

Egypt

October - December 2019

As of 31 December 2019, **254,726 refugees and asylum-seekers from 58 countries of origin** were registered with UNHCR Egypt.

More than half of the registered refugees and asylum-seekers are from Syria. **31,328 people newly registered** with UNHCR Egypt in 2019.

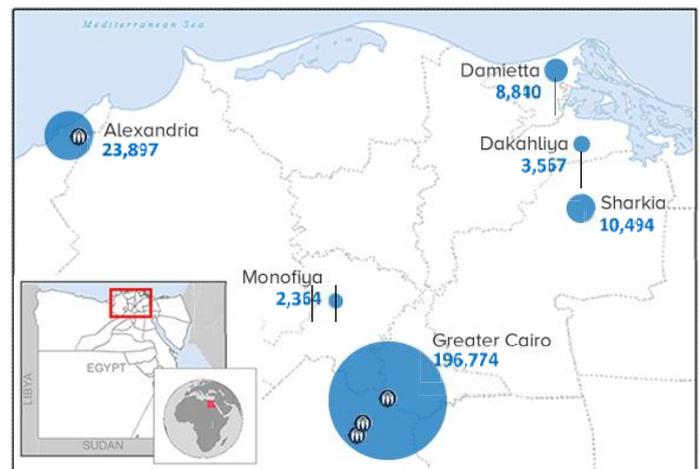
Most refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt live in the **urban areas** of Greater Cairo and on the North Coast.

KEY INDICATORS

13,356 families received monthly multi-purpose cash grants in 2019

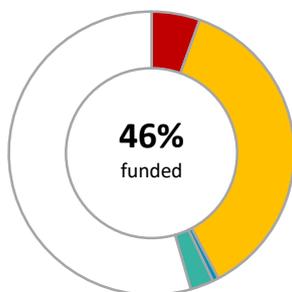
4,855 is the total number of unaccompanied and separated children registered with UNHCR Egypt as of end of December 2019

3,995 refugees departed to resettlement countries in 2019



FUNDING SITUATION (END OF 2019)

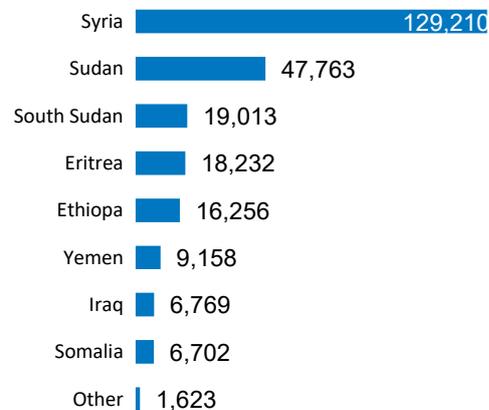
USD \$104.2 million requested for the Egypt operation in 2019



■ Tightly earmarked ■ Earmarked
■ Softly earmarked (indicative allocation) ■ Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
□ Funding gap (indicative)

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Countries of Origin



Highlights

Global Refugee Forum

A high-level delegation from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented Egypt at the Global Refugee Forum, which took place between 16 and 18 December 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Delegation was led by the Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Hamdy Loza, and delivered statements in various sessions. Guided by the Global Compact on Refugees, the Global Refugee Forum presented an opportunity to translate the principle of international responsibility-sharing into concrete action.



League of Arab States and UNHCR representatives with copy of the newly launched strategy. ©UNHCR/Aline Michael

Child Protection Strategy

The League of Arab States and UNHCR launched the 'Arab Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Context of Asylum in the Arab Region'. The strategy aims to lay the foundations for a safe environment for refugee children that meets their needs. It touches on procedures for determining the best interest of the child, providing educational opportunities, and engaging host communities and families to provide protection for children from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, early marriage, employment and their exploitation by parties to conflicts. The strategy is based on internationally established principles for the protection of refugee children.

16 Days of Activism

UNHCR promoted 16 Days of Activism jointly with partners, including UNFPA, UN Women, WFP, CARE International, MSF, Psycho-social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) and Save the Children International (SCI). Refugees, asylum-seekers, host community members, and staff participated in different awareness raising, livelihood, and women's empowerment activities.

