



# EGYPT INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE – SYRIAN REFUGEES IN EGYPT

December 2015

## KEY FIGURES

**524**

Unaccompanied minors assisted

**31,291**

Refugees provided with cash grants in December 2015

**62,034**

Refugees received WFP food vouchers in December

**2,174**

Refugees submitted for Resettlement since the beginning of 2015

**12,481**

Refugees with specific needs identified in Syrian population

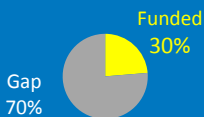
**1,360**

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR and Egypt Post signed an agreement regarding the disbursement of cash assistance for refugees in 2016 through the postal service. Partnering with Egypt Post ensures funds are distributed efficiently and reliably. At least 30,000 refugees will be able to access cash assistance at approximately 3,000 Egypt Post branches nationwide.
- UNHCR and UNICEF Egypt provided a one-time winterization grant for the most vulnerable families of all nationalities registered with UNHCR in Egypt. This cash assistance supported families to secure winterization items and to stay warm, healthy, and protected.
- UNHCR participated in a conference organized by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to celebrate the "International Volunteer Day on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015. UNHCR was part of a discussion panel with other UN agencies (UNV, UNDP and UNFPA) as well as different institutions and local NGOs working with volunteers to talk about obstacles and challenges they face.
- Following the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women and "Orange Your World" Campaign, the dome at Cairo University was lit in orange on December 2nd in the spirit of a future free of violence against women.

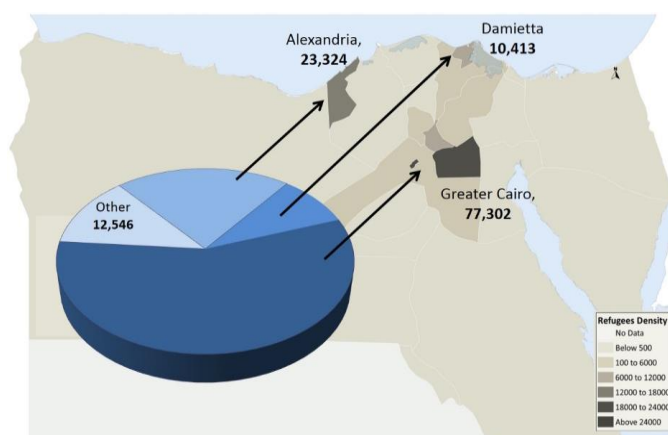


Ms. Elizabeth Tan with Mr. Essam Al Sagheer, Chairman of the Egypt Post Authority during the signing of the agreement.

## Population of concern

A total of **117,658** people of concern (POC)

Custom Age Group	F	M	Total
0-4	6,788	7,1736	13,961
5-11	11,096	11,769	22,865
12-17	6,818	7,311	14,129
18-59	30,445	31,114	61,559
60+	2,527	2,617	5,144
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,674</b>	<b>59,984</b>	<b>117,658</b>



# UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

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## 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 education and health care services. UNHCR conducts registration, provides counseling, and works with partners to provide legal assistance. Interagency operational partners also 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 protection and support for Syrians refugees and impacted host communities.

## Achievements



### Protection

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#### Counseling and Detention

- A Syrian national was arrested in December 2015 on robbery charges and cleared of all charges. There were no irregular migration incidents on the North Coast during December 2015. A total of 11 Syrians were detained for residency issues in Mansoura, Dakahlia Governorate. All 11 were referred to a UNHCR legal partner, and all have been released. All detainees receive humanitarian, social and medical assistance.

#### Child Protection and SGBV

- Save the Children assisted with specialized and targeted services for the protection of children, including psycho-social counselling, recreational activities and health awareness following the HEART approach. Save the Children reached 136 girls and boys enrolled in Syria Al-Ghad community school and Bashayer Al-Yasmin community school in Obour City. Psycho-social support and awareness continues to be an integral component for the protection of refugee children in Egypt. This month's session focused on raising awareness of the rights of children for both children and caretakers, highlighting how children experiencing discrimination can be protected.
- Recreational activities provide refugee children with a sense of hope and stability during childhood. Save the Children arranged a 9-day long period of recreational events in Obour City and 6th of October, benefitting 1,263 children and caregivers.
- 866 Syrian refugee children benefitted from 11 health awareness sessions held by Save the Children in community schools in 6th of October and Obour City. Topics included dental and oral hygiene, nutrition, personal hygiene and first aid in cases of fractures and injuries.
- 25 November 2015 marked the start of the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence Campaign, which ran until 10 December and culminated in the International Day of Human Rights. The global theme for the year's campaign was "**Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All**", with a special focus on young people.
- As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence Campaign, UNHCR and partners conducted a number of community-based activities including awareness raising on SGBV and recreational group activities, including movies, games, sports activities, theatre performances, fostering coexistence between refugees and host community, and social empowerment. In Obour City, Save the Children conducted an awareness event with 57 children and 30 caregivers on the scope of potential SGBV incidents, including sexual exploitation and child abuse.
- Caritas Alexandria in coordination with the UNHCR Field Office in Alexandria organized a trip on 8 December for 56 Syrian children aged between 8 to 16 years old, to visit the 1001 Inventions exhibit currently taking place in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

## Community Activities

- UNHCR partner Outa Hamra continues to arrange workshops for the children and young people of Masaken Othman. The workshops are part of the activation and implementation of social activities in Meet and Play area. In the context of building a network between civil society actors and utilizing the creativity of Masaken Othman residents, the workshops train children and young people on the organization for artistic events in the neighborhood, using the edge of the Meet and Play area. The project aims to create new community connections between extremely disperse groups.

