

# EGYPT

## UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

June to August 2016

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### KEY FIGURES

**187,838**

Refugees and Asylum Seekers (all nationalities) registered as of August 2016

**3,529**

Refugees submitted for resettlement in 2016

**2,488**

Refugees departed for resettlement in 2016

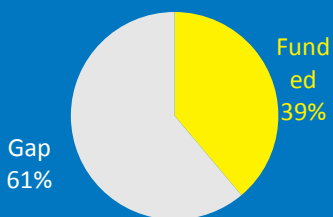
**2,525**

Unaccompanied and Separated children registered to date

#### FUNDING

**USD 82 M**

Requested for the operation in 2016



#### Priorities

- Improve quality of basic health and education services through coordination and capacity building for selected Government ministries.
- Strengthen access to basic health care for African and Iraqi populations;
- Enhance access to livelihoods and skills training for refugees and host communities to improve self-reliance.
- Promote coexistence between refugee and Egyptian communities.
- Coordinate protection response, with emphasis on child protection, SGBV and prevention of irregular migration.

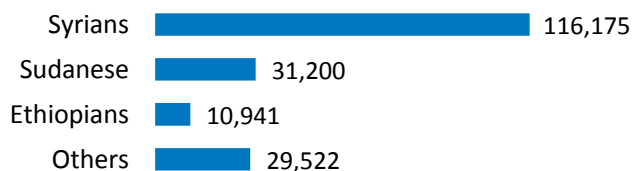


- A series of events took place to commemorate World Refugee Day. A hundred refugees from different population groups participated to an *Iftar* event. The event, held at the Islamic Complex in Sheikh Zayed, was organized by UNHCR Cairo in conjunction with the Fard Foundation. The meals were prepared by Syrian refugees who are participating in a livelihood project. A Syrian music group entertained the gathering with traditional music and dance.
- The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (Population Policies, Expatriates & Migration Department), held an extraordinary regional consultative meeting on refugees and migrants. The August 2016 meeting in Cairo was organized in cooperation with UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The Director of the UNHCR Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Mr. Amin Awad, was in attendance. The main purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the UN High Level Meeting, to be held in the side lines of the seventy-first session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, on 19 September 2016. Mrs. Karen AbuZayd, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, was one of the main speakers.
- UNHCR Egypt participated in a 4km run on World Humanitarian Day, organized by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with Cairo Runners. UNHCR staff encouraged members of the public to sign the #WithRefugees petition and talked with people about the refugee situation and the importance of the campaign at a global policy-making level. Over 400 people signed the petition.



