

# EGYPT - 3RP RESPONSE RELATED TO COVID-19

**3RP partners in Egypt require USD 44m to support national efforts in the response to COVID-19.**

As of March 2020, 258,433 refugees and asylum-seekers from 58 different nationalities are registered with UNHCR in Egypt. Syrians remained the largest group with roughly 130,000 refugees, composing 50 per cent of the overall refugee and asylum-seeker population. The majority of refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt prior to the outbreak of COVID19 were already very vulnerable, and therefore started immediately feeling the impact of the changed environment. Refugees live in urban areas, mostly in overcrowded accommodations with inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene. Amid the Government of Egypt's (GoE) measures to combat the spread of the Coronavirus, many refugees and asylum-seekers have lost their sources of income. While most of refugees and asylum-seekers are spending the cash in hand on basic supplies, 3RP appealing partners are joining efforts to enable refugees to meet their basic needs, including their access to hygiene items. Concerns are also growing over the ability of refugees and asylum-seekers to pay rent and housing costs in the next months. In the current circumstances, UASC and ageing-out UASC are becoming more vulnerable and destitute, and cases of SGBV and vulnerabilities of other groups will potentially increase. Therefore, 3RP partners continue to provide case management and protection services for UASC who are struggling to keep up with rising needs. This is partially done through remote working modalities. Furthermore, SGBV risks are likely to be further exacerbated during the current crisis, and the already overstretched housing assistance services will be unable to provide safe shelter to all survivors in need. Elderly people and persons with special needs and medical conditions will be among the most affected groups.

In addition, the Government of Egypt has suspended its application procedures for residence permits for refugees and asylum-seekers which also added to the anxiety among refugees and asylum-seekers. In addition, refugees and asylum seekers with expired UNHCR documents and residency will be impacted by the suspension of registration activities. Similarly, newcomers who will have no access to documentation. UNHCR continues to advocate with national authorities for tolerance with regards to asylum-seekers and refugees with expired UNHCR cards or residencies and those who do not yet have UNHCR documentation. Likewise, similar advocacy was undertaken with financial services and other service providers. 3RP partners are closely following that refugees and asylum-seekers continue to have access to public health during this challenging period.

## Syrian Refugee Population in Egypt



## Priority Interventions and Requirements by Sector



### PROTECTION

3RP appealing partners in Egypt agreed to prioritize SGBV and child protection activities during the COVID-19 crisis to address the urging needs of the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers. Appealing partners aim to extend financial assistance to all separated children (SCs). There are currently 289 Syrian SCs and 1,087 SCs of other nationalities (as of end of February in Egypt), of which 78 separated children are currently receiving UNHCR cash assistance. This means that an additional 289 Syrian SC and 1,009 SCs of other nationalities could also benefit from cash assistance. As the 3RP partners and the GoE work towards an equal approach of assistance for all nationalities, provision of financial assistance to Syrian separated children cannot be achieved without securing funding for all refugee separated children from all nationalities.

Existing SGBV risks are likely to be further exacerbated during the current crisis, and the already overstretched housing assistance services will be unable to provide safe shelter to all survivors and other groups at risk in need. Therefore, additional housing assistance will be needed both for Syrians survivors and those survivors and groups at risk of other nationalities.

The below targets

**To meet these targets, a total amount of USD 10,000,000 is needed for the Protection sector.**



### FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP will extend unconditional food assistance to 150,000 refugees in addition to 20,000 workers and returnees from host communities who are facing unprecedented challenges in meeting their basic needs. In addition, WFP will continue to provide monthly food assistance to the most vulnerable pregnant and lactating women and their infants under two years of age. The conditionality for their periodic hospital visits will temporarily be removed to minimize the risks of contracting the virus and to alleviate the burden on already stretched medical resources nationwide. Once resources are available, WFP will scale up its current operations for six months to target the most vulnerable groups including: -Refugees and asylum-seekers from all socioeconomic backgrounds regardless of previous vulnerability assessment rankings, pregnant and lactating women

from refugee and host communities, daily workers and informal laborers in host community who no longer have access to income, Egyptian returnees from neighboring countries who have recently been repatriated.

WFP will work in close collaboration with the GoE in planning and implementing the emergency operation. Beneficiaries will receive cash from contracted financial service providers like the Egypt Post Office and national bank outlets which will allow the vulnerable refugees and host community members to purchase food of their choice from any outlet at any time within the permissible hours. This temporary change follows the Government of Egypt and the World Health Organization instructions to minimizing crowds, gatherings, large scale distribution and face to face interaction as much as possible.

WFP will provide monthly unconditional cash entitlements of 25 USD (400 EGP) per individual for the upcoming six months between April and September 2020 to ensure access to adequate food throughout the COVID-19 crisis to a total of 170,000 beneficiaries including 142,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, 8,000 pregnant and lactating women and 20,000 returnees and daily workers.

**To achieve the above-mentioned targets, a total amount of USD 17,837,495 is needed for the food security sector.**



## EDUCATION

The Government of Egypt's announcement of the closure of all education institutions across the country as of 15 March 2020 has affected 22 million Egyptian school children and over three million university students country-wide. In addition, all Syrian refugee children enrolled in public schools as well as Syrian community learning centers are impacted by these measures. The Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) availed digital learning materials on the government owned Egyptian Knowledge Bank (EKB), which covers all subject materials from Grade 3 to 12, as well as academic resources for university and post graduate studies.

