

Egypt

July - September 2019

As of 30 September 2019, **252,096 refugees and asylum-seekers from 58 countries of origin** were registered with UNHCR Egypt.

More than half of the registered refugees and asylum-seekers are from Syria. **24,028 people** have so far **registered** with UNHCR Egypt in 2019.

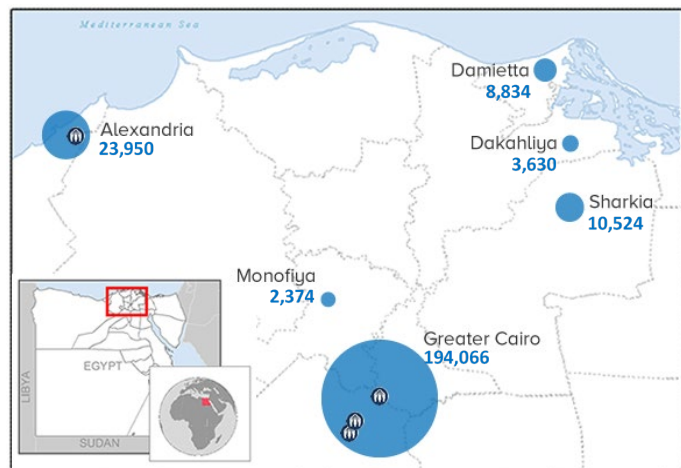
Most refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt live in the **urban areas** of Greater Cairo and on the North Coast.

KEY INDICATORS

13,714 families received monthly multi-purpose cash grants

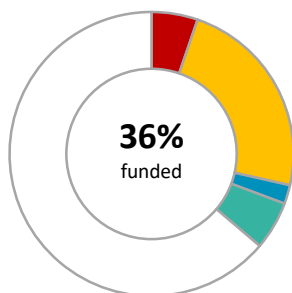
4,463 is the total number of unaccompanied and separated children registered with UNHCR Egypt as of end of September 2019

2,331 refugees departed to resettlement countries as of September 2019



FUNDING SITUATION (SEPTEMBER 2019)

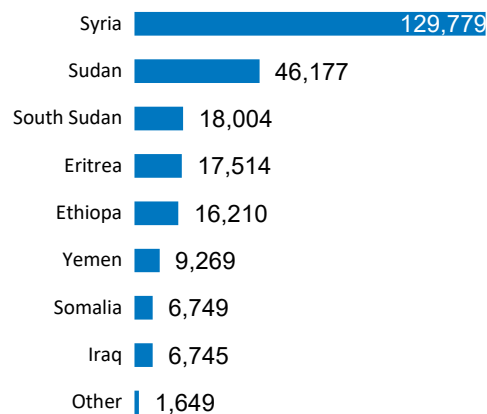
USD \$104.2 million requested for the Egypt operation in 2019



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

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Countries of Origin



Highlights

From 23 to 26 September, UNHCR, in collaboration with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (Sanremo, Italy), organized a **workshop on International Refugee Law** as part of UNHCR's capacity development activities for government officials in Egypt.

The workshop took place in Sharm El Sheikh and was attended by **representatives of national authorities and legislative bodies**. In her opening remarks, Deputy Assistant Minister for Migration, Refugees and Combatting Human Trafficking, Ambassador Dina Al-Sehy, announced that **Egypt is in the process of drafting a national asylum legislation**.



*Course director Lobna Abdel Hadi, UNHCR Representative Karim Atassi and Ambassador Dina Al-Sehy
 @UNHCR/Aseer Al-Madaein*

UNHCR, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) and the League of Arab States (LAS), organized a **second capacity building session on internal displacement** in the Arab region from 10 to 12 September in Tunisia.



Workshop participants in Tunis ©Arab Interior Minister Council

The workshop was attended by high-level officials from the ministries of Interior and Justice of LAS member states **involved in the drafting and implementation of legislation and policies related to the protection of internally displaced people**.

UNHCR supported **TEDx San Stefano**, which was initiated by the Syrian-led organization Suryana Center and which took place on 6 September at the Jesuits Cultural Center in Alexandria. The talks under the theme 'Cosmopolitan' revolved around topics such as social acceptance, the power of women in society and entrepreneurship.

