

# Egypt

April - June 2019

As of 30 June 2019, **249,449 refugees and asylum-seekers from 57 countries of origin** were registered with UNHCR Egypt.

More than half of them are from Syria. **16,108 people** have so far **registered** with UNHCR Egypt in 2019.

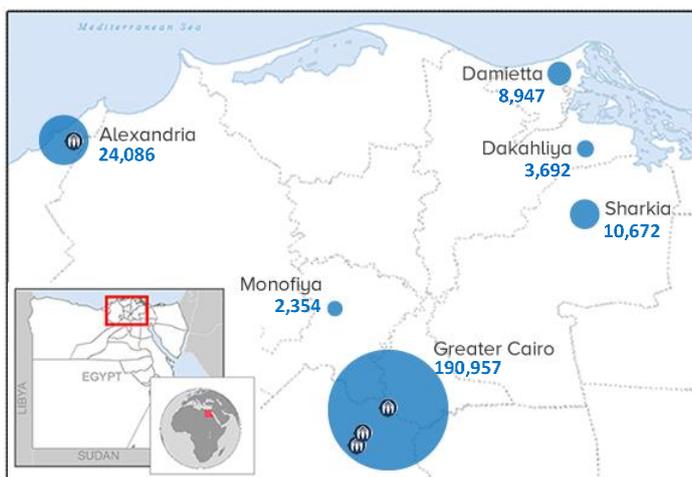
Most refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt live in the **urban areas** of Greater Cairo and the North Coast.

## KEY INDICATORS

**13,909** families received monthly multi-purpose cash grants

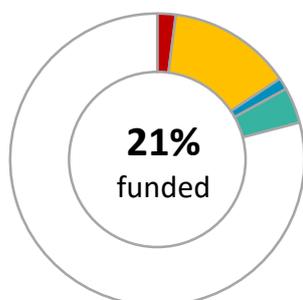
**3,945** unaccompanied and separated children were registered with UNHCR Egypt as of end of June 2019

**1,432** refugees departed to resettlement countries as of June 2019



## FUNDING SITUATION (AS OF 30 JULY 2019)

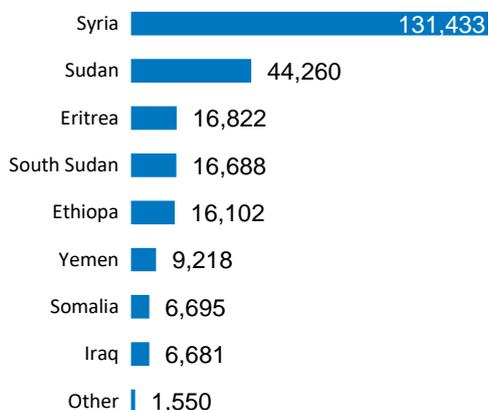
**USD \$104.2 million** requested for the Egypt operation in 2019



■ Tightly earmarked      ■ Earmarked  
■ Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)      ■ Unearmarked (indicative allocation)  
 Funding gap (indicative)

## REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

### Countries of Origin



## Highlights

Mr. Karim Atassi, UNHCR Representative, met on 16 April with Mrs. Hala Zaid, Minister of Health and Population, to discuss ways to **strengthen the existing cooperation** and to thank the Egyptian government for **providing health care to refugees**, free treatment of the virus and free polio vaccinations as well as early detection of dwarfism, obesity and anaemia. Opportunities for inclusion of refugees in the comprehensive health insurance system and in the initiative of the Ministry to detect breast cancer were also discussed.



*Minister Hala Zaid and UNHCR Representative Karim Atassi discuss ways to further strengthen cooperation*

UNHCR and the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, in collaboration with the League of Arab States and Sanremo International Institute of Humanitarian Law, organized a **training for trainers on statelessness and ways to reduce it** on 13 June in Tunisia.



*On 5 May, Save the Children in collaboration with UNHCR celebrated the World Health Day in Alexandria by organizing awareness sessions and recreational activities for children.*

In an effort to raise awareness on its mandate, scope of work and activities among young people in Egypt, UNHCR conducts briefing sessions for students in schools and universities. In April-June 2019, UNHCR presented its work worldwide and in Egypt to students participating in the **first Model United Nations** launched by the American Department of Kaumeya Language Schools and those attending the Political Science Department at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport in Alexandria.

