

Egypt

November - December 2017

Egypt remains a **destination and transit country** for refugees and asylum-seekers, most of which live in **urban areas**.

Currently, **219,212 refugees and asylum-seekers of 58 different nationalities** are registered with UNHCR Egypt. More than half of them are from Syria.

50,228 people registered with UNHCR Egypt **in 2017**, 32,142 of whom arrived to Egypt in the same year; 5,409 registered in November and December alone.

KEY INDICATORS

16,540

households/cases received multi-purpose cash grants in December 2017.

3,695

unaccompanied and separated children are currently registered with UNHCR Egypt.

1,932

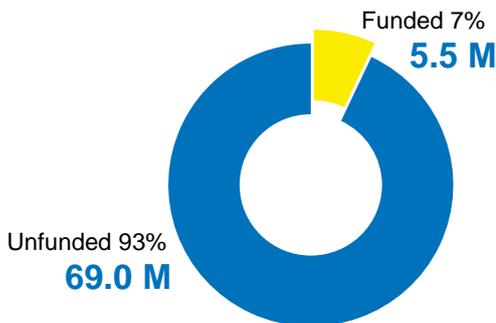
refugees departed to resettlement countries in 2017.



FUNDING (AS OF JANUARY 2018)

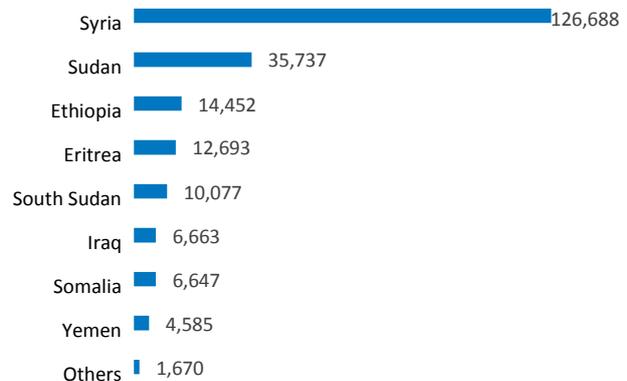
USD 74.5 M

requested for the Egypt operation



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



Updates

UNHCR participates in World Youth Forum

UNHCR Egypt participated in the World Youth Forum which took place in Sharm El Sheikh from 4 to 10 November 2017 under the auspices of H.E. President Abdel Fatah El Sisi. The forum was attended by 3,200 participants from 113 countries and aimed at engaging youth from around the globe, allowing them to express their views and recommend initiatives to decision-makers and other influential figures.

A group of four refugees attended the forum together with a UNHCR delegation and shared the stories of their journeys to Egypt, the challenges they encountered, their achievements, and aspirations with the audience.

UNHCR and refugee participants took part in three panel discussions on 'The Egyptian Experience in Hosting Refugees', 'Reviewing Means of Cooperation in the Field of Irregular Migration in the Mediterranean Region' and 'Adverse Impacts of Irregular Migration on Youth around the World'.



Syrian and Iraqi refugees at the World Youth Forum in Sharm El Sheikh ©UNHCR Egypt/ Nora Ibrahim

Joint capacity-building with League of Arab States

UNHCR, in collaboration with the League of Arab States and the Arab Interior Ministers Council, organized a three-day capacity-building training from 13 to 15 December 2017 for officials at the directorates' level, whose work entails the review, follow-up and application of laws and policies relating to statelessness and nationality issues.

The training was part of the regional capacity-building sessions, undertaken jointly by UNHCR and the League of Arab States. It aimed to enhance the participants' ability to deal with the phenomenon of statelessness, and encouraged the sharing of good practices, among them on how to reduce and prevent statelessness and protect stateless persons.

The training also promoted the use and implementation of UNHCR's 'Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014 - 2024' as part of the #IBelong Campaign which encourages governments to accede to the Statelessness Conventions, improve the implementation of safeguards against statelessness in nationality laws, and remove gender discrimination from them.

Run in Alexandria during 16 Days of Activism



South Sudanese runner Malual placed 7th
 ©UNHCR Egypt/ Moez Khaled

As part of the '16 Days of Activism' campaign, a 6km run took place on 8 December 2017 to raise awareness about gender-based violence. The run was jointly organized by UNHCR Egypt and Alexandria Marathon. Among the around 500 people competing in the annual event were Syrian and South Sudanese refugees. A South Sudanese runner placed seventh in the men's category.



Start of the race in Alexandria ©UNHCR Egypt/ Moez Khaled

UNHCR Egypt, along with partners, also commemorated other important days during the 16 Days of Activism, including the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women, the International Women Human Rights Defenders Day and Human Rights Day.

Egyptian adventurer “rows for refugees”

On 12 December 2017, Egyptian adventurer and Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Omar Samra and athlete Omar Noor started to row across the Atlantic in solidarity with refugees and in partnership with UNHCR. The team aimed to raise awareness of the plight of refugees and asylum-seekers through a first-hand experience of the hardships and risks that refugees often endure when fleeing conflict and seeking safety. The hashtag #Rowing4Refugees was used throughout their journey, which dramatically and prematurely ended after 11 days when the boat capsized.

Achievements



PROTECTION

- Throughout 2017, UNHCR Egypt newly registered 50,228 people and provided them with UNHCR documents. In addition, 69,476 refugees and asylum-seekers were attended for other registration related requests such as addition of family members and document renewal. Also, the UNHCR registration team reached people with specific needs or in remote locations through 14 mobile registration missions, and conducted 248 home visits in Greater Cairo and the North Coast.



