



EGYPT INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE – SYRIAN REFUGEES IN EGYPT

October 2015

KEY FIGURES

524

Unaccompanied minors assisted

31,645

Refugees provided with cash grants in October 2015

58,397

Refugees received WFP food vouchers in October

1,866

Refugees submitted for Resettlement since the beginning of 2015

12,282

Refugees with specific needs identified in Syrian population

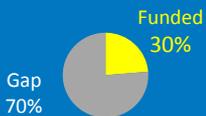
1,311

People provided with legal counseling since the beginning of 2015

FUNDING

USD 189,581,596

requested by agencies for 3RP response



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.

HIGHLIGHTS

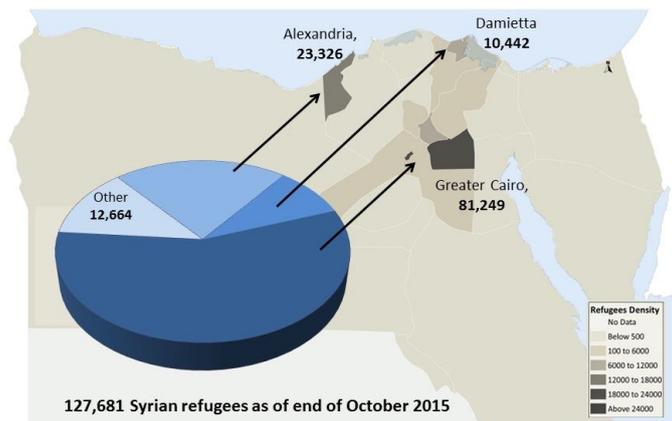
- During October, 547 Syrians were newly registered with UNHCR, while 240 individuals closed their cases.
- By end of October, a total of 95,331 Syrian individuals have been assessed under the socio-economic assessment.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) finalized the disbursement of the first instalment of the education grant, which benefitted 7,277 students.
- In celebration of UN@70 day, Egypt's UN agencies marked the 70th anniversary with an all-day fair on Saturday 24th October. The UN fair took place at the Gezira Youth Club in Zamalek, where a number of UNHCR community based organisations participated by selling a large variety of products including hand-made jewellery, clothes, accessories, food and art. The event was opened by Ms. Anita Nirody the UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt and H.E. Hisham Badr the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs. The day ended with a special performance by the singer Mai Abd El Aziz and her band.
- In honor of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the Sphinx and three Pyramids of Giza were bathed in blue light on Saturday 24th October, along with a variety of other famous landmarks around the world.

Population of concern

A total of **127,681** people of concern (POC)

Custom Age Group	F	M	Total
0-4	7,394	7,745	15,139
5-11	12,172	12,885	25,057
12-17	7,421	7,967	15,388
18-59	32,868	33,793	66,661
60+	2,690	2,746	5,436
Total	62,545	65,136	127,681

Places 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.
- Most Syrians in Egypt are living in urban neighborhoods, renting and sharing accommodation but 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. The interagency operational partners work to address the social, education and health needs of vulnerable Syrians in Egypt.
- The 3RP Resilience component lead by UNDP aims to bring together humanitarian and resilience-based responses to achieve common objectives such the protection and support for Syrians refugees and impacted host communities.

Achievements



Protection

Registration

- Registration of Syrian refugees in Egypt by UNHCR continues. 127,681 individuals had been registered with UNHCR as of end of October 2015.
- During 2015, 6,264 Syrian refugees have registered with UNHCR. Only 3,081 of those registered with UNHCR in the course of 2015, represent new arrivals to Egypt, as the entry visa requirement for Syrian nationals remains.
- UNHCR has reported an increasing number of irregular entries (1,233 individuals) of Syrians since the beginning of 2015 as compared to 2014.