Moreover, several activities for refugees and host communities to mark the World Health Day (5 May) and the Earth Day (23 April) were organized in Alexandria.

## World Refugee Day 2019



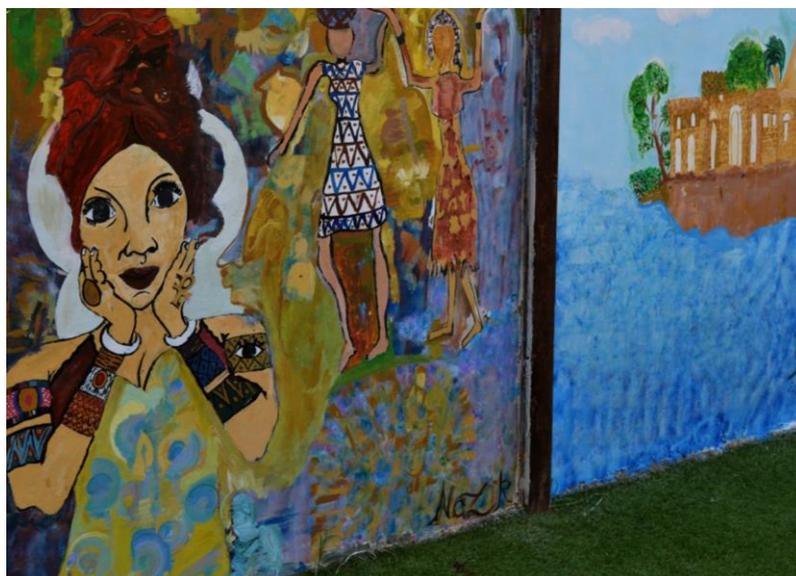
*A South Sudanese tribe performing a traditional dance during one of the World Refugee Day 2019 celebrations.*

On the week of June 20<sup>th</sup>, UNHCR in partnership with Terre des Hommes held **celebrations of World Refugee Day 2019 in four parts of Greater Cairo under the slogan “Different Cultures One Land”**. The events, which were attended by more than 2,500 participants from Sudanese, Syrian, Somali, Iraqi, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Yemeni and South Sudanese communities as well as host communities, featured bazaar marketplaces, song and dance performances, and a variety of activities that showcase the diversity within the refugee population.

On 19 June, **UNHCR and the British Embassy joined forces to honour the resilience of refugees and asylum-seekers** at a reception held at the British Ambassador’s residence in Cairo. The attendees included Egyptian government officials, representatives of donor countries, the diplomatic community, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, media, Egyptian civil society, businessmen and prominent figures who support refugees, including renowned Egyptian actresses and actors.

On 26 June, Caritas Egypt, in collaboration with UNHCR, organized a **day for persons with disabilities** in Saint Mark Centre in Nasr City to celebrate the World Refugee Day under the slogan **“You are not alone.”** Highlights of the day included training sessions for adults and recreational activities for children.

Moreover, UNHCR and Caritas Egypt organized two events in Damietta and in Alexandria on 26 and 27 June. The **celebration in Damietta** included several activities such as **choir singing, theatre show, bazaar, face paintings and storytelling for children**. In **Alexandria**, Caritas launched a call for refugee and Egyptian artists to renovate the walls of the Agamy Community Center through **paintings with themes related to life and identity of refugees**.



