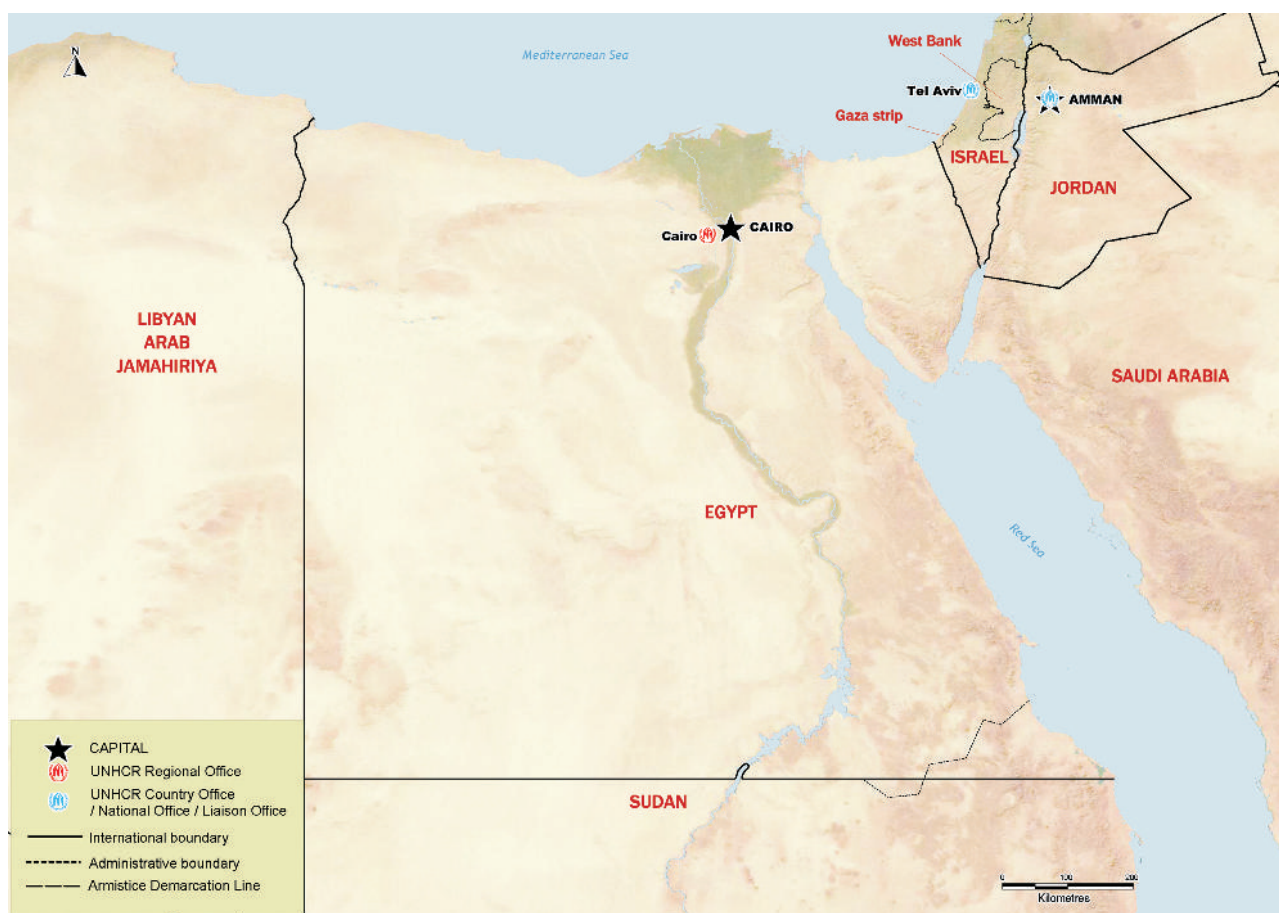


# EGYPT



## Operational highlights

- In 2009, UNHCR registered all those who approached its office in Cairo so that it could determine their international protection needs and provide them with adequate documentation. This protected people of concern from refoulement.
- UNHCR faced difficulties to obtain access to people who were in detention after trying to leave Egypt in an irregular manner.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers continued to rely largely on UNHCR and its partners for subsidized health care and support for primary and secondary education.
- UNHCR continued to support refugee community-based organizations, and 20 community meetings took place with members from the different refugee groups.

### Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Occupied Palestinian Territory	70,000	20	47	59
	Sudan	9,800	9,800	38	32
	Iraq	6,600	6,600	49	38
	Somalia	6,100	6,100	51	26
	Eritrea	900	900	49	18
	Various	1,000	1,000	48	14
	Asylum-seekers	Sudan	12,000	-	37
Eritrea		700	-	67	14
Ethiopia		320	-	78	4
Somalia		130	-	60	39
Côte d'Ivoire		130	-	17	7
Various		230	-	45	35
Stateless		Various	60	60	78
<b>Total</b>		<b>107,970</b>	<b>24,480</b>		



Some Sudanese children are bussed to the Kilo Arbo Wi Nus neighbourhood for schooling from other areas of the city.

UNHCR / T. HARTWELL

## | Working environment |

Egypt is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol as well as the 1969 OAU Convention governing the specific problems of refugees in Africa. In the absence of national asylum legislation and institutional arrangements, UNHCR has responsibility for all aspects of refugee status determination (RSD) in Egypt under a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Government in 1954.

At the end of 2009 nearly 38,000 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered in Egypt. The largest group of those registered in 2009 with UNHCR were Sudanese (some 1,700 persons) predominantly from Southern Sudan. UNHCR continued to receive reports of irregular movements of people, including asylum-seekers, and of the arrest and detention of those found trying to cross the border irregularly.

While UNHCR obtained access to 83 registered refugees and asylum-seekers in detention, access to people seeking asylum after arrest and detention was granted only in two cases.

## | Achievement and impact |

### ● Main objectives

In 2009, UNHCR aimed to ensure protection from *refoulement* and access to asylum for all people of concern and to contribute to their social and economic well-being. The Office also worked to find durable solutions for a growing number of refugees and aimed to develop and diversify dynamic operational partnerships with Government authorities, refugee communities, civil society, UN agencies, donors and the media.

### ● Protection and solutions

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt live in difficult socio-economic conditions aggravated by poverty and a sensitive political and security environment. UNHCR assisted a large number of refugees who found it difficult to find employment or to obtain access to education or health services. The sharp increase in the price of basic commodities and the worldwide financial crisis affected the poorest groups among the local population as

well as the most vulnerable people of concern to UNHCR. With national services lacking the capacity to address the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, it has been up to UNHCR and its partners to help them, and particularly the most vulnerable among them.

Some 3,800 people of concern were newly registered in 2009. UNHCR issued or renewed some 6,300 documents (asylum-seeker or refugee cards) and made 1,100 first instance RSD decisions. The Office also assisted some 35 older stateless people with financial assistance.

UNHCR focused special attention and care on unaccompanied and separated children. Foster families were identified and support was extended to more than 180 unaccompanied or separated minors. Best interest determination (BID) assessments and reviews were regularly carried out. The Office also provided assistance to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, including social, medical, legal and financial assistance as well as psychosocial counselling and accommodation in a safe house.

In 2009, UNHCR continued to work to find durable solutions for refugees. Some 1,700 people voluntarily returned home, mostly to Sudan and Iraq. Repatriation was preceded by thorough counselling to establish the voluntary nature of the decision to return. In addition, more than 900 refugees were identified and submitted for resettlement, of which some 800 were accepted and 712 departed.

UNHCR conducted 18 workshops or seminars and four academic courses on refugee law targeting some 500 Government officials, in particular immigration, police and state security officers in different locations in Egypt, as well as judges and prosecutors. A number of these workshops covered sexual and gender-based violence, HIV and AIDS, statelessness and the asylum-migration nexus.

### ● Activities and assistance

**Community services:** Community outreach and collaboration with six refugee community-based organizations was strengthened through regular communication and exchange of information on UNHCR's mandate, activities and assistance programmes.

