

Egypt

April – June 2021

As of 30 June, **265,013 refugees and asylum-seekers from 62 countries** were registered with UNHCR Egypt, half of whom are from Syria.

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

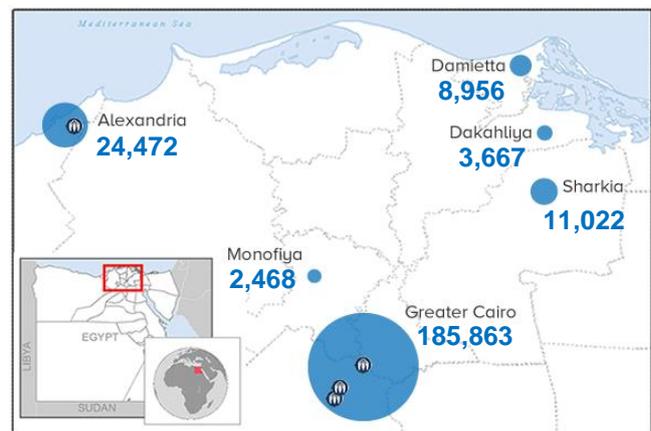
During the COVID-19 pandemic, **UNHCR adapted its activities to the changing circumstances**, maintaining assistance and protection support.

KEY INDICATORS

9,787 families received monthly multi-purpose cash grants in the second quarter of 2021

4,176 unaccompanied and separated children are registered with UNHCR Egypt as of end of June 2021

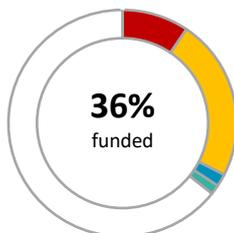
845 refugees departed to resettlement countries in 2021



FUNDING SITUATION (27 JULY 2021)

USD 126.5 million

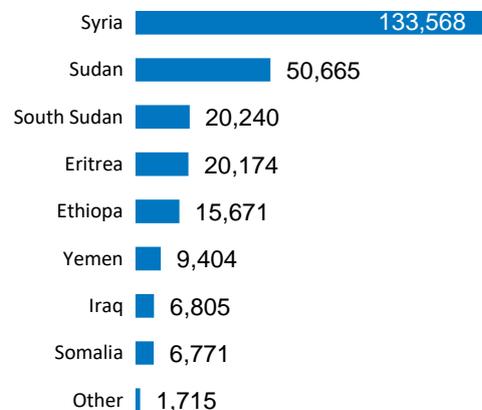
requested for the Egypt operation in 2021



- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Countries of Origin



World Refugee Day 2021

- In cooperation with UNHCR, the **League of Arab States (LAS)** organized a reception to mark **World Refugee Day**. The event took place on 21 June under the auspices of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States at the headquarters in Cairo. Among the guests were Egypt's Minister of Social Solidarity, the assistant ministers of Foreign Affairs and Interior, Ambassadors of Arab member states and ambassadors and members of diplomatic missions from major donor and resettlement countries. In addition, representatives of UN agencies, NGOs and members of the civil society and celebrities attended the reception.



The League of Arab States headquarters was lit in blue, honoring World Refugee Day. ©UNHCR



H.E. Dr. Haifa Abughazalah, Assistant Secretary General – Head of Social Affairs Sector for League of Arab States, with Karim Atassi, UNHCR Representative to Egypt and the League of Arab States during the reception. ©UNHCR

- A screening of the documentary **“Beyond the Raging Sea”** was organized on World Refugee Day followed by a panel discussion with the two main protagonists Omar Samra and Omar Nour. The event was attended by UN staff, refugees and representatives of the diplomatic community including the Ambassadors of Japan and Finland. The documentary tells the harrowing story of two Egyptian adventurers, Omar Samra and Omar Nour as they take on the world's toughest row across the Atlantic. They dedicated their crossing to raising awareness of the global refugee crises. In an ironic twist, they faced the same dangers, terrors, and decisions of those they meant to recognize and relieve. The documentary will be in theatres across the region this fall.
- UNHCR and Terre des Hommes organized a sport day in Cairo on 19 June to celebrate World Refugee Day.** The day featured numerous activities for refugee children, youth and adults as well as diverse cultural performances. There was also a bazaar for the cultural products and a photo competition. The event was inaugurated by the Egyptian Minister of Sports and attended by more than 200 refugees and asylum-seekers from different nationalities.



