

KEY FIGURES

585

Unaccompanied and separated minors registered

24,670

Individuals provided with cash grants in February 2015

22

SGBV survivors who have received assistance since the beginning of 2015

33

People provided with legal counseling and assistance since the beginning of 2015

11,124

Individuals with specific needs identified in Syrian population

FUNDING

USD 189,581,596

Requested for 3RP by all appealing agencies

Priorities

- Improve access to basic health and education services through coordination and capacity building for selected government ministries.
- Save lives by enhancing targeting assistance and follow-up of most vulnerable cases.
- Enhance access to livelihoods and skills training both to enhance self-reliance in Egypt and to prepare for eventual return to Syria.
- Promote coexistence between Syrian communities and their Egyptian hosts.
- Coordinate protection response with particular emphasis on child protection, SGBV and prevention of irregular migration.

EGYPT

SYRIA OPERATION

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

February 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 17 February, the Egypt chapter of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) was launched jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by Ambassador Abdelrahman Salah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs, and the United Nations, represented by Ms. Anita Nirody, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Egypt.
- On 9 February, the 71 detainees who have been held in Karmouz Police station since November 2014 started a hunger strike. On 26 February, UNHCR was informed that the hunger strike would end, but 30 detainees resumed the hunger strike by the end of February. UNHCR continues to provide food, non-food items and medical assistance through its partner to the detainees.
- WFP's food voucher distribution for February ended benefitting 87,838 individuals, meeting 99% of the target.
- The vulnerability assessment exercise continues; 1,893 Syrians were assessed for vulnerability in February by Resala and Caritas in Alexandria.

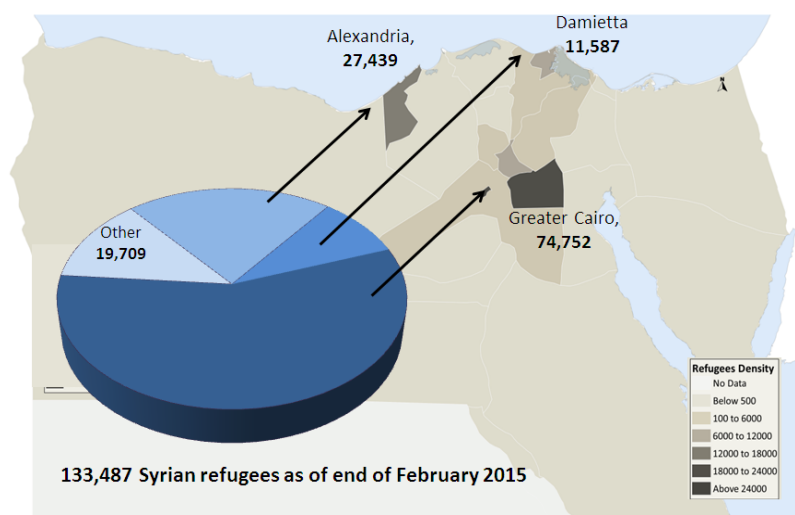
Population of concern

A total of **133,487** Syrian refugees are registered with UNHCR

Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8,106	8,520	16,626
5 - 11	12,185	12,948	25,133
12 - 17	7,688	8,304	15,992
18 - 59	34,520	35,631	70,151
60+	2,799	2,786	5,585
Total	65,298	68,189	133,487

Place of Concentration in Egypt



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- As the Syrian conflict enters its fifth year, the refugee response in Egypt continues to address the rights and needs of Syrian refugees in Egypt in addition to advocacy with the government.
- The general protection environment for Syrian refugees in Egypt improved after the election of a new President in July 2014, however, some challenges persist. The visa and security requirement remain, posing an obstacle for Syrians to seek refuge in the country and for family reunification. Depletion of financial resources and limited employment opportunities have also contributed to the steady rise in Syrians departing irregularly by sea.
- Most Syrians in Egypt are scattered in urban neighborhoods, renting and sharing accommodation while also benefitting from access to public services in education and health care. UNHCR conducts registration, provides counseling, and works with partners to provide legal assistance and to address the social, education and health needs of vulnerable Syrians in Egypt. UNHCR also operates helplines for inquiries and counseling.
- The 3RP Resilience component lead by UNDP will aim to bring together humanitarian and resilience-based responses to achieve common objectives such the protection and support for Syrians refugees and impacted host communities.

The Launch of the 3RP

- During the launch of the Egypt Chapter of the 3RP, Ambassador Salah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs, provided an opening speech, where he noted the efforts undertaken by Egypt in hosting Syrians. He noted that there are more than 300,000 Syrians in Egypt, even though Egypt does not share a border with Syria.
- Ms. Anita Nirody, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Egypt, praised the efforts of the Egyptian government in hosting and supporting Syrians, reiterating the willingness and importance of cooperation between UN agencies and the Egyptian government.
- UNHCR Representative Ms. Elizabeth Tan provided an overview of the activities undertaken under each sector namely such as Education, Health, Food Security, Protection, Basic Needs and Livelihoods. Ms. Tan noted that the 3RP brings together humanitarian assistance and development support to refugees and host communities, as well as institutional support for local service delivery highlighting that within the overall budget, the resilience component constitutes 44% while the refugee component constitutes 56%.