In the kick-off event organized by UNHCR on 25 November, more than 260 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Greater Cairo area participated. In Alexandria and Damietta, 12 events and workshops were organized, which saw the participation of more than 550 refugees and asylum-seekers from different nationalities.



Syrian athlete Amir Al-Awad providing self-defense workshop during 16 Days of Activism @Caritas



UNHCR staff members during the joint UN Nile cleanup ©UNHCR/Christine Beshay

Nile Cleanup

United Nations Day on 24 October marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945. To celebrate the occasion in Egypt, staff of different UN agencies participated in a joint initiative to clean the Nile. This is considered part of the UN's commitment to protecting the environment and to promoting a zero single-use plastic workplace.

Goodwill Ambassador visits Egypt

In November, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador David Morrissey spent four days in Egypt. Eager to gain insight into their lives in Cairo, the British actor spent time with refugees and asylum-seekers of different backgrounds and age groups. He attended a drama workshop run by young refugees, who tapped into Morrissey's longstanding acting career and sought his advice as aspiring actors and directors.

David Morrissey also visited refugee families who welcomed him into their homes and explained to him the opportunities and challenges they face in exile. On his last day, Mr. Morrissey toured UNHCR's premises in Cairo and met with staff and refugees to gain a deeper understanding of the operation in Cairo and the services UNHCR and its partners strive to offer to refugees and asylum-seekers. The British actor has been supporting UNHCR since 2014 and was announced as a Goodwill Ambassador in March 2017.



David Morrissey with refugees during drama workshop

©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes



Artists explain his painting to visitors and UNHCR Livelihood Officer at the 'Beyond the Borders' exhibition

©UNHCR/ Pedro Costa Gomes

Art Exhibition

UNHCR in collaboration with its partner Refuge Egypt organized the art exhibition 'Beyond the Borders' at Art Café in the Maadi area of Cairo. Paintings by 22 refugees from different countries were displayed during the month of November. Prior to the opening of the exhibition, the artists had participated in a workshop to support them in marketing their art.

PROTECTION

- UNHCR regularly visits **remote governorates** along the North Coast in order to reach refugees and asylum-seekers who are unable to approach the office in Alexandria. Between October and December, three **mobile missions** were conducted to Damietta and Dakahleya governorates to renew the documents of 1,354 individuals and newly register 106 individuals.
- UNHCR continues to facilitate **birth registration for refugees and asylum-seekers**. The cases include, among others, children born out of wedlock or Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) incidents, and children whose birth registration was delayed and is therefore more complicated. Between October and December, 65 birth certificates were issued, including six late birth registrations, through legal service providers contracted by UNHCR. Assistance in attaining birth registration plays a crucial role in **preventing statelessness and facilitating individuals' access to governmental services**.

- During the fourth quarter of 2019, UNHCR Egypt responded to **55,062 phone inquiries** from refugees and asylum-seekers. In addition, **21,848 individuals were processed through UNHCR reception centers**, and **1,000 specialized protection interventions were undertaken**, including provision of extensive counselling, protection interviews, protection-based support, relocation and housing.
- Between October and December, UNHCR held four training workshops and **trained 28 partner staff and 65 Egyptian government officials**, including from the Ministries of Defense and Interior, on **UNHCR's Mandate and International Protection and Refugee Law**.
- As of 31 December 2019, **4,855 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)** were registered with UNHCR Egypt. A standardized **fast-track registration** process continued to ensure an early identification and registration of UASC. **Best Interest Procedures (BIP)** remained an integral part of UNHCR's child protection programming. Community-based child protection mechanisms involving trained community volunteers were enhanced, including targeted outreach and training in Cairo to promote early identification for cases of violence, including domestic violence affecting children, and early marriage.
- In November 2019, UNHCR's partner Caritas held an **event for over 400 unaccompanied children** of different nationalities at a sports club in the Al Obour area of Cairo. Numerous activities and games were offered at the event, in addition to health awareness sessions for the children.
- Between October and December, 546 **Best Interest Assessments (BIAs)** were conducted by the UNHCR Child Protection team and child protection partners (Save the Children and Caritas), both **for UASC and other children at risk**.
- In the fourth quarter of 2019, **421 SGBV incidents** were reported to UNHCR and its partner CARE International in Cairo and Alexandria. In both locations, CARE conducted a **wide range of SGBV prevention and risk mitigation activities**, reaching 859 refugees and asylum-seekers. The activities included psycho-social and legal counselling, awareness about early marriage, gender for children training, community empowerment activities including a diverse range of trainings and workshops held at the Women Friendly Spaces, as well as sexual and reproductive health awareness
- **No irregular migration attempts via sea** were reported in 2019. Between October and December 2019, 271 foreign nationals were arrested for attempting to irregularly cross the border from Egypt to Libya, 43 of whom were found to be registered with UNHCR. As reported by the authorities, the registered detainees **were released after verification of their status with UNHCR**.



