

# Egypt

January - March 2019

As of 31 March 2019, **247,799 refugees and asylum-seekers of 58 nationalities** were registered with UNHCR Egypt.

More than half of them are from Syria. **9,240 people** have so far **registered** with UNHCR Egypt in 2019.

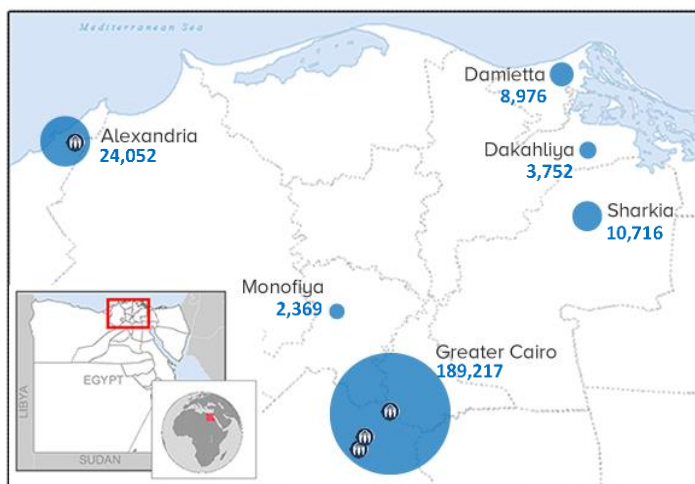
Most refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt live in the **urban areas** of Greater Cairo and the North Coast.

## KEY INDICATORS

**13,854** households/cases received multi-purpose cash grants in March 2019

**3,830** unaccompanied and separated children were registered with UNHCR Egypt as of end of March 2019

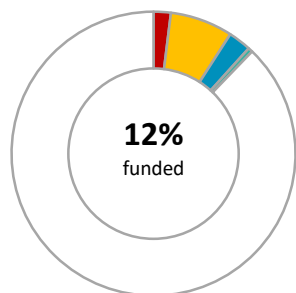
**829** refugees departed to resettlement countries as of March 2019



## FUNDING (AS OF 2 APRIL 2019)

**USD \$104.2 million**

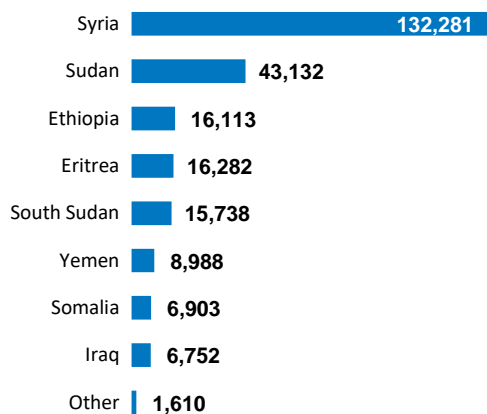
requested for the Egypt operation in 2019



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

## REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

### Countries of Origin



## Highlights

- In February 2019, UNHCR conducted its **annual Participatory Assessment**. In **56 focus group discussions**, a total of **501 refugees and asylum-seekers** in Greater Cairo and the North Coast were consulted about their protection concerns, coping mechanisms, and proposed solutions for better protection outcomes in 56 focus group discussions. Findings from this assessment informed UNHCR's planning for 2020.



*A South Sudanese girl talks about her challenges and aspirations during the Participatory Assessment. UNHCR/Yasmine Eldemerdash*

- On World Water Day, refugees and UNHCR staff were among 850 volunteers who took part in an initiative to clean the Nile, Egypt's lifeline which provides around 90 per cent of its freshwater supply. World Water Day is celebrated on 22 March of every year. This year's theme was 'Leaving No One Behind', the central commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2010, the United Nations recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.



*Participants of the cleaning activity. UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes.*

**PROTECTION**

- During the first quarter of 2019, UNHCR Egypt responded to **56,095 inquiries through phone calls** from refugees and asylum-seekers. In addition, **19,456 individuals were processed through UNHCR reception centres**, and **330 specialized protection interventions were undertaken**, including provision of extensive counselling, protection interviews, protection-based support, relocation and housing.
- From January to March 2019, 406 Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) incidents were reported to UNHCR and its partner CARE International in Cairo and Alexandria. In both locations, CARE International conducted a wide range of **SGBV prevention activities, reaching 768 refugees and asylum-seekers** [465 women, 182 girls, 80 boys and 41 men]. These activities included basic psychosocial and legal counselling, training for children on gender issues and SGBV prevention, awareness sessions on early marriage, self-defense workshops for women and girls, as well as recreational and educational activities held at the Women Friendly Space. In March 2019, on the occasion of the International Women's Day, UNHCR organized a set of activities aimed at raising awareness on SGBV and promoting the physical and emotional empowerment of refugee women in Egypt.
- UNHCR Egypt systematically strengthened its procedures with regards to the first point of contact with children at risk, including unaccompanied children approaching the office for registration. An **improved and standardized fast-track registration process** now involves a dedicated child protection staff assisting with the early identification of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).
- As of March 2019, **3,830 UASC were registered** with UNHCR. Best Interest Procedures (BIP) remain an integral part of UNHCR's child protection programming. **Community-based child protection mechanisms involving community members were enhanced** with targeted outreach in Cairo and the North Coast to promote early identification for cases of violence, exploitation and child marriage. Child Protection coordination mechanisms were enhanced through monthly inter-agency case meetings.
- In the first quarter of 2019, no irregular migration attempts via sea were reported. Meanwhile, **253 foreign nationals were arrested at the border with Libya** for attempting to irregularly cross, 55 of whom were found to be registered with UNHCR. The registered detainees were released after verification of their status with UNHCR by authorities.



## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- Between January and March 2019, **1,255 refugees were submitted for resettlement** to 10 countries and **829 refugees departed to eight resettlement countries**. The main nationalities included Syrians, Sudanese, South Sudanese, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Somalis and Iraqis.
- In 2019, **Germany will be the largest resettlement country** hosting more than 1,200 refugees from Egypt, followed by Canada (900), UK (700), USA (450), Sweden (400), Australia (200), the Netherlands (175), Portugal (170), Spain (100), and France (25).
- Voluntary Repatriation** will be facilitated in 2019 for individuals choosing to voluntarily return to certain areas of Sudan and Somalia, and for Ethiopians wishing to return to Addis Ababa. Intention and perception surveys will continue to be conducted with Syrian refugees to measure their interest in returning, while planning activities to prepare for future Syrian returns will also take place.



## EDUCATION

- UNHCR's partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) announced its **first round of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) opportunities** for 2019, with 80 students of different nationalities meeting the selection criteria. There is a high demand for such activities, and UNHCR was able to increase its TVET target to 230 students in 2019.
- This year UNHCR will support **language classes, youth engagement activities, and education grants** for vulnerable families with children enrolled in private or community schools.
- The Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) is continuing its successful **Health and Safety (Seha wi Salama)** project in public schools to enhance the protection environment for children. The project implementation has already been completed in 15 schools. ERC is expected to work in **80 schools** this year, including seven community schools (five African and two Syrian) benefitting over **8,000 refugee and Egyptian students**.
- As a support mechanism to students enrolled in the public school system, UNHCR is providing **remedial classes** on different school subjects to 75 students.
- As for **higher education**, UNHCR continued its support through DAFI - the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund scholarship programme. Currently, **UNHCR assists 349 DAFI scholars** (185 female and 164 male students) enrolled in higher education in a variety of fields ranging from Arts, to Engineering, Science, and Medicine.



*Refugee boys during a class in a community school in Cairo.  
©UNHCR/Scott Nelson*

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE**

- Nearly **300 people living with disabilities and elderly persons** took part in a **social and recreational event** organized by Caritas on 29 March. The event featured a variety of activities aimed at promoting self-acceptance among children with disabilities, sessions targeting caregivers on how to support people with specific needs, first aid training delivered by Egyptian Red Crescent volunteers, alongside several competitive games offering mental and physical stimulation for participants.



*Ethiopian and Sudanese refugee youth with disabilities bonding over a game of backgammon at the event. UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes.*

- **Outreach activities were organized to seven refugee communities** with the participation of 158 refugees and asylum-seekers. In addition, approximately **600 newly arrived asylum-seekers were reached with information** on services provided by UNHCR and partners through a grassroots network of refugee workers.
- A two-day workshop was organized for 25 community focal persons from the Sudanese, South Sudanese, Eritrean, Ethiopian, and Yemeni communities to **strengthen their capacities for community mobilization**. One of the central themes of the workshop was the promotion of Age, Gender, and Diversity-inclusive community self-management to ensure that women and youth are given a voice in the decision-making processes affecting their lives.



- Egypt has extended its “100 Million Seha” campaign to include refugees and asylum-seekers, upon request of the President of Egypt. This campaign kicked off at a national scale in October 2018, and aims at detecting and eliminating Hepatitis C in Egypt by 2023. As of 17 March 2019, the campaign began providing free tests to all foreigners in Egypt—including refugees and asylum-seekers—with **the first refugees receiving complementary Hepatitis C medication** the following week.

## Working in partnership

- UNHCR works closely with the Government of Egypt, UN and NGO partners to provide protection and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees.
- The Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG), chaired by UNHCR, is the main interagency coordination mechanism overseeing six sectorial working groups gathering representatives from UN agencies, as well as international and national NGOs. The protection sector includes three sub-working groups which consists of Child Protection, Response to SGBV, and Durable Solutions. The other working groups are for Education, Health, Cash for Basic Needs, Livelihoods, and Communication with Communities.

## Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **US\$ 13.3 million** as of 2 April 2019.

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

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

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## LINKS

Syria Regional Refugee Response: [data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria](https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria)

UNHCR Refugees & Migration Emergency Mediterranean Response:

[data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean](https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean)