**Domestic needs:** UNHCR continued to provide a safety net for the most destitute refugees and those with special needs through social and financial assistance. Up to 7,000 persons were provided with limited financial assistance.

**Education:** UNHCR helped some 6,100 refugee and asylum-seeker children of primary and secondary school age to receive an education. Education grants were provided for each student enrolled in school.

**Health and nutrition:** UNHCR continued to secure access to subsidized primary and emergency health care for refugees and others of concern. Some 34,200 medical consultations were conducted, with 11,700 extended at primary care level and 8,600 provided to chronically ill people. Pre- and post-natal care was made available to refugee women. Interventions for the prevention of HIV and AIDS as well as for the care and treatment of people living with HIV and AIDS, including an anti-retroviral therapy programme, were carried out. Voluntary HIV counselling, testing and awareness-raising sessions were conducted. Refugees suffering from tuberculosis were provided with treatment.

**Income generation:** In order to enhance the self-reliance of people of concern, UNHCR helped some 945 refugees to attend vocational training institutions. Some 70 people of concern received job counselling, and 34 refugees were eventually employed. The Office finalized a field survey on self-reliance opportunities for refugee communities in Egypt in partnership with ILO.

**Legal assistance:** UNHCR cooperated closely with partners providing legal representation to asylum-seekers during RSD. The Office also used the services of two legal aid partners to provide legal counselling to people of concern on issues related to personal status (marriage, divorce and birth certificates), as well as representation and support during legal proceedings in Egypt involving the police or the courts. More than 22 cases have been referred to two legal partners.

**Operational support (to agencies):** UNHCR helped defray the staffing costs of its implementing partners. UNHCR's public information strategy continued to focus on the Arabic language website as an important tool for communication in the Arabic-speaking world, and on furthering contacts with journalists and media personnel through the regular production of Arabic language publications, press releases and feature stories.

**Transport and logistics:** In cooperation with IOM, the Office assisted a number of refugees to return by air and provided 50 per cent of the transportation allowance for those proceeding to destinations in Southern Sudan. UNHCR also assisted some 100 Sudanese to return to other parts of Sudan using the ferry boat and train. Iraqis who returned with UNHCR's assistance were provided with air-tickets as well as financial assistance.

### ○ Constraints

Egypt is a country of asylum as well as of transit, and experiences increased irregular movements of people who flee their own countries for economic reasons or due to

serious violations of human rights. Several protection problems arose from the treatment of people attempting to cross the border between Egypt and Israel in an irregular manner. Many of them are of concern to UNHCR as they originate from war-torn countries where massive violations of human rights are taking place.

The detention of irregular migrants, among whom some are in need of international protection, remained a concern to UNHCR. Efforts to develop a viable and sustainable self-reliance strategy for refugees could not progress much in the difficult urban context of Cairo.

## | Financial information |

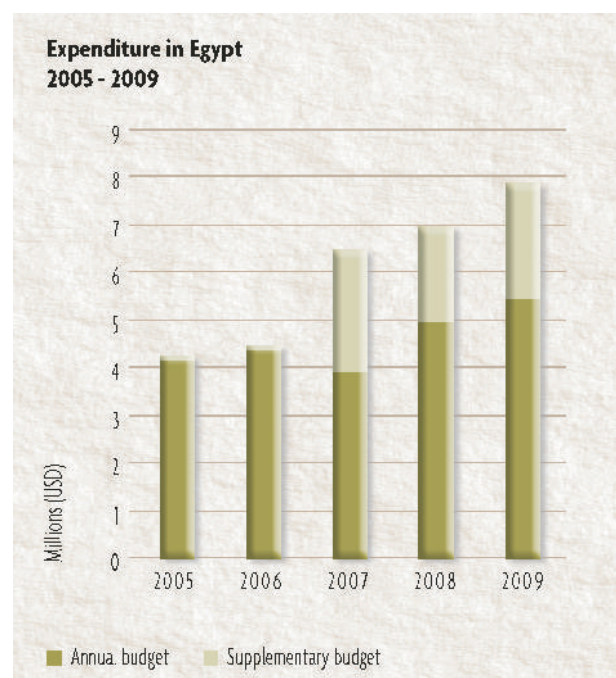
UNHCR continued to seek funding for and implement activities in addition to those supported under its annual budget, particularly in the areas of capacity building, training, self-reliance and community development. The Office continued to implement activities under the Iraq situation and the return and integration of Sudanese refugees and IDPs supplementary budgets.

