



# EGYPT RESPONSE PLAN

For Refugees And  
Asylum-Seekers From  
Sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq & Yemen

# 2019



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**Cover Photo:** A refugee from Sudan, seen at the UNHCR Egypt premises during her registration.  
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# CONTENTS

Introduction & Context	4
Needs, Vulnerabilities and Targeting	7
Strategic Direction & Response Plan	7
Partnerships & Coordination	10
Accountability Framework	11
<b>PROTECTION</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>EDUCATION SECTOR</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>BASIC NEEDS AND LIVELIHOODS</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b>	<b>43</b>
Acronyms	48

# INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

Egypt is home to 244,910 asylum-seekers and refugees registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)<sup>1</sup>. While the Syrian refugee population remains the largest (54%), 112,039 of refugees and asylum-seekers are from sub-Saharan Africa<sup>2</sup>, Iraq, and Yemen (46%). UNHCR is committed to ensuring equal access to protection, services and humanitarian assistance for Syrians as well as Sub-Saharan Africans, Iraqis and Yemenis registered with UNHCR. This response plan - known as the “Egypt Response Plan” aims to continue addressing the needs of estimated 136,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in 2019, mainly from Sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq, Yemen and 50 other countries, out of which 25,006 are identified as persons with specific needs.

The protection environment for refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt remains conducive. Egypt is signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention governing specific aspects of refugee issues in Africa. In the absence of a national asylum legislation and system, the functional responsibilities for all aspects of registration, documentation and refugee status determination (RSD) of asylum-seekers and refugees have been delegated to UNHCR under a 1954 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Government of Egypt (GoE). The Government allows refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR to regularize their residency and grants six-month renewable residence permits. In order to address the challenge of lengthy visa issuance process faced by refugees and asylum seekers, the GoE is currently introducing digitalization of visa issuance and residency permits, which will take effect by end of 2019. In February 2017, the GoE has agreed to a proposal put forward by UNHCR to decentralize the process for issuing the permits beyond Cairo, and in October 2017 the GoE decided to prolong the duration of the residence permits to one year, but both decisions are yet to be implemented upon the digitalization of the procedures by MOI. In August 2018, MOI has introduced new measures which have improved the process of granting and renewal of the residence permits. Advocacy continues with the Government of Egypt to enable all refugees to obtain a one-year residence permit based on their UNHCR documentation.

Despite the continuous changes in the political situation in the region, and the Eritrea–Ethiopia peace summit that took place in July 2018, there has been a rise in the total number of refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa who sought

protection and safety in Egypt. This increase is reflected in the number of registered refugees and asylum seekers in 2018 which amounts to 30,902 new registrations, with 71% from Sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq and Yemen. Moreover, the latest events in Sudan may have further implications on the refugee flows to Egypt throughout 2019. With displacement caused by conflicts and continuous political instability and insecurity in the East and Horn of Africa, Iraq, and Yemen, an increase of total number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) has also been observed. The UASC are primarily from Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, with numbers expected to rise. As of December 2018, 4,176 UASC were registered with UNHCR.

While the Government of Egypt continues to expand its capacities to host the ever growing population of refugees and asylum seekers, the difficult socio-economic conditions and increases in the cost of living have reduced households’ purchasing power<sup>3</sup> and exacerbated the levels of vulnerability. This has resulted in refugee and asylum-seeker households not being able to meet their basic needs and, therefore, their dependence on humanitarian assistance has increased. Refugees and asylum-seekers not only struggle with limited livelihood opportunities but also with obstacles to social inclusion such as language barriers, lack of access to sustainable formal education.

Whereas state institutions play a key role in supporting refugees’ protection, education, and health needs, they require further support in providing broad and quality services for both the refugee and host communities. In addition, there is a need to expand support in promoting livelihood and self-reliance among both refugees and Egyptian communities, who are likely to face mounting pressure in 2019 with continuous economic difficulties in Egypt and unceasing tension in neighbouring countries.

Funding to humanitarian agencies working to support the sub-Saharan African, Iraqi, and Yemeni populations has been limited and has led to inequality in assistance provided to the different refugee population groups in Egypt. This inequality in assistance is an issue of concern for the GoE as it puts strains on the ability of the groups of refugees and asylum seekers to survive and creates grudges and tensions inside the community of refugees and asylum seekers. The GoE affirms the need to address the needs of all refugees equally under the principle of “One Refugee Approach”. The 2018 Response Plan for Refugees and Asylum Seekers from Sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq and Yemen has only received 22.5% of the appealed funding.

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR statistical report, November 2018

<sup>2</sup> As of December 2018, UNHCR has registered 41,771 Sudanese (17.06%), 15,931 Ethiopians (6.5%), 15,442 (6.31%) Eritreans, 14,622 South Sudanese (5.97%), 8,322 Yemenis (3.4%), 7,164 Somalis (2.93%), 6,994 Iraqis (2.86%) and 1,793 refugees and asylum seekers from other nationalities (0.73%).

<sup>3</sup> World Bank “Egypt’s Economic Outlook – October 2018”

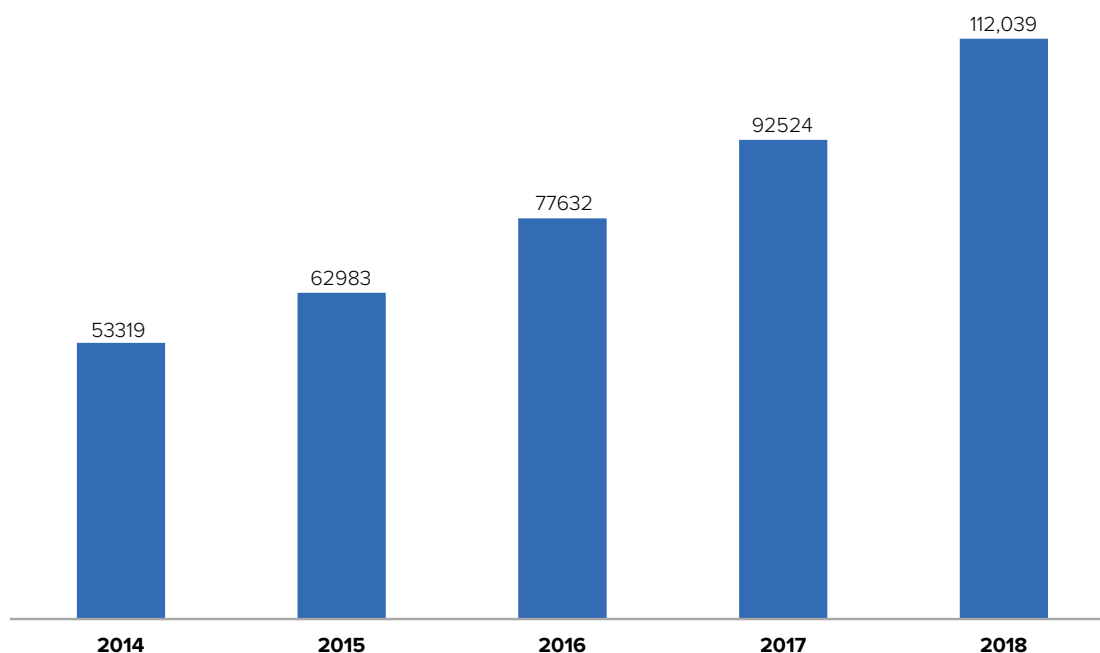
Nevertheless, these funds have made a notably positive difference in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers, particularly in the sectors of Protection, Education and Livelihoods. In the 2019 plan, the Government of Egypt and the appealing partner agencies (UNHCR, Save the Children (SCI), UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, CARE International, Gozour Foundation and WFP) continue to join efforts in ensuring that adequate protection and minimum essential services are provided to these populations. With additional funding, UNHCR and partners aim to increase the number of refugees and asylum-seekers who benefit from services as well as to increase support to the GoE, particularly the institutions under the Ministries of Education and Health that serve refugees and asylum-seekers.

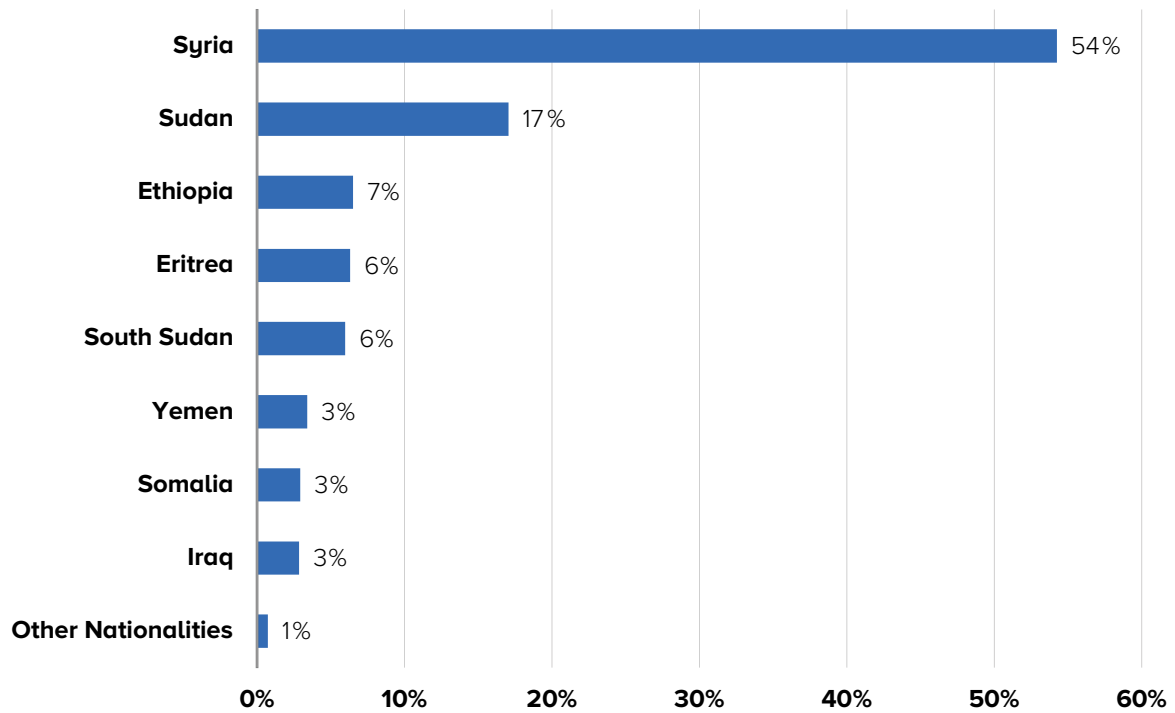
In 2019, humanitarian agencies have identified a total need of USD 53.7 million to provide adequate services to estimated 136,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq and Yemen living in Egypt. Priority areas of intervention will include improving the Registration, Refugee Status Determination (RSD) processes, targeted multi-purpose cash assistance, promotion of livelihood opportunities, and improved access to child protection, social services, community-based protection and food security to the most vulnerable among refugees and asylum seekers. UNHCR and partners will continue to invest in communities and work with partners and national institutions to build resilience, and contribute to promoting community development.

**POPULATION PLANNING FIGURES FOR 2019**

Population Planning Group 2019	End-year 2019 figures (estimated)
Refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq and Yemen	52,000
Asylum-seekers from Sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq and Yemen	84,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,000</b>

**POPULATION TRENDS FOR AFRICAN, IRAQI AND YEMENI REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN EGYPT**



POPULATION TRENDS FOR AFRICAN, IRAQI AND YEMENI  
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN EGYPT

A refugee from Sudan speaks with a UNHCR staff member at UNHCR premises in Cairo.

## NEEDS, VULNERABILITIES, AND TARGETING

In Egypt, the majority of the refugee and asylum-seeker populations live in urban areas. They face various challenges including limited opportunities to meet their basic needs, as well as language barriers. Refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt have access to six-month residency on their refugee or asylum-seeker cards. However, the procedures to access and obtain residency remains relatively lengthy and costly for those who have to travel to Cairo from remote areas. Specific groups among the refugees and asylum-seekers may face greater economic and protection challenges, particularly unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), female-headed households, elderly and people living with disabilities.

All refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt have access to public health care services. However, challenges remain in terms of language, referrals, and costly secondary and tertiary health care. There are also specific challenges for people living with disabilities or special needs.