UNHCR Representative Karim Atassi giving the opening speech with Laure Baudin from Terre des Hommes and H.E. Minister of Youth and Sports. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa



Sudanese presenter Heba Azama at the World Refugee Day event ©TdH/Haitam

- A five-episode series “مش مجرد لاجئ” was launched on 20 June in collaboration with celebrities, football players and social media stars as they spend a day with different refugees from all walks of life in Egypt. The campaign aims at promoting community cohesion and inclusion and fighting xenophobia. The first episode with the singer “Tamer Hosny” has exceeded the 300K views across the different platforms and received very positive feedback.



*Singer Tamer Hosny with Moatasesm a Sudanese refugee working in a medical masks' factory in Cairo.
©UNHCR/Pedro Costa*

- **UNHCR's Health partners Caritas Cairo and Caritas Alexandria celebrated World Refugee Day** through various activities with the refugee communities, addressing their health-related inquiries, raising awareness about the COVID-19 vaccination, and supporting refugees and asylum-seekers who wished to register on the vaccination website at a mobile centre.



- In Alexandria, **UNHCR organized four events in cooperation with Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Save the Children International (SCI), and Caritas Egypt, celebrating World Refugee Day** with refugee children, youth and women. Activities included arts and crafts, as well as awareness sessions on a variety of topics including nutrition, health, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health.

Awareness session for women on GBV at Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria. ©Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

- In coordination with **Misr Public Library in Mansoura, UNHCR organized an exhibition of products handmade by refugees and Egyptians.** The exhibition was inaugurated by the Deputy Governor of Al-Dakahleiya Governorate and the manager of the Misr public Library and lasted from 24 to 26 June.
- As part of the **PROSPECT Partnership** funded by the Netherlands, UNICEF and UNHCR launched a joint campaign to promote the positive outcomes of social inclusion between all children living in Egypt and their families with the support of UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Egyptian actress Mona Zaki.

Key Highlights

- On 14-15 June, **UNHCR organized a regional workshop in Sharm Al Sheikh in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers titled “International Protection during Mixed Movements along the Central Mediterranean Route: Directions and Good Practices”.** The workshop was attended by delegations from Egypt, Tunisia, Libya (virtually), Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania. The workshop touched upon the various types of mixed movements in the Mediterranean basin, as well as on good practices and lessons learned in strengthening the international protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. Discussions also included

issues such as basic principles of rescue at sea, combating human trafficking, and finding durable solution.

- **UNHCR and the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) programme announced that refugees in Egypt are now eligible to apply for paid volunteer opportunities with the UNV programme.** The announcement was followed by a live Q&A discussion on Facebook with UNV to explain the process to refugees and asylum-seekers and encourage them to apply.

