59	10,083	9,969	20,052
60+	2,958	2,908	5,866
Total	66,584	69,954	136,538



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

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

Protection

Over the last several weeks there has been an increase in the number of Syrians attempting to irregularly depart Egypt by boat to Europe. There are approximately 217 Syrian refugees detained in Alexandria and surrounding governorates. The authorities have been regularly releasing Syrian shortly after their arrest and typically providing them with three months residencies. UNHCR is following up with the authorities regarding the Syrians in detention, and UNHCR's partners Caritas and Resala have been providing food, blankets and medical care.

In order to raise awareness on the consequences of irregular departure from Egypt by sea, UNHCR conducted awareness sessions in Mansoura and Gamasa cities in Dakahleya Governorate for 64 Syrian refugees and community leaders. UNHCR highlighted the importance of respecting Egyptian laws and regulations and discussed the requirements and process for obtaining residency permits on UNHCR asylum seeker cards, as well as the services that UNHCR and its partners provide to Syrian refugees in Egypt and how to access them.

Registration

On 28 April UNHCR began a verification exercise to verify the presence of Syrian refugees in Egypt. The first phase involves capturing the iris scan of the 12,000 heads of households residing in Greater Cairo who UNHCR and its partners have assessed as vulnerable during the past 15 months, as well as verifying the original passports of registered family members. The duration of the verification exercise is 6 weeks. Similar exercises will be conducted in Alexandria and Damietta.

The aim of this of this phase of the verification is to ensure that starting in June only vulnerable families whose presence in the country has been verified will benefit from UNHCR and/or WFP assistance. UNHCR's partners have conducted vulnerability assessments through in-depth socio-economic assessment interviews for approximately 90% of the Syrian refugee population registered with UNHCR in Egypt.

Food

On 22 April WFP began the April distributions for food vouchers targeting 108,000 Syrian refugees. Following the successful roll-out in March, beneficiaries in Greater Cairo received their monthly assistance directly through e-vouchers, while WFP continued to distribute paper vouchers to refugees in other areas in Egypt. While WFP and partners are in the process of moving from geographical to vulnerability targeting, the current programme is being expanded to some 6,650 additional beneficiaries representing 1,650 households in vulnerable areas across 20 governorates and around 120 districts in Egypt. Assistance will be provided through existing distribution sites.

Education

In order to gauge the Syrian refugee students' readiness for the Final exams for 2013-2014 Academic year a field visit was conducted by the Education unit. During the visit technical and/or material assistance that may be required by school administrators and teachers prior to students taking these exams have been also discussed. The projections in terms of expected students' achievements for this academic year are so far very encouraging. Students who were present in the schools were found to be very keen to study, active and engaging in the classrooms and exercise books were complete and up to date. Schools were very well maintained and the general environment was found to be very enabling in terms of the physical environment as well as students' welfare.

Community Support Projects

On 28 April UNHCR met with the 6th of October City Administration (Greater Cairo) to coordinate efforts and initiatives to assist refugee and host communities in the city. Also present were humanitarian and development partners (local Egyptian NGOs Fard, Sharawi and Takween, UNFPA, Care International, UNICEF, and Save the Children operating in a neighbourhood of Al Awla Bil Riaaya where Syrian and Sudanese refugees reside alongside marginalized Egyptians. The organizations discussed potential for extending their plans in the future in partnership with the City Administration and other respective government partners.



Humanitarian and development partners coordinating with the 6th of October City Administration on efforts and initiatives to assist refugee communities in the city. (Photo credit: M. Khalil, 6th of October City Administration Public Relation Officer)