

Egypt

March - April 2018

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

Currently, **227,077 refugees and asylum-seekers of 58 different nationalities** are registered with UNHCR Egypt. More than half of them are from Syria.

9,711 people have **registered** with UNHCR Egypt since the beginning of 2018; 4,641 registered in March and April.

KEY INDICATORS

15,717

households/cases received multi-purpose cash grants in April 2018

3,763

unaccompanied and separated children are currently registered with UNHCR Egypt

379

refugees departed to resettlement countries in 2018

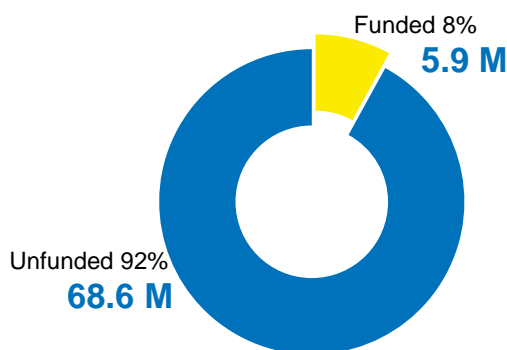


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FUNDING (AS OF MAY 2018)

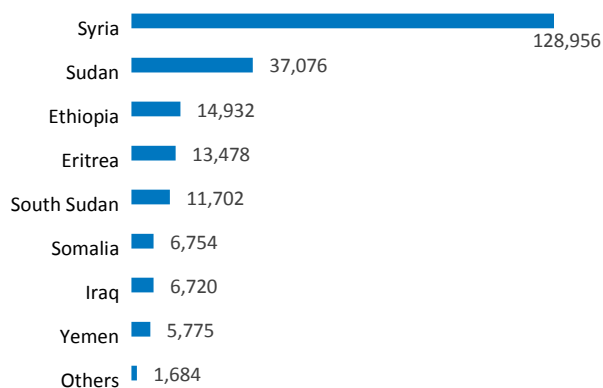
USD 74.5 M

requested for the Egypt operation



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



Updates

Through its field office in Alexandria and in collaboration with Bibliotheca Alexandria, UNHCR participated in this year's edition of the "Heya" (She) Campaign. The campaign was launched on 12 March by the Depository Library at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in observation of International Women's Day. It focused on women's empowerment in the fields of Leadership, Health and Arts.

The campaign started with a series of workshops attended by Egyptians and more than 50 refugees



Atsuko Furukawa, acting Head of the UNHCR Field Office in Alexandria, highlighted the resilience of refugee women during her opening speech of the Heya Campaign. ©AVAD

and asylum-seekers of different nationalities, and included, among others, sessions on communication and presentation skills, career development, freelancing and business for start-ups, life coaching and healthy parenting. The workshops were facilitated by public figures and representatives of different institutions such as the Arab Academy for Science and Technology, VI Market, Central Bank of Egypt as well as by successful entrepreneurs and female sports champions.

The closing event on 14 March was attended by more than 1,500 people, including over 200 refugees and asylum-seekers. Refugees shared their stories, and different groups of refugees presented a theatre play, and musical and folkloric dance performances that focused on women and resilience.



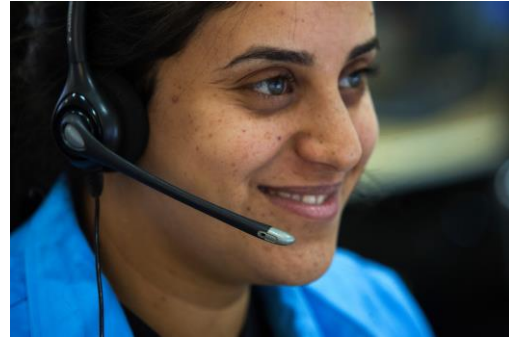
Syrian refugee and co-founder of the "Bokra Ahla" (Better Tomorrow) initiative, Ruqaya Darweesh, shared her success story at the closing ceremony of the "Heya" Campaign on 14 March. ©UNHCR Egypt/Scott Nelson

Achievements



PROTECTION

- In March and April, call attendants of UNHCR Egypt's in-house Infoline, answered a total of 25,672 phone calls. Most queries were related to registration, Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and the assistance provided by UNHCR and partners.
- Under the leadership of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), the members of the 'Children on the Move Taskforce' – UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM – convened to support the systematic access to national services for the protection of children on the move. The taskforce also seeks to strengthen the role of the NCCM as their legal guardian. UNHCR has played a key role in advocating for full access to services for asylum-seekers and refugees. The agency presented to the government and partners a detailed analysis of the profiles and needs of refugee and asylum-seeking children and suggested a way forward based on the legal framework, global guidance and identified priorities.
- A set of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) prevention activities were conducted by UNHCR's partner CARE, reaching 896 refugees and asylum-seekers. This included awareness sessions on early marriage, legal issues and reproductive health as well as gender training for children, in addition to other activities conducted at the 'Women Friendly Space' in 6th of October City.
- UNHCR continued to coordinate with other international and national organizations to deliver food and non-food items, as well as medical and psychosocial assistance to foreign nationals, who have been detained for attempted irregular departure by sea from the North Coast.