#### Population of concern

A total of **187,838** people of concern



## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Operational Context

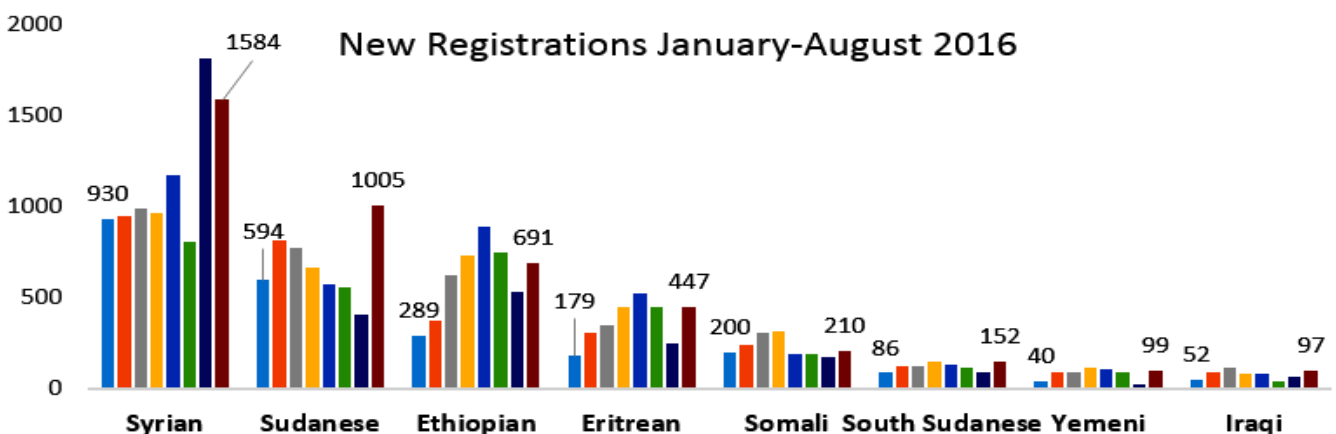
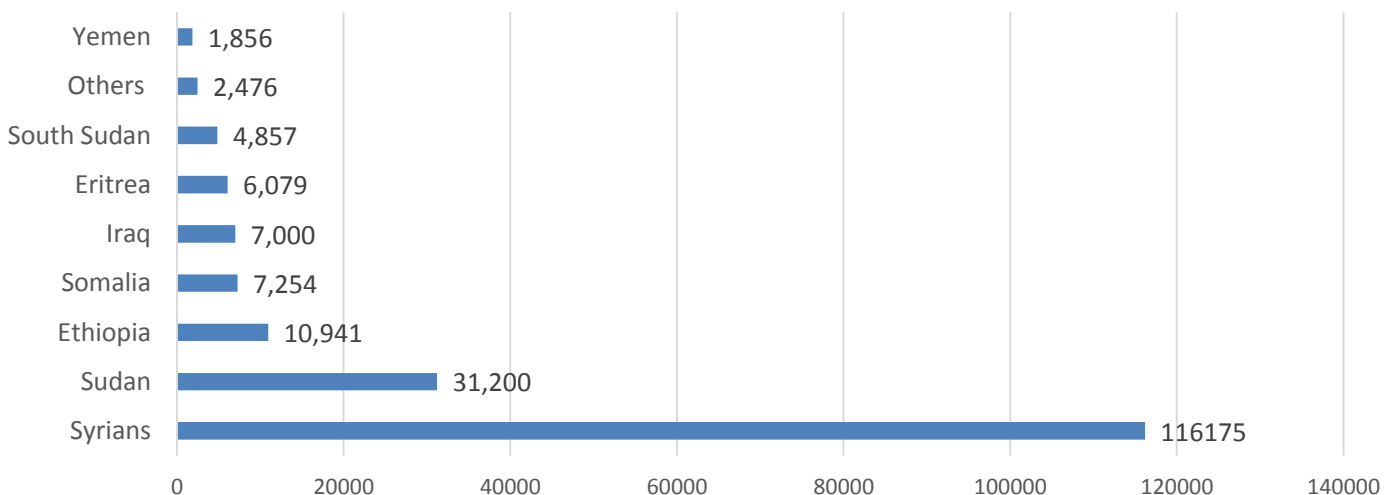
Egypt remains a destination and transit country for refugees and asylum-seekers. While Egypt is signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as well as to the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention related to refugees, UNHCR is the sole entity conducting registration and refugee status determination pending the adoption of a national asylum legislation and system.



These beautiful Sudanese quadruplets approached UNHCR Egypt Office with their mother for assistance.

By the end August 2016, there were a total of **187,838 refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR in Egypt**, of more than 50 different nationalities. Syrians represents 62% of the total registered (116,175 individuals), followed by Sudanese at 16% (31,200 individuals) and Ethiopians at 6% (10,941 individuals). While refugees are dispersed throughout Egypt, including in remote areas, the majority are concentrated in three urban areas, namely Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. The total population registered in 2016 is 66% higher than the numbers recorded for the same period last year and 47% more than 2014. Syrians continue to be biggest group registered during the reporting period, followed by Sudanese, Ethiopians and Eritreans.