Syrian, Sudanese, South Sudanese and Yemeni refugee children have access to education in public schools in Egypt. Refugees from other nationalities rely on private or informal education institutions. Many attend refugee community schools which are outside the formal education system and deliver certificates that are not accredited by the Egyptian Ministry of Education (MoE). Fewer refugees enrol in the more expensive private schools, which the vast majority cannot afford. As a result of these challenges, many children see no option to pursue higher education

which, in turn, contributes to an increase in the number of out-of-school children at the secondary school level. This leaves them increasingly vulnerable to becoming exposed to various protection risks.

Language barriers additionally limit the activities of some refugees and asylum-seekers from sub-Saharan Africa in Egypt as many are neither Arabic nor English speakers. There is, thus, a risk of isolation, increased socio-economic challenges, and dependency on people who speak the language to help them with daily interaction and meeting basic needs.

In addition to registration, documentation and refugee status determination activities (RSD), protection-related services aim at benefiting all people in need of international protection, with specific programmes in place for certain vulnerable groups such as survivors of SGBV or children at risk. Access to primary and secondary education is supported for all school-age children, adolescents and youth, while those seeking higher education, skills training, or vocational and technical training are targeted based on their needs and skills. Access to primary health services is facilitated for all refugees and asylum-seekers in need of public health services. Multi-purpose cash grants are targeted according to socio-economic and protection needs of refugee families. Livelihoods activities will be limited to smaller parts of the refugee community.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION & RESPONSE PLAN

The 2019 response plan for refugees and asylum-seekers from sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq, and Yemen residing in Egypt aims to address the needs of these populations with strong focus on protection (including child protection), public health, education, food security, basic needs and livelihoods. Community-based interventions will be used to enhance outreach among refugees and asylum-seekers.

UNHCR Egypt will continue to register, document and conduct refugee status determination to asylum seekers and refugees from sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq, and Yemen and will continue to lead efforts focusing on the preservation of the protection space, prevention of refoulement, and enhanced access to asylum and effective protection in Egypt. In 2019, mainstreaming access to services (health and education) for all refugees will be one of the main priorities, along with strengthening the prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) and child protection.

Partners will also focus on building resilience, preventing and responding to protection risks and needs of refugees and asylum-seekers and on analysing and documenting protection trends.

As in previous years, UNHCR and partners will continue to assist persons in need of international protection, including those in detention, through legal, material and counselling support. Agencies will advocate for the release of extremely vulnerable detainees caught in mixed movement, particularly children, and for alternatives to detention. Efforts will continue regarding the regularization of stay of those who have irregularly entered Egypt and regarding the facilitation of family unity visa. Specific activities aiming at strengthening resilience, self-reliance and awareness raising about the risks linked to irregular movements will be pursued.

The 2019 planning for protection is undertaken on the basis of the assumptions that the Arab Republic of Egypt will continue to host asylum-seekers and refugees; will continue to support refugee protection; and will facilitate implementation of activities through national and international NGOs. As long as the crises in the countries of origin remain unresolved throughout 2019, asylum applications from sub-Saharan Africa are expected to remain relatively high.

The protection partners will work closely with authorities to support for greater access to asylum, prevention of refoulement as well as easier access to residency procedures. UNHCR will continue to support the Government of Egypt with the registration of refugees and RSD processes. Case management, child protection and response to SGBV, as well as multi-sectoral service provision will continue, as well as the involvement of community volunteers for information dissemination and prevention activities.

The education partners will continue to advocate with the Ministry of Education to ensure the successful integration of all refugee children into Egyptian public schools. Enhancing the capacity of teachers who work with Sub-Saharan African, Iraqi and Yemeni students will also be a priority. A bridging programme will be established to ensure smooth access for refugee children to the national education system. Education grants will continue to support refugee families in covering the costs of education. Children with specific needs will be supported to access appropriate schools that cater for their needs. UNHCR will continue its advocacy efforts with donor governments to mobilize higher education scholarships for refugees.

In the public health sector, partners will support access and further integration of all refugees and asylum-seekers into public health care facilities according to the memorandum of understanding signed between UNHCR and the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in 2016. This will be done through the provision of support to selected health

facilities in areas with high density of refugees. UNHCR will support and collaborate with MoHP to ensure that refugees have access to curative and preventative health care services. Awareness raising activities will inform refugees on available health services in order to enhance access and utilization of public services from their side. The health sector will also support access to immunization for children, access to comprehensive reproductive health care for refugees, and life-saving secondary health care through a centralized referral system and standardized criteria to ensure equitable services for all refugees and asylum-seekers.

The basic needs sector will provide support to the most socio-economically vulnerable refugees in order to meet their basic needs safely and contribute to their protection from risks and exploitation. The livelihood sector will concentrate on skills development, entrepreneurship and improving access to wage employment. With the aim to improve economic opportunities for all population groups and enhance social cohesion between refugees and host communities, advocacy with relevant actors for formal access to employment and finance for the refugee population will continue.

Under the food security sector, WFP will enable food insecure refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt to have access to adequate food. In addition to ensuring continued basic food security, WFP will provide the most vulnerable refugees and host community members with resilience activities to promote and support different employability schemes and livelihood opportunities that promote self-reliance. These activities include enhanced access to vocational and skills training for refugees and host community members to allow for an eventual graduation from direct assistance and support to self-reliance. As a result, one of the underlying causes of vulnerability will be addressed and beneficiaries will enhance their self-reliance. Most importantly, this approach will enhance the social cohesion among populations living in vulnerable areas where refugees also reside.





Refugees participating in an event for people with disabilities organized by UNHCR Egypt's partner, Caritas.

## PARTNERSHIPS & COORDINATION

The Government of Egypt, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), remains the main counterpart for policy and coordination. The humanitarian coordination mechanisms on refugee issues in Egypt are the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG), the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) and Sector Working Groups (SWGs).

The IAWG, chaired by UNHCR, is the highest coordination level used for the refugee response in Egypt. On this level, partners discuss policy issues, protection and programme gaps with regards to refugee communities of all nationalities. The ISWG is an inter-sectorial operational forum which brings together different sector working groups, i.e., Protection, Public Health, Education, Food Security, Basic Needs and Cash-Based Interventions, Livelihoods, and Communication with Communities. The ISWG is mandated to coordinate, identify and evaluate relevant operational topics to ensure a formative and standard approach. The ISWG reports to the IAWG as a higher level of coordination for policy decision and overall guidance.

Each sector working group has its specific set of partners including Government ministries, donors, international agencies, and international and national NGOs. Under the Protection working group, three sub-working groups are established to cover Child Protection, SGBV, and Durable Solutions. The Durable Solutions sub-working

group (DSSWG) focuses on durable solutions for refugees (primarily voluntary repatriation/return of refugees) and resettlement/complementary pathways for legal admission to third countries.

All sector working groups and sub-working groups meet on a monthly basis. If required, agencies will form task forces to focus on specific outputs and enhance synergies and impact. On monitoring, evaluation and reporting, the partners in this appeal will continue to exchange information and to roll-out information management tools, including continued assessments and feedback from the communities, to ensure evidence-based planning and programming and cross-sectoral linkages. Partners will continue to report on indicators through Activity-Info to reflect progress made towards the implementation of activities.

UNHCR, as chair of the IAWG, briefs the Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) on developments on refugee issues and provides updates on implementation of the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) and the Egypt Response Plan on regular basis. These forums ensure coordinated, collaborative, and comprehensive approaches and responses to address protection needs and provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees as well as the vulnerable communities affected by mixed migration in Egypt.



A refugee from Sudan, and her three children, seen at the UNHCR Egypt premises during their registration.

## ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

The partners in this appeal will continue to actively engage in community outreach to understand concerns and needs of men, women, boys and girls of different backgrounds from sub-Saharan Africa, Yemen and Iraq, and maximize coverage and service provision. Refugees and asylum-seekers will be engaged through community meetings, sector-specific focus group discussions, assessments and studies, as well as through UNHCR's annual participatory assessment.

This will ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers are involved in all stages of sector programme designs, evaluation, and implementation as well as in determining their priorities and identifying appropriate solutions. Partner agencies in all sectors will ensure that community concerns are addressed in a timely and effective manner through complaints and review mechanisms.

The Communication with Communities working group focuses on analysing and identifying effective and feasible channels of communication with refugees and asylum-seekers, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable. It aims to enhance coordination among partners in identifying information needs and gaps, and improving direct feedback

mechanisms with the refugee community. This includes informing affected communities of available services and assistance programme and asking for feedback on their quality and relevance as means for inclusion in the decision-making processes and engagement in the design and delivery of interventions. Thereafter, concerns from communities are fed into sector plans and policies.

The community centres act as key locations for refugees to receive information on humanitarian agencies' interventions and services, through posters, videos, and regular direct interaction with staff members of UNHCR and partners

The UNHCR Infoline provides a systematic method of answering efficiently and effectively to queries from beneficiaries. Ten call-attendants respond to an average of 20,000 monthly calls regarding queries on assistance, protection, registration, refugee status determination (RSD), and durable solutions.

The knowledge generated through working group meetings and the abovementioned platforms will be shared with stakeholders to ensure an effective and timely response, accountability, and transparency.



FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY SECTOR OF ASSISTANCE

Sector	Total (USD) 2019
Protection	10,765,158
Education	11,578,006
Health	3,815,031
Basic Needs & Livelihoods	9,431,964
Food Security	18,091,346
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,681,505</b>



## FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY APPEALING AGENCY

Sector	Total (USD) 2019
UNICEF	4,448,500
WFP	18,091,346
UNFPA	905,000
UNWOMEN	305,000
UNHCR	25,071,717
SAVE THE CHILDREN	1,800,000
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES	2,368,909
CARE INTERNATIONAL	691,033
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,681,505</b>

## GoE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE EGYPT RESPONSE PLAN FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, IRAQ AND YEMEN 2019

Sector	Total Jan-Dec 2019 (USD)	
	Refugee Budget	Resilience Budget
EDUCATION	7,075,000	18,790,000
HEALTH	9,775,000	11,792,000
LIVELIHOOD AND BASIC NEEDS	41,075,000	15,000,000
PROTECTION	3,500,000	3,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,425,000 USD</b>	<b>49,082,000 USD</b>
	<b>110,507,000 USD</b>	



A refugee from South Sudan applies to a UNHCR cash-based intervention for education at CRS in Cairo, Egypt.

# PROTECTION

UNHCR is the Protection Sector lead agency. The coordination framework comprises, inter alia, Child Protection, SGBV and Durable Solutions Sub-Working Groups (SWGs). Partnership and collaboration is established with government, UN sister agencies and other protection partners at large, including: the National Council of Women (NCW); the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF, co-chair with UNHCR the Child Protection SWG); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Women's Organization (UNWOMEN); Save the Children International (SCI); CARE International; the Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR); and the Arab Council supporting Fair Trail and Human Rights (ACSFT).

## CURRENT SITUATION

As of December 2018, UNHCR had registered a total of 112,039 African, Iraqi and Yemeni asylum-seekers and refugees (46% of the total registered refugee population), a considerable rise compared to 2017 during which recorded 92,524 refugees and asylum seekers from the three population<sup>4</sup>. Of the current registered population, the age, gender and diversity disaggregation is as follows: For the African population, and which is steading on the rise and comprises of (53,089 are female, and 58,950 are male). Further still, from within the overall total registered African population, youth (18-24yrs) comprise of 20,928 individuals; 26,554 are school-age going children; 3,474 are unaccompanied and separated children (with 2,501 being unaccompanied from this figure) and 19,808 are persons with varied disabilities. For the Iraqi population, predominantly a protracted population (3,378 are female, 3,616 are male, and further on, from within the overall total registered Iraqi population, youth (18-24yrs) comprise of 1,015 individuals; 1,636 are school age going children (6-17yrs); 4 are Unaccompanied and separated children (1 being unaccompanied from this figure) and 1,019 are persons with varied disabilities. With respect to the Yemeni population, and the fastest growing asylum population group in Egypt for the year 2018, (4,058 are female, 4,264 are male, and further on, from within the overall total registered Yemeni population, youth (18-24yrs) comprise of 1,012 individuals; 2,178 are school age going children; 48 are Unaccompanied and separated children (17 being unaccompanied from this figure) and 1,655 are persons with varied disabilities<sup>5</sup>. The rise in numbers amongst these three population groups, reflects instability in their respective countries. Many of these individuals enter into Egypt in an irregular manner and hence the continued need for protection monitoring of trends, awareness raising and visibility for protection partners to be able to reach the populations in need and offer support, remains.