Irregular Movements

- In total 18 Syrian nationals were detained this month, which represents a significant decrease in the arrests of Syrians attempting to depart by sea since July 2015. Syrians are now the third top nationality attempting to reach Europe by sea from Egypt, after Sudanese and Somalis, in comparison to 2014 where Syrians were the majority of those departing.
- As of 31 October, a total of 3,612 refugees and migrants alike have been arrested for attempting to depart Egypt irregularly by sea, including 553 Syrians, who were detained at Police Stations in Alexandria, El Beheira and Kafr El Sheikh Governorates.
- All detainees are provided with food, non-food items, and legal, medical and psychosocial support by UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, Caritas, MSF, and PSTIC.

Child Protection

- In October, recreational, psychosocial and health activities addressing the protection concerns of children and parents/caregivers were held in 6th of October and Obour Cities. A core component of the activities include the HEART methodology with aims at resilience and overcoming displacement and traumatic experiences through art therapy. A total of 1,690 refugee girls and boys were reached in both locations, the majority being refugee children from Syria.
- In cooperation with Insan NGO, Save the Children addressed the psychosocial and recreational needs of 317 children enrolled in Al-amal Al-moshreq Community School in 6th of October. The introduction of 'complaint boxes' at schools to encourage children to anonymously express their concerns and day-day problems effecting their school attendance and performance, was shared with the view of establishing good practices for the protection children in schools and strengthening their resilience.
- Save the Children psychologists provided nine child rights awareness sessions to 433 children in Tiba Community School in 6th of October. 60 children from Beit Eleila area in 6th October area, attending Tiba Community School were provided with after-school activities aiming at promoting their well-being and developmental needs through art, music and puppet theatre. In Al-Ghad Community School, 450 children and 329 attending Bashayer Alyasmin Community School enjoyed access to a variety of recreational and psychosocial activities.
- As part of their commitment to the resilience component under the 3RP, UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Health has been rolling out a national program on positing parenting. This included representatives from Alexandria, Asyut and Greater Cairo. The first step has been a comprehensive training on positive parenting skills benefitting 358 front liner workers including primary health case workers, pediatricians and members of the Ministry of Health (MoH) attended.

- UNICEF has designed and finalized a CPIE booklet on service delivery, a booklet on positive human stories as a result of psycho-social support (PSS) interventions, and a video on community outreach through family centres and mobile units.
- Assistance to children in detention in the Northern Governorate continued through the provision of non-food items and PSS by UNICEF partners in coordination with UNHCR and other NGOs and community-based organizations. In October, a total of 96 children, including 18 Syrian refugee children benefitted from such services.

SGBV

- In October, CARE facilitated two art therapy days benefitting a total of 109 female participants. Female survivors of SGBV were given the platform to openly speak about their traumatic experiences. Issues discussed included early marriage, domestic violence and work discrimination. A total of 125 Syrian men and women attended a legal awareness session, which focused on addressing the legal framework available in the case of early and forced marriage.
- Five health awareness sessions were conducted reaching 193 female adults and adolescents from Syria Al-Ghad School. A specialized consultant facilitated the discussions on sexual harassment and how to respond in these situations. Early marriage and its consequences was addressed with older female adolescents and awareness and training sessions on early marriage and its negative impact on children from a medical point of view is forthcoming.

Community Activities

- In coordination with UNHCR Livelihood and UNHCR, Community Support Projects (CSP) conducted a field visit to Damietta in order to follow up on Lo'met 3aish and 7ouch Ygma3na projects. The team also met with TDH staff and scanned possible future interventions in the city that would enhance the capacity of the refugee hosting communities in the area. CSP is currently following up with different partners regarding doing extra interventions in Damietta.