Registered population by country of origin - August 2016



## Asylum in a mixed migration context

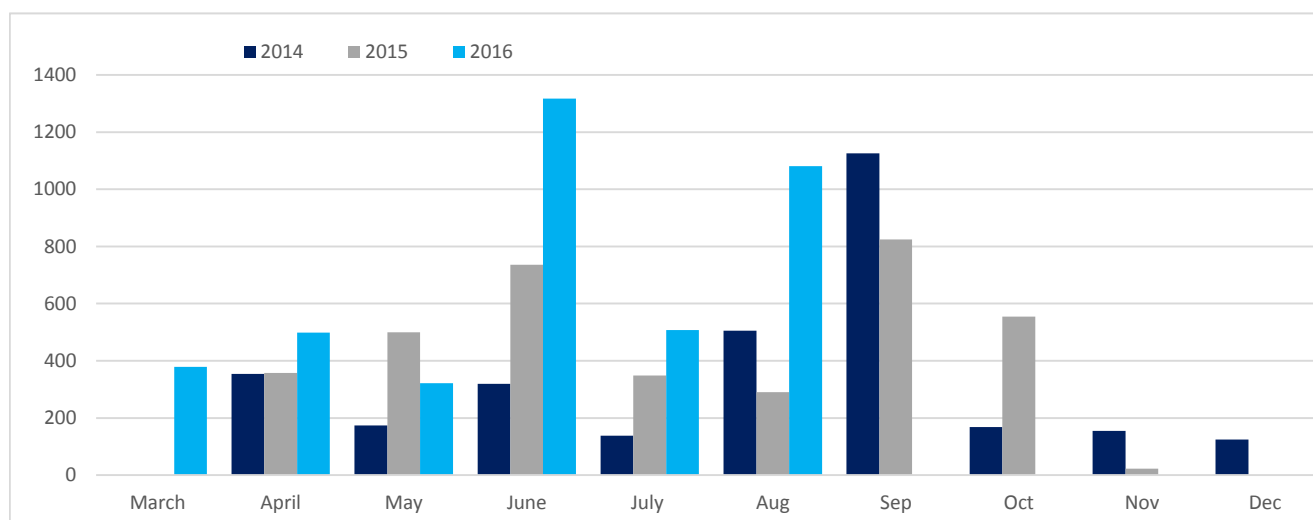
UNHCR Egypt monitors movements of asylum seekers and refugees at Egypt's eastern and southern borders and from Egypt's northern coast, generally towards Europe by sea. UNHCR has gained authorization to enter detention centres with iris scanners in order to accurately verify registration status of detainees on the spot, and to facilitate the release of registered persons. Individuals registered with UNHCR, Syrians and humanitarian cases are generally released, whereas those unregistered, undocumented or whose status cannot be verified are often subject to detention and deportation.

At the end of August 2016, 1,081 foreign nationals, including asylum-seekers and refugees, were currently detained for irregular departure from the North Coast, in 20 incidents, bringing total detainees in 2016 to 4,106, and total maritime incidents to 107. This represents an 84% increase from the same period in 2015 (2,232 detainees as of 31 August 2015). 52% of the total was registered as refugees and asylum-seekers with UNHCR, a significant increase from 2015, when only 25% of detainees were confirmed to be registered. UNHCR is not allowed to register asylum-seekers in detention, preventing unregistered detainees from seeking asylum in Egypt.

As in 2015, the majority of North Coast detainees are from Sub-Saharan Africa (Sudanese and Somalis are the two main nationalities, followed by Eritreans and Ethiopians). To date, 1,462 Sudanese, 990 Somalis, 662 Eritreans, and 460 Ethiopians have been detained, in addition to 63 Yemenis, 59 Syrians, 13 South Sudanese, 335 Comorians and 62 persons of other nationalities. These figures do not include Egyptians. Demographic trends remain stable with men accounting for 58% of detainees, women 26%, and children 16%.

While the number of children has increased as compared to 2015 (671 to date in 2016, as compared to 543 for the year in 2015), the percentage of child detainees accounts for 15% of detainees, the same as 2015. The percentage of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in detention has significantly increased from the 2015 trend, with 370 UASC detained in 2016 (55% of all children) compared to 26% of child detainees in 2015.