UNHCR Infoline call attendant
 ©UNHCR Egypt/ Scott Nelson



Visiting Bangladeshi group and humanitarian workers based in Egypt at PSTIC office ©PSTIC

- Eight Bangladeshi psychologists working with Rohingya refugees, including UNHCR staff members in Bangladesh, visited Egypt to learn more about the country's experience in hosting refugees. The psychologists received an intensive eight-day classroom and field training by Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) / Terre des Hommes and were introduced to PSTIC's model of 24/7 community-based mental health and psychosocial support. They also learned about the value of training refugees to assist other refugees

**EDUCATION**

- The Don Bosco Institute, in partnership with the British Council, provides fully funded technical and vocational training for Syrian refugees aged 18 to 35 years. This project is part of the HOPES programme (Higher and Further Education Opportunities and Perspectives for Syrians) and has already benefitted 80 Syrians through the initial two intakes. UNHCR coordinated with the British Council and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to include young adults of all different refugee nationalities, who reside in Egypt without family members. Until they reached adulthood, these young refugees were considered UASC and received UNHCR cash assistance. They often continue to be in great need of support and assistance. UNHCR informed the refugee community of this opportunity and encouraged youth to apply for the courses.



Sudanese refugee in Cairo ©UNHCR Egypt/Scott Nelson

- UNHCR continues to assist refugees and asylum-seekers to access tertiary education in Egypt, including 348 students who receive scholarships from the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI). The young women and men study in a variety of fields ranging from Arts, Engineering and Sciences to Medicine. In addition, Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin) in El Gouna supports a total of 20 Master students enrolled in Water, Electricity Engineering, and Infrastructure courses and the Helwan University supports 20 refugee students of Archaeological Site Management.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- UNHCR's partner Caritas organized an awareness and sensitization session for caregivers of children living with disabilities. A total 46 adult caregivers took part in the session, which touched on topics related to care and nurture for children with disabilities, rehabilitative exercises, and coping with the psychosocial stress of caring for children with disabilities.
- UNHCR invited 20 Syrians, Sudanese and Yemeni refugees and asylum-seekers residing in Alexandria, who are managing their own businesses or have new project ideas, to attend the Arab Youth Entrepreneurship Forum. The event took place on 13 and 14 April at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The aim of the forum was to establish networks and create cooperation and opportunities among emerging entities and various Arab business institutes.



Caregivers of children with disabilities during arts session in Cairo ©Caritas Egypt

- Through the partnership with the artisanal company Malaika, UNHCR continued its efforts to foster employment opportunities for refugees of all nationalities. An online application process has started, and 20 refugee women have been selected for training, which will be followed by employment with the company.
- Through a total of four outreach meetings, UNHCR focussed specifically on communities in distant locations of Greater Cairo and linguistic minorities, for whom access to information and services is often a challenge. The meetings were attended by more than 180 refugees and served as an opportunity to learn more about the experiences of the different communities, their coping mechanisms, and proposed solutions. Updates on the services provided by UNHCR and partners were also shared during the meetings.



Syrian youth during a brief presentation on the harms of drug use delivered in between football matches ©Terre des Hommes

- A total of eight teams of refugee youth participated in a football tournament that was organized in two youth centres in Greater Cairo. Alongside the football matches, awareness sessions were held on positive development, the dangers of drug use, and coping with the stresses of growing up in displacement. An Egyptian football talent scouting team attended the final match in search of promising players with potential for the junior leagues.

**HEALTH**

- In April 2018, Save the Children (SCI) took up its responsibilities as a new UNHCR partner in the health sector. SCI now refers refugees and asylum-seekers in Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta to secondary health services. UNHCR had sensitized the refugee and asylum-seeker communities about this change in partner NGOs through a variety of measures, including social media and community meetings, and had also shared updated telephone numbers to call in case of emergency or for specific queries. This resulted in a smooth transition with no interruption of care for the patients.
- On 21 March, UNHCR organized its annual gathering with all partners implementing health activities on behalf of the agency. The meeting highlighted the strategy of the health sector, key priorities for 2018 and the planning for 2019. UNHCR and partners also exchanged ideas and views on the quality of public health services and discussed how to change refugees' perception and enhance their utilization of the public health services. Many refugees and asylum-seekers continue to seek health care at more expensive private institutions, which results in high financial burdens for them.



Refugee girl during health check-up in Cairo ©UNHCR Egypt/Scott Nelson

**DURABLE SOLUTION**

- In March and April, UNHCR Egypt submitted a total of 569 refugees to third countries for resettlement consideration and 120 refugees departed for resettlement to Australia, Canada, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

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 response to SGBV.



Helmy from Eritrea at the UNHCR reception area in 6th of October City, Greater Cairo. UNHCR Egypt/Scott Nelson

- In 2018, UNHCR Egypt works through the following partners: All Saints' Cathedral • CARE International • Caritas Egypt • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Mostafa Mahmoud Society • 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

©UNHCR Egypt/ Vibek Raj Maurya



Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **US\$ 5.9 million** in 2018, including **US\$ 2.3 million** for the Syria situation.

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

Thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions | USD

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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>

