

CHILD PROTECTION

NOVEMBER 2022

Overview

UNHCR Child Protection (CP) programming focuses on children at risk of abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation. Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) remain one of the key vulnerable groups of refugee children. UNHCR and partners provide child protection case management and other response services, coordinated through the Child Protection Sub-Working Group (CPSWG), co-chaired with UNICEF. The CPSWG has established SOPs and referral pathways among all partners. UNHCR's two CP implementing partners, Caritas and Save the Children, provide the bulk of these services, including best interest assessments, case management, and referral to needed support, including UNHCR monthly cash assistance, PSS, education, etc. In addition, UNHCR and its partners have set up family-based alternative care arrangements for the most vulnerable children. In addition to direct CP service provision, UNHCR engages closely with national counterparts to advocate for the inclusion of refugee children into national CP services. UNHCR is working with Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) to ensure that refugee children are considered in the draft national Alternative Care law. Furthermore, UNHCR works with UNICEF and IOM to support Government counterparts with the roll-out of the Children on the Move SOPs on protection-sensitive entry procedures.

Current Figures

As of 31 October 2022, a total of 4,686 UASC were registered by UNHCR in Egypt. 3,367 are UAC (72%), and 1,319 are SC (28%).

Some 957 unregistered UAC and vulnerable SC have registration appointments scheduled between now and 24 January 2023. UNHCR continues to prioritize UASC registration, and the number of pending UASC registration is now 12 per cent lower than the previous month.

Key challenges and unmet needs

Case management coverage: Currently, there are 2,648 unaccompanied and separated children under case management by UNHCR's implementing and operational partners. This represents only 57 percent of the total number of UASC in Egypt, as UNHCR and partners lack sufficient resources to ensure full case management coverage for children-at-risk in line with international standards. This leaves a large number of UASC without close follow-up and needed CP services.

Transition to adulthood: UASC approaching the age of 18 face numerous challenges and protection risks. Therefore, UNHCR has established a transition to adulthood programme with Save the Children to provide this group with essential life skills, referrals to livelihoods services, and transitional case planning.

KEY FIGURES



109,638 children registered as of 31 October 2022



4,686 UASC registered as of 31 October 2022



216 UASC newly registered by UNHCR in October 2022 (**1,971** newly registered so far in 2022)



1,597 BIPs conducted for children at risk in 2022 by UNHCR's partners



2,769 UASC receiving best-interest-based cash assistance from UNHCR



57% of UASC are under case management



UNHCR CP unit responded to **2,581** CP-related email inquiries in 2022

Registered UASC by Nationality as of 31 October 2022

