

# Egypt

July – September 2021

Egypt hosts **266,726 refugees and asylum-seekers from 63 countries of origin**. Approximately 37 per cent of all refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt are children.

UNHCR Egypt is the **largest refugee status determination (RSD) operation globally**. Most refugees and asylum-seekers are in urban areas of Greater Cairo and on the North Coast.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, **UNHCR Egypt adapted delivery modalities of its activities**, while continuing to provide critical assistance and protection support.

## KEY INDICATORS

**11,182** families received monthly multi-purpose cash grants in the third quarter of 2021

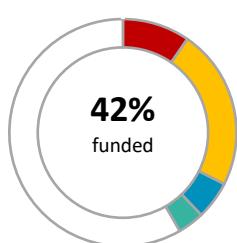
**4,134** unaccompanied and separated children are registered with UNHCR Egypt as of end of September 2021

**991** refugees departed to resettlement countries in 2021 as of end of September 2021

## FUNDING SITUATION (5 OCTOBER 2021)

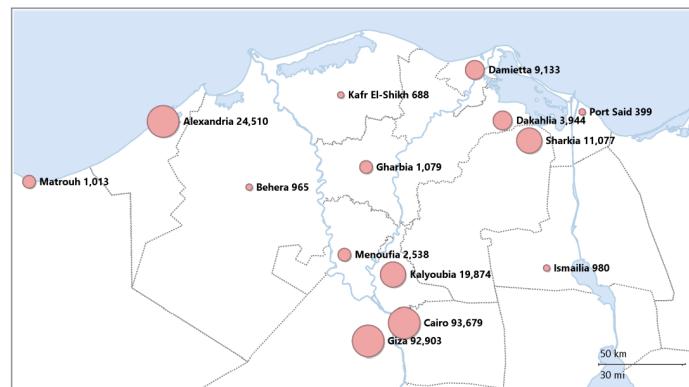
**USD 126.5 million**

requested for the Egypt operation in 2021



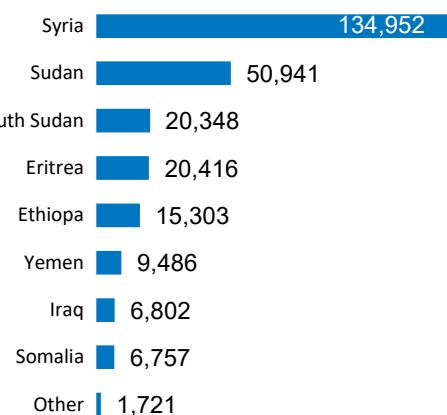
- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)

## REFUGEE AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS POPULATION IN EGYPT



## REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

### Countries of Origin



## Key Highlights

 For the second year and since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR has successfully advocated with Egypt's Ministry of Education to allow refugee school children without valid UNHCR documents or valid residency permits, to register in public and private schools supervised by the Ministry. In July 2021, the Minister of Education issued directives to all education offices across the country instructing them to register refugee children in schools regardless of the validity of their documents.

 In Q3, UNHCR mobilized additional resources to expand self-employment activities in the livelihoods sector with the aim to further mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on employment, and the ability of refugees to meet their basic needs. The expansion included beneficiaries in Cairo, Alexandria, Damietta and other governorates in the North Coast. The additional resources were also used to support new businesses that are already functioning but in need of expansion in terms of assets, capital and human resources.

 UNHCR health partners continue to support refugees and asylum-seekers who need help with the online registration process for the COVID-19 vaccination on the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) website. The main challenges faced by persons of concern (PoCs) are related to language barriers or challenges in accessing the internet. By September 2021, UNHCR health partners assisted a total of 376 PoCs to register on the MoHP website. Among them, 125 persons received the COVID-19 vaccine (21 received their first dose and 104 are fully vaccinated). The above figures are based on reports by UNHCR partners only as the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) only reports on national and non-nationals and therefore disaggregated data for refugees/asylum-seekers is not available.



Syrian refugee receiving the COVID vaccine.  
UNHCR/Salma Salem

Rerafat, a 59-year-old refugee from Syria, is one of more than 300 refugees and asylum-seekers across Egypt who have received the COVID vaccine, following the Government's national vaccine roll-out, prioritizing the elderly and individuals with chronic health conditions, including refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR.