Syrian refugee Omar Skafi spoke about the **struggles of refugees during displacement, their resilience, ability to cope and rebuild their lives**.

The event was the first of its kind and brought both hosting and refugee communities together to share ideas. It was **implemented and led by refugees and volunteers from the host community**, and organized in partnership with the Jesuits Cultural Center, WFP, HR Revolution, KOMET Institute.



Omar Skafi, a Syrian refugee, speaking at TEDx San Stefano event in Jesuit Cultural Center. @Suryana Center



*Different age groups participated in the campaign.
 ©UNHCR/ Mohamed Saleh*

On 5 July, UNHCR Egypt and **Alex Marathon** were joined by more than 500 participants, including 120 refugees and asylum-seekers of all ages, to kick off the **'Step with Refugees'** campaign in Egypt.

Collectively, **Egyptian, Syrian, Sudanese, South Sudanese, Somali and Yemeni participants** achieved more than 3,000 kilometers in support of refugees, **raising awareness of the long journey to safety faced by so many refugees.**

El Gouna Film Festival (GFF) and the International Emerging Film Talent Association (IEFTA) hosted a **reception in honor of UNHCR during this year's El Gouna Film Festival**, which took place in September. The event shed light on refugee voices in the film industry and was attended by several prominent Egyptian and Arab celebrities.

During the film festival, a **panel discussion** titled "Change in narrative: how can film play a part in refugee crises?" brought together Arab filmmakers and speakers from UNHCR to **discuss the cinema industry's role in the world's refugee crises.** The panel was followed by the world **premiere of the documentary 'Beyond the Raging Sea'**. Sponsored by DHL, and in collaboration with UNHCR and UNDP, the documentary tells the story of Egyptian athletes Omar Samra and Omar Nour (Team O2) who attempted to cross the Atlantic in a rowing boat, only to find themselves struggling for their lives eight days later. In a way, their survival story compares to the struggle experienced by some of the 66 million displaced individuals around the world who have set off on similar crossings, in a desperate bid for safe refuge. The documentary received very positive feedback at the festival and is expected to launch in movie theatres in Egypt and the region later this year.



Omar Nour (second from right) and Omar Samra (third from right) during the premiere of 'Beyond the Raging Sea' at El Gouna Film Festival. ©IEFTA

El Gouna Film Festival also included a fourth edition of **'Refugee Voices in Film'**, which presented the stories of individual refugees around the globe. In the films selected, **refugees spoke about loss and desperation, but also of resilience and hope.**


