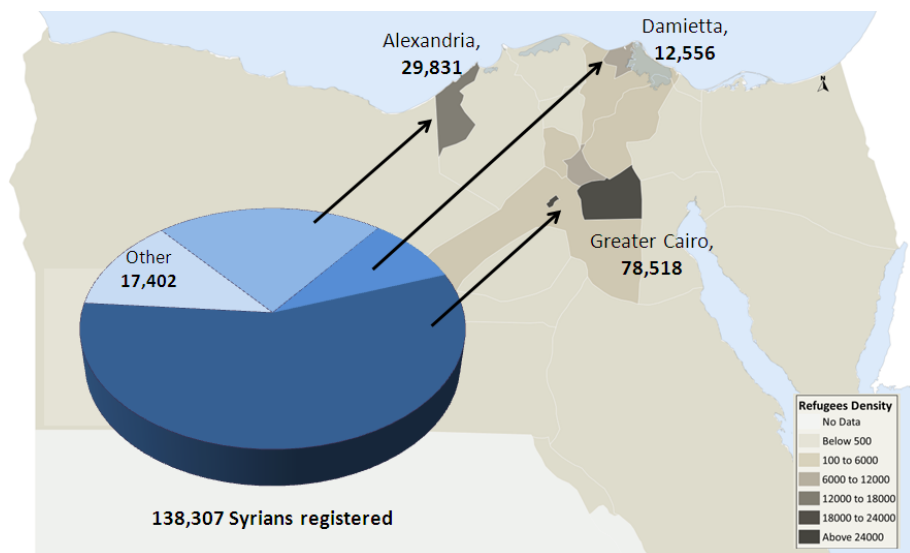


EGYPT WEEKLY UPDATE SYRIAN OPERATION

15-21 July 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 138,307 individuals as of 19 July 2014. 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 19 July)



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:

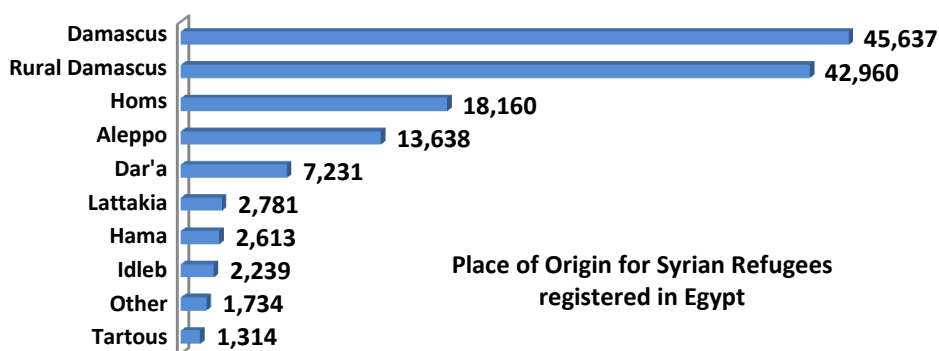
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Syria Regional Refugee Response
Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal
<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>



51.6% 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, 150 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre and 59 in the Alexandria Field Office; 8 persons were identified with specific needs.

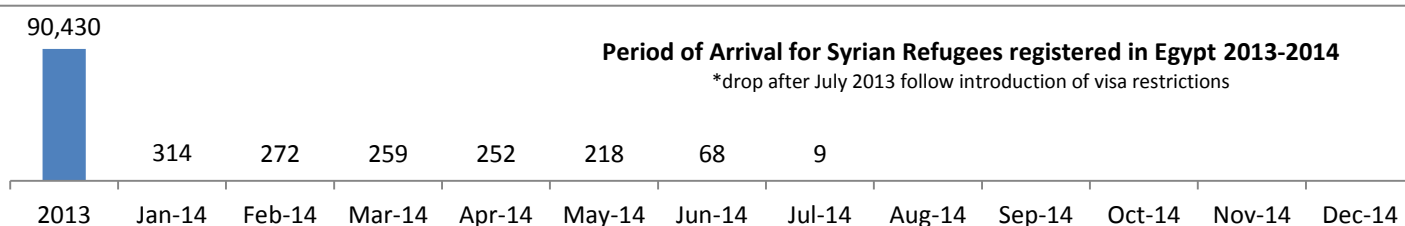


Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8,873	9,299	18,172
5 - 11	12,211	13,040	25,251
12 - 17	7,776	8,700	16,476
18 - 39	25,365	26,801	52,166
40 - 59	10,218	10,108	20,326
60+	2,982	2,934	5,916
Total	67,425	70,882	138,307

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

*drop after July 2013 follow introduction of visa restrictions



Irregular Movements

In 2014, some 697 Syrians have been arrested for attempting to irregularly depart Egypt. As part of a positive trend, however, Egyptian authorities have been conducting regular releases of groups of individuals from detention shortly after their arrest. UNHCR is aware of 102 Syrians presently in detention in Alexandria and its surrounding governorates. Those released consist mostly of families, children and the elderly and those with immediate relatives in Egypt. 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 16 July, UNHCR attended a meeting hosted by the Minister Plenipotentiary and Head of Women, Family and Childhood Department at the League of Arab States regarding their plans for two conferences on the protection of women and children affected by the Syrian crisis.

UNHCR is introducing a standardized counselling tool and reporting format for provide more comprehensive response for sexual gender based violence (SGBV) survivors in the areas of health/medical, safety/security, legal, psychosocial, livelihood. UNHCR conducted training on the usage of this new format with staff providing counselling to SGBV survivors.

The UNHCR Field Office in Alexandria has now been operating a Registration Centre in the office premises for one month, and has assisted Syrian 3,076 refugees. With 6 confidential interview rooms and a large waiting area, around 150 individuals can be attended by the registration unit on a daily basis. The presence of all UNHCR colleagues in the same building also facilitates timely referrals for a more efficient response. The Registration Center will also expand its reception area in the garden with a child-friendly space.

Outreach

To increase the general understanding about the rights and obligations of refugees under international law, thus far in 2014 UNHCR has conducted 21 awareness sessions for Syrians throughout Egypt, 5 trainings for UNHCR and partner staff, and 2 for members of the judiciary.

On 17 July, UNHCR, along with WFP, carried out a training in Alexandria for 30 enumerators from Caritas and Resala on the questionnaire they will be administering to Syrian refugees as part of the socio-economic assessment. UNHCR also conducted a briefing on Q&A and communication related matters centre on improving the dissemination of information to Syrian refugees.

Food

Food voucher and e-card distribution commenced on 19 July, for 109,000 beneficiaries in six locations: Obour, 6th of October, Alexandria, Marsa Matrouh, Damietta and Tanta.

A communications strategy has been jointly developed by WFP and UNHCR to inform Syrian refugees on a shift from geographic to vulnerability targeting. Several tools including leaflets, an animated video, Q&A pamphlet, social media and SMS will be used to deliver information and reassure refugees on the purpose, process, consequence and confidentiality of the vulnerability assessment.

The materials will be distributed at UNHCR registration areas and at WFP distribution points. An SMS will be widely circulated offering basic information and redirecting refugees to social media sites for more information. The campaign will launch on 3 August, one week prior to the start of the first assessment visits.



WFP food voucher distribution in Alexandria. © WFP/C. Hibbert