

# Egypt

July 2019

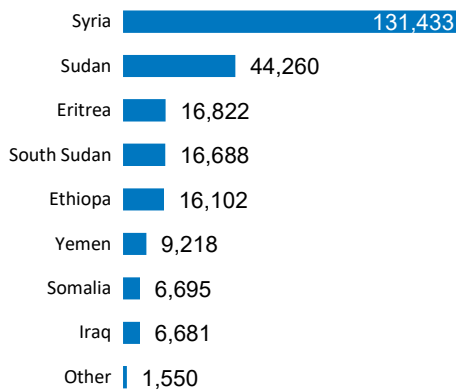
Egypt hosts refugees and asylum-seekers from 57 different countries of origin. The majority of them live in **urban areas** alongside the host communities.

Currently, **249,449 refugees and asylum-seekers** are registered with UNHCR Egypt. More than half of them (53 per cent) are from Syria.

UNHCR **registers and documents** refugees and asylum-seekers, and **facilitates their access to protection and basic services**, such as health and education.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

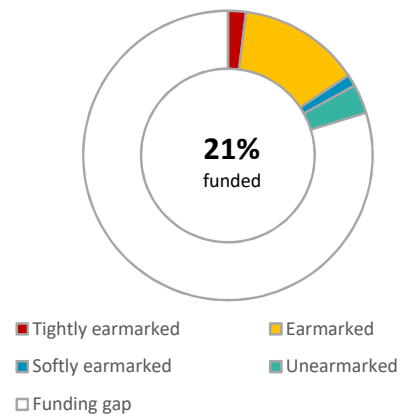
### Countries of Origin



## FUNDING IN 2019 (AS OF 19 JULY 2019)

### USD 104.2 M

requested for the Egypt operation



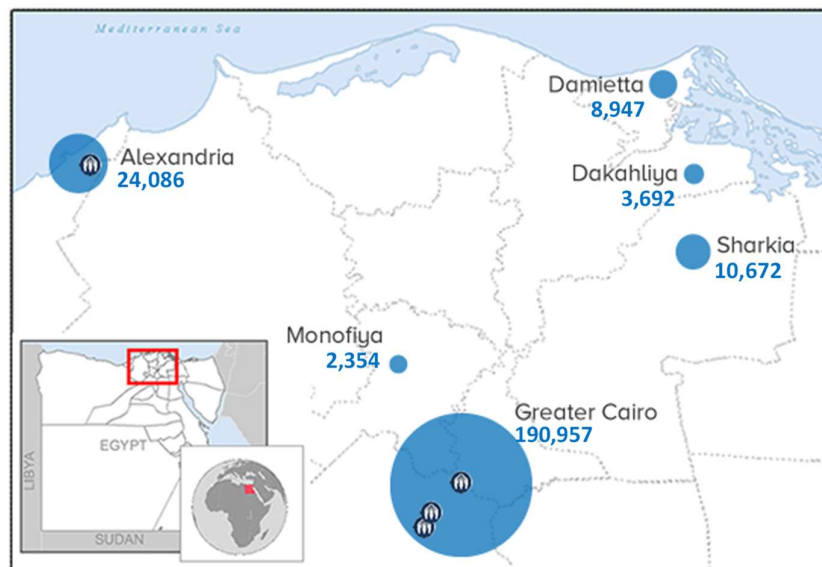
## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

218 national staff  
 45 international staff

### Offices:

3 offices in Greater Cairo  
 (6<sup>th</sup> of October City and Zamalek)  
 1 field office in Alexandria



## Working with Partners

UNHCR works closely with the Government of Egypt, United Nations agencies, international and national NGOs to provide protection and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees. UNHCR leads the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG), the main refugee coordination mechanism which gathers representatives from UN agencies as well as international and national NGOs. The IAWG oversees six sectorial working groups: Protection, Education, Health, Cash assistance, Livelihoods, and Communication with Communities. The Protection sector includes three sub-working groups which consists of Child Protection, Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), and Durable Solutions.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- UNHCR Egypt **registers and documents asylum-seekers and refugees** on behalf of the Government of Egypt. The registration entails the use of biometric information, iris scanning and finger printing. Identification and processing of persons with specific vulnerabilities, including unaccompanied children, are prioritized and carried out within 72 hours.
- After registration, asylum-seekers and refugees are encouraged to approach the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Immigration of the Ministry of Interior to apply for a residence permit which legalizes their stay in Egypt. The residence permit is valid for six months and is renewable. However, the process to obtain and renew residence permits remains lengthy. UNHCR continues to advocate with the Government to extend the validity of the residence permit to one year.
- **UNHCR Egypt is the largest refugee status determination (RSD) operation globally** and conducts RSD on behalf of the Government for all nationalities, except Syrians and Yemenis.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers have **access to legal remedies** and representation through lawyers of NGO partners. Refugees and asylum-seekers arrested for administrative and residency related charges are provided with legal and humanitarian assistance. UNHCR also intervenes on their behalf with local authorities for their release and to ensure their claims for international protection are assessed.
- UNHCR and partners provide **special assistance and psychosocial support** to children at risk, survivors of SGBV, and to those who have experienced or witnessed conflict, violence or trauma.
- Around 38 per cent of all refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt are children (95,455). Out of this figure, **3,945 are unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)**. UNHCR conducts Best Interest Assessments and prioritizes protection and assistance to UASC and other children at risk across all programmes through prevention and response activities and specialized services, including quality case management, strengthening of national child protection systems and internal/external capacity building.
- UNHCR and partners provide **targeted support to persons with specific needs** through individual case management and community-based psychosocial support and emergency response. Extremely vulnerable persons with disabilities and elderly people also benefit from targeted assistance that includes individual and group counselling, provision of assistive devices, and participation in social and recreational events aimed at breaking their isolation from communal activities.
- On a daily basis, refugees have **five access avenues** to UNHCR: reception areas in the four UNHCR offices; two UNHCR info-lines; social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook); community interactions; and

via partners directly working with UNHCR. Outside working hours, emergency contact lines are established with all UNHCR partners

