



EGYPT

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

January 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

UNHCR and Ministry of Health sign MoU



UNHCR Egypt Representative with his Excellency the Minister of Health upon signing the agreement

On 5th January, UNHCR and the Ministry of Health (MoH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance access to public health care services for persons of concern in Egypt.

The agreement aims to provide extensive access to all refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR to primary health care and public hospitals in areas with high concentration of refugees. Through the partnership, UNHCR has contributed USD 1.1 million to six hospitals across Egypt and 20 primary health care centres. The fund will contribute to the purchase of medical equipment, including mammogram and automated ultrasound technology, and screening for early cancer detection.

Working together to re-design public spaces



UNHCR and OEcumene Studio met with refugees, local residents, and representatives from Ubur's City Administration on 3rd January. It was the final session to re-design Ubur's public health clinic, its surrounding space, and two local kindergartens.

KEY FIGURES

178,723

Persons of concern (all nationalities) registered by UNHCR in Egypt

2,408

Registered during January 2016

324

Refugees submitted for resettlement since the beginning of 2016

112

Refugees departed for Resettlement since the beginning of 2016

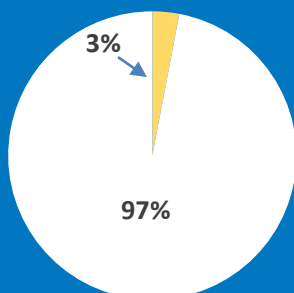
1,800

Unaccompanied and Separated children registered

FUNDING

USD 82,200,000 m

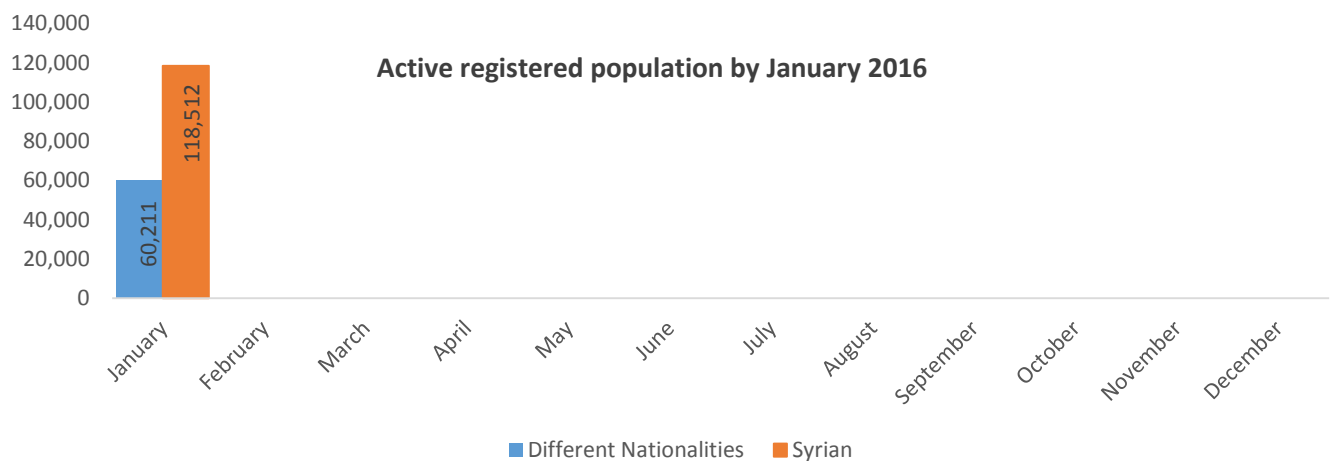
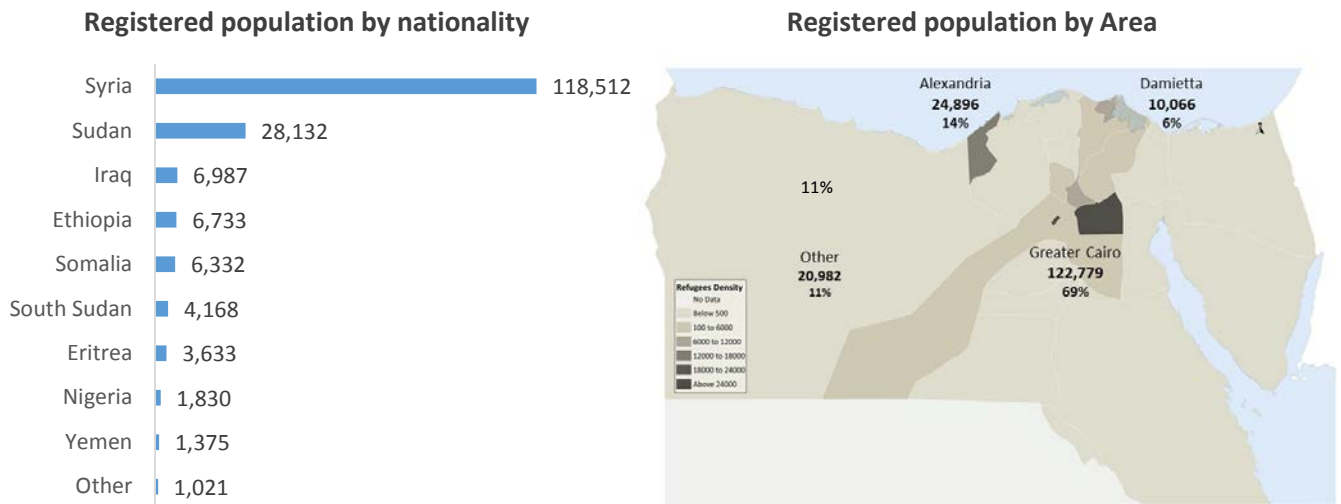
Requested for the operation in 2016