*Paintings on Agamy Community Center wall made by refugees.*

**PROTECTION**

- During the second quarter of 2019, UNHCR Egypt responded to **52,961 inquiries through phone calls** from refugees and asylum-seekers. In addition, **19,035 individuals were processed through UNHCR reception centres**, and **291 specialized protection interventions were undertaken**, including provision of extensive counselling, protection interviews, protection-based support, relocation and housing.
- From April to June 2019, 413 individuals (311 women, 63 girls, 25 men and 14 boys) reported **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** incidents to UNHCR and its partner CARE International in Cairo and Alexandria. In both locations, CARE International conducted a wide range of SGBV **prevention activities**, reaching 1,750 refugees and asylum-seekers. The activities included psycho-social and legal counselling, awareness about early marriage, as well as sexual reproductive health awareness sessions coupled with recreational and educational activities. Sessions were held at CARE's **Women Friendly Space** and targeted children and youth. In addition, self-defense workshops were offered for women and girls.
- As of June 2019, **3,945 UASC were registered** with UNHCR. A standardized **fast-track registration** process continued to ensure an early identification UASC. Best Interest Procedures (BIP) remained an integral part of UNHCR's child protection programming. **Community-based child protection mechanisms** involving trained community members were enhanced including targeted outreach and training in Cairo and the North Coast to promote early identification for cases of violence, including domestic violence affecting children and early marriage.
- In the second quarter of 2019, no irregular migration attempts via sea were reported. Meanwhile, **315 foreign nationals were arrested at the border with Libya** for attempting to irregularly cross, 48 of whom were found to be registered with UNHCR. The registered detainees were released after verification of their status with UNHCR by authorities.

**DURABLE SOLUTIONS**

- Between April and June 2019, **1,553 refugees were submitted for resettlement** to eight countries and **603 refugees departed to resettlement countries**. The main nationalities included Syrians, Sudanese, South Sudanese, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Somalis and Iraqis.
- Thus far in 2019, a total **2,778 refugees have been submitted for resettlement** to eleven different resettlement countries and **1,432 refugees have departed for resettlement** to eight different resettlement countries.
- In 2019, **Germany** will be the largest resettlement country receiving more than 1,200 refugees from Egypt, followed by **Canada** (900), **UK** (700), **Sweden** (400), **USA** (300), **Australia** (200), **France** (200), the **Netherlands** (175), and **Portugal** (170).

- **Voluntary Repatriation** in 2019 is facilitated for individuals choosing to voluntarily return to certain parts of Somalia and Ethiopia. Earlier in 2019, voluntary return to specific areas of Sudan was facilitated. However, given the situation in the country during the second quarter of 2019, facilitation was put on temporary hold.



## BASIC NEEDS AND SELF RELIANCE

- UNHCR delivers **monthly unconditional cash grants** to extremely vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in order to provide protection and assistance, and to avoid reliance on negative coping mechanisms. Between January-June 2019, UNHCR assisted **13,909 families** (comprising **58,629 refugees and asylum-seekers**) with monthly cash grants.
- During the first half of the year, **368 refugees and asylum-seekers** were provided with diverse **training for livelihood and economic inclusion** purposes by UNHCR's implementing partners in the livelihood sector. Since the beginning of the year, **facilitation to access the labour market** was provided to 1,071 refugees and 92 refugees were supported to **start and enlarge their businesses**.



## EDUCATION

- UNHCR conducted the **first round of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)** with the participation of **37 refugee students from different nationalities**. The TVET delivered were in different fields such as sewing (tailoring), cooking, make-up design, and electrical repairs. The selection for the second TVET cohort is ongoing.
- UNHCR organizes **language courses for the most vulnerable refugee children** to help them in daily communication and support their learning abilities. Currently, **50 refugee and asylum-seeking children attend English language classes**. Moreover, support classes on different school subjects have been attended by **76 Sudanese and South Sudanese students** enrolled in public education. Almost all the students who completed the courses passed the final examination.
- In May, 92 Sudanese and South Sudanese youth have started some **extracurricular activities** to learn about community support and cohesion through interactive methods. These activities aim at developing leadership skills of young people and are being conducted in Ain Shams and Nasr City, two areas with high concentration of refugees and volatile environment.
- The Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) is continuing its successful **Health and Safety (*Seha wi Salama*)** project in public schools to enhance the protection environment for children. Thus far, the project has been implemented in **22 schools and reached 2,200 students** from both the refugee and host community.
- The role of refugee parents and caregivers in the education of children is very important and UNHCR supports parents in this task. **Awareness raising sessions on several practical aspects related**

**to education in Egypt** (rights of children and caregivers in school; types of formal and informal education; how to report issues of concern; how to address challenges in school with their child; how to communicate effectively with school administrators, etc.) were organized for 57 refugee parents and caregivers mainly from Sudan, South Sudan, and Yemen.