### Total Irregular Migration Detainees from the North Coast

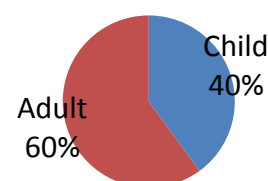


## Achievements

### Protection

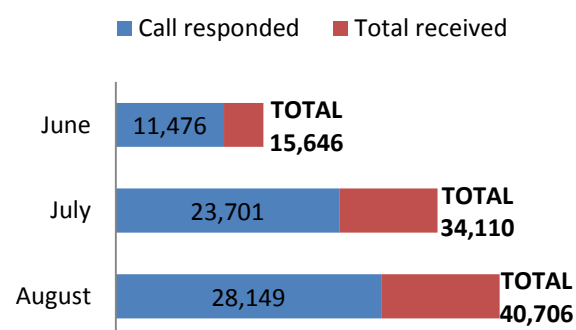
- In March 2016, a group of Oromos, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, staged a sit-in outside the UNHCR office in 6 October city. Oromo women, men and children, between 100 and 200 persons (peaking at 400 at one point) sat in front of the office for approximately four months. There were two main reasons for the demonstration: one was the increase in the rejection rate of refugee status determination (RSD) of Oromos, based on grounds of credibility, which went from 60% in the past 2-3 years to 20% this year; another reason was the waiting period for the RSD interviews and results. UNHCR staff, including the Representative and Deputy Representative, met with the Oromo community leaders from two different community groups (United Oromo Refugees Association (UORA) and Oromo Self Reliance Association (OSRA)), to discuss their concerns. In order to address the issues regarding RSD, UNHCR increased the staffing but some delays persisted in the review phase. It was agreed with the community that they would have one month after the interview when they could review, change or rectify their story or discuss procedural issues. UNHCR has also explored various mechanisms to increase efficiency in the RSD process and reduce the waiting time from 28 months to 16 months.
- As part of its **community-based protection**, UNHCR continues to meet regularly with representatives from the various refugee and asylum seeker communities. The community meetings help to clarify misconceptions about services, increase staff and partners understanding of the refugee communities' protection concerns and priorities and identify gaps in service provision. The work of UNHCR and its partners is explained and procedures and criteria related to cash assistance, resettlement, protection and healthcare are clarified.
- In terms of **child protection**, children represent 40% (74,676) of all asylum seekers and refugees registered with UNHCR in Egypt, 45% of which are girls. The number of vulnerable children at risk, with complex protection needs, continues to increase, with the largest number having fled Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan. Whilst the largest number of refugee children are Syrians (50,193), the largest increase of children at risk are from the African and Iraqi populations, many with complex protection risks and, in particular, the need for systematic alternative care arrangements.
- Cash-based interventions** are a way to protect children. However due to decreasing funds, UNHCR can only support 800 UASC. In August, 181 newly registered children were determined as being at risk and eligible for financial assistance. 74 children were first-time recipients and an additional 79 children and youth at risk are in the process of receiving financial assistance.
- 7,897 boys and girls in Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta benefitted from **psycho-social support** through 72 psycho-social support workers (PSW) from the refugee communities, working with UNHCR Partner PSTIC. Core areas of assistance were emergency support and post-detention release interventions. 51% were children who had fled Syria and 49% were children from Sub-Saharan Africa. PSWs also assisted in the identification of 108 children at risk within their community, affected by abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation - 41% were children from Sub-Saharan Africa.
- An additional 10,829 Syrian children, youth and parents received **community-based psycho social support** and other children protection services under the 3RP.
- UNHCR Child Protection Unit continues to strengthen the capacity of UNHCR staff and partners on the identification, prioritization and response for the most vulnerable children at risk. 12 staff members from PLAN International received training in July. Regular monthly case meetings with UNHCR partners Caritas, Save the Children and PSTIC have helped to improve coordination and referral of cases, identify gaps and challenges and ensure tailored services.
- Regarding **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)**, a total of 223 SGBV incidents were reported to UNHCR offices in Cairo and Alexandria in the reporting period, either directly or via partners. Of these **97 SGBV incidents** were reported in August, the highest in 2016. These higher numbers could be attributed to enhanced identification and reporting mechanisms; indeed, sexual and gender-based violence is often significantly under-reported. Of the 97 incidents, Syrian nationals reported 23.7% of the total SGBV incidents while they account for 61.8% of the total number of asylum seekers and refugees registered with UNHCR. This could be attributed to the fact that they are more likely to work from home and/or be with relatives when outside. On the other hand, 76.3% of the survivors