■ Funded ■ Gap

POPULATION OF CONCERN

A total of **178,723** persons of concern



*Statistics for the Syrian caseload are updated regularly and can be found at the Syria Regional Refugee Response Inter Agency Information Portal <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=8>

Resettlement Submissions until 30 January 2016					
Nationality	Canada	Sweden	UK	USA	Total
Eritrea	1		8	16	25
Ethiopia			4	11	15
Iraq				23	23
Somalia			3	5	8
Sudan			15	124	139
Syria		10	54	32	96
Other			1	17	18
TOTAL	1	10	85	228	324

ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

Planning and Launch of the Annual Participatory Assessment

January saw the planning process for the annual participatory assessment of refugees in Egypt. UNHCR designed a questionnaire, in addition to trainings for facilitators, note-takers and interpreters, including staff and volunteers from UNHCR, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas.

With assistance from these two partners, **the first set of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were launched** on 31st January, taking place between UNHCR's offices in Zamalek and 6th of October City, and Caritas in Garden City and 6th of October as well as CRS in Maadi. The FGDs covered Sudanese, South Sudanese, Ethiopian, Somali, Eritrean, Iraqi, Yemeni, various Francophone and Syrian refugees across different ages and genders.



The FGDs provide a forum for refugees to respond to the questionnaire whilst voicing concerns and issues they face on a daily basis, enabling them to contribute to UNHCR's annual planning process.

Counseling

- During January, the Protection unit conducted **35 interviews and 48 counselling sessions** at the Protection window, and attended to **105 cases**. In Addition, the Unit referred 11 cases to RST.
- The Office continued to witness an increase in applicants stating **difficulties in obtaining residence permit**; however part of the difficulties are generated from relocating the Ministry of Interior (MOI) warehouse to another city which requires longer time in receiving security clearance in providing residency permits to PoCs. In addition, the delay occurs also at Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) level and prior to sending the relevant papers to Mogamaa to start the process of granting the residence permit.
- Refugees exiting the country face significant delays in the obtaining exit visas.

Irregular Movement and Detention

- In January 2016, UNHCR was aware of **36 new arrest incidents for POC** in several locations in Egypt. The arrests included 10 cases of detention for criminal charges involving several nationalities (Sudanese, South Sudan, Cameroon, and Syrian), and for reasons of engaging in fights, theft and other illegal activities. Five arrests took place in Greater Cairo for beneficiaries from Sudan, Syria and Turkmenistan to verify proof of residency. 3 were released.
- A total of **21 individuals were detained at the Western and Southern borders**, of which 17 refugees including 16 Syrian and one Somali, were arrested at the Southern border, and 4 Sudanese at the Western border. UNHCR is aware of the release of at least 8 individuals of this group.
- UNHCR is aware of **22 transfers to Qanatir Prison** in January 2016. The detainees were arrested in irregular migration related incidents at Qena, Aswan and the North Coast. UNHCR verified the registration status of all detainees, 11 of whom were released after being cleared of charges and after they were confirmed to be of concern to the office. UNHCR will continue to monitor the situation of the remaining detainees and provide assistance as needed.