African and Iraqi asylum-seekers undergo Refugee Status Determination (RSD). Main countries of origin for African

asylum-seekers are Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia. In line with UNHCR regional policy, Yemeni nationals are registered, documented but don't undergo RSD, unless they are considered for resettlement or have potential profiles of exclusion that require finer examination and determination.

As per the agreement between the Government of Egypt and UNHCR, all asylum-seekers who register with UNHCR are issued with the yellow asylum-seeker cards that are valid for 18 months, and on which the residence permit is affixed. The residence permit is valid for six months and is renewable. Asylum-seekers that do not present any identification documentation at the moment of registration are issued with asylum seeker certificates that confirm registration with UNHCR and application for asylum. However, they do not receive the resident permit until they undergo a RSD interview and are found eligible for International Protection. This is in an effort to better manage mixed movements and to encourage asylum seekers to submit any form of identification, to help certify the authenticity of the asylum application.

For asylum-seekers who undergo the RSD process and are found eligible for International Protection a blue card is provided. The processing period for registration and RSD varies amongst nationalities based on numbers of arrivals but stays between an average period of four months for registration and a maximum of two years for RSD. Registration enables refugees and asylum seekers to regularize their status in Egypt, hence avoiding risks such as deportation, enabling better identification of individuals who are of concern to UNHCR.

Another important document-related intervention is related to civil registration, which involves the processing and issuance of documents such as birth certificates, marriage and divorce certificates, death certificates and others as applicable, through UNHCR's national legal implementing partners and structural mechanisms in

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR Egypt, December 2017 statistical report

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR Egypt, December 2017 statistical report

place. The said partners provide support in obtaining the needed documentation and certification should obstacles be encountered on part of refugees and asylum seekers, not least in cases of birth certification, a crucial matter to ensure new-borns are documented and to avoid situations that may lead to statelessness.

Other assistance services to refugees include support for access to health and educational facilities; legal aid support; child-specific specialized services; awareness raising and support for survivors of SGBV; community-related initiatives for information sharing and awareness

raising on a variety of topics, community empowerment/self-reliance and community cohesion.

In addition to direct assistance, other protection-related actions include: capacity building amongst all stakeholders; coordination of sector actors; prevention efforts; sensitization activities; mobile registration missions to remote areas; partner support and monitoring; involvement of beneficiaries at all stages of the annual programme cycles, i.e.: planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and assessment stages.

## NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES TARGETING

For the African population, there are several challenges encountered that may result in limitations to protection space in the operational environment, including, inter alia, language and cultural barriers; access to certain services; instances of sexual and gender based-violence among refugee communities, lack of documentation from the country of origin in relation to new arrivals; community structures that are not unified or strong enough to self-support and drive action towards self-reliance; as well as concerns over security for some individual cases.

For the Iraqi population, in particular for those who arrived into the country with tourist visas and later claimed asylum, the most substantive protection concern is with respect to access to documentation to regularize their stay in Egypt and benefit from the range of services available in the operational environment. Obtaining and renewing resident permits for this group has been challenging. The process is governed by the country of asylum national policy. Inability to regularize their status has had implications on their daily lives in the country.

Yemeni population has been the highest rising asylum population in Egypt for 2018, largely owing to the conflict situation in Yemen. This group also require assistance related support particularly for those who arrive in Egypt with no savings or individual capacity to self-sustain.

In general, the majority of African, Iraqi, and Yemeni asylum-seekers and refugees registered with UNHCR in Egypt have substantial psychosocial, protection, and livelihood assistance needs. The partner agencies in this appeal, as well as the GoE, continue to advocate for equity for all refugees in Egypt, yet disparity of funding available

for Syrians and refugees of other nationalities, continues to pose a challenge. The increasing cost of living, inflation, difficult socio-economic conditions and funding limitations have impacted the ability of UNHCR and partners to support refugees and asylum-seekers in meeting their basic needs.

Responding to the needs of vulnerable girls and boys through continued targeted services for all children at risk remains a priority. Protection concerns of sub-Saharan African, Iraqi, and Yemeni refugee children are on the rise and include individual physical and legal protection challenges, and gender-based violence (out of the 1,159 cases registered in 2018, 89.1% constitutes of African nationals.

In 2018, 1231 SGBV incidents were reported to UNHCR and partner CARE International by Africans and other nationalities. This represents 81% of the total reported SGBV cases in 2018. Among the reported incidents, 696 were rape [56.5%] followed by 239 Sexual Assault [19.4%], 155 Physical Assault [12, 6%], 109 Psychological/Emotional Abuse [8.9%], 28 Forced Marriage [2.3%] and 4 Denial of Resources [0.3%]. 267 out of the 1231 were perpetrated against children (217 girls and 50 boys), which accounts for 21.7% of the total number of survivors, including 13 separated and 80 unaccompanied children. Among the total incidents against children: 107 were rape [40.1%], followed by 97 Sexual Assault [36,3%], 33 Psychological abuse [12.4%], 25 Forced Marriage [9.4%] and 5 Physical Assault [1.9%] all having been identified and consequently counselled by the SGBV unit. The abovementioned figures show a 28.3% increase of reported SGBV incidents compared to 2017, which is relatively proportional to the overall population growth.



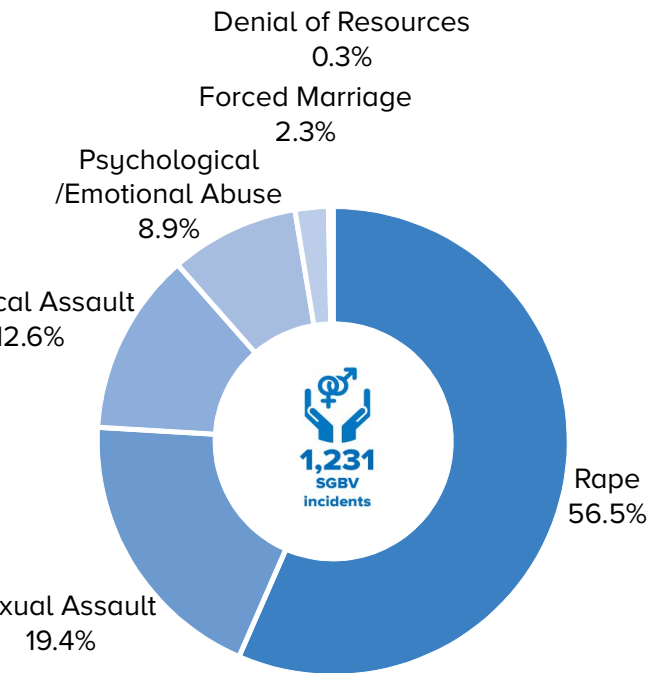
**SGBV INCIDENTS REPORTED BY AFRICANS AND OTHER NATIONALITIES**

As of December 2018, 94,964 children were registered with UNHCR Egypt (39% of the population of refugees and asylum seekers), and of these, 59% are Syrian nationals, whilst 41% (38,935) are of African, Iraqi and Yemeni descent. The total number of all unaccompanied and separated children amount to 4,176, of whom 2,638 are unaccompanied children and 1,538 are separated children.

With a continuous rise of UASC registered with the Office, UASC remain the largest group of asylum-seeker and refugee children with particular protection concerns. As of December 2018, the total number amounted to 4,176 UASC – the majority aged 15-17 years.

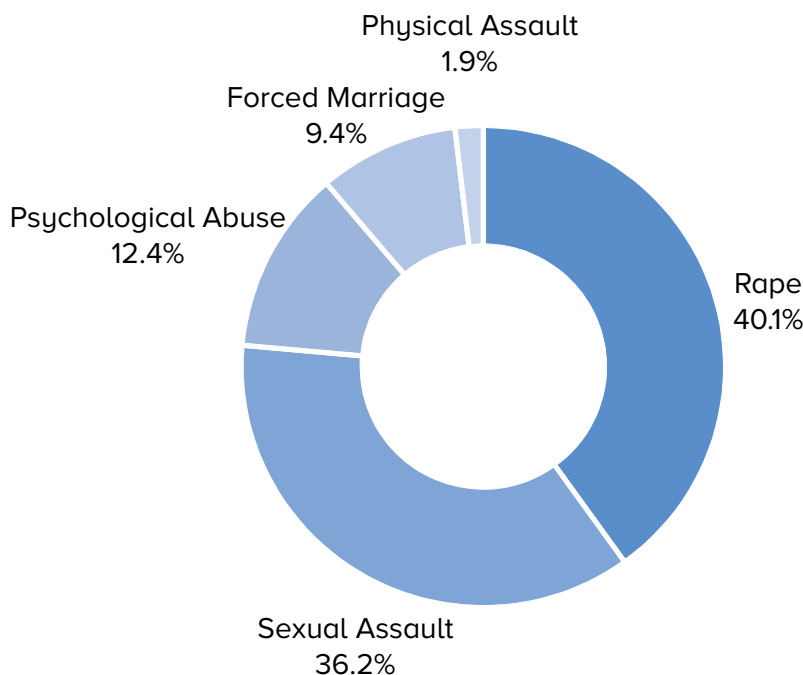
63% of all UASC are UAC. Eritrean UAC (48%) remain the largest number of UAC, with an increased number of new arrivals in 2018, followed by Ethiopian UAC with (17%). Separated children (SC) are often accompanied by vulnerable adult relatives and in need of additional protection consideration. In 2018, separated children from South Sudan rose to the largest group of SC with 41%, exceeding the number of Syrian SC who dropped to 22%.

UASC are highly exposed to abuse and violence, and at risk of resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including exploitative labour arrangements, early marriage and survival sex. Furthermore, and with the absence of a primary legal caregiver, UASC are often in need of improved and safe care arrangements. Protection and

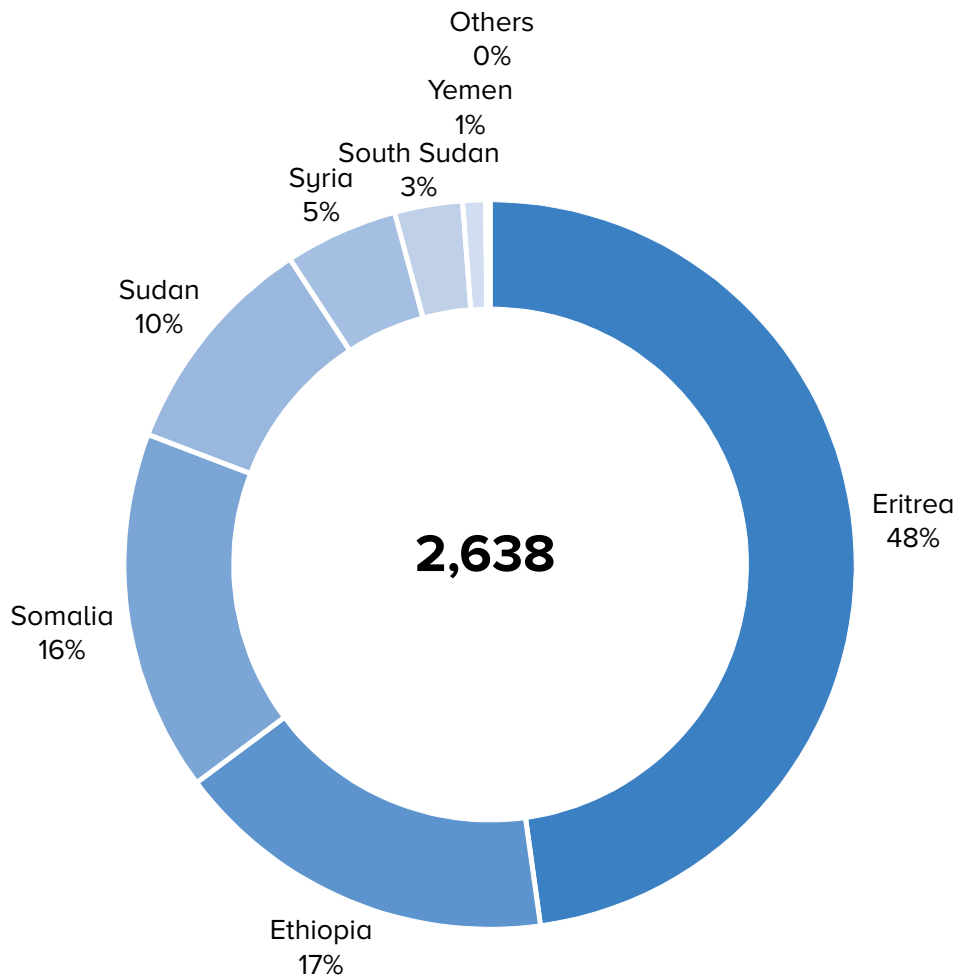


assistance services will need to address such protection risks from the first point of contact with those vulnerable children. This includes: protective and safe alternative care arrangements with qualified and trained caregivers, basic needs support, specialised and non-specialised psycho-social support services as well as access to health services and education; the latter posing additional protection limitations with the barrier of access to sustainable formal education for certain nationalities.

