

2021 Planning summary

29/12/2020

Operation: Egypt

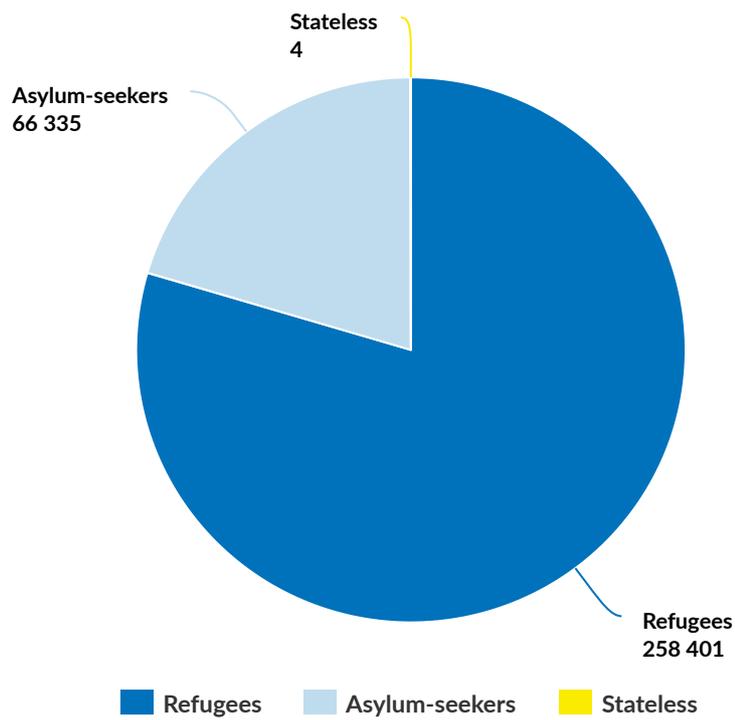


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

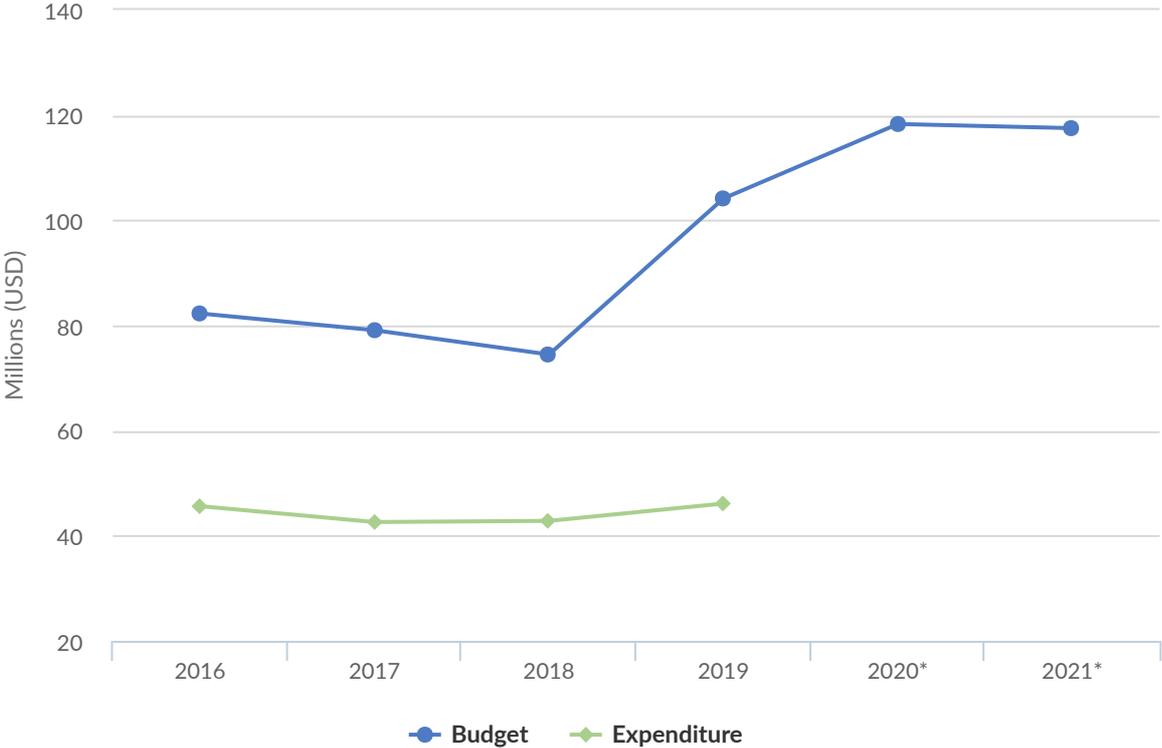
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
3% 2019

2019	324,740
2018	314,937
2017	289,231



Budgets and Expenditure for Egypt



Operational environment

UNHCR carries out registration, documentation and refugee status determination under its 1954 Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Egypt. The protection environment remains tolerant for refugees and asylum-seekers, although increased protection challenges emerged before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has slowed UNHCR's dialogue with the Government on the development of an asylum system and a national legal framework.

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt are predominantly from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, South Sudan, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen, living in urban areas alongside local communities.

Egypt grants refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities access to primary and secondary health care in the same way it does to Egyptian nationals. Moreover, Sudanese, Syrian and Yemeni refugees and asylum-seekers are granted full access to public education. In 2021, UNHCR will continue to advocate the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers from other nationalities in public education.

Refugees and asylum-seekers' self-reliance has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, increasing their vulnerabilities and dependence on humanitarian assistance. This is expected to continue in 2021.

Egypt's key position between the Middle East, East Africa and Europe makes it a crucial destination and transit country for mixed population movements. However, in recent years the Government has prevented irregular mixed movements from the northern coast of Egypt through the Mediterranean.

In 2021, the Office will continue to engage with the Government to lead on the implementation of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan, or 3RP, for the Syria crisis and the Egypt Response Plan for refugees and asylum-seekers from sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq and Yemen, in close coordination with UN agencies and NGO partners. The overall strategy will be developed in collaboration with national and international stakeholders, using the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework model.

Key priorities

In 2021, UNHCR will focus on:

- Working closely with Egyptian authorities to preserve the existing protection space, enhance access to asylum and prevent refoulement.
 - Supporting the engagement of the Government in asylum management, including through joint activities in the areas of registration and documentation.
 - Enhancing the strategic use of refugee status determination.
 - Providing quality and timely registration and documentation, particularly since related activities were reduced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Engaging in mixed population movement discussions at all levels; documenting and analyzing onward movements and responding accordingly.
 - Continuing to advocate access to, and the release of, detained people of concern, while promoting alternatives to detention and encouraging longer residency permits and regularization.
 - Harmonizing assistance to refugees of different nationalities through a "one refugee approach". UNHCR will continue to pursue the protection of strategic priorities in the areas of prevention of, and response to, gender-based violence; the mitigation of child protection risks, including for unaccompanied and separated children; strengthening youth programmes; and enhancing community engagement.
 - Continuing collaboration with the League of Arab States, including supporting the conclusion of the Arab Convention on Regulating the Status of Refugees in Arab Countries and supporting the drafting of a convention on protection and assistance to IDPs, among others.
-