- UNHCR continues supporting **349 DAFI** (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund) scholars enrolled in higher education. Moreover, **four refugee students** are completing their first academic year at the Egyptian-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) thanks to a scholarship funded by the Government of Japan.



## HEALTH

- By the end of June, 29,238 refugees and asylum-seekers from all nationalities were tested for **Hepatitis C** at designated Ministry of Health and Population testing sites. This was done in the frameworks of “**100 Million Health**” (*100 Million Seha*) campaign, which aims at detecting and eliminating Hepatitis C in Egypt by 2023. This campaign kicked off at a national scale in October 2018 and was extended to include refugees and asylum-seekers in March 2019.



## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- Caritas Alexandria, supported by UNHCR, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Egyptian employment agency Forasna for the purpose of **facilitating wage employment options** and job fairs. This will ensure that refugees can access their platform and the corresponding employers.
- Communicating with Communities:** UNHCR reached more than 450 refugees with information on the available services and support through 13 **outreach meetings**. Refugee volunteer workers also supported the **dissemination of information** to more than 1,000 refugees in Greater Cairo and Alexandria with special focus on targeting **new arrivals and highly vulnerable individuals**.



*Refugee youth of different nationalities working together on identifying barriers to effective communication across cultures.*

- Youth training on inter-cultural dialogue:** 15 refugee youth took part in a three-day workshop on identity awareness, cultural sensitivity, and the promotion of **cross-cultural understanding**. The training prompted participants to reflect on how cultural identities are forged, the role of perceptions, and the interplay between identity and displacement. At the end of the training, the participants agreed to undertake joint initiatives to promote inter-cultural dialogue among their peers.

- Social and recreational activities for persons with specific needs:** An event for Syrian persons with specific needs was organized on April 12th with the attendance of 251 individuals. Several game activities for children were organized by volunteers from the Egyptian Red Crescent. SETI also took part in the event to deliver sessions on the behavioral management of children targeting parents and caregivers of children with disability.



*A circus clown entertaining a girl living with cerebral palsy at the event.*



*Refugee girls playing volleyball at one of the Community Empowerment project's sports activities for youth.*

- Social and recreational activities for youth:** With a view towards supporting the physical and emotional well-being of refugee youth, 12 **sports days** were organized during the quarter with the participation of more than 300 refugee youth. These included soccer tournaments that pit teams of refugee youth from different nationalities against one another in a friendly competition as well as women-only events which afforded young refugee girls with safe spaces to practice volleyball and running.

- A number of **Ramadan Iftars** were organized to promote social harmony by bringing together refugee youth from diverse backgrounds around shared experiences. The Iftar evenings included **storytelling, folklore singing, and open discussions** among the youth on themes ranging from "Our Dreams", wherein youth talked about their hopes and aspirations for a better future, to "Creating Together", which spotlighted the value-add contribution of refugee youth to their own communities.

In **Alexandria**, the Bayoumi Charity Foundation in coordination with UNHCR's partner Caritas provided meals for a Ramadan Iftar at Agamy Community Center and Sidi Bishr Association which, in turn, invited vulnerable families of different nationalities, including Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The Iftar was attended by around 350 refugees and asylum seekers.



*350 refugees and asylum seekers of different nationalities gathered in Agamy Community Center and Sidi Bishr Association for an Iftar gathering*

## Working in partnership

- UNHCR works closely with the Government of Egypt, UN and NGO partners to provide protection and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees. The Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG), chaired by UNHCR, is the main interagency 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 which consists of Child Protection, Response to SGBV, and Durable Solutions. The other working groups are for Education, Health, Cash for Basic Needs, Livelihoods, and Communication with Communities.
- In 2019, UNHCR Egypt works through the following partners: All Saints' Cathedral • Arab Council Supporting Fair Trial & Human Rights (ACSFT) • CARE International • Caritas Egypt • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR) • Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) • Plan International • 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 **US\$ 21.8 million** as of 30 July 2019.

UNHCR is grateful to major donors of un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as donors and agencies who have contributed directly to UNHCR Egypt in 2019:

**Denmark | European Union | Regional Development and Protection Programme North Africa | Italy | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | UN Children Fund | United Kingdom | United States of America | Sweden | Switzerland | Private Donors**

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## LINKS

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

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