**SGBV INCIDENTS AGAINST CHILDREN**



## POPULATION OF REGISTERED UAC BY NATIONALITY AS OF DECEMBER 2018



Yemeni refugee children have been greatly constrained by limited resources. Over the years, challenges have become more complex and deeply rooted, requiring greater investment to provide comprehensive solutions. Sufficient resources need to be allocated to community-driven and community-centred activities, in an effort to strengthen community-based family-type support, as well as streamline access to specialized services as required. This would include targeted initiatives to respond to the specific needs of women and girls and to foster their empowerment and protection within their broader communities.

Youth (18-24 years) represent 18 per cent of the refugee population registered with UNHCR Egypt. With limited opportunities for sustainable protective livelihoods and vocational skill training, in particular for children transitioning into adulthood; limited durable solutions including access to complementary pathways, and restrictive access to secondary and tertiary education, youth often resort to negative coping mechanism. These protection gaps are further exacerbated by the lack of support and guidance within their communities, the reduced possibility of potential return to their countries of origin in the near future, as well

as the host country's economic challenges and a perceived lack of future in Egypt.

As the hold on managing mixed movements in the region continues to tighten, some sub-Saharan African asylum-seekers and refugees continue to be detained for having entered or attempted to leave Egypt in an irregular manner. There is a continuing need for the provision of emergency and humanitarian assistance to those arrested for irregular departure or entry, including children, as well as of legal and counselling services provided by protection partners upon release. The focus will remain on building existing government capacities at both central and local levels to manage irregular migration in a more protection-sensitive manner, upholding international standards, e.g. the UNHCR 10-Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Movements that offers guidance on managing irregular movements and protecting the needs of the most vulnerable, including persons fleeing persecution and seeking International Protection.

# STRATEGIC VISION AND RESPONSE PLAN

## The key objectives of the protection sector are:

1. Access to asylum is preserved and solutions are identified, including resettlement, voluntary return whenever feasible, and complimentary solution pathways.
2. Registration and documentation of persons in need of international protection and support the strategic use of RSD.
3. Community-based protection, empowerment, and outreach mechanisms are enhanced, aiming both at strengthening self-management and harmonious relationships between refugee and host communities, and at identifying and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, including older persons and persons with disabilities.
4. Child protection systems are strengthened, and equitable access for children, adolescents, and youth to quality child protection interventions is ensured, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children.
5. The risks and consequences of SGBV are reduced, and access to quality services is enhanced.

Humanitarian partners will continue to support and complement the Government of Egypt's efforts to assure access to asylum and maintain a conducive protection space. Advocacy efforts will continue on the need to uphold the principle of non-refoulement and ensure access to asylum procedures. Moreover, UNHCR will continue to advocate for the extension of the duration of residence permits to one year and support timely decentralization to Alexandria of the residency application procedures. Access to public and quality education, birth registration and civil status documentation will also continue to be priorities. Partnership endeavours directed at facilitating solutions through the application for exit procedures for refugees departing Egypt for resettlement or other legal pathways of admission will be enhanced.

In 2019, UNHCR will continue to register and document all refugees and asylum-seekers approaching its offices in Cairo and Alexandria. Biometrics are a core component of the registration process that contributes to the integrity of UNHCR procedures. Regularly updated registration is used by UNHCR as a protection tool, which allows for better identification of persons in need of asylum, their protection needs, enhanced targeting of assistance and specialized services for the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR will equally continue to re-invent its RSD processing procedures in order to comply with evolving international guidance on the process, aimed at making it more effective, efficient and responsive to protection needs in a more strategic and predictable manner, harmonised across the region and, affecting similar beneficiaries.

Close coordination with and support to government authorities (particularly the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Health and Population (MoHP), Education (MoE), Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), Youth (MoY) alongside national committees such as the National Council of Women (NCW), the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), as well as civil society and other

stakeholders will continue towards a more effective advocacy to optimize quality, equitable access to, and enjoyment of basic rights and services for African, Iraqi, and Yemeni refugees. Strengthening of national capacities to issue civil documentation and to ease access to residency for refugees living in remote areas will also remain a priority, with mobile registration as a standard operational procedure, particularly in the Northern Coast areas.

UNHCR will continue to provide technical and material support to the Government towards the adoption of asylum and migration management policies that provide comprehensive, collaborative, and solution-oriented responses to those affected by irregular migration, ensuring that those in need of International Protection are identified and have access to asylum and appropriate assistance mechanisms. UNHCR and partners will also continue to assist the authorities to address the needs of those affected by irregular movements, including through the provision of NFIs as well as humanitarian, legal, medical, and psychosocial assistance for those in detention, while also exploring alternatives to detention for those fleeing persecution and other vulnerable categories, especially children and women.

Protection monitoring, legal counselling and coordinated humanitarian access and assistance to detainees will also remain a priority for UNHCR, as well training of law enforcement and immigration officials on international refugee protection, rescue at sea, human trafficking, smuggling, and mixed migration.

Supporting the implementation of the National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women and the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women will remain a priority and will involve close cooperation with the National Council for Women and other relevant partners. In 2019, innovative prevention initiatives and coordinated quality response services will be enhanced. Efforts to reinforce

government and non-government SGBV prevention and response capacities, and to support the socio-economic empowerment of women will be boosted while strengthening national policies and mechanisms.

To respond to the specific needs of African, Iraqi, and Yemeni refugee children - including UASC and other children at risk - and their parents, the protection partners will continue to play a vital role in the coordination of stakeholders' efforts to provide access to quality child protection services to all refugee children, adolescents, youth and caregivers affected by forced displacement. This is in addition to supporting a holistic, inclusive, and sustainable response to address their needs and to prevent harmful coping mechanisms. A continued focus will remain on timely identification and referral of cases and the provision of quality case management, including best interest assessments and best interest determination. Further priority areas will cover capacity building initiatives, strengthening of alternative care arrangements in coordination with communities and the authorities, provision of specialized services for children with disabilities, cash-based interventions, and provision of community-based child protection services and specialized psychosocial support, including life skills and positive parenting programmes. Implementing the community and rights-based approach, protection partners will continue to increase engagement with the various refugee communities to strengthen community capacity for self-management.

Thematic oriented training, material and technical support will be provided to community-led initiatives in order to better help their self-support. Community outreach activities, including community meetings and dissemination

of information on services rendered to refugees as well as dialogue with the communities over their protection concerns and how they can be resolved, remain key objectives, as well as the promotion of social cohesion between refugee and impacted host communities. These efforts will continue to be led by UNHCR throughout 2019.

Refugees will continue to benefit from multi-year planning and prioritization for the strategic use of resettlement as a protection tool. It is anticipated that more than 2,000 African, Iraqi and Yemeni refugees will be submitted for resettlement consideration in 2019. Continued advocacy for other complementary solution/pathways through education and/or work schemes will also be pursued. Perception surveys and focus group discussions – which will be held on a periodic basis and tied to potential return in countries undergoing fundamental positive changes - will also be carried out in order to assess the climate and willingness/readiness of return, where applicable, on a voluntary basis. In 2018, the Horn of Africa countries of Ethiopia, Eritrea and South Sudan, and Somalia registered some political developments in the shape of signed peace pacts that could usher in political, economic and social reforms to a degree that would/may influence considerations for return. This will require regular monitoring, assessment and evaluation by protection partners throughout the course of 2019, as these changes would impact on dynamics in the operational environment.

The signing of the Global Refugee Compact in December 2018 is another milestone that may bring with it some fundamental considerations and changes in the asylum environments of many countries.

# PLANNED PROTECTION RESPONSE

Objective	Output	Target
<b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> Access to asylum is preserved, and solutions are identified including resettlement and voluntary return whenever feasible.	1.1 Access to asylum is improved, protection space preserved, risk of refoulment reduced and basic rights are respected	1,800 asylum-seekers, refugees and persons intercepted in mixed migration movements are provided with legal aid and assistance (humanitarian, food, medical, NFIs, psychosocial counselling, emergency response or shelter)
		27,200 asylum-seekers undertaking quality RSD procedures
	1.2 Quality of registration and profiling improved and maintained	112,039 asylum-seekers and refugees registered with UNHCR for whom disaggregated data by age and location is available including iris scan
	1.3 Resettlement and protection solutions are identified	More than 2,000 refugees submitted for resettlement or Humanitarian Admission to third countries
	1.4 Advocacy and capacity building activities aiming at access to rights by refugees are strengthened	17 training and capacity building activities for government officials related to the promotion of international refugee protection, access to basic rights for refugees and intersection with other related areas
	1.5 Capacity of the Government of Egypt to manage migration flows is improved	340 persons trained including the provision of technical support to local authorities and civil society
<b>OBJECTIVE 2:</b> Community-Based Protection, empowerment and outreach mechanisms are enhanced, aiming at both at strengthening self-management and harmonious relationship between refugee and host communities, and at identifying and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, including older persons and persons with disabilities.	2.1 Enhanced identification and referral to protection services, including psychosocial support, to most vulnerable refugees through enhanced community-based structures	63,300 individuals having access to protection services
		46 participatory assessments, and community mapping exercises conducted
	2.2 Communications with communities maintained and strengthened to support communication between refugees, host populations and the humanitarian community	32,500 people benefiting from outreach activities and information sessions
		80 community groups supported with the delivery of community-based protection interventions responding to the needs of vulnerable persons in their communities
	2.3 Social cohesion, mutually beneficial relationship and harmonious relationship between refugees and host communities are promoted and strengthened	12,300 people reached through activities that promote a harmonious relationship between refugees and host communities

Objective	Output	Target	
<b>OBJECTIVE 3:</b> Child protection system is strengthened and equitable access for children, adolescents and youth to quality child protection interventions is ensured, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children	3.1 Strengthened and increased capacity of national and local systems and mechanisms to respond to the needs of refugees and host community children	328 public facilities and government bodies are strengthened	
		1,445 public officials and NGO staff are trained on child protection	
		16,300 children, adolescents, youth participating in community-based psycho-social support and child protection services	
	3.2 Specialized child protection services are available for children adolescents and youth, in particular UASC	7,150 children, adolescents and youth benefiting from multi sectoral case management	
		7,400 children, adolescents and youth receiving cash based interventions	
		850 children, adolescents and youth with specific needs, including with disabilities, benefiting from specialized child protection support	
	3.3 Children, adolescents, youth and caregivers have access to community based child protection, psychosocial support (PSS) interventions and life skills	12,750 children, adolescents and youth participating in structured and sustained psychosocial support, life skills and child protection (CP) programs	
		5,500 female and male caregivers participating in positive parenting programs	
	<b>OBJECTIVE 4:</b> The risks and consequences of SGBV are reduced and access to quality services is enhanced.	4.1 Refugees and most vulnerable amongst impacted populations have increased access to safe, confidential and quality multisector SGBV services adapted to their age, sex and diversity	3,124 SGBV survivors and at risk receive multisector services (at least one of the following: legal, medical, psychosocial, emergency response or emergency shelter)
		4.2 Risks of SGBV mitigated and reduced through community led initiatives	13,700 people reached through community-led prevention and response activities on SGBV
4.3 Capacity of Government and non-Government services in all sectors is strengthened to effectively prevent and respond to SGBV		251 Government and non-Government services that receive support in all sectors	
4.4 National polices and mechanisms that address SGBV are enhanced and brought in line with international standards		100 service providers trained on state laws and regulations that respond to SGBV survivors and related services	
4.5 Empowerment opportunities and increased access for communities at risk through raised awareness about SGBV national legislation, practice and existing services and outlet		7,700 persons at risk of SGBV benefitting from empowerment opportunities	

## PROTECTION SECTOR FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY AGENCY

Agency/Organization	Total (USD) 2019
UNHCR	7,597,158
UNICEF	1,633,000
UNFPA	905,000
Save the Children	325,000
UNWOMEN	305,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,765,158</b>

## GoE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER PROTECTION SECTOR

Egypt believes in the importance of access to quality and non-discriminatory services for all refugees, as well as reducing the risk of gender based violence. A nationwide project to strengthen protection for children and women through improving access to basic services, legal support and community services, has been embarked. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, as well as the National Council for Women carry out several initiatives in

that regards including awareness campaigns. Egypt seeks to strengthen harmonious coexistence among sub Saharan Africa, Iraq and Yemen refugees and host communities, as well as address the needs of the most vulnerable categories, with special attention to unaccompanied and separated children. Financial Requirements in protection sector is USD 3.500.000 for refugees and asylum seekers, and an equal amount to foster resilience of host communities.