SGBV and Child Protection

- **24 new incidents of SGBV** were reported during January to UNHCR. As in previous months the number of incidents reported by the Syrian community remained low in comparison to other nationalities (2 reported incidents).
- The majority of SGBV incidents reported were predominantly rape incidents (13) followed by physical assault (6).

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

UNHCR conducted interviews for refugee status determination of applicants from South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia and small number of other nationalities on all instances (1st instance, appeal and reopening).



508

RSD interviews



224

Eligibility Decisions



85

Recognized Cases

Basic Needs

Completion of Winterization Assistance - Thank You USA and UK



Winter assistance for 2015 is a one-time grant distributed among the most vulnerable refugees registered with UNHCR to purchase basic items as means to overcome the coldest months of winter in Egypt. UNHCR began disbursement of winterization assistance in December 2015 and finished in January 2016.

UNHCR assessed that a total of **85,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees are in need of assistance during the winter months**. In coordination with UNICEF, UNHCR provided cash grants to some **61,000 Syrian refugees** and **8,500 African and Iraqi refugees**, while some 24,000 Syrians with children under 18 were assisted by UNICEF. African and Iraqi beneficiaries received EGP 200 per person whereas Syrian refugees received EGP 300 per person.

Syrian refugees received assistance through post offices across Egypt. Egypt Post reported that 90 per cent of winterization grants were distributed through 27 post offices located in Greater Cairo, Alexandria, Damietta and other governorates. African and Iraqi refugees received assistance through bank debit cards. Final reports showed that 93 per cent of targeted beneficiaries for winterization assistance received their grant.

UNHCR also continued to provide unconditional cash assistance during the month of January, benefitting **8,021 African and Iraqi beneficiaries** as well as **30,710 Syrian beneficiaries**.

The information on the winterization grants was disseminated utilizing different tools and platforms to reach all targeted groups

- SMS's were sent to all heads of households explaining that a grant was allocated to them and how to cash it.
- Messages were posted across UNHCR's social media platforms.
- A short information video was produced in 3 different languages (Arabic, English and French) to reach as many beneficiaries as possible.
- UNHCR and partners displayed posters explaining how to obtain the winterization grant, and note books with practical advice and awareness messages on protection and health during the winter were printed and distributed jointly with UNICEF.
- UNHCR's Infoline assisted during the winterization process in responding to queries related to the assistance.



Mohamed's Story



Mohamed Amer, is a middle-aged Syrian refugee from the city of Idlib. As tensions escalated in Syria and war started to ravage the country, he sought refuge in Egypt. He arrived by plane in 2013 accompanied by his wife and his two young children, aged five and three.

Mohamed lives in 6 of October City, an area with a high concentration of Syrians. He has been working as a taxi driver for more than a year now. Back in Syria, he used to work in a roastery, but with high competition in the Egyptian marketplace, income would be relatively low compared to what he made back home.

Mohamed is happy that his eldest son has the opportunity to attend the local public school. "My son is doing well in school, next year his sister will also join him", he stated. "This is the first time I receive the winterization grant. But I have been receiving the WFP food monthly vouchers for

almost a year now."

Mohamed said that he received a message on his mobile phone explaining that he would receive winterization cash assistance provided by UNHCR and UNICEF, and that he had to go to the post office to receive the grant.

"I went to the nearest post office branch with my UNHCR yellow card to cash the grant. And, after the worker checked that my name was on the list, I received 300 EGP per person, which for my family meant a total of 1,200 EGP" said Mohamed. "With that money I bought blankets and a heater, it was indeed very helpful and it made the winter more bearable" he added. "We live like Egyptians do, and I know we are much better off than others. Egypt and Egyptians are kind to us," he concluded.

The UNHCR Infoline based in Zamalek, Cairo, and is handled by 8 call attendants (Arabic and English) and 1 team leader. Interpreters are available in Somali (Sunday), Oromo (Monday), Tigrinya (Tuesday), Amharic (Wednesday), and French (Thursday). During January, calls related mainly to **registration, RSD and community services queries**.



14,620

Calls Received



7,447

Answered Calls



696

Average calls/day

UNHCR PARTNERS

Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trials and Human Rights (ASFT) • Arab Medical Union (AMU) • AOH • 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 • Refuge Point • Save the Children • St Andrews Refugee Services (StARS) • Terre Des Hommes - 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 as of January 2016 amount to **US\$ 2.24 M**

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 programs with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked fund

Thank you to all donors for your contributions in 2015



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

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

Useful Links:

Regional portal: data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php

Twitter: @UNHCREGYPT

Facebook- www.facebook.com/UNHCREgypt