PROTECTION

- UNHCR continues to facilitate **birth registration for refugees and asylum seekers**. The cases include, among others, children born out of wedlock or Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) incidents, and children whose birth registration was delayed and is therefore more complicated. Between July and September, 76 birth certificates were issued, including 16 late birth registrations, through legal service providers contracted by UNHCR. Assistance in attaining birth registration plays a crucial role in **preventing statelessness and facilitating individuals' access to governmental services**.
 - During the third quarter of 2019, UNHCR Egypt responded to **45,377 phone inquiries** from refugees and asylum-seekers. In addition, **17,149 individuals were processed through UNHCR reception centres**, and **216 specialized protection interventions were undertaken**, including provision of extensive counselling, protection interviews, protection-based support, relocation and housing.
 - Between July and September, UNHCR held eight workshops and **trained 215 Egyptian government officials** from the Ministries of Defense, Interior and Foreign Affairs as well as officials from ministries of interior of other countries in the region, on **UNHCR's Mandate and International Protection and Refugee Law**.
 - From July to September 2019, 440 individuals (340 women, 67 girls, 25 men and 8 boys) **reported SGBV** incidents to UNHCR and its partner CARE International in Cairo and Alexandria. In both locations, CARE conducted a **wide range of SGBV prevention and risk mitigation activities**, reaching 1,961 refugees and asylum-seekers. The activities included psycho-social and legal counselling, awareness about early marriage, as well as sexual reproductive health awareness sessions coupled with recreational and educational activities.
 - In August, CARE held a gender training for Syrian girls, tackling gender roles and stereotypes, children's rights, as well as child self-safeguarding. The sessions took place in CARE's Women Friendly Space in Cairo and used child-friendly methodologies and tools such as games and interactive activities.
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- Syrian girls attending gender training.
@CARE International*
- In September, UNHCR's Child Protection partner Save the Children hosted a '**Global Village**' event with 250 children from Eritrea, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. A variety of activities and artistic performances were offered to **discuss and celebrate the children's diverse cultures and backgrounds**.
 - In September, UNHCR and Saint Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) signed a Letter of Understanding to facilitate **legal representation at UNHCR's Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures** in Cairo. This agreement will allow asylum-seekers to have access to free legal representation from StARS, which will assist them during their RSD interviews.
 - **No irregular migration attempts via sea** have been reported so far in 2019. Between July and September 2019, 180 foreign nationals were arrested for attempting to irregularly cross the border from Egypt to Libya, 37 of whom were found to be registered with UNHCR. As reported by the authorities, the registered detainees **were released after verification of their status with UNHCR**.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- Between July and September 2019, **1,390 refugees were submitted for resettlement** to nine countries and **899 refugees departed to resettlement countries**. The main nationalities included Syrians, Sudanese, South Sudanese, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Somalis and Iraqis. Thus far in 2019, a total **4,168 refugees have been submitted for resettlement** to 12 resettlement countries and **2,331 refugees have departed for resettlement** to eight resettlement countries.
- In 2019, **Germany** will be the largest resettlement country receiving more than 1,100 refugees from Egypt, followed by **Canada** (900), **UK** (470), **Sweden** (400), **USA** (200), **France** (200), the **Netherlands** (175), **Portugal** (170) and **Spain** (50).
- Voluntary Repatriation** in 2019 is facilitated for individuals choosing to voluntarily return to certain parts of Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia.



BASIC NEEDS AND SELF RELIANCE

- 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 July and September 2019, UNHCR **assisted 13,909 families (comprising 58,629 refugees and asylum-seekers) with monthly cash grants**.

- As a **first of its kind in Alexandria**, a **job fair for refugees and asylum-seekers** took place in September. A total of 17 companies participated and offered a **employment opportunities across various sectors**. During the event, companies collected a total of 887 CVs, conducted 541 interviews and received 260 job applications.



Refugees and asylum-seekers visiting the booth of a potential employer.

@UNHCR/ Nour Salah

The job fair included **side activities** on health promotion in the workplace and assessment of training needs. Job seekers were able to apply for training opportunities and **receive support in compiling or improving their CVs on the spot**. The fair was organized by UNHCR's partner Caritas, in cooperation with Don Bosco and the private employment agency Forasna.

- For the second year, UNHCR facilitated the **participation of refugees in the Techne Summit**, which took place at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina at the end of September. Techne Summit is an annual event that focuses on investment opportunities and entrepreneurship bringing together the key players in the tech industry.

Around twenty **refugee women and men from Syria, Sudan and South Sudan**, between 18 and 24 years of age, attended several sessions, panel discussions and workshops related to business growth, marketing, branding and investment. This is expected to help them grow their already existing start-ups or to newly establish small businesses.



Group of refugees participating in Techne-Summit

@ROV


EDUCATION

- In September, UNHCR organized an event to celebrate the **outstanding academic achievements of 35 refugee students from Syria, Sudan, Yemen and Iraq**. The celebration took place in Cairo and was attended by the **high school** students and their parents.



One of the successful high school students during the event in Cairo @UNHCR Egypt/Pedro Costa Gomes

- The **academic year 2019/2020 started** in Egyptian public schools in September. During the summer months, UNHCR's education partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) registered refugees and asylum-seekers of various nationalities for education grants. UNHCR then disbursed the **first installment of the education grants to 44,324 refugee and asylum-seeker students** from different nationalities. Education grant recipients are in the age bracket 6 to 20 years and have proven their enrolment in public, private or community schools. **Enhanced education** grants were provided to **1,433 unaccompanied and separated children**. In addition, **265 children with special needs** were supported to enroll in specialized schools that cater for their educational and care needs. CRS is assessing these schools to ensure acceptable standards.
- UNHCR **selected 150 refugee youths** who will be supported through the **DAFI** (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund) **higher education scholarship scheme** during the 2019-2020 academic year. This brings the total number of refugees benefitting from DAFI scholarships to 499 students.