While some children have access to e-learning opportunities and materials, the most vulnerable children in remote and impoverished areas will not be able to access these materials.

During the school suspension, a phone survey is being conducted by Education sector partners on weekly basis to understand the challenges both children and their parents are facing during the school closure. Initial survey findings imply that refugee students are concerned that the online learning materials are not enough given that not all subjects are covered. Parents additionally expressed concerns that their children needed regular assistance to understand pieces in the curriculum while some parents did not have the level of education required to support their school children in their studies. Children also reported difficulties in accessing some of the provided curriculum due to lack of or very poor internet connectivity. As an alternative,

parents rely on mobile internet packages which entail significant costs for long term educational engagement. Students' lack of smart phones and/or tablets also result in the usage of their parents' phones. However, parents often own only one device, making shared family use impractical, especially for families with multiple children. This is also the case for families who have televisions, where educational programs for different grades and classes are sometimes aired at the same time. Thus, only one child can access the materials related to their school grade at a time.

To alleviate the negative impact of the aforementioned challenges, during this period, 3RP education partners aim to conduct awareness campaigns with key messages around COVID-19 prevention, hygiene kits, tablets, smart devices, internet packages and data, and extra-curricular activities. Furthermore, 3RP partners will be supporting the MoETE with the development of guidelines to conduct safe examinations as well as for safe school re-opening. This requires equipping the schools with the necessary infrastructure, particularly water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, and hygiene supplies to ensure adequate infection prevention and control for children and teachers to be safe. Teachers and education personnel will be trained via an online course on key messages and the new guidelines. In addition, children will receive education kits to support their return to school once they reopen.

**To meet these targets, a total amount of USD 4,728,563 is needed for the Education sector.**



## HEALTH

Throughout the duration of the COVID-19 situation, 3RP partners will sustain essential primary healthcare services through facilities operated and supported by the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP). Treatment of chronic diseases, as well as care for patients in critical chronic conditions and emergency care will also continue. For Syrian refugees, these services are secured through NGO partners in complementarity with MoHP services offered to nationals and refugees.

The Health sector partners will also contribute in supporting the resilience of the health care system through the provision of medical supplies required by the MoHP to scale up the national response to COVID-19. This includes supplies related to surveillance, prevention and control activities, while ensuring alignment of

procurement policies, complementarity and non-duplication among supporting agencies and MoHP.

Partners will also contribute to improving WASH among refugees in response to COVID-19 through the distribution of hygiene items to refugees who are at greater risk of serious health complications related to age (elder persons > 60 years), women who are pregnant or lactating and their new born babies, people with pre-existing chronic diseases and people with disabilities. The estimated number of beneficiaries is 100,000 persons, including refugees, asylum-seekers and host community members.

**To meet these targets, a total amount of USD 6,422,000 is needed for the Health sector.**



## BASIC NEEDS AND LIVELIHOODS

Refugees and asylum-seekers have reported that many of them lost their jobs within the first few days and weeks of the COVID-19 crisis and that refugee businesses were stagnating. This loss is causing substantial shocks to their livelihoods. Livelihoods support must address these newly emerged needs, in addition to the ones that already existed before the crisis. In order to provide immediate support to 11,158 impacted families to cope with these changed circumstances and until their

livelihoods are re-established, a short-term monthly cash grant will be provided for a duration of six months. Furthermore, the sector will prioritize supporting those impacted with business loss or stagnations as a result of measures associated with reducing the spread of COVID-19.

**To meet these targets, a total amount of USD 5,328,885 is needed for the basic needs and livelihoods sector.**

### HOW TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

Please contact either the inter-agency coordinator or the sector lead in order to receive more information on specific needs, requirements, or on how to contribute. Kindly note that the 3RP has no direct mechanism to absorb and distribute funding; rather, funding should be channeled through relevant agencies, funds, programmes or organizations according to their own processes.

### CONTACTS

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#### Sector Leads

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## Financial Requirements

NOTE: The figures noted below are subject to change based on information received from 3RP partners.

All needs expressed are within the 2020 appeal financial parameters.

### EGYPT

Original 3RP Requirements:  
USD 159,163,205



### 3RP COVID-19 Plan

From original 3RP Requirements\*:  
USD 44,316,943  
Health related: USD 6,422,000  
Non-health related: USD 37,894,943  
New Requirements: –  
Health related: –  
Non-health related: –  
**Total: USD 44,316,943**

\* 3RP partners have identified / reprioritized from existing 3RP appeal figures for priority COVID-19 activities. All figures are subject to change following an official comprehensive revision of the 3RP

### COVID19 3RP Response - Egypt

	Financial requirements in USD
Protection	\$10,000,000
Health	\$6,422,000
Education	\$4,728,563
Basic Needs & Livelihoods	\$5,328,885
Food Security	\$17,837,495
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$44,316,943</b>

### Breakdown by agency

	Protection
UNHCR	\$5,539,537
UNICEF	\$3,117,704
UNFPA	\$529,553
UNWOMAN	\$76,042
PLAN	\$372,164
SCI	\$365,000
	Education
UNICEF	\$3,728,563
UNHCR	\$1,000,000
	Health
UNHCR	\$4,800,000
WHO	\$800,000
UNFPA	\$250,000
UNICEF	\$500,000
IOM	\$72,000
	CBI/LH
UNHCR	\$5,328,885
	Food Security
WFP	\$17,837,495
<b>Total funding needs</b>	<b>\$44,316,943</b>