Education

- The capacity building programme aiming at public schools attended by Syrian refugee students continued in partnership with the Ministry of Education through school construction and renovation projects. During the reporting period, 10 classrooms in Nasr City were handed over, refurbished and now fully operational. In addition to that, Khaled Ibn Al Waleed school compound, in Damietta, had an extra annex completed with an additional 16 classrooms, WASH facilities, library, and staffroom as well as a spacious computer lab.
- UNICEF's inclusion programme reached 16 public schools with supplies and renovation in addition to the establishment of 50 kindergartens, for both Syrian and refugee students. The construction of these additional classrooms, as well as the refurbishment and inclusion activities project will reduce the overall density in the classroom and make the school a more welcoming place for both refugee and Egyptian children.
- Care International assisted some 10,000 students in 28 public schools with school kits including stationary, books, and school bags. This back to school assistance by Care, targeted both Syrian refugee children as well as Egyptian children.
- Save the Children, also, distributed 800 school kits for Syrian students to cover their needs for the academic year. In addition, Save the Children conducted a screening event in Obour city in the existing community schools. The screening targeted 1,000 students with sight, hearing and anemia tests to examine the effect of such conditions on the students learning abilities and achievements. Students who were found to have defects in the sight or hearing senses were provided with appropriate devices.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) finalized the disbursement of the first instalment of the education grant, which benefitted 7,277 students. The grants were distributed in three locations Cairo, Alexandria, and Marsa Matrouh. CRS also started registering Syrians for the 2nd instalment. Moreover, 26 students received the special needs grants and 346 individuals received additional financial assistance after their assessment of needs found them to be eligible for the Vulnerable Cases (VC) assistance.
- UNHCR interviewed over 65 Syrian refugee students for the DAFI scholarship. 20 Syrian students (9 females and 11 males) were enrolled for the year 2015-2016. The students were registered in a wide range of academic faculties.

Health

- The Arab Medical Union (AMU) is working on a quality project which includes two component; the first one focuses on improvement quality of health services provision in one of the public hospitals in Damietta Governorate targeting all activities that are directly related to patients' care after being assessed, and the second one focuses on improvement of AMU internal operations.

- The Health Sector has agreed on a common plan to respond to Health Priorities and Gaps within humanitarian and resilience response in the context of mixed migration.



Basic Needs and Livelihood

- 31,425 vulnerable Syrian refugees were assisted in Egypt through the provision of monthly cash grants.
- In October UNHCR Geneva and UNHCR Cairo launched the mid-term evaluation of Graduation Approach implemented in Egypt since 2013. The mid-term evaluation will measure impact of the Graduation Programme in Egypt to date, thereby providing insight as to its effectiveness in the context of refugees in Egypt. It is expected to highlight reasons for success and non-success of the programme and inform any potential programme design and implementation improvements.



Food Security and Nutrition

- A total of 55,397 beneficiaries (55,531 Syrian and 2,866 Syrian/Palestinian refugees) received WFP food vouchers during the September distribution, meeting 99% of the month's target.
- Refugees who have been excluded from WFP food assistance were informed via SMS, and were also given the possibility to appeal this decision within 15 days. Some 5,000 individuals have been re-included since July as a result of the Appeal request reviews.

Working in Partnership

- In 2015, the refugee response continues to be overseen by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG), chaired by the UNHCR Representative. The IAWG oversees the Sector Working Groups (SWGs) through the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG), and the related strategic, advocacy and funding processes. The ISWG encourages synergy between sectors to avoid duplication, and ensure coordination on common processes. The 3RP is a platform for the collaboration between SWGs in Egypt to coordinate, identify and raise relevant operational topics to ensure a standard approach.
- Arab Organization for Human Rights • Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trials and Human Rights (ACSFT) • Arab Medical Union (AMU) • Care Intl/USA • Caritas • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) • ILO • IOM • Dr. Mostafa Mahmoud Society • Refuge Egypt • Refuge Point • Save the Children • St Andrews Refugee Services (StARS) • Terre des Hommes - Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) • UNDP • UNFPA • UNICEF • UNOPS • UNV • WFP • WHO •

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds and to those who have contributed directly to the operation in 2014 and 2015.



Contacts:

Ragnhild Ek, Senior External Relations Officer, EK@unhcr.org, Cell +20 120 042 1996

Marwa Hashem, Assistant Public Information Officer, HASHEMMA@unhcr.org, Cell +20 122 191 2664

Links:

Regional portal: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

Twitter: @UNHCREGYPT

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UNHCREgypt/>