- In addition to close **coordination with partners**, daily refugee **counselling and case management** are integral components of the Office's engagement with refugees and asylum-seekers.
- UNHCR has internal **integrity mechanisms** in place — including anti-fraud and complaints receipt systems — to ensure full adherence to the organisation's principles, values, and guidelines.

### Durable Solutions

- UNHCR works on increasing resettlement opportunities for all refugees and actively pursues complementary pathways through family reunification and other mechanisms that might be available for refugees and asylum-seekers. Resettlement is driven by the high protection needs of the populations in the country, which is often coupled with severe economic vulnerability. Thus far in 2019, some **2,778 refugees have been submitted for resettlement** to 11 different resettlement countries and **1,432 refugees have departed** to eight countries. The main nationalities being submitted and departing for resettlement are Syrians, Sudanese, South Sudanese, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Somalis and Iraqis.

### Basic Needs

- UNHCR delivers **monthly unconditional cash grants** to extremely vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in order to provide protection and assistance, and to avoid reliance on negative coping mechanisms. Between January-June 2019, UNHCR assisted **13,909 families** (comprising **58,629 refugees and asylum-seekers**) with monthly cash grants.
- During winter 2018/2019, UNHCR provided **winter assistance to approximately 130,000 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers** to help them during the cold season.

### Education

- **More than half of all refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR are children and youths of school age.** Currently, students from Sudan, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen can access public education on an equal level to nationals. Other nationalities rely on community schools, private schools or home schooling. UNHCR and its partners support access to **education** — including primary, preparatory and secondary education — for all refugee children. During the academic year 2018/2019, UNHCR provided **education grants to 44,000 refugee and asylum-seeker students** in an effort to support enrolment and retention of children in school. The grant contributes to school fees, transportation, uniforms and school supplies.
- UNHCR also supports access of refugees and asylum-seekers to tertiary education. During the academic 2018/2019 year, **348 students received scholarships** through UNHCR, from the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI), to enroll in or continue their university studies.
- UNHCR works closely with the Ministry of Education and **assists public education institutions** through provision of equipment and capacity-building of teachers and social workers.
- UNHCR continues to advocate with the Ministry of Education for the **mainstreaming** of refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities **into Egyptian public schools** on an equal level to nationals.

### Health

- Refugees and asylum-seekers have **access to public primary, secondary and emergency health care** on an equal level to Egyptian citizens.

- UNHCR supports national efforts to improve the quality of services to refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as the host population in refugee-dense areas. This entails strengthening the existing national health system through **capacity-building** and **provision of medical equipment**.
- In 2019, UNHCR focuses its support on 18 primary public facilities in areas where many refugees live. In addition, UNHCR provides health care for patients with chronic diseases as well as **psychosocial and mental health support** through partners. Moreover, UNHCR provides secondary and referral care for life-saving conditions for all refugees.

### Livelihood

- UNHCR, through its partners, provides eligible refugees and asylum-seekers with **training, coaching and counselling** in order to help them engage in **sustainable livelihood activities**. As of end of June 2019, **1,498 persons benefited from livelihood activities**.

### Community Empowerment

- UNHCR maintains an active outreach programme for communicating with communities that, in 2018, reached more than 2,000 refugees and asylum-seekers with information about services provided by UNHCR and partners. **Participatory assessments, focus group discussions, and awareness sessions** conducted with refugees and asylum-seekers throughout the year enable UNHCR to directly monitor their protection concerns and coping mechanisms, and to identify possible solutions aimed at improving their living conditions.
- In order to strengthen the role of communities in the delivery of protection solutions, refugee community focal persons and outreach volunteers are trained on **identification and referral of vulnerable persons in need of assistance**.
- UNHCR supports refugee community groups with materials and equipment to carry out social and recreational activities aimed at strengthening cohesion within the communities.
- In recognition of the diverse needs and interests of young people, UNHCR trains refugee youth as peer educators to promote **positive development practices** and share information on available knowledge and skill development opportunities within their social circles.

## Donors

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **USD 21.1 million** in 2019.

**UNHCR is grateful to major donors of un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as donors who have contributed directly to UNHCR Egypt in 2019:**

**Denmark | European Union | Germany | Italy | Regional Development and Protection Programme North Africa | Netherlands | Norway | UN Children Fund | United Kingdom | United States of America | Sweden | Switzerland | Private Donors**

### CONTACTS

**Maura Morandi**, Reporting Officer  
[morandi@unhcr.org](mailto:morandi@unhcr.org) Tel: +20227285600 ext. 2141

**Silja Rezk**, Reporting Officer  
[rezks@unhcr.org](mailto:rezks@unhcr.org) Tel: +20227285600 ext. 2144

**Public Information and External Relations Unit**  
[arecapi@unhcr.org](mailto:arecapi@unhcr.org) Tel: +20227285600 ext. 2148

Follow UNHCR Egypt on:

