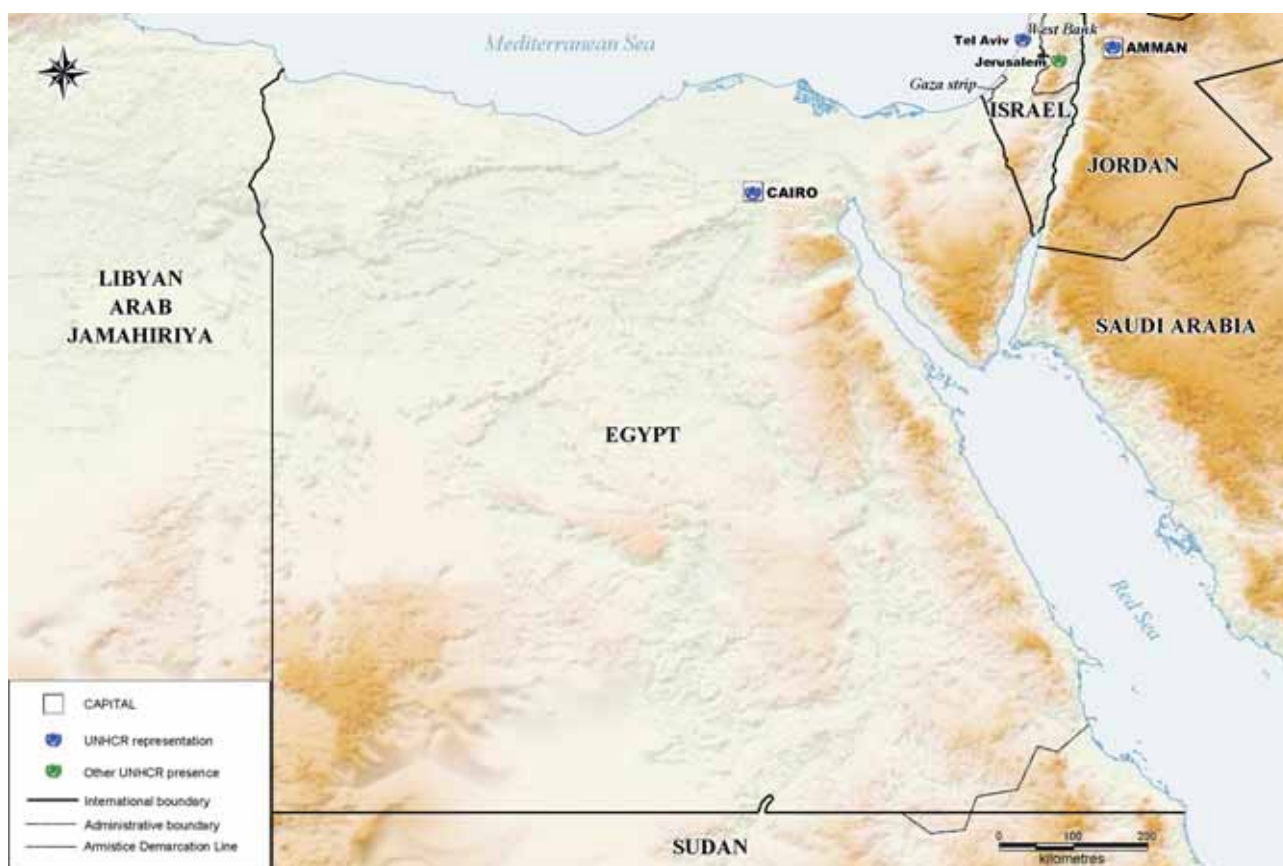


# Egypt



## Working environment

### The context

Egypt has a large number of urban refugees, most concentrated in Cairo and Alexandria. The country is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1969 OAU Convention governing specific aspects of refugees in Africa. However, as it lacks a national asylum system, UNHCR conducts registration, refugee status determination (RSD) and provides documentation and assistance.

At the end of 2005 only some 250 Iraqis were registered with UNHCR in Egypt. By the end of 2006, that number had gone up to 3,000 and by September 2007 some 10,000 Iraqis were registered with UNHCR. Today they constitute approximately 18 per cent of the overall UNHCR caseload in Egypt.

It is anticipated that by the end of 2007 some 51,000 people of concern to UNHCR (32,000 Sudanese, 12,000 Iraqis, 5,000 Somalis and 2,000 others) will be living in urban areas in Egypt while awaiting durable solutions. In addition, some 80 stateless persons of Armenian origin, all aged between 75 and 90 years, will be supported with UNHCR's assistance.

