EGYPT MONTHLY UPDATE OCTOBER 2016

3RP REGIONAL REFUGEE & RESILIENCE PLAN 2016 - 2017 IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIA CRISIS

BASIC NEEDS

More than USD 9 Million injected into the local economy through the monetization of assistance since the beginning of 2016

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than 40,000 Syrian refugees benefitted from cash assistance in October.
- New partnership was conducted with Save the Children to implement livelihood activities in Greater Cairo
- Caritas Alexandria continued the marketing support for self-employed beneficiaries through organizing 2 exhibitions for home based businesses.
- As of end of October, a total of 75,000 individuals were assessed for vulnerability under the Egypt Vulnerability Assessment for Refugees (EVAR).
- To date data collected during the EVAR, shows that despite the food voucher and cash assistance, Syrian refugees living conditions have not improved, this is in line with the SEA 2014-2015 results. So far, 94% of individuals have been identified as severely or highly vulnerable. They are living below the national poverty line which is less than half of the agreed upon amount of the Minimum Expenditure Basket for refugees in Egypt (MEB) of EGP 592.4 (USD 79) per month, per refugee. While 48 percent of the households need to borrow money or purchase on credit to meet their basic needs, expenditure on food (45%) and rent (28%) still represent the largest proportion of overall spending as a result of inflation, followed by expenses related to health and education. The majority of households identified their most important unmet need as additional support for rent or improved shelter.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The current unemployment rate in Egypt is 13.2%, with youth unemployment at 34.3%. Unemployment is almost triple among female young people of their male counterparts. 26.3% of the overall population live below the national poverty line. Refugees settle in communities affected by these conditions, and can both add to and disproportionally suffer from limited employment, service delivery and livelihood opportunities. Preliminary results of the Vulnerability Assessment by UNHCR and WFP have indicated that 60 per cent of those assessed (61,683 Syrian refugees) are in situations of severe vulnerability as they are living on less than half of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of EGP 592.4 (USD 75.6) per month per refugee. Often lacking appropriate levels of or access to quality education, and often finding themselves without technical skills or the necessary networks, vulnerable refugees and Egyptian households are drawn into situations of extreme poverty. Refugees lack formal access to employment and restore to informal labour while the Egyptian private sector has generally experienced a trend towards informality. This results in often insecure conditions for wage and self-employment and related protection risks.

In order to protect vulnerable refugee households from negative coping mechanisms, unconditional cash-based interventions continue to be implemented, while access to services is improved and sustained. Simultaneously, the basic needs and livelihood sector focusses on improving self-reliance and livelihoods for refugees and vulnerable Egyptians. Some business clusters and value chains show high potentials for employment and will be upgraded. Also, agencies address the demand for training, business advice, job placement, and seed grants to start up micro businesses. The need for short-to-medium-term jobs for unskilled host community and refugee workers is addressed through cash for work and public works programmes. This support also improves social services and infrastructure in impacted host communities of Syrian refugees.

Workshop on livelihoods activties , Photo/UNHCR David Degner

Sector Response Summary:

111,300 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016, 41,500 assisted in 2016.

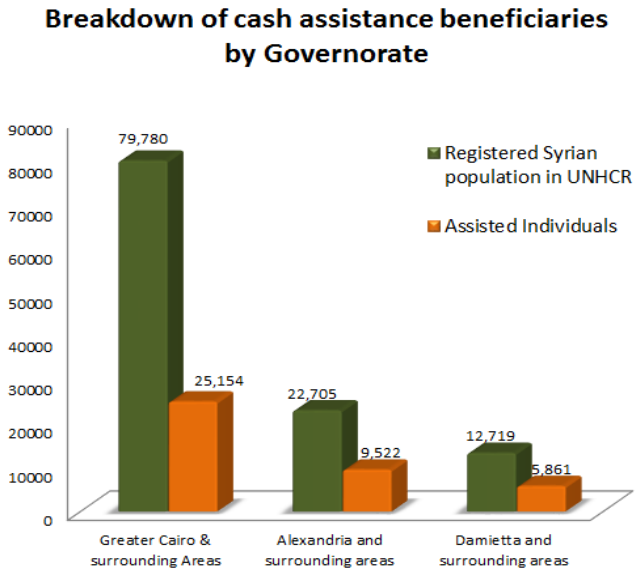
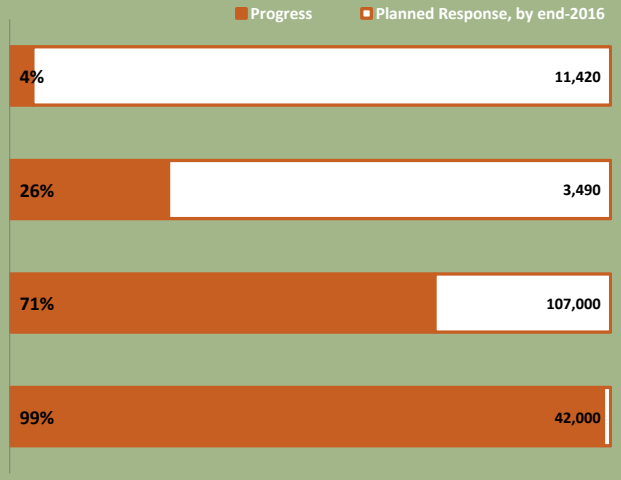
Syrian Refugees in EGYPT :

110,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016, 115,200 currently registered or awaiting registration.

3RP Egypt Overall Funding Status:

USD 146.6 million required in 2016, USD 56.3 million received in 2016.

HIGHLIGHTS



EGYPT RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - OCTOBER 2016