Refugee child and mother ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- Between October and December, **455 refugees and asylum-seekers** took part in meetings with UNHCR staff of various technical units, where they shared their concerns and priorities and received information on related services and support. In the context these meetings, UNHCR and community representatives also discussed issues related to issuance and renewal of residence permits. In addition, **2,617 new arrivals** were reached by refugee outreach workers with information on registration procedures, basic safety and security tips, and where to go to access services.
- A total of **80 community focal persons** completed several **training** sessions during the fourth quarter of 2019. Participants were familiarized with age, gender and diversity (AGD)-inclusive community self-management, participatory needs assessment, conflict mediation, and the prevention and response to fraud and sexual exploitation at the community level. Feedback from the participants indicated that they were especially appreciative of the networking opportunities afforded by the training and the **exchange of knowledge and experiences among people from diverse backgrounds**.



An event volunteer engaging a child with disability in a game of pass the ball. ©Caritas

- In December, 225 adults and children living with disabilities came together to celebrate the **International Day of Disabled Persons**. The day featured a role-play performance on the theme of 'Acceptance' which engaged participants in discussions on how the inclusion of persons with disabilities could be strengthened within their communities.

Various social and recreational activities were run during the event to bring persons with disabilities out of their isolation and reinforce their emotional resilience.

- A total of 15 refugee youth graduated from the '**peer educators**' program. This program aims at preparing a cohort of young refugee volunteers to promote **positive development practices** among refugee **youth struggling with the challenges of growing up in displacement**. It increases their communication and facilitation skills to position them as trusted sources of information for refugee youth. During the fourth quarter of 2019, peer educators reached 114 refugee youth with messages on issues of concern to young people, including key life skills, perseverance in the face of challenges, and commitment to life-long learning and development. They used short films, plays, storytelling and dance and music performances to pass their messages.
- Hilton Hotels organized two **recreational days for refugee children and their mothers** as part of the hotel's Global Week of Service. Head chefs welcomed the children to cooking classes. In the meantime, their mothers participated in a nutrition session and received tips on preparing healthy and tasty meals for their families.



Children and Hilton chef during cooking session ©UNHCR/ Pedro Costa Gomes



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- In 2019, **4,617 refugees were submitted for resettlement** to twelve countries and **3,995 refugees departed to resettlement countries**. The main nationalities included Syrians, Sudanese, Eritreans, South Sudanese, Ethiopians, Somalis and Iraqis.
- In 2019, **Germany** was the largest resettlement country receiving 1,051 refugees from Egypt, followed by the **UK** (886), **Sweden** (569), the **USA** (512), **Canada** (351), **Portugal** (187), the **Netherlands** (162), **Australia** (155), **France** (120) and **Norway** (2).
- **Voluntary Repatriation** in 2019 was facilitated for eight individuals who chose to voluntarily return to Sudan and Ivory Coast.



BASIC NEEDS AND SELF RELIANCE

- UNHCR delivers **monthly unconditional cash grants** to extremely vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in order to provide protection and assistance, and to avoid reliance on negative coping mechanisms. Recipients are identified through a vulnerability assessment that combines socio-economic welfare with protection profiles. Throughout 2019, UNHCR **assessed 9,716 cases** (31,532 individuals) for eligibility to cash, food and other forms of assistance. Every month in 2019, an average of **13,356 families** (comprising 56,730 refugees and asylum-seekers) **received cash grants**.
- Due to foreseen funding reductions in **2020**, the number of recipients of UNHCR's monthly multipurpose cash assistance was **reduced by 3,600 cases**. From 2020, UNHCR Egypt plans to provide cash assistance to approximately 10,400 cases per month.
- In November 2019, UNHCR in collaboration with Iris Guard, Egypt Post, Plan International and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) launched the Joint Cash Assistance Framework (J-CAF), a **common cash delivery platform that integrates biometrics** in cash delivery.
- In mid-December 2019, UNHCR commenced its **winter assistance** program, targeting 60,325 families (comprising **122,700 individuals**) for one-off cash assistance. As of 31 December, a total of 45,237 families were supported.
- During the last quarter of 2019, 240 **refugees and asylum-seekers** were provided with diverse **trainings for livelihood and economic inclusion** by UNHCR's implementing partners in the livelihood sector. Also, 825 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with guidance on labour market opportunities, 99 people were placed in jobs and 200 refugees were assisted in **starting and enlarging their businesses**.