A South Sudanese student attends Arabic classes for non-Arabic speakers in Cairo, Egypt to facilitate the transition of students to Egyptian public schools.



# EDUCATION SECTOR

UNHCR is working with the following partners in the education sector: United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Save the Children International (SCI), Care International, Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), school boards, public and private universities in Egypt.

## CURRENT SITUATION

Egypt hosts a predominantly young refugee population in need of adequate education services at all levels. The majority of refugees in Egypt have experienced considerable disruptions to their education in their country of origin and during their subsequent displacement to Egypt. Many Sub-Saharan African, Iraqi and Yemeni refugee children and young people are not enrolled in schools in Egypt due to multiple factors. Moreover, some children and youth dropped out of school before coming to Egypt, while others have fallen behind in their studies following long periods of absence due to insecurity, closure of their schools, or displacement in their country of origin. Many have poor educational support capacities within their homes and few opportunities to receive remedial education.

Economic constraints are one of the factors contributing to discontinued education, as refugee students are often compelled to enter the labour force to support themselves and possibly contribute to or provide for their family's basic needs. However, despite the general poverty that refugees are experiencing, the majority of families are desperately trying to find an education opportunity for their school-age children, yet they face other barriers. Some nationalities, such as the Sudanese, for whom the Government of Egypt has extended access to public education according to the Four Freedoms Agreement between Egypt and Sudan, still face considerable difficulties in providing the documentation that education officials require. These include government-issued residence permits, birth certificates, valid passports, and/or national identity documents, original school certificates from the country of origin, and a letter from UNHCR. All these difficulties hinder their efforts to educate their children. It is worth noting that the MoE currently

grants access to public education for refugees and asylum seekers from Syrian, Sudanese and Yemeni nationals.

Refugees who can access public education often face the same difficulties as Egyptian children, such as overcrowded classrooms, lack of educational materials, issues over the quality of education and reliance on private lessons to make up for gaps presented by the education system. Many refugees also have difficulties in adapting or adjusting to the Egyptian dialect and curriculum. In addition, many refugee children live far from the schools they attend, which increases their protection risks and, consequently, affects school attendance. A great majority have to leave very early in the morning and take more than one form of public transport to reach the nearest community school, which creates an additional financial burden.

In response to the above-mentioned challenges, many faith groups have established community schools that follow the Sudanese national curriculum and some conduct lessons in English. These community schools face similar problems to public schools in terms of overcrowding and low quality education. Moreover, some children attending these schools are, in most cases, unable to obtain certificates recognized by the Egyptian or Sudanese Governments. Registration process at MoE schools is at times problematic for Sudanese refugees as it requires a residency permit, the submission of documentation and many other forms of identification documents. As a result, many Sudanese children and other sub-Saharan African refugees cannot advance beyond primary level education, and blocking the road to higher education.

## NEEDS, VULNERABILITIES AND TARGETING

Approximately 70 African community schools were operating during the 2017/2018 academic year and provided education to a total number of 15,000 refugee boys and girls. Twenty-six of these schools were hosting nearly 80 per cent of all school-age students with refugee or asylum-seeker status.

In 2017, UNHCR and CRS conducted a need assessment of the main community schools to determine their needs and to plan for appropriate interventions and budget requirements for the following year. An assessment tool was developed by CRS to ensure international best practices for education and safe learning environments set by UNHCR and the International Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE). The assessment of schools looks at the existence of a physical safe learning environment, their financial position, and their governance performance. The majority of these community schools are in small flats and are located in five main areas of refugee concentration in Greater Cairo: 32 per cent are in Ain Shams (East Cairo), 24 per cent in Nasr City (Northeast Cairo), 20 per cent in Downtown Cairo, 16 per cent in Maadi (South Cairo), and 8 per cent in 6th of October City (West Cairo). While the majority of the schools are not affiliated with any formal organization, 36 per cent are affiliated with NGOs and faith-based organizations.

According to the last community school assessment (2017), approximately 67 schools teach the Sudanese curriculum to refugee students and only two schools follow other curricula in addition to the Sudanese curriculum. The Sudanese curriculum is divided into 11 grades, in addition to the kindergarten (KG) stage. Students enrolled in grade 8 and grade 11 are entitled to sit the Sudanese national exam abroad, and upon passing this exam, they get a certificate accredited by the Sudanese government and recognized by MoE in Egypt as part of the completion process. The nationalities of the students enrolled in the schools include Sudanese, South Sudanese, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Somalis, and other nationalities. Approximately 800 teachers are

working in the community schools. Sixty per cent of the teachers are males; however, recently the number of female teachers has increased, which is a remarkable improvement in comparison to three years ago, when female teachers represented less than 30 per cent of teachers.

UNHCR and appealing partners will be focusing their resources in mainstreaming all refugee children into the national education system and provide all vulnerable school-age children with education grants to pay for school fee, books, stationary, uniforms and safe transportation to and from school. This education grant partially covers approximately 40% of the cost of educating refugee children. Particular attention will be given to early childhood education in terms of resources, establishment of KG classes, and training of teachers as well as developing relevant materials and teaching aids.

Many refugee youth, particularly unaccompanied or separated, play a pivotal role in contributing to their own and others' well-being, yet too often, their present-day capacities are not recognized, and their perspectives are not heard by their communities, host countries or, at times, humanitarian agencies. Compelling evidence supports the case for displaced youth's needs, the constraints they face in improving their current situation, and their hopes for long-term solutions. Youth represent an invisible majority within the refugee population, therefore depriving and hindering many refugee youth of university education and employment not only affect them as one generation, but also passes on to their children's future generations. UNHCR, in collaboration with the UNCT in Egypt, has recently established a Youth Task Force (YTF) facilitated by UNFPA. As per the YTF's agreed on terms of reference (ToRs), it will be looking to address the needs of youth and adolescents through a much wider forum and in partnership with Egyptian line ministries such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

# STRATEGIC VISION AND RESPONSE PLAN

## The key objectives for the education sector are:

1. Access to education is increased for refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt through mainstreaming into the public school system.
2. Quality of formal and non-formal education within a protective environment is improved.

The education sector partners in Egypt will advocate for the adoption and mainstreaming of best practices, models and successful approaches with the MoE, and school boards, focusing on school-based reform and inclusive education drawing on previous experience and relationship with all stakeholders. The aim will be to ensure successful integration of African, Iraqi and Yemeni refugees into the national school system. This will be achieved through capacitating public schools in areas with high concentration of refugees in and around Cairo, employing a comprehensive professional development programme for educators, improving the capacity of school staff that work with African refugee children, and supporting a school-based reform model that enables stakeholders such as teachers, students, parents, and community leaders to voice their concerns and contribute towards an improved education process in their districts. This will result in an increase in the enrolment rates of refugee children in formal education.

UNHCR has been advocating with MoE for the inclusion of African, Iraqi and Yemeni refugees into the Egyptian public school system. This has resulted in Yemeni refugees being granted access to public schools at same footing with Egyptian nationals for the 2018/2019 academic year and other nationalities could follow suit in the near future. The MoE currently grants generous access to the public school system to Syrian, Sudanese and Yemeni nationals on equal footing with Egyptian students. Such burden on Egyptian schools requires UNHCR and partners' efforts and resources to enhance the capacity of public schools that may receive additional children. In 2019, UNHCR and partners will be mapping out these schools around Cairo looking at the potential for enhancing the physical capacity and assisting the government in building additional classrooms and/or refurbishing existing schools. The Education sector partners will also provide training for teachers and prepare refugee students to be fully integrated into these schools through a Bridging and accelerated learning programmes.

Families of African, Iraqi and Yemeni refugee school-age boys, girls and youth will continue to receive education

grants, upon enrolment and regular attendance. The grant will contribute to 25% of school fees to contribute to buying uniforms, books, stationary and transportation to facilitate their learning process. The education grant is distributed according to the school year, school type and the grade of the student. Vulnerable and out-of-school children will be identified and those with additional needs will be supported through special assistance. In order to provide adequate support to children from destitute families who, even with the grant provided, are unable to enroll in school, vulnerable students whose parents cannot afford to pay their school fees will have access to additional support on a case by case basis. Also, adult literacy and numeracy classes will be provided to African families to assist them in life-long learning and help them support their children's education.

Partners will be providing a comprehensive education service for the unaccompanied and separated refugee boys, girls, and youth through tailor-made education programmes to maximize their protection space, enable them to be active members in their communities, boost their self-confidence, and prepare them for the job market. Partners will also be expanding the Vocational Training Programmes for youth and adolescents through deeper cooperation with the Federal Government of Germany and other donors that are already providing more than 350 Higher Education scholarships for refugees in Egypt under the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund (DAFI).

Education sector partners are working closely with child protection, SGBV, public health and livelihood sectors where education is being made an entry point to deliver these needed protection-related services. A health and safety training programme implemented by the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) targeting children, their parents and their teachers in the community and in public schools will be expanded to reach and empower more African, Iraqi and Yemeni refugee children.

Objective	Output	Target
<b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> Access to education is increased for refugees and asylum-seekers through mainstreaming into the public school system	1.1 Improved inclusive access to education by all children, youth and adolescents	4,600 children (3-5 years, girls/boys) enrolled in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and pre-primary education
		21,250 children (3-17 years g/b) provided with education grants
		2500 UASC (6-17 years, g/b) receiving education grants
		300 students with special needs receiving education support
	1.2 Protective learning environments improved	250 teachers trained on safe-guarding mechanisms and positive discipline
	1.3 Access to accelerated learning or bridging programmes improved	1,270 (6-17 years, g/b) enrolled in ALP or bridging programme
		700 children (5-17, g/b) in public schools are provided with remedial classes
		800 children (5-17 years, g/b) are provided with language classes
	1.4 Improved access to higher education opportunities.	150 youths and adolescents benefiting from higher education scholarships
	1.5 Physical capacity of public and community schools hosting refugee children improved and bridging classes conducted	70 public and Community Schools hosting refugee children improved or maintained
<b>OBJECTIVE 2:</b> Quality of education is improved in the schools attended by refugee and asylum-seeker students	2.1 Provide professional development to teachers, facilitators and school staff on child-centred, protective and interactive methodologies	1,500 teachers and education personnel trained (m/f)
	2.2 Procure and distribute textbooks, teaching and learning materials, and school supplies	500 teachers and education personnel receiving teaching resources, kits and guides
		9,375 students (3-17 years) receiving learning materials and supplies
		3,200 children (5-17 years, g/b) receiving text books
	2.3 Children, youth and adolescents benefitting from technical and vocational training (TVET) and life skills education and recreational activities	6,500 children (5-17 years, g/b) benefitting from life skills activities in formal settings
		7,400 children (5-24 years, g/b) benefitting from life skills activities in formal and non-formal settings
		310 youth enrolled in technical and vocational education and training institutes
	2.4 Improve data collection related to formal and non-formal education, including tracking of out-of-school children, school based assessments	2 programmes implemented to enhance data collection
		466 education actors (f/m) trained on policy, planning, data collection, sector coordination and International Network for Education in Emergencies Minimum Standards (INEE MS)
		1,500 children assessed by the enhanced educational tools (non-formal)

## EDUCATION SECTOR FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY AGENCY

Agency/Organization	Total (USD) 2019
UNHCR	5,566,000
UNICEF	2,515,500
Save the Children (SCI)	625,000
Care International	691,033
Catholic Relief Services	2,181,409
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,578,942 USD</b>

## GoE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER EDUCATION SECTOR

The Egyptian Government places high importance on Education, as it is imperative to create more opportunities for the future generations of Egyptian as well as refugees and asylum seekers' children. It also fosters social cohesion and better integration of refugees in the host communities.

Around 20 million students are enrolled in public education in Egypt. Recently, Egypt has embarked on several reforms to improve pre university public education sector such as the reduction of class sizes, and improving the quality of the academic curriculum. However, it is faced with the challenges of growing number of students per year whether Egyptian or refugee amidst scarce resources. The total number of sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq and Yemen children enrolled at public schools at the different stages of pre-university education amounted to around 30000 students, and this number continues to rise giving the

protracted nature of crises at these countries and the new developments in Sudan.

