

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER 2022

Overview

Education is a vital aspect of the work undertaken by UNHCR. Instrumental to fostering social cohesion, education strengthens community resilience and empowers refugees by giving them the knowledge and skills to lead productive, fulfilling and independent lives. Education also provides for the 'human capital' needed for the future reconstruction and economic development of areas of origin or settlement.

Egypt's predominantly young refugee population, 33.5 per cent of whom range in age from 3 to 17, is in dire need of adequate education services. To address those needs, UNHCR advocates for the enrolment of refugees and asylum-seekers in public schools. Currently, Syrian, Sudanese, South Sudanese and Yemeni nationals have access to the public system on par with Egyptians. In parallel and based on the needs identified by GOE, UNHCR provides training for teachers, supports the refurbishment of schools and supply of equipment, furniture, and other necessities to assist the Egyptian facilities in absorbing the refugee population. Moreover, UNHCR provides education grants to contribute to school fees, school uniforms, books, stationery and transportation.

Instant Network Schools

The Instant Network Schools (INS) project addresses refugees' education resource needs by effectively transforming classrooms into multimedia hubs. Established in 2013, INS provides young refugees, host communities and their teachers with access to digital tools and resources, content aligned with local curriculum, internet connectivity and robust teacher training and support. UNHCR co-develops each INS location with school leaders, local education ministries, community leaders and teachers to ensure student success. In Egypt, the project is implemented in 30 secondary public schools in the Greater Cairo area in close partnership with the Ministry of Education.

DAFI Scholarships

Higher education is a priority for UNHCR, as outlined in Education 2030: A Strategy for Refugee Education, forming an integral part of UNHCR's protection and solutions mandate. The DAFI scholarship programme constitutes one of the five core pillars of the strategy to achieve 15 per cent enrolment of young refugee women and men in higher education by the year 2030 – the 15by30 Roadmap.

The scholarship programme offers qualified refugee and returnee students the possibility to earn an undergraduate degree in their country of asylum or home country. It also offers training sessions and workshops to its scholars, preparing them for the job market. In the 2021/2022 academic year, more than 7200 refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from the programme in Egypt.

KEY FIGURES



36,563 school students received education grants as of 31 October 2022



30 public schools are part of the Instant School Networks project as of 31 October 2022



400 refugee youth were supported to continue their higher education



429 differently-abled children enrolled in schools



638 UASC enrolled in schools

Key Achievements

- Refugee enrolment rate reached approximately 89% for the 2021/2022 academic year
- 101 UASC youth have completed their TVET courses in the following fields: culinary art, maintenance, car mechanics, hairdressing, and sewing
- 2,300 refugee students are enrolled in public universities bringing the total number of students to approximately 11,200 in all grades for all universities across Egypt for 2021/2022 academic year
- DAFI Scholarship served 523 scholars with 119 graduated for the 2021/2022 academic year

Challenges

Refugee children and their families face some difficulties enrolling in schools including:

- Dropping out of school before coming to Egypt due to insecurity, closure of their schools or displacement from their country of origin
- Poor educational support capacities at home coupled with few opportunities to receive remedial education
- Economic constraints, as they are compelled to enter the labour force to support themselves and possibly contribute to or provide for their family's basic needs
- Inability to provide proper documentation to enrol in schools

Priorities for 2023

- Improve the learning environment in primary schools through material support and staff training
- Mainstream all refugee children and youth into the Egyptian National Education System
- Support children living with disability and unaccompanied and separated children to access relevant educational opportunities that meet their needs
- Strengthen protection mechanisms in education facilities through community engagement and the establishment of Parents-Teachers Associations
- Enhance access to TVET and tertiary education opportunities for youth through partnerships with the ministries of education and higher education, public and private universities, local NGOs
- Expand the DAFI scholarship scheme