UNHCR staff member speaks with a Syrian refugee boy during the registration process on 17 December 2017 at the UNHCR office in the Zamalek, Cairo ©UNHCR Egypt/Scott Nelson

- On 19 December 2017, UNHCR in coordination with UNICEF, organized a training on Child Protection in Alexandria. The 26 participants were team leaders of child protection case workers in partner agencies and members of the child protection working group. The training aimed at improving their knowledge and skills to effectively identify and respond to child protection cases.
- Community-led activities remain a key component in the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence under UNHCR's program. With support from UNHCR's partner CARE International, workshops on early marriage, basic psychosocial sessions on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) and self-defence took place in Cairo during the month of December. For most of the male participants of the psychosocial sessions, it was their first time to participate in such kind of training, and they demonstrated a very strong interest in understanding and discussing how to tackle root causes of SGBV and the consequences of violence.


EDUCATION

- In the current academic year, 348 refugee students in Egypt receive scholarship from the



Aboubakr Abdallah, a Yemeni refugee who was accepted in the DAFI scholarship program in 2017
 ©UNHCR Egypt

Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI). The scholarship holders attend either public or private universities in Egypt, depending on their nationality and access to public education.

The DAFI Program covers tuition fees, transportation costs and provides a subsistence allowance. Once students are accepted in the program, they receive scholarships for one academic year at a time, with possibility of renewal if they pass the annual examination.


HEALTH

- The summary report for the Health Access and Utilization Survey for Syrian refugees was released in November 2017, after data collection took place in September 2017. A representative sample of Syrian refugees were asked about their access to health care services in Egypt, including barriers they encounter. Results showed that one of the main barriers to accessing care was the inability to afford user fees, and that many Syrian refugees in Egypt continue to prefer private health care facilities over public ones.

The survey findings also indicate that chronic diseases are highly prevalent among Syrian refugees with musculoskeletal disorders, hypertension and diabetes at the top of the list. As for reproductive health, utilization of antenatal care was high. The rate of Caesarian sections was remarkably high, which is a challenge that UNHCR and partners aim to tackle in 2018.



Syrian refugee during medical consultation in Cairo
 ©UNHCR Egypt/ Scott Nelson



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- In November 2017, UNHCR and UNICEF launched the winter assistance programme for 129,000 vulnerable refugees in Egypt. During the winter months, unconditional cash assistance of USD 34 per person was disbursed through post offices across the country, as well as through ATMs.

- As part of UNHCR's livelihood interventions in Cairo, the organization 'Egyptian Chefs' provided sessions on advanced food-processing to a group of refugees with work experience in the food services sector. Through the training, the 26 refugee cooks and chefs enhanced their marketing skills and learned how to provide catering for events hosting up to 200 guests.



Trainer and participants of the advanced cooking class
 ©UNHCR/Vibek Raj Maurya

- In November and December 2017, outreach volunteers in Alexandria and Damietta conducted a total of 40 awareness and information sessions and thereby reached 395 Syrians, Yemenis, Sudanese and Egyptians. A special focus was put on adolescents, young women, adults and elderly. The sessions focussed on issues such as residency, early marriage, protection, education, health services, and services provided by UNHCR and partners.
- Marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2017, 100 refugee children living with disabilities participated in an event in Borg Al Arab City, where a large number of refugees reside.



Sports activities for the children conducted by Alexandria Syrian Sports Academy during the day.
 ©UNHCR Egypt/ Ali Abu Hamda

The event was organized in collaboration with UNICEF and included outdoor activities for children such as sports and a clown show, while their parents participated in sessions on the prevention of SGBV, as well as the role and services offered by UNHCR and partners. UNICEF delivered a session on the psychological support for children who could be subjected to SGBV, while Caritas informed the participants about children's health and hygiene.

**DURABLE SOLUTION**

- Throughout 2017, UNHCR Egypt submitted a total of 3,003 refugees to third countries for resettlement consideration and 1,932 refugees departed for resettlement, mainly to the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany and Canada.



South Sudanese refugee in Cairo ©UNHCR Egypt / Scott Nelson

Working in partnership

- UNHCR works closely with the Government of Egypt and its UN and NGO partners to provide protection and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees. The Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) led by UNHCR is the main coordination mechanism for the refugee response and oversees six sectorial working groups: Communication with Communities, Protection, Health, Education, Livelihoods, and Basic Needs and Cash-Based Interventions. The Protection Working Group has two sub-working groups which focus on Child Protection and SGBV response.
- In 2017, UNHCR Egypt worked through the following partners: Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trials (ACSFT) • Arab Medical Union (AMU) • CARE International • Caritas Egypt • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Dr Mostafa Mahmoud Society • Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR) • Egyptian Red Crescent Society • Plan International • Save the Children International (SCI) • Terre des Hommes (TdH) - Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) • United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) • United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **US\$ 5.5 million** in 2018, including **US\$ 1.9 million** for the Syria situation.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by **Italy, the European Union, the Netherlands**, and **Canada** who have contributed to this operation and those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Estonia | Finland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | UN Peacekeeping Fund | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

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LINKS

Syria Regional Refugee Response: data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php

UNHCR Refugees & Migration Emergency Mediterranean Response:
<http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