Achievements



Protection

Irregular Movements

- Since January 2015, UNHCR is not aware of any recent arrests for irregularly departures by sea.
- Of those who were arrested in 2014, UNHCR is aware of 17 Syrians nationals and 59 Palestine refugees from Syria, who are still being held in detention in Alexandria for attempting to depart or entry Egypt in an irregular manner.
- On 9 February, the 71 detainees held in Karmouz Police station since November 2014 started a hunger strike as a result of being held in detention for more than 100 days. They are part of a group of 104 refugees from Syria (45 Syrians and 59 Palestine refugees from Syria), who had departed from Turkey hoping to reach Italy and were apprehended on an island off the Egyptian coast. UNHCR continues to advocate with the authorities for their release and, continues to closely monitor the situation and provide humanitarian assistance, together with its partners Caritas and PSTIC.
- Since the beginning of 2015, UNHCR has been alerted of the arrest of 16 Syrian nationals at Cairo International Airport, attempting to either depart or enter Egypt, for reasons related to either possession of forged renewal of national passport (received via Turkey) or forged Egyptian residency permits. UNHCR's advocacy with MFA later resulted in the release of seven, who are currently in the process of regularizing their stay in Egypt.

- UNHCR has observed that Syrian nationals in detention holding expired passports continue to face difficulties in renewing their passports, regardless of the grounds for arrest. In absence of any valid documents they could face either prolonged detention or deportation.

Community Activities:

- Care International in collaboration with the Royal Netherland Football Association (KNVB) conducted a sports day that included 64 girls. The event was co-facilitated by CARE-trained Syrian youth volunteers and KNVB. Games were designed to promote peace and sustainable development while also focusing on the empowerment of girls.
- The opening ceremony of the “Meet and Play Area” in Masaken Othman was held by UNHCR Egypt together with Takween Integrated Community Development in cooperation with the 6 October City Administration and the New Urban Communities Authority in the Ministry of Housing in Egypt. The ceremony celebrated the completion of the construction of the Community Garden which was planned, designed and built in full participation of the area residents.



The participants of the sports day, Photo©CARE International (EGYPT)



Meet and Play area at Masaken Othman Photo © Takween

Child Protection:

- In a continuous effort to strengthen the national child protection system in Egypt, UNHCR participated in the launch of the 2015 National Plan for Egypt’s Child Protection Committees (CPC) organized by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM). The key objectives included the roll-out of a unified training programme for all CPCs and linking the national helpline on child protection to the CPC at Governorate and District levels. As a result, the 4-day Training of Trainers was organized by the NCCM, with the involvement of UNICEF, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, FACE, community-based organizations and UNHCR. The long-term goal is to contribute to staff and organizational capacity for the CPCs and to provide future training for Committee members on identification and response to protection risks faced by all children including refugee children.



Basic Needs and Livelihood

- In February, 24,670 vulnerable Syrian refugees were assisted in Egypt through the provision of monthly cash grants, provided through UNHCR, Caritas and Resala. 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. A total of US\$ 707,061 was injected into the local economy in February through this programme.
- 1,893 Syrians were assessed for vulnerability in February by Resala and Caritas in Alexandria, bringing the overall number to 3,242 since the beginning of 2015. Tablet entries have also been introduced replacing paper based questionnaires previously used by Resala.
- Fard Foundation distributed 1,400 blankets as part of their winterization support to persons of concern. It also organized a low cost clothing exhibition (new and second-hand) for refugees and provided crochet classes for 30 Syrian women with the facilitation of 3 exhibitions for the women to sell their products.



Education

- Save the Children distributed education kits and school books to 800 Syrian community school students in 10th of Ramadan and 6th of October cities in Greater Cairo.

Food Security and Nutrition

- WFP food voucher distribution for the February round ended benefitting 87,838 individuals meeting 99% of the target. A total amount of USD 1,388,194 was injected into local economy through the food vouchers/e-cards programme in February.

Health

- The preparations for the mainstreaming of primary health care in Greater Cairo included several coordination meetings between, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR and Ministry of Health (MoH) to agree on the area of support to MoH as part of the resilience response and the cooperation to facilitate Egyptian and Syrian access to primary and specialized health care services. Flyers prepared by UNICEF listing UN supported public primary health care facilities in Greater Cairo will be distributed to Syrians to help in raising awareness and to facilitate their access to public facilities.
- A one day workshop on the UNHCR referral care database was facilitated by UNHCR's health unit for a group of six referral focal points from UNHCR health implementing partners (Dr Mostafa Mahmoud Society, Arab Medical Union, Refuge Egypt and Caritas Cairo). The objective of the training was to start piloting a tool to collect key data on referrals, capture complicated referral cases and - subject to higher cost - to help the medical partners to prioritize their interventions and monitoring while also ensuring cost effective responses are upheld.

UNHCR PARTNERS

- Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trials and Human Rights (ACSFT) • Arab Medical Union (AMU) • Care Int/USA • Caritas • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • 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

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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