



609 refugees have been provided with legal counseling and assistance since the beginning of 2014

HIGHLIGHTS:

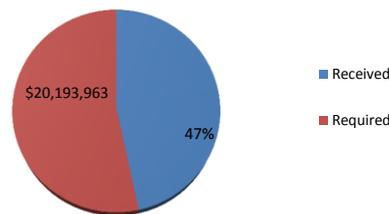
- Since January 2014, UNHCR is aware of the arrest of more than 1411 Syrians for attempting to depart the country by sea in an irregular manner. By the end of December 2014 UNHCR was aware of 18 individuals detained in Alexandria, Kafr Elsheikh, Matrouh, Damietta and El Beheira Governorates. The trend of release by the authorities continued
- Since the beginning of 2014, UNHCR's Child Protection Team conducted 423 Best Interest Assessment (BIAs) for unaccompanied minors, separated children and child spouses who are registered with UNHCR (25 during this month). Meetings with Save the Children (3 December) and UNICEF (10 December) respectively, provided discussions on strategic cooperation in 2015 with a focus coordinated case management and community-based interventions. In view of supporting and strengthening Egypt's national child protection system, comments and recommendations on the Draft Decree on Child Protection Committees were issued to the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood on 14 December. Child Protection (CP) attended Save the Children's Child Protection Committee (CPC) Conference on 22 December following a project implemented by Save the children which aimed at linking Syrian refugee communities to CPCs under their district, raising awareness of services available by CPCs and developing communication mechanism for further cooperation. In preparation for a presentation before the CPSWG, CP and Livelihood Unit explored on 31 December how best to integrate unaccompanied and separated children, particularly those aging out, in the Graduation Approach. The invitation for submission was extended in the Egyptian Child Protection Network (ECPN) of which UNHCR is a member.
- Several meetings were held with HarassMap, an Egyptian NGO working on addressing issues of harassment in Egypt using innovative approaches including engaging men and boy methodologies and to plan workshops in the community centres. On 8 December the SGBV sub working group convened and discussed key updates. Also, on 8 December the SGBV SOP Task Force was convened to discuss the timeline and next steps. The CP SOP Consultants were also present and agreed to harmonize approaches. On 16 December a meeting was held with Child Protection, Health and MSF at the MSF clinic in Maadi to review existing services and share information.
- The verification exercise of the Syrian population has been taking place at full speed. 57,514 individuals were verified from November to end of December 2014, bringing the total number of individuals verified until the end of 2014 to 97, 446 (70.75% of the active Syrian population. Total number of Syrians registered with UNHCR after the completion of the verification at the end of 2014 is 138,301.

REFUGEE POPULATION IN EGYPT



SECTOR FUNDING STATUS January - December

* Funding received as of December 2014



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Updated data on registered refugees is needed for profiling and programming purposes. A verification exercise has begun in May 2014. In addition, UNHCR will conduct a survey in order to have a better overview of protection gaps, in particular among the most vulnerable.

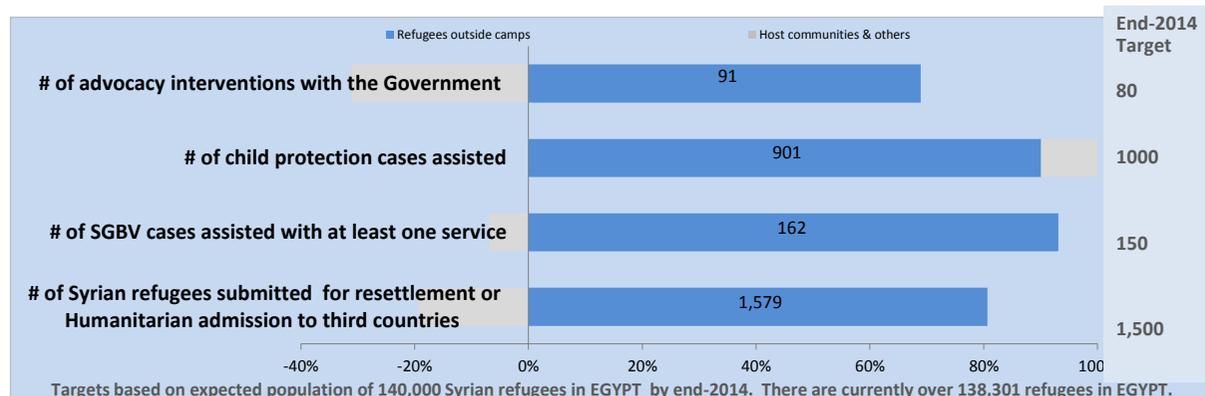
By the end of April 2014, UNICEF increased its Child Friendly Spaces outside greater Cairo from three to seven. However, child-friendly spaces remain insufficient to cover all the refugee population across Egypt and the capacity to conduct Best Interest Assessments for all separated children is limited, including regular monitoring visits for most separated children. UNICEF is waiting for government approval to open Child-friendly spaces in Damietta, where none currently exist. There continues to be few programmes assisting refugee youth, as well as children with disabilities.

The operational capacity of partners remains largely concentrated in Greater Cairo and to some extent Alexandria, affecting services to sexual gender based violence (SGBV) survivors in particular. CARE International plans to expand its services, including case management, to Alexandria after June 2014. Damietta, where the third largest concentration of Syrian refugees, remains without similar services. Challenges remain in identifying legal aid partners with sufficient coverage of major and smaller urban centers around the country.

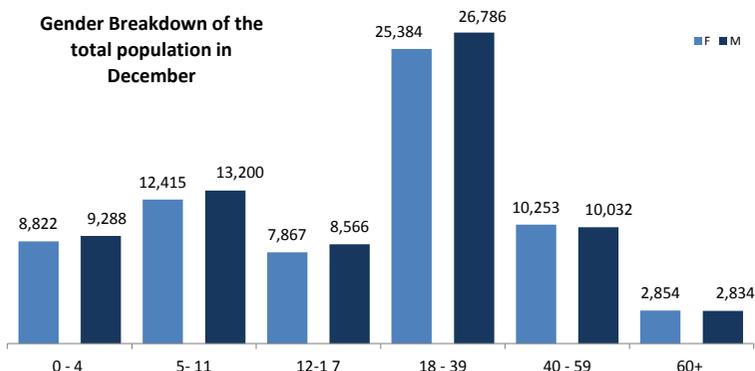


A Syrian refugee woman is iris-scanned for processing at the Zamalek office of the UNHCR in Cairo, Egypt. © UNHCR/S.Nelson

PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS



Gender Breakdown of the total population in December



Participating Agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, TDH, PSTC, IOM, Save the Children, CARE International, AMERA, UNFPA