A Sudanese refugee collecting biometric enabled monthly cash assistance from Egypt Post Office © UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes


EDUCATION

- UNHCR and the Ministry of Education (Central Administration and Cultural Relations Unit) **trained approximately 500 ministry staff on the rules for enrollment into Egyptian public schools** and related procedures for refugee and asylum-seeker children. UNHCR brought to the attention of the enrollment, accreditation and certification officers the challenges faced by refugees and asylum-seekers with regards to the list of documents required for enrolment into education facilities. This is part of UNHCR's continuous efforts to **facilitate enrollment process for refugees and asylum-seeker students**. The trained officials work in the 17 governorates where most refugee families reside.
- Up to December 2019, **48,414 refugee and asylum-seeker students** received UNHCR education grants for the academic year 2019/2020. Education grant recipients are in the age bracket 6 to 20 years and have proven their enrolment in public, private or community schools. In addition, **enhanced education grants were provided to 1,519 unaccompanied and separated children and 373 children with special needs** who were supported to enroll in specialized schools that cater for their educational and care needs.

- A **graduation ceremony** took place for **31 scholars supported through DAFI** (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund). The event was attended by all graduated scholarship holders, their parents, German embassy officials, as well as UNHCR and its education partner CRS. Excelling students received certificates and prizes.



Excelling DAFI scholarship holders with CRS and UNHCR staff during graduation ceremony @CRS

In total in **2019, 499 refugee and asylum-seekers youth were supported** by DAFI to study public and private universities and higher education institutes across Egypt. The 240 women and 259 men come from eight different countries.


HEALTH

- On 20 and 21 October, Caritas Egypt hosted **breast cancer awareness events** in collaboration with UNHCR, Baheya Foundation and the Ministry of Health in Alexandria and Damietta governorates. The events included awareness sessions on the disease, the importance of early detection, self-examination and the treatment plan for those diagnosed. More than 100 refugees and asylum-seekers attended the events, including refugee women who shared their stories of surviving their battle with breast cancer.
- UNHCR Egypt staff who interact with refugees and asylum-seekers on a daily basis received a specialized training on mental health and psychosocial support. Participants were familiarized with psychological first aid and identification and management of persons at risk of self-harm and suicide. The training is expected to help the UNHCR staffers to identify signs of early warning and to react quickly in case of emergency.



Entrance to breast cancer awareness event in the training and research institute for reproductive health in Alexandria @Caritas/Mohamed El Bek

Working in partnership

- **UNHCR works closely with the Government of Egypt, UN and NGO partners to provide protection and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees.** The Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG), chaired by UNHCR, is the main interagency coordination mechanism overseeing six sectorial working groups gathering representatives from UN agencies, as well as international and national NGOs. The protection sector includes three sub-working groups which consist of Child Protection, Response to SGBV, and Durable Solutions. The other working groups are for Education, Health, Basic Needs and Cash, Livelihoods, and Communication with Communities.
- In 2019, UNHCR Egypt worked through the following partners: All Saints' Cathedral • CARE International • Caritas Egypt • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR) • Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) • Plan International • Save the Children International (SCI) • Terre des Hommes (TdH) • United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) • United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **US\$ 47.48 million** as of end of 2019.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided to this operation by **the United States of America, Germany, the European Union, the Netherlands, Italy, the Regional Development and Protection Programme North Africa, Japan, Intesa Sanpaolo, the United Kingdom, the UN Children Fund** and private donors.

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LINKS

Syria Regional Refugee Response: data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria

UNHCR Refugees & Migration Emergency Mediterranean Response: data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/Mediterranean