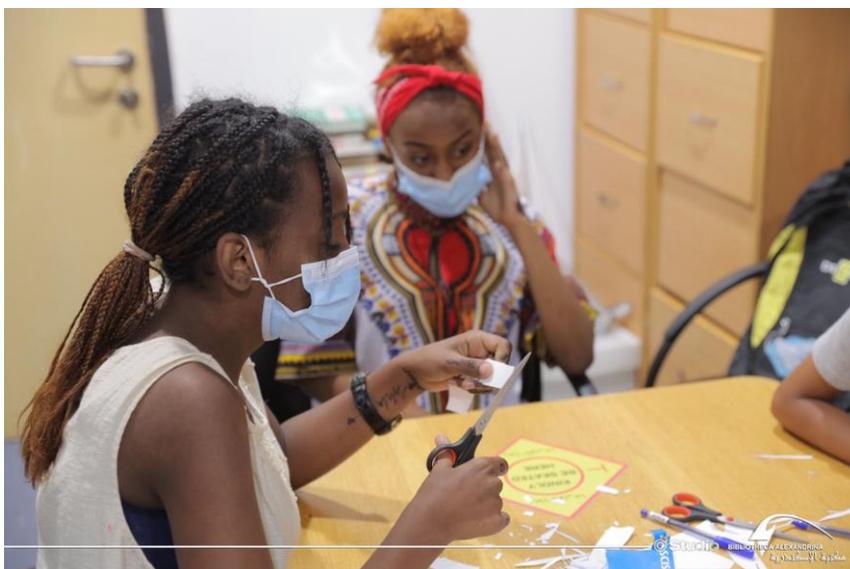


PROTECTION

- UNHCR continued to conduct **protection, reception and counselling activities** based on case referrals made via phone, e-mail, and walk-in appointments. These activities enabled UNHCR to swiftly identify the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers and provide them with assistance, protection and durable solutions, as necessary.
- Since the remodeling of UNHCR's reception areas and interview rooms to comply with COVID-19 measures in early 2021, **UNHCR's registration processing capacity has significantly increased.** From 1 April to 30 June 2021, 24,072 cases/ 54,341 individuals received various registration services. This included 1,868 cases/ 5,468 individuals who were newly registered, 21,468 cases/ 46,971 who had their documents renewed and 736 cases/ 1,902 individuals who received other continuous registration services, such as add-ons to existing cases, separation, reactivation and closure. During the same period, UNHCR's Field Office Alexandria conducted four mobile missions to Damietta, and registered or renewed the documents of 3,981 individuals.
- From April to June 2021, **736 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)** were newly registered with UNHCR, 586 of them during an intensive 8-weeks exercise (22 March-26 May) for UASC registration. All newly identified children at risk – including unaccompanied children – undergo a thorough protection screening via telephone. All unregistered at-risk children remain under close monitoring by UNHCR's Child Protection team. As co-chair of the Child Protection Sub-Working Group, UNHCR held two ad-hoc strategic discussions with Child Protection partners and relevant stakeholders in May and June 2021, in order for UNHCR to provide detailed updates on UASC arrival and registration trends and to review Child Protection priorities. Following these discussions, it was agreed to further engage the Government of Egypt counterparts and donors on these priorities.
- Between April and June 2021, **Best Interest Assessment (BIAs) were conducted for 409 UASC.** In June 2021, **2,312 UASC received financial assistance** following their Best Interest Assessment, and as part of a holistic protection response.
- On 12 April, **UNHCR delivered a session in a workshop for National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) staff**, informing participants about its mandate and principles of International Protection. The workshop was attended by 26 NCCM staff, including caseworkers, staff specialized on psycho-social support, the Child Helpline manager, as well as the focal point for the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM & TIP). On 23 May, **UNHCR provided a training at the Liaison Affairs with International Organizations (LAWIO) premise**, for a total of 35 Egyptian officers from the Ministry of Defense, who will be going on peace keeping missions. The training covered UNHCR's Mandate and International Protection.
- **UNHCR continued to work jointly with UNICEF and IOM on the roll-out of the Children on the Move Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**, in line with international child protection standards. During the second quarter of 2021, UNHCR reviewed the updated referral pathways and provided input to ensure key international legal standards and guidelines were incorporated. Together with

UNICEF and IOM, UNHCR will support with capacity building for national counterparts in the second half of 2021.

- During the period of April - June 2021, the **info line in Cairo and Alexandria attended to a total of 75,921 calls** which is more than 6,000 additional inquiries as compared to the previous quarter. The largest number of inquiries received were in relation to assistance and registration. The information lines operate daily with a total of 13 operators, catering for seven languages.
- UNHCR continued to conduct **remote Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews**. Between April - June, a total of 964 remote RSD interviews were conducted involving 1,774 persons. Furthermore, with appropriate social distancing and safety measures standards in place, 29 urgent in-person interviews were conducted with 37 individuals, who were unable or unwilling to have their interviews conducted remotely. In addition, 1,367 RSD decisions were finalized, involving a total of 2,271 individuals.
- During the second quarter of 2021, **UNHCR and its Gender-Based Violence (GBV) partner, CARE International in both Alexandria and Cairo** continued to respond to GBV incidents disclosed by survivors, who received multi-sectoral response services including safety, medical, psychosocial, livelihoods, legal services and quality case management. Remote interviews and counselling with survivors continued, with minimal physical contact where emergency services were required. In Cairo, increased needs for emergency relocation to safe shelter for GBV survivors were noted. Inter-agency GBV case conferences were held in both Alexandria and Cairo to discuss and respond to the needs of complex cases.
- During the same period, **UNHCR's partner CARE International conducted virtual GBV prevention awareness activities** in Cairo, Alexandria and the North Coast. **A total of 632 women, girls, men and boys** attended virtual sessions on basic psychosocial awareness, early marriage, self-defense, sexual and reproductive health and basic legal awareness. Participants in these sessions increasingly expressed satisfaction with the virtual modality as they felt more relaxed, confident and safe to express themselves and ask questions. In Cairo, 265 women and children attended various activities and workshops at the Women Friendly Space. In both Cairo and Alexandria, three virtual activity camps were conducted by CARE and attended by 90 children (48 girls, 42 boys).
- **UNHCR continues to facilitate birth registration for refugees and asylum-seekers**. Cases included children born out of wedlock or GBV incidents, as well as children whose birth registration was delayed and has therefore become administratively more complicated. **A total of 67 birth certificates were issued through legal service providers contracted by UNHCR during the**