*"I was reluctant at first but a few weeks after I recovered from a severe COVID infection that gravely affected my health and left me unemployed for a month, I registered myself and my entire family – there was no way I would survive another infection,"* Ziadeh explained. Their appointment was confirmed a few weeks later and in less than 30 minutes from their arrival in the vaccination centre in their neighbourhood, the couple had received their first inoculation free of charge.

In addition to the COVID vaccination national campaign, refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt are also included in other national health initiatives such as the "100 Million Seha" campaign that aims at detecting and eradicating Hepatitis C in Egypt by 2023; the national anti-polio campaigns targeting children aged up to five years of age; and more recently, the Government's early detection and rehabilitation of hearing deficit campaign rolled out in 1,346 health facilities across Egypt.



## PROTECTION

- During Q3, UNHCR Egypt continued to clear the registration backlog accumulated as a result of the COVID-19 safety measures. Between July and September 2021, 14,626 cases (29,406 individuals) were processed for various registration activities (total in 2021: 52,789 cases/121,200 individuals), including 1,144 cases (2,422 individuals) for new registration, 12,984 cases (25,662 individuals) for document renewal, and 498 cases (1,322 individuals) for other continuous registration interviews.
- Throughout 2021, 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.

- In Q3, **UNHCR provided legal support** to 230 refugees and asylum-seekers through legal partners (total in 2021: 820 of which 90 Syrians; and 730 of other nationalities). The legal support covers various services related to birth registration, representation before police and judicial authorities for incidents related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and other physical assaults, as well as family disputes.
- **UNHCR continues to conduct remote and in-person RSD interviews.** In Q3, 888 RSD interviews were conducted for asylum-seekers, comprising 1,564 individuals (total for 2021: 2,710 interviews/5,022 individuals). Furthermore, with appropriate social distancing and safety measures in place, 28 urgent in-person interviews were conducted with 70 individuals who were unable or unwilling to have their interviews conducted remotely. During this period, 826 RSD decisions were finalized, involving a total of 1,272 individuals (total for 2021: 3,156 decisions/5,246 individuals).
- During the reporting period, UNHCR continued to receive referrals for unregistered unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). In Q3, 230 UASC were registered after their referrals were fast-tracked given their urgent protection needs or heightened vulnerabilities. **As of 30 September 2021, 4,134 UASC were registered with UNHCR Egypt** (bringing the total for 2021 to 1,412, of which 58 Syrian and 1,354 from other nationalities).
- Throughout the reporting period, **essential child protection services remained functional with increasing physical presence at the UNHCR Offices and those of partners, to attend to all newly registering UASC, and urgent cases.** Best Interest Assessments (BIAs), case management, community mentorship, psychosocial support and counselling continue to be conducted through a blended approach: in-person and remote modalities while ensuring health and safety measures were applied systematically. Critical activities such as financial assistance for UASC remained in place, with eligible children receiving two-month assistance grants in one distribution. **In Q3, Best Interest Procedures (BIP) - encompassing BIAs and Best Interest Determinations (BIDs) – were conducted for 440 refugee and asylum-seeking children.** This includes BIPs for UASC as well as accompanied children facing abuse, neglect, violence, or exploitation (total in 2021 is 1,222, of which 52 Syrian and 1,170 from other nationalities).
- During the month of August 2021, UNHCR facilitated a training event jointly with the **National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), for the psychosocial and legal staff who work in the National Child Helpline.** The training focused on advanced child protection (CP) case management.
- UNHCR and partners confirm that survivors of **gender-based violence (GBV) continue to be affected by the limited access to sustainable livelihoods opportunities.** During Q3, UNHCR and partner responded to 466 survivors from different nationalities, while case management services were offered to 48 GBV survivors (total for 2021: 1,671). Housing assistance was provided to 184 individuals between Cairo and Alexandria (total for 2021: 683 individuals).
- In Q3, 607 refugees and asylum-seekers participated in **awareness-raising sessions covering early marriage, self-defense, basic psychosocial aid, sexual and reproductive health, as well as legal awareness sessions** (total in 2021: 2,347 individuals). Reports from these virtual sessions are indicative of the positive impact on participating women, men, girls, and boys. During the same period, **UNHCR conducted several GBV trainings**, aimed at raising awareness on the GBV referral pathways and case management guiding principles. UNHCR also organized a capacity building session for partner agencies, **with a focus on working with members of the LGBTIQ+ community.**
- In the third quarter of the year, **992 persons with specific needs (PSN) were assisted with case management** (total for 2021: 4,004 individuals). Additionally, 121 cases received follow up services through increased communication channels during COVID-19. **The communication outreach** consisted of 1,518 SMS messages by WhatsApp and 1,782 phone calls (697 Syrians and 1,085 non-Syrians).

