



**June Key Statistics**

<p><b>Total Registered Refugees in Egypt as of June 30<sup>th</sup>:</b></p> <p>137,189 Syrian Refugees</p>	<p><b>Refugees assisted with monthly cash grants in June:</b></p> <p>22,168 beneficiaries in Greater Cairo 14,126 beneficiaries in Alexandria 4,644 beneficiaries in Damietta</p>
<p><b>Proportion of Total Refugees Assisted with Monthly Grants to meet basic needs:</b></p> <p><b>30%</b></p>	<p><b>Partners:</b></p> <p>UNHCR for Greater Cairo (direct assistance) Caritas for Alexandria Resala for Damietta</p>

**Background**

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.

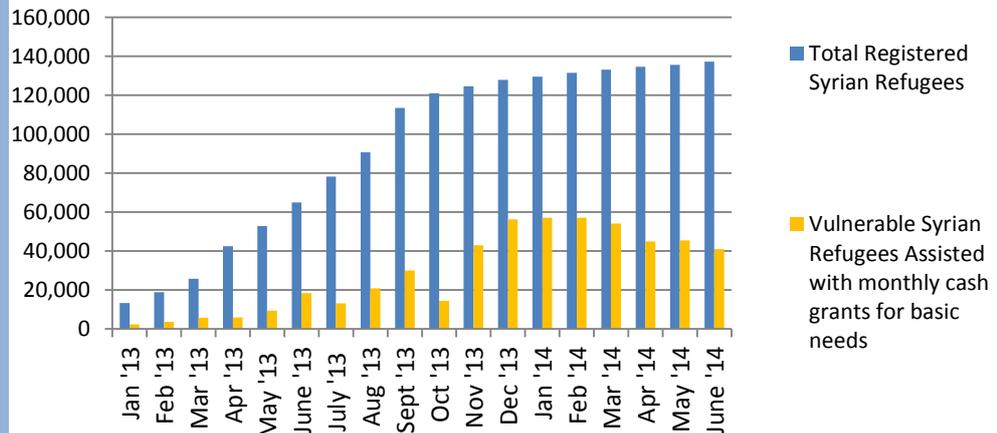
Syrian refugees are struggling to meet their basic needs due to eroded savings, and limited employment and livelihood opportunities. This lack of income can result in increased used of negative coping mechanisms, including reducing living expenses by taking children out of school, living in unacceptable housing, reducing the quantity and quality of food intake, going without basic assets such as blankets, mattresses and clothes, and trying to earn additional income through begging, child labour, and early marriage.

UNHCR is providing cash assistance to mitigate the use of negative coping mechanisms by providing monthly cash grants to meet non-food basic needs for the most vulnerable, education grants, winterization grants for the cold months, and emergency and shelter grants on a case by case basis. Since the Syria operation began in 2013, UNHCR has distributed over 12.4 million USD in monthly unconditional cash grants to Syrian Refugees to meet basic needs

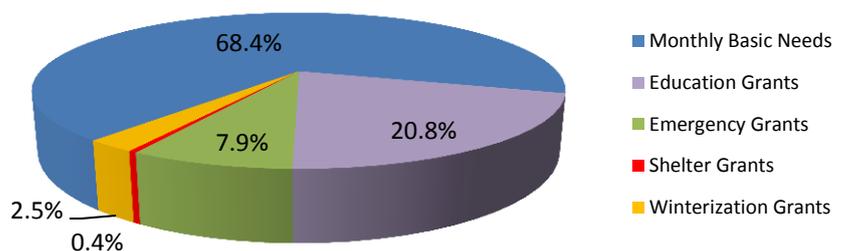
**2014 Cash Assistance at a Glance**

Activity	Refugees Reached June	Refugees Reached January-June	USD June	USD 2014 to date
<b>Monthly Cash for Basic Needs</b>	40,938	57,106	\$993,669	\$7,368,506
<b>Education Grants</b>	2	30,590	\$121	\$1,564,246
<b>Winterization</b>	0	21,099	\$0	\$459,140
<b>Emergency Grants</b>	331	1,639	\$22,003	\$61,425
<b>Shelter Grants</b>	0	434	\$0	\$15,291
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,271</b>	<b>110,868</b>	<b>\$1,015,793</b>	<b>\$9,468,608</b>

**Cash-Assisted Refugee Households in Proportion to Total Registered Refugee Households per Month**



**Proportion of Total Cash Disbursement by Sector for Syria Operation to date (Jan 2013-Present)**



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Darlem, Ahmed, and their four children are Syrian refugees living in Cairo, having fled the conflict from Damascus. Their third child, Hajir, was born with Caudal Regression Syndrome and Scoliosi, requiring special medical care.

Income opportunities in Egypt for refugees are limited, and Ahmed cannot make ends meet with his irregular work, especially as the family's savings from their tailoring business in Syria have long-since been eroded and expenses are high.

In addition to receiving WFP food vouchers and UNHCR-subsidized medical assistance and education grants, Ahmed and his family have also been receiving UNHCR monthly financial assistance to cover basic needs. Darlem and Ahmed have devoted much of this financial assistance toward improving Hajir's quality of life - paying for transportation to attend her check-ups and physiotherapy appointments, and paying for her special food that is comparatively expensive.

Ahmed does not know how the family would survive without this assistance, saying with a note of optimism, "God has not forgotten us."

## June Developments

- UNHCR and Implementing Partners have assisted 40,938 Syrian refugees through monthly cash assistance to meet basic needs via prepaid ATM cards and the Post Office.
- The Socio-Economic Vulnerability Assessment questionnaire, guidelines and process have been finalized and will be rolled out after Eid in August. Results will allow UNHCR and partners to target beneficiaries for cash assistance based on economic vulnerability rather than through protection categories.
- Coordination to define the cash assistance Minimum Expenditure Basket with the Working Group has commenced.

## Strategy

UNHCR and WFP are working together to develop a joint monetized assistance solution through a prepaid smart card. Once launched, the card will allow beneficiaries to purchase food through a WFP-funded food voucher "wallet", and withdraw money from ATM machines to meet non-food basic needs using the UNHCR-funded cash "wallet".

The OneCard will remove the requirement of beneficiaries having to queue to receive assistance, as the food voucher and cash wallets on the card will be topped up monthly. Given that refugees live in 109 districts throughout Egypt, the OneCard will facilitate access to cash, as ATM machines are readily available throughout Egypt and accessible 24 hours per day.

The OneCard will also facilitate access to food, as the electronic voucher 'wallet' on the card will be used to redeem food at any of the WFP-selected suppliers, eliminating queues for paper-vouchers, and enabling easy food purchases at the convenience of the refugees.

The socio-economic vulnerability assessment that will begin to be rolled out in August will allow UNHCR and WFP to identify the poorest refugee households to target with monetized assistance. Having a joint targeting mechanism will enable UNHCR and WFP to provide a package of monetized assistance to the most vulnerable of the refugee population, enabling them to meet their basic needs with dignity, while supporting the local economy.