*Handicraft session for refugee youth at Bibliotheca Alexandrina.
©Bibliotheca Alexandrina.*

reporting period. Securing birth registration is crucial in preventing statelessness and facilitating individuals' access to governmental services.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- In the second quarter of 2021, **UNHCR organized eight virtual community meetings**, on a variety of topics discussed including registration, protection, health, education, RSD, child protection, GBV and livelihoods. On average, 40 community leaders from Cairo and Alexandria attended each meeting.
- Between 23-24 June 2021, **UNHCR conducted an in-person training for refugees and asylum-seekers on Community-based Protection**. A full day was dedicated to GBV with sessions delivered to raise awareness on general GBV concepts, the root causes of GBV, types of GBV, the role of different GBV actors in prevention and response programming, and the referral pathway to GBV specialized response services. **The training was attended by 27 community leaders from different nationalities, including Syrian, Sudanese, South Sudanese, Iraqi, Yemeni, Eritrean, Ethiopian and Somali.**
- **UNHCR partner Terre Des Hommes provided 77 coaching sessions to 34 community groups and initiatives covering greater Cairo as part of the "Community empowerment project"**. The coaching sessions are designed to provide technical support to the groups that attended the capacity building training in 2020.
- Between April and June, **the second online learning centre opened in Nasr City, Cairo**, with 21 refugees, asylum-seekers, and Egyptian youth aged 18-35 years enrolled in acquiring digital skills. Together with the learning centre in Maadi, **the total number of enrolled learners is now 97**. Three additional online learning centres are planned to be operational in the coming period.
- During the holy month of Ramadan, **UNHCR collaborated with various Egyptian organizations in providing meals for vulnerable refugees**. In the North Coast area, meals were jointly distributed with the Maaedet Farha initiative, the foundations Fael Kheir and Wael Sherif Bayoumi. These collaborations come as part of UNHCR's continuous efforts to network with Egyptian NGOs and initiatives, with the aim of fostering a peaceful coexistence between the refugees and host communities.
- **An informative tour was organized by UNHCR in cooperation with El-Gawla initiative**, a youth initiative raising awareness about Alexandria's ancient history and culture diversity. In total, 32 refugees from Syrian, Yemeni, and Sudanese communities in Alexandria joined the tour and visited the Alexandria National Museum and the Catacombs of Kom El-Shoqafa. This activity led by Egyptian community to introduce refugees to the city culture was part of the World Refugee Day events and Together We Learn campaign.
- **UNHCR's Outreach team in Cairo and Alexandria continued to interact with the refugee community through mobile messaging groups** and to conduct regular calls to community leaders.



Refugee volunteers, UNHCR Staff, Caritas Staff, and local volunteers helping in Ramadan meals preparations. @Caritas Alexandria


HEALTH

- UNHCR, through its health partners, continued to ensure **sustained access to essential health services** such as life-saving emergency services, regular supply of medicines for patients with chronic conditions, the management of complicated pregnancies as well as mental health services for refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR's health partners Caritas Egypt and SCI continued to provide health services while strictly adhering to infection protection and control measures.



Refugee man attending awareness raising session on COVID-19 vaccination at refugee community centre in Agamy. ©UNHCR.

- UNHCR continues to monitor COVID-19 infection trends among refugees and asylum-seekers** reporting to health partners. The total number of cases reported since the beginning of pandemic is 542. In the second quarter of 2021 alone, 97 cases were reported.
- UNHCR health partners continue supporting refugees and asylum-seekers who require assistance with the online registration process for COVID-19 vaccination.** As of end of June 2021, Caritas Cairo and Caritas Alexandria assisted a total of 272 refugees and asylum-seekers to register through the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) dedicated platform. Among them, 44 refugees and asylum-seekers already received their first dose of vaccine and were waiting to receive the second dose. A total of 25 individuals have completed the vaccination with both doses.



UNHCR and Save the Children staff with public health facility workers during visit to the General Medical Centre in New Damietta ©UNHCR

- UNHCR is actively taking part in Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) taskforce meetings to support raising awareness about COVID-19 vaccine,** enhance its uptake, and address questions among the refugee and asylum-seeker community in line with the national communication strategy. In line with the above, UNHCR conducted a live Q&A Facebook session to address misinformation and respond to refugee and asylum-seekers' inquiries related to COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy.
- In 2021, **UNHCR supports 20 public health care institutions** in areas with a high refugee and asylum-seekers population. Between April and June, SCI through UNHCR funding, **conducted a series of trainings for 93 health care workers in the supported public health facilities** covering Infection Control, Health Information System (HIS), Supply Chain, First Aid, and Emergency.