- In Alexandria and the North Coast, identification of PSN continued to take place through referrals, virtual community meetings, and outreach. During the reporting period, 428 individuals were supported with rehabilitation sessions, assistive devices, medical equipment, counselling, and psychosocial support (total in 2021: 1,325 individuals).
- During the same period, 12 online support sessions were conducted targeting 105 elderly persons with special needs (54 men and 51 women) and their caregivers on psychological support (total in 2021: 38 social support sessions to 322 elderly and persons with disabilities and their care givers).

<b>29,406</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>992</b>
<b>Individuals processed for various registration activities</b>	<b>Refugees and asylum-seekers received legal support</b>	<b>RSD interviews conducted with asylum-seekers</b>	<b>Persons with specific needs assisted with case management</b>



## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- In the third quarter, UNHCR organized **11 thematic community meetings** to discuss topics such as Registration, Protection, Health, RSD, Education, Livelihood, and Infoline (total in 2021: 25 meetings). Each of these meetings were attended by approximately 40 community leaders and representatives from Cairo and Alexandria.
- UNHCR further trained 21 community leaders** (total in 2021: 103, of which 18 Syrians and 85 of other nationalities) **on community-based protection** and adaptability skills and attitudes during COVID-19.
- Additionally, **55 coaching sessions were provided to 50 community groups** and initiatives covering Cairo and Greater Cairo as part of the '**Community Empowerment and Mobilization Project**' implemented through UNHCR's partner (total in 2021: 166 coaching sessions to 36 community groups). The coaching sessions were designed to provide technical support to the groups that had attended the capacity building training in 2020.
- UNHCR continues to maintain **two-way communications and daily engagement with communities through mobile telephone messaging groups** with over 130 community leaders and conducted regular rounds of calls to receive updates from community leaders and check on community needs. The Office also continued to undertake **bimonthly live Q&A sessions on Facebook** for refugees and asylum-seekers. In Q3, five sessions were conducted focusing on Integrity (complaints and fraud), Child Protection, Education, Residency and Detention, and Education and Livelihood. The sessions reached a total of



Refugee youth at a sporting event organized by UNHCR partner Terres des Hommes (TdH). TdH/Haytham Mahgoub.

Topic	Reach	Views	Comments	Shares
<i>Integrity session (complaints &amp; fraud)</i>	35,800	16,300	1,046	61
<i>Child protection</i>	43,800	20,200	891	69
<i>Education</i>	59,700	26,100	789	152
<i>Residency issuance &amp; detention</i>	85,400	30,800	2,345	232
<i>Education &amp; livelihood grants</i>	56,450	27,300	1,492	107

120.7K views. UNHCR's sector experts and relevant partners addressed the issues most frequently raised by refugee communities through UNHCR Egypt's social media platforms.

- During the reporting period, **UNHCR conducted a rapid survey to collect data on Syrian new arrivals** to better understand trends and protection risks. In total, 30 new arrivals were interviewed by phone. The survey confirmed the increase in influx of Syrians coming to Egypt during 2021, particularly after the month of May 2021. The survey findings confirmed that young Syrian males between 17-30 years of age, which constitute a large group of these arrivals, leave their country of origin in order to avoid being drafted in the military, or due to the dire living conditions as a result of the war.
- In Alexandria, the **Agamy community centre** received 392 visitors during the reporting period (total for 2021: 769 individuals), while the **Damietta community centre** received 187 visitors (total for 2021: 644 individuals). Additionally, the Alexandria **refugee outreach volunteers (ROVs) team** continued to work on the identification of needs, referrals and implementation of virtual outreach services, in their respective communities. The ROVs continue to take part in information-sharing sessions on available services to the community, the changes in service modality due to COVID-19 and conducted awareness sessions on prevention of COVID-19. During Q3, ROVs in Alexandria conducted 65 sessions attended by 416 individuals (total for 2021: 157 sessions attended by 932 individuals).

