

Egypt

January 2019 – Overview of UNHCR activities and achievements in 2018

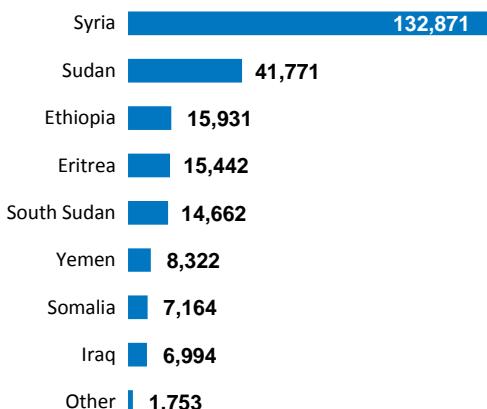
Egypt is a **destination country** for refugees and asylum-seekers of around 58 different nationalities, majority of whom live in **urban areas**.

Currently, **244,910 refugees and asylum-seekers** are registered with UNHCR Egypt. More than half of them (54%) are from Syria.

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

POPULATION OF CONCERN

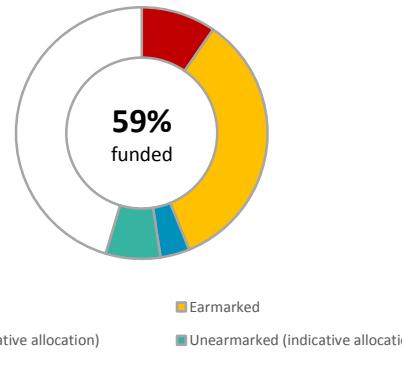
Countries of Origin



FUNDING IN 2018 (AS OF 8 JANUARY 2019)

USD 74.5 M

requested for the Egypt operation



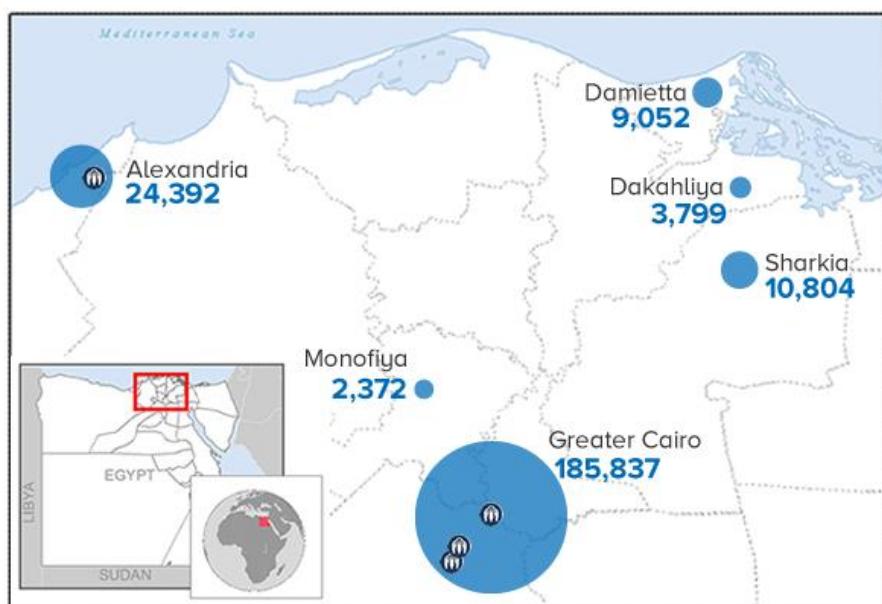
UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

212 national staff
42 international staff

Offices:

3 offices in Greater Cairo
(6th 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. The Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG), chaired by UNHCR, is the main refugee 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: Child Protection, Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), and Durable Solutions. The other working groups cover Education, Health, Cash assistance, Livelihoods, and Communication with Communities.

Main Activities

Protection

- **UNHCR Egypt registers asylum-seekers and refugees on behalf of the Government of Egypt.** In 2018, a total of 30,902 persons were newly registered by UNHCR. The registration entails the use of biometric information, iris scanning and finger printing. Priority identification and processing of persons with specific vulnerabilities, including unaccompanied children, is carried out within 72 hours.
- After registration, asylum-seekers and refugees are encouraged to approach the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior Department of Immigration in order to apply for a residence permit to legalize 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 for extending the validity of the residence permit to one year.
- UNHCR Egypt is one of the largest refugee status determination (RSD) operations globally and conducts RSD on behalf of the Government for all nationalities except for 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 release and to ensure that 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 39 per cent of the overall refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt are children, a majority of whom are Syrian (59%). Out of the total number of children, **4,126 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.
- 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.
- UNHCR has in place internal **integrity mechanisms**, such as anti-fraud and complaints receipt systems, in order 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.
- In 2018, **3,286 refugees were submitted for resettlement** to eleven different countries. A total of **1,988 refugees departed for resettlement** to Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. These included refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Syria.

Basic Needs

- UNHCR delivers **monthly unconditional cash grants** to extremely vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in order to provide them with protection and assistance, and reduce risks of adopting negative coping mechanisms. In 2018, a total of **20,397 families** (comprising 88,069 refugees and asylum-seekers, which is equal to 36 per cent of the total registered refugees and asylum-seekers) were supported with these cash grants for a period ranging between one and twelve months.

- During the winter 2018/2019, UNHCR provided winterization assistance to about 130,000 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in order to help them meeting their additional needs during the cold season.

Education

- More than half of the total refugee and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR are children and youth of school age. Currently, refugee and asylum-seeking 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 for all refugee children. In the academic year 2018/19, UNHCR provided education grants to 43,000 such students to support both enrolment and retention 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. In the academic year 2018/19, 348 students received a scholarship from the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) through UNHCR 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. Advocacy continues with the Ministry for the **mainstreaming** of refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities **into Egyptian public schools** and universities on an equal level to nationals.

Health

- Refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt have **access to public primary, secondary and emergency health care** at an equal level as 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.
- UNHCR focuses its support on 15 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.

Community Empowerment and Livelihood

- UNHCR maintains an active **outreach programme for communicating with communities**, reaching more than 2,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in 2018 with information about services provided by UNHCR and partners. Participatory assessments, focus group discussions, and awareness sessions enable UNHCR to directly monitor their protection concerns and coping mechanisms, and to identify possible solutions for improving their living conditions. Almost 200 refugee community focal persons and outreach volunteers have been trained on identification and referral of vulnerable persons. Material support was provided to 43 refugee community groups, enhancing community self-management. UNHCR trained 85 refugee youths as peer educators to promote positive development practices and share knowledge and skill development opportunities within their social circles.
- UNHCR, through its partners, provides eligible refugees and asylum-seekers with training and coaching in order to assist them to engage in **sustainable livelihood activities**. As of end December 2018, 1,858 refugees and asylum-seekers benefitted from livelihood support.

Donors

Thanks to major donors of un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as donors who have contributed directly to UNHCR Egypt in 2018:

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