## | Organization and implementation |

UNHCR's operation in Egypt was managed from the country office in Cairo, with a total of 59 staff, including eight international and 32 local employees, two JPOs and 17 UNVs. Two regional posts for information technology and public information and a senior regional refugee law training post supported all UNHCR operations in the region. The Office also cooperated with the Regional Epidemic Preparedness and Response Coordinator for MENA countries, based in Cairo.

## | Working with others |

UNHCR worked with seven implementing partners and maintained direct contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior on refugee-related and asylum-seeker issues. Within the framework of the UN Country Team and



Security Management Team, UNHCR continued to participate in all meetings and contributed to the structure of the UNDAF.

to support access to basic services for the most vulnerable will continue to be needed in the medium to longer term.

## Overall assessment

In 2009, a significant challenge was to address irregular movements of persons seeking asylum. Outreach to refugee communities and building their capacity and self-reliance remained an imperative, particularly in an urban context where designing livelihoods strategies is difficult. UNHCR's assistance

### Partners

**Government:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Population (Family Planning Association), Immigration authorities.  
**NGOs:** Family Planning Association, Refugee Ministry of St. Andrew, Caritas Egypt, Refugee Egypt, Association for the Development and enhancement of women, Catholic Relief Services USCCB (USA), Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance "AMERA" (Egypt)

### Budget, income and expenditure in Egypt (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
<b>Annual budget</b>	<b>6,147,767</b>	<b>1,719,803</b>	<b>3,797,764</b>	<b>5,517,566</b>	<b>5,476,620</b>
Iraq Situation SB	3,269,768	0	2,337,677	2,337,677	2,337,677
Return and Reintegration of Sudanese Refugees and IDPs SB	756,153	0	91,336	91,336	91,336
Supplementary budget subtotal	<b>4,025,921</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,429,014</b>	<b>2,429,014</b>	<b>2,429,014</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>10,173,688</b>	<b>1,719,803</b>	<b>6,226,777</b>	<b>7,946,580</b>	<b>7,905,634</b>

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

### Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Egypt (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current years' project			Previous years' project
	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	561,153	92,754	653,907	0
Community services	157,643	10,088	167,730	16,039
Domestic needs and household support	786,657	222,111	1,008,769	256,459
Education	318,968	156,284	475,252	997,562
Health and nutrition	327,226	178,858	506,084	228,232
Income generation	25,774	14,422	40,196	51,941
Legal assistance	218,963	49,670	268,633	0
Operational support (to agencies)	141,299	76,593	217,892	100,253
Transport and logistics	25,498	363,708	389,206	0
Instalments to implementing partners	1,500,820	1,223,574	2,724,394	(1,650,486)
<b>Subtotal operational activities</b>	<b>4,064,001</b>	<b>2,388,063</b>	<b>6,452,064</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	1,412,619	40,951	1,453,570	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>5,476,620</b>	<b>2,429,014</b>	<b>7,905,634</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Cancellation on previous years' expenditure

(2,297)

#### Instalments with implementing partners

Payments made	3,071,720	1,865,779	4,937,499
Reporting received	(1,570,900)	(642,205)	(2,213,105)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>1,500,820</b>	<b>1,223,574</b>	<b>2,724,394</b>

#### Previous year's report

Instalments with implementing partners:			
Outstanding 1st January			1,817,707
Reporting received			(1,650,486)
Refunded to UNHCR			(164,176)
Currency adjustment			0
<b>Outstanding 31st December</b>			<b>3,045</b>