### The needs

Participatory assessments reveal that refugees in Egypt need more information about their rights and obligations. In addition, refugees express the wish to have access to employment, vocational training, Arabic-language courses, education and health care. An estimated 10,000 refugees, some 20 per cent of the refugee population, are unable to meet their minimum survival needs on their own.

The majority of refugees in Egypt live in Cairo, a sprawling metropolis of more than 17 million inhabitants. Difficult living conditions, insufficient educational facilities, lack of a health-insurance system and a shortage of housing are some of the challenges they face.

For the Sudanese, the largest and longest-staying refugee group in Egypt, the slow pace of development in Southern Sudan means that it will be years before their voluntary repatriation from Egypt will be completed. UNHCR expects to assist up to 2,500 Sudanese refugees wishing to return home voluntarily in 2008 and 2009.

## Total requirements

2008: USD 5,077,166

2009: USD 5,126,616

(Annual programme and the Joint Education Appeal for Iraqi refugees only. Financial requirements for the supplementary programme for the Iraq Situation are being finalized.)

## Main objectives

- Provide international protection to all persons of concern to UNHCR through registration, documentation and RSD; identify persons with special needs.
- Promote the civil, social and economic rights of persons of concern to UNHCR in Egypt and improve their access to public health and education services.
- Facilitate voluntary repatriation, based on informed decisions, of persons of concern to UNHCR in Egypt, with particular attention to Sudanese.
- Strengthen local partnerships in protection and durable solutions, and persuade development actors to include persons of concern to UNHCR in their programmes in urban areas.
- Use resettlement as a protection tool to help those whose needs cannot be addressed in Egypt.

### Key targets for 2008-2009

- At least 70 per cent of refugee and asylum-seeker students relying on UNHCR grants have access to, and are enrolled in school.
- All refugee women of reproductive age in need of sanitary materials receive them.
- Refugees avail themselves of primary health care in two public hospitals in the refugee-populated areas. The number of persons of concern relying on Caritas medical services for primary and secondary care is reduced.
- Some 5,000 refugees return to Sudan during 2008-2009 as conditions improve in the south of the country.
- Some 550 resettlement cases are submitted in 2008 and another 750 in 2009 to potential resettlement countries.
- Twelve workshops on refugee protection/law target 360 relevant officials (police, immigration officers and judges). Refugee law courses are conducted in two local universities

## Strategy and activities

UNHCR will continue registration, documentation and RSD work in Egypt in 2008-2009. It will increase its capacity and reduce the waiting period for registration, improve its database, and identify cases with specific needs. Referral mechanisms for medical assistance, psychosocial services and resettlement will be strengthened. New and more secure documentation will be issued to all asylum-seekers and refugees.

The Office will also — in close coordination with the authorities and legal partners such as legal bar associations — strengthen the capacity of relevant organizations to intervene in cases where asylum-seekers have been detained and provide legal representation to all persons of concern.

UNHCR aims to increase access to public health services and education for refugees in Egypt, and will maintain close links with relevant ministries and seek support from other UN agencies. The Office will support two public hospitals in 2008 and one in 2009. It will work with the Ministry of Education to enhance the capacity of public schools. Four formal community-based schools providing education for more than 6,000 refugee children will benefit from UNHCR assistance.

Refugees with specific needs or in an emergency situation will receive targeted assistance.

In 2008 and 2009, UNHCR will expand referral and support networks with new partners in Egypt. In this respect, the Office will support eight community centres in 2008 and ten in 2009. The Iraqi refugee community in particular has been encouraged to develop its own community structures.

UNHCR will strengthen operational partnerships in 2008-2009. It will train diverse groups on refugee issues, including the media, academia, lawyers, judges and the League of Arab States Secretariat. The Office will reinforce its ties with other UN agencies and programmes in the areas of health (WHO), education (UNICEF), employment (ILO) as well as HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS).

### Constraints

Unemployment, limited access to health care, high housing costs and difficulties in integrating refugees into development programmes remain among UNHCR's biggest challenges in Egypt. With many other socio-economic problems Egypt must surmount, developing an asylum system may not be a high priority.



UNHCR/R. Al Hassan

Refugee children play ball at a summer school near Cairo.

