

# LEGAL AID

NOVEMBER 2022

UNHCR provides Legal aid to support exercising the **right to access justice** and **civil documentation**. Lack of access to these fundamental rights may impede enjoyment of freedom of movement, regular public services, humanitarian aid and livelihoods. Although asylum-seekers and refugees can, by law, access the judicial system in Egypt. However, they continue to face serious challenges in accessing due process and state protection.

UNHCR's partners (the Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights- EFRR and the United lawyers- UL) provide legal aid, prioritizing the most vulnerable, such as GBV survivors and children.

Children born out of wedlock are at particular risk due to the current procedural framework in place in Egypt, which may place them at risk of statelessness. UNHCR has put in place an identification mechanism of cases foreseen to face challenges in **Birth Registration** through operational and implementing partners providing specialized services, such as pre-natal services, GBV response, child protection related services, as well as through awareness raising with the communities. Early identification is key.

For 2022, the majority of birth registration interventions is for early birth registration as opposed to previous years, which proves the identification tool is effective. A total of **422 birth certificates** have been issued this year through legal assistance as opposed to 308 last year, marking a considerable increase. Migration detention occurs in two ways: when refugees and asylum-seekers are found to be without valid residency documents and are being detained for violation to legal stay, or when they are apprehended in irregular movements at entry or exit points.

## KEY FIGURES



**2,795** persons received legal counselling and aid in 2022



**422** birth certificates issued in 2022



**904** advocacy letters



**2** legal partners (EFRR & UL)



Legal aid includes legal counselling, filing of police reports and legal representation before various judicial and administrative bodies. **As of 30 November 2022**, a total of **1,190 referrals** were made to UNHCR's legal partners related to detention, civil and family status, and access to basic rights including access to justice and due process of law. In addition, UNHCR and partners provide **outreach legal aid services**, during which refugee and asylum seekers benefit from legal advice, and also those in need for representation before the court are identified and properly assisted. The outreach legal aid includes session for GBV survivors, in coordination with UNHCR Partner CARE. **As of 30 November 2022**, a total of **1,605 persons** have benefited from legal counselling during outreach legal aid services.