The Egyptian Government remains committed to improving education, as well as ensuring that all refugee children are enrolled in school. Hence, Egypt estimates the need for around US\$ 7 million for 2019-2020 in order to ensure the enrollment of Arabic speaking refugee children in public schools. Enrolling non-Arabic speaking children in pre-university level would need to be either in private schools or public schools after receiving language adaptation programs. Supporting the resilience of host communities which include building new classrooms and schools, upgrading school facilities, designing and printing educational materials, etc. would require about 18,790,000 USD.



A South Sudanese baby receives medical assistance at the clinic of NGO & UNHCR partner Refuge Egypt in Cairo.

# PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR

UNHCR is working with the following partners in the public health sector: Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Caritas Egypt, Refuge Egypt, and Save the Children International (SCI).

## CURRENT SITUATION

In October 2016, UNHCR signed a memorandum of understanding with the MoHP, by which access to public health care services was extended to all refugees. In 2017, Refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities have been officially included into the Egyptian public primary health care and, consequently, throughout the years 2017 and 2018 health partners worked to ensure their smooth integration into the public health system.

Nevertheless, overstretched and modest quality of health services in Egypt remain a key challenge. Not all disease programmes such as non-communicable diseases and mental health are available at primary health care level. Thus, NGO partners continue to complement the gaps in the national services and to provide health care for African, Iraqi and Yemeni refugees and asylum-seekers.

In 2018, health partners reported 55,488 primary health care consultations to women, girls, boys, and men,

including follow-up visits for more than 1,200 patients with chronic diseases and 1,583 mental health consultations. This is in addition to a total of 5,361 antenatal consultations. Moreover, 690 women received cash grants to cover the costs of their delivery care in public hospitals, and 3,226 secondary and tertiary care services were supported, including 462 life-saving emergencies and 42 psychiatric hospitalizations.

For Egyptian nationals, around 60 to 70 per cent of the costs of secondary and tertiary health care referral services are out-of-pocket expenditures, which is considered a high-cost burden. With the integration approach, refugees will be facing the same situation while not having access to any insurance or the state-subsidized support for national poor. Currently, UNHCR subsidizes the provision of essential secondary and life-saving health care services for refugees and asylum-seekers.

## NEEDS, VULNERABILITIES AND TARGETING

Refugees arriving in Egypt who seek primary, secondary and tertiary health care, have different understanding and expectations of the health care services, as well as diverse access and utilization patterns.

A Health Access Utilization Survey (HAUS) undertaken in 2016 by UNHCR showed that 39.2 per cent of African and Iraqi households surveyed had spent money on health care in the previous month, with an average household's cost of 373 EGP. Since 2017, the devaluation of the Egyptian pound has resulted in the rise of expenses related to health care, with a 30 to 50 per cent increase in the price of medicines, laboratory analysis, and hospital interventions costs later. According to participatory assessments conducted by UNHCR in 2017 and 2018, Language is a major obstacle to access health care for the non-Arabic speaking population beside the financial burden and the lack of information. HAUS results also showed that African and Iraqi refugees have limited knowledge of subsidized and free health services available to refugees. The survey highlighted that the main barrier to access health care was the inability to pay user fees; 70 per cent of those who received a referral for specialized services had to make additional out-of-pocket payments through wages, loans, and community support,

despite the UNHCR-funded referral care services through partners. Additionally, the assessment revealed that 10 per cent of surveyed household members suffered from chronic conditions, with hypertension, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes at the top of the list. Some 87.5 per cent of pregnant women received antenatal care service; however, they reported that high transportation costs were a challenge. Most of the deliveries occurred in public facilities, while a quarter took place in private institutions. The neonatal complications rate requiring hospitalization of the baby was relatively high (16.7 per cent).

The findings of a UNHCR nutrition survey for African and Iraqi refugee children and women of reproductive age<sup>6</sup> revealed that for children under five years of age, vaccination coverage was 74.3 per cent for measles (target  $\geq 95\%$ ) and vitamin A supplementation 35.4 per cent (target  $\geq 90\%$ ). Moreover, the prevalence of anaemia among children aged 6 to 59 months and non-pregnant women of reproductive age (15-49 years) was found in 76 per cent of the surveyed population. The study highlighted the need to improve the nutritional status of African and Iraqi refugee children and women of reproductive age by strengthening multi-faceted interventions.

<sup>6</sup> Survey results released in May 2016.



# STRATEGIC VISION AND RESPONSE PLAN

UNHCR will support the full integration of all refugees into national health care system. This will entail strengthening the existing national health system through capacity building, upgrading and improvement of services, including support to primary health care.

**The key objectives of the public health sector response are:**

1. Equal access to comprehensive and quality primary health care is improved for refugees of all nationalities and impacted host communities in Egypt;
2. Life-saving assistance is optimized through essential secondary and tertiary health care for all refugees in Egypt;
3. The national health care system is supported.

The health partners support refugees to access comprehensive primary health care services, and essential life-saving secondary and emergency health services to reduce morbidity and mortality.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the health sector aims to ensure healthy lives and promote the wellbeing of all ages. The health partners seek to ensure that refugees from sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq, and Yemen can fulfil their right to access preventative and curative health care services in a sustainable manner. Moreover, partners will contribute to strengthening existing national health system; 15 MoHP clinics will be supported, focusing on a standardized package with a specific focus on quality antenatal care, reproductive health care, child and adolescent health, immunizations, and non-communicable diseases.

Agencies in the health sector will ensure access to comprehensive reproductive health care for refugees. Partners will continue to provide pregnancy follow-up and referrals to public facilities for delivery. They will also ensure care for children under the age of five years, including growth monitoring and nutritional support.

UNHCR is implementing a conditional cash-based support programme that has been set up for all pregnant women to have access to safe delivery care. In addition, partners will continue to support the access of all refugee children to expanded immunization programmes, improved diagnosis and treatment of childhood illnesses.

Moreover, UNHCR and its partners will continue to ensure access to antiretroviral medications for people living with HIV and will maintain universal access and widen active case detection for tuberculosis while ensuring universal access to voluntary counselling, testing, and treatment. Support and linkages with national tuberculosis and HIV programmes will continue.

UNHCR will continue to support life-saving secondary health care through one referral care system and standardized criteria to ensure equitable services for all refugees regardless of nationality. In 2019, an independent referral care committee was established to review complex cases.

Health partners will also engage the refugee community through a peer-to-peer model to raise awareness about health services availability, enhance access and utilization of public services, and when needed, accompany them to public facilities.

Since 2018, UNHCR continues to monitor and advocate for access of refugees to the newly established social health insurance scheme to be implemented during year 2019.

Coordination and cooperation with other sectors, in particular protection, child protection, and education will be pursued to optimize the efficient and effective implementation of the referral system as well as equal and timely access to health care, especially for the clinical management of survivors of SGBV, violence, abuse, and exploitation.

Objective	Output	Target
<b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> Equal access to comprehensive and quality primary health care is improved for refugees of all nationalities and impacted host communities in Egypt	1.1 Regular consultations are provided at primary health care facilities	43,530 acute public health care consultations for girls, women, boys, men
		500 children under 5 years of age receive routine immunization and growth monitoring services
	1.2 Access to basic reproductive, child and youth health care ensured.	2,180 antenatal care consultations provided
		350 people receiving family planning services
		19 public health care facilities supported for implementing integrated child survival model and nutritional integrated model.
<b>OBJECTIVE 2:</b> Life-saving assistance is optimized through essential secondary and tertiary health care for all refugees in Egypt	2.1 Referral system for secondary and tertiary care including specialized services is strengthened	9,700 referrals to secondary and tertiary healthcare services for girls, women, boys, men
		1000 patients received secondary health care for life threatening emergencies
	2.2 Enhanced access to effective emergency obstetric and neonatal intensive care (CEMONC).	100 pregnant women with direct obstetric complications managed at secondary health care
		100 neonatal ICU admission
<b>OBJECTIVE 3:</b> The national health care system is supported	3.1 Enhanced quality of services provided at PHC facilities	250 No. staff trained in the supported primary health care facilities
		19 PHC Public facilities supported (Equipment)
	3.2 Community health awareness is expanded and strengthened	80 community health awareness sessions conducted
		50 trained community health volunteers
		4,000 home based care visits

## HEALTH SECTOR FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY AGENCY

Agency/Organization	Total (USD) 2019
Save the Children	850,000
UNHCR	2,965,030
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,815,030</b>

## GoE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER HEALTH SECTOR

Health service (preventive and curative) is provided in Egypt by different healthcare providers: the ministry of Health and Population which provides about 40 percent of the health services delivered to the community for free, health insurance organizations for governmental employees, labour unions, school children, and neonates, and it covers about 50 percent of the population, University, teaching, and research institutions provide 10 percent of health care, and finally the private sector which provides about 12 percent of health services. Several health providers can be approached at the same time by the person.

Egypt has recently embarked on very ambitious reforms to improve the quality of its healthcare sector, that include developing primary and community health care, strengthening family planning services, improving maternal and childcare programs, promoting intensive care treatment, as well as increasing prevention efforts and addressing non-communicable diseases. In this regard the World Bank

has just approved supporting the Egyptian government with US\$ 530 million to enact the above mentioned health sector reforms. Such reforms allow for enhancing the quality of basic health care in 600 health units and 27 hospitals in 9 governorates, which does not only serve Egyptians but also refugees. Vaccinations are also provided for free for all children in Egypt, nationals and non-nationals including refugees.

In light of the increasing population in Egypt, as well as the increasing number of refugees, Egypt continues to require support in order to provide health care support to refugees in need on an equal footing with Egyptian citizens. Financing the currently provided health services to refugees and asylum seekers and expanding the services beyond preventative services would require USD 9,775,000, while supporting the resilience of host communities would require USD 11,792,000.



A refugee applies to a UNHCR cash-based intervention at Caritas in Cairo, Egypt.

## BASIC NEEDS AND LIVELIHOODS

UNHCR is working with the following partners in the basic needs and livelihood sector: Caritas Egypt, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), UN Women, UNICEF and Gezour Foundation. While CRS, UNICEF and UNHCR jointly appeal for support of the basic needs and livelihood sector in this document, Caritas Egypt and Plan International will implement UNHCR's basic needs and livelihood projects in 2019.

### CURRENT SITUATION

Refugees and asylum-seekers are negatively affected by the current state of economic situation in Egypt and have increasingly been facing difficulties in their livelihoods. African, Iraqi and Yemeni refugees have been particularly disadvantaged as they try to survive the harsh living conditions. They have so far had little attention with regards to the packages of their needs and the profiles of their community members. Iraqis, and African refugees are in a protracted situation and in need to stabilize their stay in Egypt by seeking sustainable livelihood options. Jobs and better economic conditions remain priorities for them as well as for the Yemenis. Hosting communities of refugees are equally suffering from the increased stresses on their livelihoods. Refugees are mainly employed in the large informal labour market that accommodates more than 48% of Egyptians<sup>7</sup>. Refugees are forced to negotiate the informal employment market where they face many protection risks, under-employment and precariousness<sup>8</sup>.

In August 2018, the national statistical agency, CAPMAS, reported that Egypt's unemployment rate had slipped to 9.9 percent compared to 11.8 percent in 2017<sup>9</sup>. Unemployment rate in the urban areas, where majority of refugees resides, was at 11.9 percent, down from 13.6 percent in the same quarter of 2017 whereas percentage of unemployed was the largest for the youth, amounting to 77.9 percent for the age range 15-29 years old.

To respond to these challenges, UNHCR provides unconditional multi-purpose cash assistance to the most vulnerable sub-Saharan African, Iraqi, and Yemeni refugee families, in efforts to mitigate against negative coping mechanisms. Those selected have very low or no sources of income, lack of adequate social or communal support and have specific vulnerabilities such as female-headed households, unaccompanied children, elderly people, and people living with serious medical conditions or disabilities. Due to insufficient funding in 2018, and over the years,

UNHCR has been constrained to limit the provision of unconditional cash grants to a monthly average of 3,400 vulnerable refugee and asylum-seeker families.

Households supported with cash grants represent the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers, prioritized from an already deprived population. The need for cash assistance is much greater than the available funding. The funds disbursed range from EGP 600 to 1,800, depending on the size and level of vulnerability of the family, and only cover approximately 30 per cent of their basic needs with no direct support to meet their food security needs.