Breakdown per age group



who reported SGBV incidents are from Sub-Saharan African countries (Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea) and Iraq although this population group constitutes 38.2% of all persons of concern to UNHCR Egypt. Rape is the most common type of SGBV incident; the vast majority of rape incidents and sexual assault are directly related to unsafe employment opportunities, with women being assaulted at their work place or on their way to work.

- Refugee children continue to be subjected to SGBV. 54 children were identified as SGBV survivors, accounting for an average of 25% of the total number of survivors. The most prevalent forms of SGBV against children are early marriage, rape and sexual or physical assaults. Early/forced marriage remains a major concern among the Syrian refugee population in Egypt. 24 cases of early /forced marriage took place against Syrian children. UNHCR continues to work with partners on improving the identification, referral and data collection mechanisms in this area.
- The SGBV team conducted a training session for Plan International on identifying SGBV cases and clarifying the referral mechanism, during the course of their livelihood programmes. The regular case follow-up meeting with Caritas provided the opportunity to discuss the procedure of individual financial assistance for SGBV survivors and improve coordination on cases in need of urgent assistance. The SGBV team facilitated a Protection meeting regarding LGBTI cases, to reduce the difficulties for LGBTI refugees and asylum seekers to identify themselves with UNHCR.
- UNHCR **Infoline** received an average of 30,000 calls a month from June to August. As in previous months, the main queries relate to registration, refugee status determination and assistance. Callers also enquire about documentation renewal and protection concerns (such as resettlement but also theft, rape or domestic violence). The Infoline is handled by 11 call attendants speaking in Arabic and English. Interpreter services are available in specific languages on specific days: Somali (Sunday), Oromo (Monday), Tigrinya (Tuesday), Amharic (Wednesday) and French (Thursday).



## Education

- Syrian population:** In August 2016, UNHCR partner the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) continued registration interviews for the 2016/17 education grants for Syrian students. A total of 9,278 students were registered. CRS disbursed education grants in Cairo and Alexandria to 2,754 individual applicants (1,221 females and 1,533 males) comprising 5,305 individual students (2,651 females and 2,654 males). The majority of students who received the education grant are in primary school; only 505 students were enrolled in secondary school.
- African, Iraqi and Yemeni Refugees and Asylum Seekers:** At the end of August 2016, the CRS team had registered a total number of 10,253 students (5,180 males and 5,073 females) comprising 9,502 students from African countries, 542 students from Iraq, and 209 students from Yemen. In preparation for the new academic year, a total of 39,564 textbooks of the Sudanese curriculum were distributed to a total of 36 Sudanese refugee community schools in August, before the start of the new academic year.
- A Life Skills Program was held for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), organized by CRS, targeting 14 to 18 year olds. 119 minors participated in the program that aims at developing the participants' personal, interpersonal, leadership, education, and employment skills. The sessions sought to empower UASC to be resilient through building relationships and acquiring essential life skills in their host community.



Life Skills Program, CRS Maadi office

## Health

- UNHCR made a presentation on available services and disseminated printed information at a series of Health Advocacy Events organized by WHO. The aim of the events were to sustain and improve communication with the

Syrian refugee community in Egypt, about access to healthcare services at public health facilities in different governorates. Representatives from health partners participated in the event.

- In August 2016, data collection for Health Access and Utilization Survey (HAUS) was initiated for households from Iraq and from African countries. This survey, which has already been conducted for Syrian households, aims to evaluate the household's knowledge on the availability of healthcare services, assess their access to care and the barriers they may experience in accessing care. The data analysis and final report is expected to take place in October 2016.



## Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- The annual ceremony to celebrate the achievements of the Ministry of Social Solidarity included this year an arts and crafts exhibition showcasing products made by clients of NGOs in Alexandria. UNHCR's partner Caritas displayed Syrian and Egyptian handmade accessories, leather bags, wood crafts and food products. Youth who excelled in cultural and sports activities were honoured and certificates of appreciation were distributed to UNHCR and local NGOs
- The NilFurat Project, which focuses on empowering refugee and Egyptian women through engaging master craftswomen and design specialists to create different products, has started its second phase. A key component of this phase is exploring opportunities for a sustainable and ongoing production of the NilFurat products.
- The Houch Ygaman and Y'ahl El-Hay projects funded by UNHCR Egypt and implemented by Æcumene Studio in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population as well as Obour City and Obour Community Development Association, have made their way to Venice, Italy. The projects are being exhibited in the Egyptian pavilion until November 2016, under the 2016 theme "Reporting from the Front" at the 15th Venice Biennale, Italy – one of the most prestigious art and architecture exhibitions worldwide. The projects focus on an integrated approach to ensure better access to health services for Syrian and Egyptian communities, by upgrading public health clinics, improving public spaces in the surrounding areas and improving two kindergartens located in the social solidarity buildings.



## Food Security and Nutrition

- Current data from the second phase of the Egypt Vulnerability Assessment for Refugees (EVAR) indicates that while the socio-economic status of Syrian refugees has not improved, in some cases it has even slightly deteriorated. The first key findings, based on assessments of 11,026 households (HH)/51,004 are as follows:

- 29% of HHs (28% of individuals) are highly vulnerable while the 61% of HHs (66% of individuals) is severe vulnerable; 72% of female-headed households is severely vulnerable, compared to 58% of male-headed households;
- Households spend most of their resources on food (45%), followed by rent (28%), health (5%) and education (2%). 68% of households have reduced expenditures on essential non-food items, such as health and education, in order to meet other basic needs;
- 4.3% children were found to be employed and 0.7% (174) of those surveyed were identified as being at risk;
- 95% of working-age females and 31% of working-age males are unemployed;
- 55% of individuals received food vouchers and 39% of individuals received cash assistance (this percentage reflects the fact that for this phase of EVAR, those on cash assistance were prioritized for assessment).



A Syrian family in Cairo, Egypt

## Durable Solutions - Resettlement

- UNHCR uses resettlement as a protection tool. As of August 2016, 1,085 cases (3521 individuals) were submitted for resettlement to third countries, most of them from Syria (551 cases / 2027 individuals) and Sudan (287 cases / 989 individuals).

## Working in partnership

UNHCR in Egypt works through the following partners: Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trials and Human Rights (ACSFT) ● Arab Medical Union (AMU) ● Care Int/USA ● Caritas ● Catholic Relief Services (CRS) ● Danish Refugee Council (DRC) ● Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR) ● ICMC ● IOM ● Dr Mostafa Mahmoud Society ● Refuge Egypt ● Save the Children ● St Andrews Refugee Services (StARS) ● Terre Des Hommes (TdH) - Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) ● UNDP ● UNFPA ● UNHABITAT ● UNICEF ● UNOPS ● UNV ● WFP ● WHO

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to approximately **US\$ 32.3 million**

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds in 2016.

### Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to UNHCR in 2016 (in USD):

United States of America (200 M) | Sweden (78 M) | Netherlands (46 M) | Norway (40 M) | Priv Donors Spain (35 M) | Australia (31 M) | Japan (24 M) | Denmark (24 M) | United Kingdom (23 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Republic of Korea (13 M) | Priv Donors Italy (13 M) | Germany (13 M) | Priv Donors Japan (11 M) | Italy (10 M)

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**Thank you to all donors for your contributions in 2016**

**GET INVOLVED  
STAND TOGETHER**  
Refugees in Egypt need your help now

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#### Links:

Regional portal: [data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php)

Twitter: @UNHCREGYPT