## Education

- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) continued to distribute educational grants in Cairo and Alexandria for the academic year 2015/2106. Approximately 10,199 students benefited from the grants. In addition, 26 special needs students received education grants for this period to assist them in enrolling in specialized schools to meet their educational and care needs.
- Save the Children conducted an intensive five-day teacher training on Active Learning techniques and classroom management for two groups of 46 teachers in Obour City and 6th of October City from different Syrian community schools.
- Peer-to-peer activities were conducted during the reporting period by Save the Children in Obour and 6th October Cities. Activities raised awareness about the danger of crossing the sea and the rights of children to access quality education. A total of 41 parents and 104 children participated in the activities.
- Save the Children, in cooperation with FARD Foundation planned and conducted a nationwide survey on Syrian refugee children who have dropped out of school in Greater Cairo, Damietta and Alexandria. The survey tools included a phone survey to collect quantitative data from target households in addition to focus group discussions with samples of parents and children of different age groups in the target locations.



## Health

- UNHCR delivered diagnostic medical equipment for 20 Ministry of Health (MOH) primary health care facilities and MOH directorates' administrative offices in Cairo, Alexandria, Damietta and remote border governorates, including Marsa Matrouh and the Red Sea. The MOH administrative and technical committee and the Arab Medical Union successfully received the equipment.
- As part of the National Stop TB Partnership in Egypt that was initiated by MOH National TB Program, and in line with Egypt's success in reducing annual incidences and general rates of TB, seven campaigns for active TB case detection among migrants, persons of concern and host communities were conducted over three days in refugee residing areas. During the campaigns, detected TB cases were referred to MoH chest clinics and Refuge Egypt clinics. Campaigns were coordinated by UNHCR in partnership with Refuge Egypt and Caritas.



## Basic Needs and Livelihood

- 31,291 vulnerable Syrian refugees were assisted in Egypt through the provision of monthly cash grants.
- Over 85,000 vulnerable refugees considered in need of winter assistance received assistance including unconditional cash assistance of USD 38 per person. 61,000 Syrian refugees received unconditional cash assistance from UNHCR and the remaining 24,000 Syrians received cash from UNICEF. The assistance was provided through 3,000 post offices across the country, with 90 per cent of the cash assistance distributed through seven post offices located in Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta.
- The initial vulnerability assessment initiated at the end of 2014 has been finalized for the whole Syrian population. Preliminary results of the socio-economic assessment by UNHCR and WFP have indicated that over 80 per cent (98,000 individuals) of those assessed to date are in situations of severe or high vulnerability. These results indicate that refugees are living on less than half of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of EGP 592.4 (USD 75.6) per month per refugee, and require support - including through cash grants - to meet their basic needs. Reassessment is foreseen for all current beneficiaries every six months.
- ILO has developed a range of tools for aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. Community-Based Enterprise Development (C-BED) is quite unique because of its 'learning without a trainer' methodology that is applied through action-based group

learning. In a two -day workshops, entrepreneurs are able to help each other understand formal business concepts, such as costing or marketing, and develop stronger skills for business improvement. An Introduction and Demonstration Training on C-BED was implemented in Alexandria from 7 – 9 December with livelihood actors in Egypt including ILO, UNHCR, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas which was followed by a demonstration training with groups of refugees from Alexandria. Positive feedback was received with suggestions on how to best adapt the tool to the context in Egypt. UNHCR and ILO decided to test this cost-effective business training with urban refugees in Egypt. C-BED will be included as part of the business training for the self-employment track in 2016.

## Food Security and Nutrition

- A total of 62,034 beneficiaries (2,891 Palestinian refugees from Syria and 59,143 Syrian Refugees) received WFP food vouchers during the December distribution, meeting 99% of the month's target. There has been no exclusion based on targeting in the December distribution cycle.
- The socio-economic assessment informing the shift from geographic to vulnerability targeting has resulted in 41,450 exclusions. There have been more than 8,000 re-inclusions through the appeals review process, resulting in a final vulnerable target beneficiary caseload of close to 60,000.

## 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](mailto:EK@unhcr.org), Cell +20 120 042 1996

Marwa Hashem, Assistant Public Information Officer, [HASHEMMA@unhcr.org](mailto:HASHEMMA@unhcr.org), Cell +20 122 191 2664

### Links:

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