In terms of seasonal support, UNICEF and UNHCR have developed a joint winterization programme which is a one-time cash assistance that is disbursed at the beginning of the winter to support vulnerable refugees to cope with lower temperatures. In 2019, UNICEF funds will support all registered unaccompanied and separated children with a cash transfer of USD 56 per child (which is the entire winter minimum expenditure basket (MEB) for refugees in Egypt), and approximately 300 African vulnerable families with children with USD 34 (approx. 60 per cent of the total winter assistance MEB), whereas UNHCR will support the remaining refugee population of approximately 66,000 refugees with USD 34 sub-Saharan African, Yemeni and Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers.

In addition to unconditional cash grants, efforts continue to support African, Iraqi and Yemeni men and women through vocational training, language classes, job placement, and business development services. Nonetheless, due to limited livelihood funding over the past few years, only an approximate number of 360 African, Iraqi and Yemeni refugees benefited from different types of training. Another 105 refugees were placed into jobs and 125 started their own businesses. The total number constitutes less than 2 per cent of the population of working age (18-60).

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.ulandssekretariatet.dk/sites/default/files/uploads/public/PDF/LMP/lmp\\_egypt\\_2016\\_final2.pdf](http://www.ulandssekretariatet.dk/sites/default/files/uploads/public/PDF/LMP/lmp_egypt_2016_final2.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Underemployment: the condition in which people in a labour force are employed at less than full-time or regular jobs or at jobs inadequate with respect to their training or economic needs.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.egypttoday.com/Article/3/50084/Unemployment-rate-decreases-to-10-6-in-Q1-2018>

## NEEDS, VULNERABILITIES AND TARGETING

From March to May 2018, UNHCR conducted a baseline survey with a sample of randomly selected refugees and asylum-seekers from the total population. Preliminary findings indicate that socio-economic conditions for Africans, Yemenis and Iraqi refugees are strained. House-crowding was one of the most evident issues as five person was the average number of people sharing living space despite the average household size is three individuals. 60 per cent of the respondents from this population groups lived in separate rooms in shared apartments paying an average of EGP 1,337 for rent per month. In order to address gaps in household cash flow, 58 per cent of households were forced to resort to borrowing as a way of generating revenue. Other harmful coping strategies utilized, although with lower rates of frequency, included spending savings, selling assets, child labour, and begging. Overall, the results indicate that the vast majority of respondents (82 per cent) are unable to fully meet their minimum basic needs.

With regards to livelihoods, while approx. 46% of the non-Syrian registered population with UNHCR have secondary education or higher (university and post-university), some 48% of them have either no or primary education<sup>10</sup>. In addition, a considerable group of the African, Iraqi and Yemeni refugees (35%) report having no earlier work

experience (in both the educated and non-educated groups). This poses a heavy weight on the programming for their inclusion in the national labour market as trainings, soft skills and other capacity development support are needed to prepare refugees to enter the labour market. It has also been observed that refugee professionals and those with advanced levels of education face further difficulties to be accommodated in the Egyptian labour market compared to blue and grey collar groups who find more options. Securing employment in general is challenging for African refugees who are usually vulnerable to exploitation based on discriminatory attitudes from hosting communities resulting in their marginalisation. Thousands of African refugee women are employed in the domestic work sector where some of them have been subject to verbal and physical assaults. Many men and young people, often newly arrived to Egypt, are confronted with day to day temporary work options which may involve serious protection risks.

Therefore, there is a pressing need for more funding for livelihood opportunities, including certified market-oriented vocational trainings, enhanced marketing opportunities for entrepreneurs, community-based savings programmes, and seed funding to start-up viable businesses.

<sup>10</sup> UNHCR Statistical Report, October 2018

# STRATEGIC VISION AND RESPONSE PLAN

## The objectives for the basic needs and livelihoods programmes are:

1. Assistance to the most vulnerable is provided to meet basic needs.
2. Self-reliance and safe livelihoods are improved.

Refugees will continue to be supported with unconditional cash and seasonal cash grants supplemented, where possible and applicable, with conditional grants for education, child protection as well as maternal and child health services. Cash grants are calculated on the basis of a monthly basket of recurrent food and non-food items (i.e. food, rent, transportation, communication, hygiene and so forth). Cash grants meet these immediate needs and help to build assets to safeguard refugees against future shocks and stresses. Refugee access to basic needs mirrors the national social protection system<sup>11</sup> which supports nearly 1.5 million vulnerable Egyptian families. Partners will direct efforts to ensure alignment of cash interventions with existing national social safety net programs in the country such as Takaful and Karama with the longer term objective of incorporating refugees in these programmes.

Partners will also continue to explore avenues with other sectors, national and academic institutions, and private sector on various issues including: harmonizing approaches to programming cash interventions; promoting cross-learning on targeting, data analysis and sharing, beneficiary selection and grievance redress approaches; utilizing common cash-delivery platforms including piloting biometric enabled cash delivery; and building evidence on the impact of cash assistance on protection and sectoral outcomes.

Cost efficiencies will be sought by partners where appropriate. In 2015, 2017 and 2018 UNICEF allocated seasonal basic needs funding to UNHCR under the “Operating as One” strategic framework, allowing savings to be made in procurement, human resources, finance, and most importantly, implementing the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT).

The livelihoods programmes in 2019 will focus on skills development, entrepreneurship, and improving access to wage employment within the existing national framework in Egypt. A well-rounded approach is required to facilitate work opportunities that consider decency and protection.

In addition, UNHCR plans to collect recent information on the African, Yemeni and Iraqi population to inform better programming.

The wage employment track will focus on building skills that are demanded in the labour market and on facilitating refugees’ and asylum-seekers’ access to jobs. Legally registered employers and employment agencies will be profiled and those who demonstrate perspectives for decent employment conditions will be linked to job seekers from Africa, Yemen and Iraq. Interventions in specific sectors, such as food processing and domestic work, will be extended within a protection framework. Salary subsidies and six-month on-the-job training and apprenticeship programmes will also be provided to help refugees and asylum-seekers gain experience and increase employability.

Livelihood partners will also continue to support refugees in starting their own businesses and will provide training and business development services to vulnerable refugees while fostering collective community-based livelihood solutions. For more viable entrepreneurs, tailored business development support and systemized marketing channels will be pursued. UNHCR will continue introducing sectoral and area-based interventions that bring about skills development, employment and marketing support in a range of viable and accommodating sectors for refugees such as hospitality, home services, food and beverage, and retail sectors. Efforts will be enhanced to promote the inclusion of African, Yemeni and Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers in local support platforms, as well as to improve and expand employment options by a liability auditing process to ensure that refugees are accommodated in more credible options. Partners will pursue self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods for local and refugee communities, thereby paying special attention to vulnerable populations such as female-headed households, youth and persons with disabilities. Language learning will be availed for non-Arabic speakers and implemented in coordination with other sectors. Partners in the sector will also continue to advocate for the facilitation of formal employment.

<sup>11</sup> Takaful provides income support conditional on 80% school attendance by children aged 6–18, on medical check-ups for mothers and children under 6, and on nutrition class attendance. In contrast, Karama provides unconditional income support to the elderly and people with disabilities.

# BASIC NEEDS AND LIVELIHOODS SECTOR RESPONSE

Objective	Output	Target
<b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> Equal access to comprehensive and quality primary health care is improved for refugees of all nationalities and impacted host communities in Egypt	1.1 Multi-purpose cash assistance is provided to most vulnerable refugees	11,018 refugees and asylum-seekers receive multi-purpose cash assistance on monthly basis
	1.2 Winterization support provided to most vulnerable refugees	5,703 refugees and asylum-seekers receive winterization support
<b>OBJECTIVE 2:</b> Self-reliance and safe livelihoods are improved	2.1 Employment opportunities enhanced	150 people have access to wage employment
		200 people receive grants to start-up businesses
	2.2 Capacities and skills enhanced	450 people are provided with training for livelihood purposes



A Yemeni barber gives an Egyptian client a haircut in Doqi, Cairo.



## BASIC NEEDS AND LIVELIHOODS SECTOR FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY AGENCY

Agency/Organization	Total (USD) 2019
UNHCR	8,944,464
UNICEF	300,000
Catholic Relief Services	187,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,431,964</b>

## GoE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER BASIC NEEDS AND LIVELIHOODS:

Egypt firmly believes in the importance of providing the means for people, and especially youth and women, to have fair opportunities for livelihood improvement. Through its cooperation with international partners, vocational training and other services can be provided by national stakeholders that would help generating income for refugee communities and host communities, as humanitarian aid is simply not enough and unsustainable.

Resilience and livelihood projects can be implemented not only in Cairo, but also in other refugee dense governorates such as Alexandria, to ensure nationwide benefit of these projects, as well as a win-win outcome which will positively impact the quality of life of refugees and host communities. It is estimated that allocating USD 9,000,000 for this purpose for refugees and asylum seekers, and an equal amount for resilience will support the targeted outcome.

The government of Egypt provided different schemes and forms of subsidies, including subsidizing energy sector (petrol, gasoline, electricity, etc.), public transportations, water, in addition to some essential food elements for certain segments of society. Refugees and asylum seekers enjoy the majority of subsidized goods, and it is estimated that the cost of these goods amount to 20,000,000 USD.

Given Egypt's recent reforms to its economy after the IMF deal package, Egypt has cut several of its subsidies to fuel

and electricity, which has had several impacts on the daily lives of Egyptians and refugees alike. More cuts in subsidies are expected to take place in June 2019, which will have a negative effect on refugees residing in Egypt.

According to the World Bank Infrastructure Outlook in 2018, Egypt's infrastructure needs are massive, and require about US\$ 675 billion in investment in the coming 20 years to meet its infrastructure needs. Some of Egypt's key sectors that require infrastructure include: Energy (distribution, electricity generation), transport (multi modal transport and logistics, including ports, railways and airports), water and sanitation (water supply, waste water sanitation), and agriculture (value addition, enhanced efficiency of value chains, and suitable water and land resource management). All these infrastructure needs affect the daily life of Egyptians citizens, as well as refugees especially in light of Egypt's economic reforms and the strains on its economy.

Cost for using and maintaining infrastructure for sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq and Yemen refugees exceeds USD 12,075,000 per year. Hence, supporting Egypt's infrastructure in order to provide basic services to both refugees and host communities is crucial to ensure a certain quality of life for refugees and asylum seekers.



An Oromo refugee serves coffee in the Oromo style at a Refugee and Egyptian Women Business Fair organized in Cairo.

# FOOD SECURITY

## CURRENT SITUATION

Egypt is the most populous country in North Africa and the Arab world with a population of 94.8 million. Despite being classified as a middle-income country; Egypt faces a set of long-standing development challenges and ranks number 115 on the 2017 Human Development Index out of 189 countries. About 28 percent of its population falls below the income poverty line, while 5.3 percent (4.7 million) is estimated to be extremely poor.

According to the 2018 EIU<sup>12</sup> Global Food Security Index, Egypt is moderately food secure. Egypt ranks 61 out of 113 countries, yet it's one of the countries that saw the largest negative change in the index during 2018. Affordability, food quality and food safety remain the most pressing challenges compared with food availability, while the national Household Income, Expenditure and Consumption Survey (HIECS) shows that 15.9 percent of the population have poor access to food. Rising inflation in food and non-food prices, fluctuations in foreign currency reserves and deterioration of exchange rates remain a risk to food accessibility for vulnerable people as Egypt is a net food importer.

In 2016, the government launched a series of bold policy reforms to address the structural and financial imbalances and promote sustainable growth. Despite the pickup in GDP growth rates and the improvement in fiscal balances

there is increasing burden of rising costs of living especially for the poorest and most vulnerable population, including Syrian refugees. World Bank simulations of household short term responses to energy and VAT reforms suggest that the poverty rates could have increased during 2015-2017.

Annual inflation in the overall Consumer Price Index peaked to 34 percent during July 2017, while inflation in the Food Price Index reached a historic peak of 44 percent during April 2017, all leading to increasing pressures on households to meet their basic needs of food and non-food items. Consumer price index (CPI) and the food price index, respectively. Nevertheless, the cumulative impact of reforms on inflation rates since the 2016 is adding to the pressures of vulnerable populations and is likely to have diminished the purchasing capacity of households further, for both host communities and refugees, especially those not receiving any assistance.

To respond to these challenges, the Government implements a large social protection system that provides food subsidies to vulnerable members of the population, including pregnant and lactating women, school children, people with disabilities and the elderly. However, national safety nets are overstretched after more than three years of economic slowdown and do for now not allow refugees and asylum-seekers to be included.