HEALTH

- In August, UNHCR, WHO, IOM and the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population joined forces to invite refugees and asylum-seekers to undergo Hepatitis C screening in Alexandria and Damietta. This was part of the **"100 Million Health"** (*100 Million Seha*) campaign initiated by the President of Egypt, which offers free of charge screening and free treatment for those who are found carrying the virus, including refugees and migrants. As of September 2019, **30,021 refugees and migrants underwent the screening of Hepatitis C all over Egypt**.



Syrian man during hepatitis C screening at Caritas clinic in Alexandria. @UNHCR/Nora Ibrahim

- Earlier this year, UNHCR launched a **pilot project in the area of mental health**. In the framework of this project, general practitioners at UNHCR's partner NGO Caritas Alexandria have been trained to **screen for, detect and manage mild-to-moderate mental health conditions at the primary health care level**. As of the end of September, Caritas completed the observation phase of a training with a psychiatrist. From the fourth quarter of 2019 onward, the Caritas doctors will manage mild-to-moderate mental health conditions independently and will only refer complex mental health cases to psychiatrists.


COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- UNHCR concluded a **multi-sectoral needs assessment of 1,063 refugee youth** aimed at improving understanding of their experiences with access to quality education and life-long learning opportunities, as well as their ability to engage in decent work opportunities, sexual and reproductive health behavior, and their perceptions towards social inclusion and participation. Findings from the survey provide a **comprehensive overview of the living conditions of refugee youth** of various nationalities which will be used to tailor response interventions to address the needs of refugee youth in Egypt.
- A specialized programme for **people living with disabilities and older people** reached 863 refugees and asylum-seeker with individual and group-based psychosocial counselling and support. In addition, 122 individual received **assistive devices, adult diapers, pressure-relieving mattresses** and other forms of in-kind support to improve their quality of life.
- In July, Save the Children in collaboration with UNHCR organized an **event for refugees in Cairo** as a follow-up of World Refugee Day. Refugees from different nationalities displayed their **traditional dishes, arts and crafts**. UNHCR's implementing and operational partners were also present to inform about the services they provide to refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Between July to September, **416 refugee youth at-risk took part in eight sports days**, including female-only events, aimed at catering to their physical and emotional well-being.
- Three **celebrations of International Youth Day** were also organized with the participation of more than 1,800 refugee youths under the global theme of "Transforming Education". The youth groups engaged in various discussions and activities on how to strengthen the **inclusion and access of refugees to quality education and life-learning opportunities**.



*Syrian children were among the performers during the closing ceremony of the summer programme at Bibliotheca Alexandrina.
©Bibliotheca Alexandrina*

- Refugee children and adolescents were included in **summer activities** that took place at the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina** in July and August. They participated in a reading programme and in workshops on theatrical performance, carving, scientific experiments and Arabic handwriting. The children and adolescents were also part of the final ceremony on 27 August, which included theatrical, dancing and singing performances and aimed at highlighting the importance of family ties and the negative effect of social media.

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 consist of Child Protection, Response to SGBV, and Durable Solutions. The other working groups are for Education, Health, Basic Needs and Cash, Livelihoods, and Communication with Communities.
- In 2019, UNHCR Egypt works through the following partners: All Saints' Cathedral • CARE International • Caritas Egypt • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR) • Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) • Plan International • Save the Children International (SCI) • Terre des Hommes (TdH) • United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) • United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **US\$ 37.7 million** as of end of September 2019.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided to this operation by **the United States of America, Germany, the European Union, Italy, the Regional Development and Protection Programme North Africa, the UN Children Fund** and **private donors**.

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions

Sweden | Private donors Spain | Norway | Netherlands | United Kingdom | Private donors Republic of Korea | Germany | Denmark | Switzerland | Private donors Japan | France | Private donors Italy | Private donors Sweden | Ireland

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LINKS

Syria Regional Refugee Response: data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria

UNHCR Refugees & Migration Emergency Mediterranean Response: data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/Mediterranean