**11**
**55**
**120.7K**
**579**

<b>Community meetings on various topics (on Registration, Protection, Health, RSD, etc.)</b>	<b>Coaching sessions provided to community groups in Cairo and Alexandria</b>	<b>Number of views on the bimonthly live Q&amp;A sessions on Facebook</b>	<b>Visitors to the Agami (Alexandria) and Damietta community centres</b>
--	---	---	--



## HEALTH

- UNHCR, through its NGO 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 continued to provide health services while strictly adhering to infection protection and control measures.
- UNHCR and partners continued to disseminate **COVID-19 prevention messages** to the refugee communities through physical meetings, social media, one-to-one consultations, community health volunteers, and phone calls.
- In Q3, UNHCR and partners continued to deliver **essential primary and life-saving emergency secondary health care services to POCs in Egypt**. A total of 13,848 primary health care consultations were provided to refugees and asylum-seekers (total in 2021: 51,025 individuals). Furthermore, 3,172 referrals to secondary and tertiary health care were made for refugees and asylum-seekers (total in 2021: 8,541 individuals). These referrals include life-threatening emergencies and treatment of patients with critical chronic medical conditions.
- During the reporting period, a total of **10,282 health promotion phone calls** were conducted replacing regular face to face awareness sessions and home visits, to educate and raise the awareness of beneficiaries on signs, symptoms, and transmission routes of COVID-19, as well as answer any questions raised by community members to address myths, rumors, and misinformation circulating in the community.



## EDUCATION

- During the reporting period, **29,537 students registered for the standard education grant for the academic year 2021-2022.** The composition of the student body is as follows: 13,793 Syrian students (6,982 boys and 6,811 girls), 284 Iraqi students (154 boys and 130 girls), 15,744 other nationalities (7,930 boys and 7,814 girls) as at end of September 2021. Of the other nationalities, 8,781 are Sudanese, 3,372 are South Sudanese, 2,227 are Eritreans, 374 are Somalis, 283 are Ethiopians, 520 are Yemenis, 55 are from other nationalities. Additionally, 174 Syrian students (111 boys and 63 girls) registered for the **special needs' education grant**, while 172 non-Syrian students (120 boys and 52 girls) registered for the same grant during the reporting period. Additionally, 156 students (81 boys, 75 girls) were interviewed by UNHCR's partner for the **education grant for separated children**. Of these, 48 interviews were conducted with students in Alexandria and Damietta.
- As part of the **DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative)** scholarship programme, 330 scholars (51% males and 49 % females) have been supported for the academic year 2020/2021. Out of the 330, 119 scholars graduated during the reporting period, while 13 scholars are expected to graduate in December 2021.

**13,848**

**Primary health care consultations**

**10,282**

**Heath promotion phone calls**

**29,537**

**Students registered for the education grant for the academic year 2021-2022.**

**119**

**Graduates of the DAFI tertiary education scholarship programme**



## BASIC NEEDS AND SELF-RELIANCE

- The total number of refugee and asylum-seeking families assisted with **multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA)** in September 2021 was 11,182 (40,029 individuals). MPCA is provided on a bimonthly basis through the Egypt Post Office to refugees and asylum-seekers that are found to be eligible according to their level of vulnerability deduced from the proxy-means testing method.
- During Q3, **the post-distribution monitoring for the MPCA programme was finalized.** A sample of 406 beneficiaries was interviewed, of whom 67 percent were Syrians and 33 percent were beneficiaries of other nationalities, namely: Sudanese, South-Sudanese, Eritrean, Somali and others. Almost half the respondents (46 percent) reported that the assistance enabled them to cover most, if not all, of their priority needs. According to multiple choice replies by beneficiaries, 68 percent spent their assistance on rent, 66 percent spent it on food and 34 percent spent it on healthcare, while 25 percent spent it on utilities or bills. Additionally, results show that cash assistance generally reduced the feelings of stress and financial burdens faced by families. However, 96 percent of all respondents reported resorting to at least one negative coping strategy such as reducing expenditures on other basic needs to purchase food, not paying rent to purchase food, and borrowing money from strangers to meet food needs.
- As part of the **ongoing process of targeting the refugees and asylum-seekers who are most in need, in Q3 UNHCR conducted vulnerability assessment interviews** with 5,506 households to determine eligibility and inclusion to various cash assistance programmes, including the upcoming winter assistance.
- In Q3, UNHCR Egypt continued to provide **Cash for Protection** to unaccompanied and separated children between the age of 15 and 18 years through the Egypt Post Office. During the reporting period, 1,734 UASC (1,566 cases) were supported with Cash for Protection following their Best

Interest Assessments. The assistance allows UASC to pay their rent, purchase food and meet other necessary costs when they arise, thus reducing the need to resort to negative coping mechanisms. The total number of UASC supported through the Egypt Post Office in 2021 is 22 Syrian children (20 cases) and 2,682 children of other nationalities (2,478 cases).