## WFP'S ASSISTANCE

Egypt's developed infrastructure and functioning local markets, as well as the geographic spread of refugees in urban areas led to the adoption of food vouchers as the primary modality of WFP assistance to refugees in the country. Vouchers mitigate economic challenges of the government and communities hosting large numbers of refugees.

Currently, WFP supports more than 75,000 Syrian refugees who receive assistance in the form of a monthly food voucher of approximately USD 22 redeemable in 50 branches of Egypt's major supermarkets located in areas, where refugees are residing. The voucher scheme helps to restore a sense of normalcy and dignity to the lives of refugees by allowing them to purchase foods of their choice and thereby meet their individual consumption and nutritional needs more effectively.

WFP Egypt recently developed its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2018-2023 in close cooperation with the Government of Egypt and its development partners.

Under Strategic Outcome 2 of the CSP, WFP will enable food insecure refugees, displaced populations and host communities in Egypt to have access to adequate food all year round. This will address the underlying causes of vulnerability and enhance the self-reliance of beneficiaries, thereby reducing the need for international assistance over time. Most importantly, this approach will enhance social cohesion among populations living in vulnerable areas, where refugees also reside. Not only will the refugees receive unconditional food vouchers, they will also receive the chance to improve their economic resilience through employability and vocational skills building. Moreover, WFP will continue to support vulnerable Pregnant and Lactating Women with nutritional support to improve their nutritional and health conditions. This is done through the provision of conditional food transfers upon regular medical and wellbeing visits to local health centres, where these groups of refugees and host communities also benefit from nutrition education and awareness raising.

<sup>12</sup> The Economist Intelligence Unit constructed the global food security index in 2012 as global measure of the food security status in 113 countries.

## NEEDS, VULNERABILITIES AND TARGETING

So far in Egypt and in other countries of the region, African, Yemeni and Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers have not been receiving sufficient attention and support. The GoE flags out the imbalance in allocating food assistance between Syrian and non-Syrian refugees and emphasizes on the need to adopt a “One Refugee Approach” to address the needs of all refugees, regardless of their countries of origin, in an equal manner; however, it has so far not been possible to also provide unconditional general food assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers from other countries of origin, despite their socioeconomic vulnerability and food insecurity. Recognizing their extreme vulnerability, WFP intends to appeal with UNHCR and other partners to the international community for funding to provide food assistance for African, Yemeni and Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers.

The socio-economic situation of African, Yemeni and Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers is assessed by UNHCR’s partner Caritas through structured interviews that take place throughout the year. The assessment investigates various aspects including demographic profiles, physical and non-physical disability, housing conditions and living standards, employment, sources of income and debt, expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns as well as the adoption of severe coping mechanisms.

The results of the 2018 assessment survey indicate the socioeconomic vulnerability of African, Yemeni and Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers. More than 80 percent of the surveyed households fell below the minimum expenditure basket threshold (MEB) estimated by UNHCR, and 37.5 percent of all households were headed by females. About 60 percent of the surveyed households were living in shared homes (separate rooms in an apartment). Nearly 16 percent of the heads of households were illiterate while 27 percent merely had primary education and 38.1 percent had preparatory or secondary education, all pointing to the increased limitations to finding an employment opportunity in Egypt. This is confirmed by the high prevalence of unemployment amongst them which increases to 25.2 percent, while 34.9 percent are employed on temporary

or casual basis. Regarding food consumption, nearly 32 percent had poor or borderline food consumption, i.e. unacceptable frequency and pattern of food intake. Additionally, 33.4 percent had low dietary diversity and 49.3 percent had moderate dietary diversity, indicating the likelihood of nutritional gaps. The overall assessment of access to food, whether in terms of actual food consumption or in terms of economic and coping capacity shows that 32.4 percent of the households are food insecure (mostly moderately insecure) while 53.6 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity. It’s also important to note that the refugees and asylum seekers are increasingly relying on food consumption coping strategies; 76.5 percent have reduced the number of meals, 76.4 percent reduced the portions of meals, 36.7 percent of adults are eating less to feed their children and nearly 90 percent are consuming less preferred foods or lower quality of food while nearly half of the households either borrow food or money to buy food.

In an attempt to earn their livings, thousands of African refugee women are employed in the domestic work sector where some have been subjected to verbal and physical abuse. In addition, newly arriving male refugees from the African communities in Egypt are often exposed to day to day temporary work options which may involve serious protection risks. As per the above, there is pressing need for comprehensive and immediate support, with special emphasis on providing food and nutritional aid as well as securing livelihood opportunities for African refugees. In order to allow them to access better and more secure jobs in the country or in their final destination country (if not in Egypt), their skillset needs to be enhanced and there needs to be better access to information about jobs and skill matches.

There is therefore an urgent need for funding to support livelihood opportunities for these nationalities living in Egypt. These potential opportunities include certified market-oriented vocational training, enhanced marketing opportunities for entrepreneurs, community-based savings programmes, and access to seed funding to start-up viable businesses.

# STRATEGIC VISION AND RESPONSE PLAN

WFP aims at enabling food insecure refugees, displaced populations from African countries, Iraq and Yemen with access to adequate food all year round.

**This outcome will be delivered through the following outputs:**

1. Targeted refugees and displaced populations receive food assistance to meet their basic food needs.
2. Targeted refugees, displaced populations and host communities receive conditional assistance for participation in livelihood and income diversification activities to improve their resilience.
3. Pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG), and their children 6–23 months from refugee and displaced populations, and host communities receive food assistance in order to meet their basic nutritional needs.

## KEY ACTIVITIES

The focus of the interventions will be on the provision of crisis response to support refugees with the most socio-economical and protection related vulnerabilities. These refugees will be supported with unconditional monthly food vouchers, supplemented, where appropriate with conditional cash for employability and vocational training, as well as maternal and child health services for Pregnant and Lactating Women and children under 2 years of age.

WFP plans to provide 50,000 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers with food assistance in the form of a monthly unconditional food voucher of approximately USD 22 (periodically adjusted to prevailing market prices and exchange rate). This amount is currently equivalent to EGP 400 and in line with the current national minimum expenditure basket. Similar to Syrian refugees, refugees and asylum-seekers from other nationalities will be able to redeem their food assistance in over 50 selected contracted supermarkets located in areas, where most refugees are residing. Targeting will be based on vulnerability indicators resulting from periodic socio-economic food security vulnerability assessments. Targeting for food assistance will ensure inclusion of specific groups of vulnerable beneficiaries such as female-headed households, unaccompanied minors, families with special needs, elderly and others with a minimum of 50% of female beneficiaries.

The voucher scheme has been proven to help to restore a sense of normalcy and dignity to the lives of refugees and asylum-seekers by allowing them to purchase foods of their choice and thereby meet their individual consumption and nutritional needs more effectively. Given these benefits and the geographic spread of refugees mostly in urban areas and Egypt's existing infrastructure and functioning local markets, have led to food vouchers being adopted as the primary assistance modality for WFP.

In addition, WFP's nutrition assistance for pregnant and lactating women which is already being provided to Syrian

refugees as well as to host community in collaboration with the Government of Egypt, will be expanded to include non-Syrian refugees and asylum seekers. 6,000 women and infants will benefit from a monthly conditional value voucher of 22 USD (400 EGP) to purchase locally produced high energy food items. Entitlements for assistance will be tied to regular primary healthcare visits with a view to improving nutrition and levels of pre-antenatal care. This assistance aims to prevent chronic malnutrition through an integrated approach of nutrition sensitive, and nutrition specific interventions. In addition to the food voucher, the families would receive nutrition and well-being information and awareness raising sessions at the clinics visited to achieve social and behavioural change.

In addition to ensuring continued basic food security, WFP will provide the most vulnerable refugees and host community members with resilience activities to promote and support different employability schemes and livelihood opportunities that promote self-reliance. These activities include enhanced access to vocational and skills training for refugees and host community members to allow for an eventual graduation from direct assistance and support to self-reliance.

The food security sector activities will be aligned with Egypt's CSP (2018-2023) focusing on strengthening national capacity to tackle the underlying causes of vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition while responding to humanitarian needs. In addition to relief activities, the sector in collaboration with partner agencies and stakeholders will carry out livelihood, knowledge and skills development activities that promote self-reliance. These activities will be extended to host communities with the aim of eliminating disparities, achieving better social cohesion and ensuring equal access to food.

## PARTNERSHIPS

WFP's most strategic partnership is with the Egyptian Government, which supports the resourcing and implementation of WFP's activities. WFP has signed several agreements for collaboration with key governmental entities ensuring a shared strategic direction and joint implementation. Government partners include the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, the Ministry of Health and Population, the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade and others. Partner United Nations agencies include UNICEF, with which WFP has a formal collaboration agreement in areas such as child protection, nutrition and education for vulnerable groups, and FAO, with which WFP jointly leads the United Nations food security agenda in Egypt and UNWOMEN to enhance gender-transformative

programming. WFP will also continue its collaboration with UNHCR with a focus on migration issues. Further areas of collaboration will be identified with the International Organization for Migration, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

WFP will build on its successful partnership with private-sector actors to support vocational training and for the transfer of both technical and business development skills, with the aim of enhancing private sector growth and livelihood opportunities. To implement the nutrition assistance for pregnant and lactating women WFP will partner with the Ministry of Health and Population as well as with community-based clinics

# FOOD SECURITY SECTOR RESPONSE

Objective	Output	Target
<b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> Providing assistance to refugees and migrants.	1.1 General food assistance provided to targeted refugee populations to meet their basic food needs	50,000 refugees and asylum-seekers receive food vouchers on monthly basis
	1.2 Food assistance provided to pregnant and lactating refugee women and girls, and their children	6,000 pregnant and lactating women and girls, and their children (6–23 months) receive food vouchers on monthly basis to meet their basic nutritional
	1.3 Access to livelihood and income diversification activities to enhance livelihood opportunities and promote resilience	1,000 selected participants receive vocational and life-skills training

## WFP FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY ACTIVITY

Activity	Beneficiaries	Feeding days/ year	Ration	Total USD
General Food Assistance	50,000	360	0.73	13,200,000
Pregnant Lactating Women	6,000	360	0.73	1,584,000
Vocational Training	1,000	180	0.16	29,040
<b>Total World Food Programme Needs</b>				<b>18,091,346</b>

# ACRONYMS

<b>ACSFT</b>	Arab Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human rights
<b>CAPMAS</b>	Central Agency for Mobilization and Statistics
<b>CBA</b> s	Community-based Associations
<b>CEMONC</b>	Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care
<b>CP</b>	Child Protection
<b>CPSWG</b>	Child Protection Sub-Working Group
<b>CRS</b>	Catholic Relief Services
<b>CSP</b>	Community Support Projects
<b>CwC</b>	Communication with Communities
<b>ECCE</b>	Early Childhood Care and Education
<b>EFRR</b>	Egypt Foundation for Refugee Rights
<b>EGP</b>	Egyptian Pound
<b>EPI</b>	Expanded Programme on Immunization
<b>ERC</b>	Egyptian Red Crescent
<b>EWARN</b>	Early Warning Alert and Response Network
<b>GAM</b>	Global Acute Malnutrition
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GoE</b>	Government of Egypt
<b>HAUS</b>	Health Access and Utilization Survey
<b>HIS</b>	Health Information System
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>IAWG</b>	Inter-Agency Working Group
<b>ICU</b>	Intensive Care Unit
<b>INEE MS</b>	International Network for Education in Emergencies Minimum Standards
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>ISWG</b>	Inter-sector Working Group



<b>MoE</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>MoHE</b>	Ministry of Higher Education
<b>MoHP</b>	Ministry of Health and Population
<b>MoYS</b>	Ministry of Youth and Sports
<b>NCCM</b>	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
<b>NCW</b>	National Council for Women
<b>NFIs</b>	Non-Food Items
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>PHC</b>	Public Health Care
<b>PSS</b>	Psychosocial Support
<b>PWD</b>	People Living with Disabilities
<b>RSD</b>	Refugee Status Determination
<b>SCI</b>	Save the Children International
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
<b>SOPs</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>SWGs</b>	Sector Working Groups
<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>ToRs</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>UASC</b>	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children Fund
<b>USD</b>	United States Dollars
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme



Teams comprised of different refugees nationalities train for the final of the football championship for refugee youth hosted by UNHCR's community empowerment partner Terre des Hommes.





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