



**Services Provided by
The Government of Egypt to Syrian Citizens**

Overview:

Egypt has hosted an increasing number of Syrian citizens since the onset of the Syrian revolution in March 2011. The number of Syrians living in Egypt has rapidly expanded to reach approximately 300,000¹, of which 130,000 have officially registered or are awaiting registration as refugees with UNHCR². Unlike in some other host countries, Syrians in Egypt (whether officially registered as refugees or not) live within host communities and not in refugee camps. As such, the Egyptian government and host communities have borne the brunt of the massive influx of Syrians fleeing their country as a result of the unfortunate situation unfolding there. Syrians have been recorded residing in almost all of Egypt's governorates, but are mostly concentrated in Greater Cairo, Alexandria, and Damietta. Furthermore, the Syrian community in Egypt includes all age and family groups. Many have found employment in numerous sectors of the Egyptian economy, including but not limited to the food and beverage services sector and the furniture manufacturing industry, while others have moved their businesses to Egypt.

This comes against the backdrop of a sluggish economy. According to World Bank figures, GDP growth has fallen from 5.1% in 2010 to just 1.8% in 2011 and slightly recovering to around 2.2% in 2012. More importantly, unemployment rose to 13% in June 2013 while gross public debt rose to nearly 100% of GDP in the same month.

Nevertheless, in a bid to alleviate the suffering of Syrians living in the country, the government of Egypt decided early on in the crisis to provide Syrians with the same public health, education, and higher education services rendered to Egyptians and at the same cost. These are services provided at massively subsidized fees and are often virtually free of charge.

In summer of this year, the government of Egypt decided to continue providing these services to Syrians over the course of the next year, despite their increased numbers and despite the Egyptian government receiving little or no international assistance, in addition to the economic situation described above.

Legal situation of Syrians in Egypt:

Upon entering Egypt, Syrian citizens are given a 6-month residency. This residency can then be renewed an indefinite number of times for a duration of 6 months.

International Assistance:

Despite the above, the government of Egypt has not received any international assistance to help defray the costs of providing services to Syrians residing in Cairo.

¹ This is in addition to an estimated 7000 Egyptian citizens who had previously resided in Syria but have now returned to Egypt.

² There are several reasons that may explain the gap between the number of Syrians residing in Egypt and the number who have registered with UNHCR as refugees, including but not limited to: fear of negative repercussions in case of return to Syria due to the presence of a UNHCR stamp on their passport as well as the social stigma sometimes associated with being a refugee.

Services Provided by Egypt to Syrian residents/refugees:

Education Services:

The decision to provide free public schooling to Syrians in Egypt, taken to cover the previous school year (2012/2013), was extended to the current school year (2013/2014).

Costs associated with providing free public schooling to Syrians in the 2012/2013 school year are as follows:

Schools/Class	Number of Syrians Students Enrolled in Public Schools	Education Cost Per Student (in L.E)	Total Cost (in L.E)
Kindergarten and Elementary	4389	1100	4, 827, 900
Preparatory	1808	1200	2, 169, 600
High School	1522	1500	2, 283, 000
Technical High School	106	1000	106, 000
Total	7,825		9, 386, 500

Costs associated with providing free public schooling to Syrians in the 2013/2014 school year (school fees were also waived this year):

Schools/Class	Number of Syrians Students Enrolled in Public Schools	Education Costs Per Student+School Fees (in L.E)	Total (in L.E)
Kindergarten and Elementary	8966	1100+45	10, 266, 070
Preparatory	3884	1200+45	4, 835, 580
High School	3212	1500+65	5, 026, 780
Technical High School	119	1000+55	125, 545
Total	16,181		20, 253, 975

The Ministry of Education has indicated that the above constitute only the direct costs of tuition resulting from the provision of education to Syrians residing in Cairo. It has also indicated that it is difficult to accurately estimate the other indirect costs such as depreciation of school buildings and teaching materials, in addition to extra pay given to teachers in schools hosting large numbers of Syrians. In addition, the total costs for the academic year 2013/2014 is expected to dramatically rise as figures continue to come in from several school districts that have not yet reported final numbers of Syrian students registered in public schools. The ministry has also expressed an interest in working with donors to provide funding for building additional schools

and/or classrooms in areas of Egypt where large concentrations of Syrians reside (6th of October city, for example).

Higher Education Services:

The Ministry of Higher Education had waived tuition fees (paid by non-Egyptian citizens) for Syrians in the academic year 2012/2013. This table provides an overview of the fees waived (in L.E):

College	Undergraduate Level		Higher Studies			
	Registration Fee	Annual Tuition Fee	Registration Fee	Annual Tuition Fee		
				Diploma	Master's	PhD
Theoretical Colleges	11,170	11,170	13,404	11,170	13,404	22,340
Practical Colleges	16,755	16,755	18,989	14,521	16,755	27,925

The total cost incurred by the Ministry of Higher Education for the academic year 2012/2013 was approximately 60 million L.E. The ministry estimates that it will face similar costs for the current academic year (2013/2014).

Health Services:

The Ministry of Health has indicated that it is continuing to accord Syrian citizens residing in Egypt the same medical treatment privileges accorded to their Egyptian counterparts. This translates into providing many medical services at a heavily subsidized cost. Furthermore, the ministry of health has indicated that in many cases involving emergency surgery, organ transplants, other surgeries, and dialysis, medical services are provided completely free of charge