- UNHCR Egypt has been providing refugees and asylum-seekers with a **one-off multipurpose cash grant under the COVID-19 response since the beginning of the pandemic**. During Q3, 2,353 refugees and asylum-seeker families (7,895 individuals) received COVID-19 cash assistance grants. This brings the total number of families supported with the COVID-19 grant since the beginning of 2021 to 4,572 (14,944 individuals). During the same period, a **post-distribution monitoring exercise** was conducted with a sample of 193 beneficiaries of the one-off COVID-19 grant with positive findings. Of the surveyed beneficiaries, 77 per cent reported being able to cover most or all their priority needs, and 100 per cent said that the grant reduced the financial burden on their households and levels of stress, while also improving their living conditions. Most of the respondents reported being able to afford items or services that they were unable to afford prior to receiving the grant. Importantly, 64 percent reported that they were able to pay rent and avoid eviction. Finally, 42 per cent reported being able to provide their families with larger quantities of food, and 22 percent said they were able to cover better healthcare and medical services.

**1,734**
**7,895**
**40,029**
**4,060**
**UASC assisted with  
Protection Cash**
**Individuals assisted  
with COVID-19 cash**
**Individuals assisted  
with MPCA**
**Egypt Post Office  
cash collection  
points**


## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- During Q3, **991 refugees and asylum-seekers departed on resettlement from Egypt to seven countries** (total in 2021: 1,825). UNHCR also continued to implement in-person and remote interviewing and processing modalities to advance resettlement in Egypt.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR received self-referrals for voluntary repatriation from 8 cases (17 individuals). UNHCR continues to conduct focused discussions with refugees and asylum-seekers to gauge their future intentions.
- During the reporting period, 268 Syrian refugees, 83 Egyptians and 231 refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from capacity development programmes aimed at enhancing their **skills for livelihoods opportunities** (total in 2021: 462 Syrian refugees and 465 refugees and asylum-seekers from other nationalities). Also, 1,177 persons (611 Syrians, 39 Egyptians and 527 refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities) received **guidance and advise on strategies and approaches to maximize labour market opportunities** (total in 2021: 1,218 Syrian refugees, 107 Egyptians and 1,545 refugees and asylum-seekers from other nationalities). Finally, in Q3 a total of 51 persons (33 Syrians and 18 of other nationalities) were able to **start and/or expand their own business** (total in 2021: 59 Syrian refugees and 22 refugees and asylum-seekers from other nationalities). Additionally, 28 Syrians, 1 Egyptian and 103 refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities were **supported in establishing links with the labour market** (total in 2021: 49 Syrian refugees, 21 Egyptians and 297 refugees and asylum-seekers from other nationalities).



Sudanese bakery in Sidi Bishr, Alexandria. UNHCR/Pedro Gomes.

<b>911</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>8</b>
Refugees and asylum-seekers departed on resettlement	Received guidance on strategies to maximize labour market opportunities	Individuals supported to start and/or expand their own business	UNHCR specialized partners

## Working in Partnership

- In 2021, UNHCR cooperates with the Government of Egypt (GoE) through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation as well as other ministries and national entities. 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)

## Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount **to USD 52.7 M as of 5 October 2021.**

**UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided to the Egypt Operation by:** European Union | Germany | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Regional Development and Protection Programme for North Africa (RDDP NA) | Sawiris Foundation for Social Development | Vodafone Foundation | United Kingdom | United States of America | UNIQLO | other private donors

**Special thanks to major donors of unearmarked contributions:** Belgium | Denmark | France | Ireland | Norway | Private donors Italy | Private donors Japan | Private donors Republic of Korea | Private donors Sweden | Private donors United States of America | Sweden | Switzerland

## Contacts

### Public Information and External Relations Unit

[arecapi@unhcr.org](mailto:arecapi@unhcr.org)

### LINKS

Syria Regional Refugee Response: [data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria](http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria)

UNHCR Refugees & Migration Emergency Mediterranean Response: [data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/Mediterranean](http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/Mediterranean)



 [unhcr.org/eg](http://unhcr.org/eg)