**EDUCATION**

- **UNHCR continued to support 330 students (169 women, 161 men) enrolled in public and private universities across Egypt under the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship**, and four students enrolled in the Egyptian Japanese University for Science and Technology. Students have been receiving their monthly allowances for the reporting period, allowing them to attend to their university lectures and meet the cost of living including for accommodation.
- In light of the new academic year starting in September 2021, **UNHCR advocated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Ministry of Education & Technical Education (METE)** to exceptionally allow refugee and asylum-seeker children access to schools while their documents are being renewed or obtained. Although UNHCR has made significant progress in addressing the registration backlog caused by the pandemic and related precautionary measures, a considerable number of families may still hold expired UNHCR documents or residency permits at the beginning of the school year.

**BASIC NEEDS AND SELF RELIANCE**

- In the second quarter of 2021, **UNHCR provided 9,787 families (comprising 35,544 refugees and asylum-seekers) with unconditional, unrestricted multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA)** to support the most vulnerable in covering their monthly basic needs. As part of efforts to mitigate exposure to COVID-19, cash assistance will be provided on a bi-monthly basis throughout 2021.
- Unrestricted multipurpose cash grants provide people with flexibility and the ability to choose how to allocate their resources, prioritizing their needs. **Spending patterns of assisted households can be observed through an initial post distribution monitoring of a sample of 174 households.** The analysis shows that the main items on which families spend all or part of their assistance are rent (74 per cent), food (69 per cent), and health (35 per cent) costs. Overall, 82 per cent of the assessed households noted being able to meet half, more than half or all of their basic needs through the assistance.
- In addition to the regular MPCA programme, between April and June **UNHCR assisted 2,219 families (6,964 individuals) with a once-off cash grant to support vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in coping with the adverse effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.** The amount of the grant for each family aims to cover 65 per cent of the minimum expenditure basket for a period of three months
- UNHCR is conducting **regular vulnerability assessments with refugees and asylum-seekers to determine eligibility for multipurpose cash assistance.** Between April and June, 3,078 households were assessed, of whom 41 per cent are headed by women and 59 per cent are headed by men.
- Furthermore, UNHCR enhanced **communication with refugees on cash-based interventions** to improve collection rates. Cash recipients collecting via iris recognition were informed through notification messages about the exact **iris-enabled post office closest to their addresses**, and all recipients received a URL to help them find the nearest post office. In addition, **cash recipients were called** by UNHCR's partner to ensure they were aware of the assistance type, location, and deadline for collection, and to address any collection issues they encountered.

- Under **UNHCR's livelihood programme**, during the second quarter of 2021, 231 individuals including refugees, asylum-seekers and host community members benefited from capacity development programs aiming at enhancing their skills towards livelihood engagement. Also, 375 persons received guidance on labor market opportunities, 161 were linked to labor market and 30 persons were able to start their own businesses.



*UNHCR Representative between refugees from different nationalities participating in World Refugee Day event.
©UNHCR/ Pedro Costa*



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- UNHCR **continued to conduct remote resettlement interviews**. Between April - June, **829 refugees were submitted for resettlement**. Main nationalities included Syrians, Sudanese, Eritreans, South Sudanese, Ethiopians, and Somalis. Several resettlement missions took place both on the ground and virtually, interviewing refugees submitted for resettlement in previous years.
- During the same period, **576 refugees departed for resettlement** to various destinations.
- UNHCR received four cases (11 individuals) of self-referrals for voluntary repatriation** between April - June 2021.

Working in partnership

- In 2021, UNHCR Egypt is working through the following implementing partners:** All Saints' Cathedral • CARE International • Caritas Egypt • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR) • 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 **USD 45.1 M** as of 27 July 2021.

UNHCR Egypt is grateful for the critical support provided by: [United States of America](#) | [European Union](#) | [Germany](#) | [Italy](#) | [Regional Development and Protection Programme for North Africa \(RDDP NA\)](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. \(UNIQLO\)](#) | [Vodafone Foundation](#) | Other private donors.

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*Sudanese Faratit Group from Ain Shams, Greater Cairo, at World Refugee Day event
©TdH/Haitam*

CONTACTS

Reem Abdelhamid,
Snr. External Relations Officer abdelhar@unhcr.org

Ivano Bruno, Reporting Officer
bruno@unhcr.org Tel: +20227285600 ext. 2144

Public Information and External Relations Unit
arecapi@unhcr.org Tel: +20227285600 ext. 2148

LINKS

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

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