## Organization and implementation

### UNHCR presence

	2008	2009
Number of offices	1	1
Total staff	63	65
International	7	7
National	31	33
UNVs	23	23
JPOs	2	2

### Coordination

UNHCR will engage with government authorities and seek technical support from other UN agencies (e.g. UNICEF, WFP, UNAIDS and WHO.) The Office will have regular consultations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, namely its Refugee Affairs Department, in developing Egypt's asylum policies and practices.

The Office will also cooperate with the law and social science faculties of national universities in Cairo as well as with lawyers' organizations, the National Center for Judicial Studies and NGOs.

### Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2008		Dec 2008 / Jan 2009		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Iraq	19,250	19,250	23,000	23,000	25,000	25,000
	Sudan	11,000	11,000	9,000	9,000	7,000	7,000
	Somalia	5,000	5,000	5,500	5,500	6,000	6,000
	Various	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Asylum-seekers	Sudan	12,200	12,200	11,700	11,700	10,200	10,200
Stateless Persons	Iraq	500	500	100	100	-	-
		80	80	70	70	70	70
<b>Total</b>		<b>50,030</b>	<b>50,030</b>	<b>51,370</b>	<b>51,370</b>	<b>50,270</b>	<b>50,270</b>



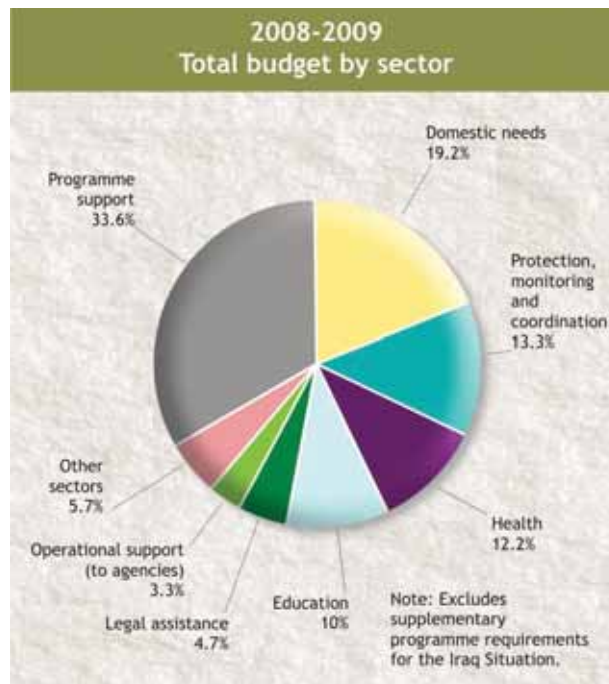
## Partners

### Operational partners

**Government:** *Refugee Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

### Implementing partners:

**NGOs:** *Association for Human Rights Legal Aid (AHRLA) and Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA), CARITAS, Relief Service, community-based organizations, Refuge Egypt.*



## Budget (USD)

Activities and services	2007			2008			2009
	Annual Programme Budget	Supp. Programme Budget	Total	Annual Programme Budget	Supp. Programme Budget <sup>1</sup>	Total	Annual Programme Budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	753,549	170,937	924,486	677,543	0	677,543	684,495
Community services	44,621	89,873	134,494	112,276	0	112,276	112,276
Domestic needs	795,396	246,046	1,041,442	930,458	0	930,458	1,029,669
Education	320,865	1,325,039	1,645,904	472,711	75,000	547,711	472,711
Health	274,713	617,340	892,053	518,451	0	518,451	518,451
Income Generation	18,880	87,920	106,800	171,127	0	171,127	153,521
Legal assistance	195,234	301,913	497,147	239,177	0	239,177	243,402
Operational support (to agencies)	134,523	101,315	235,838	159,471	0	159,471	173,641
Transport and logistics	18,123	250,000	268,123	15,704	0	15,704	15,704
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>2,555,902</b>	<b>3,190,383</b>	<b>5,746,285</b>	<b>3,296,918</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>3,371,918</b>	<b>3,403,870</b>
Programme support	1,738,454	0	1,738,454	1,705,248	0	1,705,248	1,722,746
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,294,356</b>	<b>3,190,383</b>	<b>7,484,739</b>	<b>5,002,166</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>5,077,166</b>	<b>5,126,616</b>

<sup>1</sup> The 2008 Supplementary Programme Budget refers to the supplementary programme for providing education opportunities to Iraqi children in host countries. The total requirements are shown under the Iraq Situation chapter.

Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget excludes a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.