

Egypt

January - February 2018

Egypt remains a **destination and transit country** for refugees and asylum-seekers, most of which live in **urban areas**.

Currently, **223,859 refugees and asylum-seekers of 56 different nationalities** are registered with UNHCR Egypt. More than half of them are from Syria.

5,065 people registered with UNHCR Egypt **in January and February 2018**, 3,627 of whom arrived to Egypt within the last 12 months.

KEY INDICATORS

120,867

refugees and asylum-seekers were targeted for winterization grants in the winter of 2017/2018

3,576

unaccompanied and separated children are currently registered with UNHCR Egypt

285

refugees departed to resettlement countries in 2018

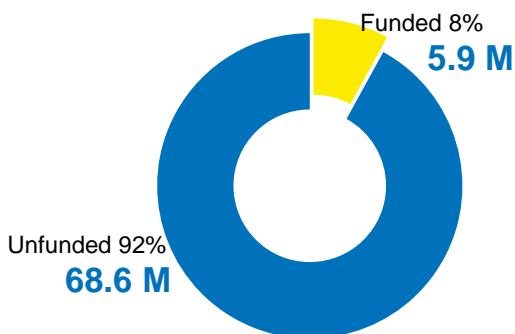


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FUNDING (AS OF MARCH 2018)

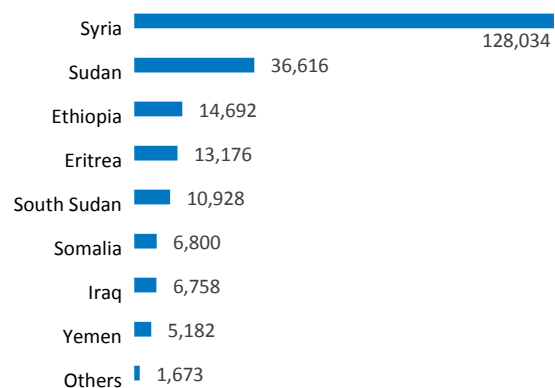
USD 74.5 M

requested for the Egypt operation



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



Updates

Four year anniversary of the UNHCR field office in Alexandria

In early 2014, a rapidly growing number of Syrian refugees arriving in Egypt led UNHCR to open a field office in Alexandria. For the past four years, this field office has been serving the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers in **eight governorates of Egypt's north coast** and has thereby been responsible for about 18 per cent of the total population of concern to UNHCR in Egypt. More than 90 per cent of the 29,770 refugees and asylum-seekers residing in the north coast area are Syrians.

In close cooperation with partner agencies, the UNHCR field office works to provide protection and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers. While the registration and counselling activities take place at the UNHCR premises in Alexandria, the team also conducts **mobile missions to reach out to refugees and asylum-seekers in remote areas** in order to register them and address their needs and concerns. Together with the country office in Cairo, the field office supports refugees' access to basic services such as education and health care.



UNHCR staffer handing a Syrian family their documents at the reception area of the field office in Alexandria. ©UNHCR Egypt/Scott Nelson

As a way to empower refugees and promote their resilience, the Alexandria field office **collaborates with refugee and host communities** on the north coast in organizing joint events and activities for members of both communities. Community centers in Agamy and Damietta provide refugees and asylum-seekers with a **safe space where people of different nationalities and age groups can meet** and participate in a variety of activities.

UNHCR's emergency response to those who have been intercepted in **mixed migration movement** remains one of the main priorities of the field office in Alexandria. UNHCR coordinates with other international and national organizations to deliver **food, non-food items, and medical and psychosocial assistance to registered asylum-seekers and refugees in detention.**

Achievements



PROTECTION

- In February, UNHCR Egypt conducted its **annual Participatory Assessment** in Greater Cairo and Egypt's north coast. In **91 focus group discussions**, UNHCR and partners' staff listened to the views of **748 women, men, girls and boys of different nationalities**. This year's consultations focussed on a wide array of topics, including registration, refugee status determination, education, health, cash-based interventions, livelihood, communication and resettlement.

During the focus group discussions, refugees and asylum-seekers talked about the difficulties they face, explained how they cope with challenges, and suggested ideas and solutions to be implemented by UNHCR and the refugee community. These discussions **guide UNHCR's programme implementation in 2018 and planning for 2019**.



Women, men, girls and boys of different nationalities during focus group discussions of the Participatory Assessment. ©UNHCR Egypt/Christine Beshay

- In light of **continuously increasing numbers of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)** arriving to Egypt, UNHCR has been leading the efforts of humanitarian partners to systematically discuss the rising need of unregistered unaccompanied children, identify gaps and address challenges.

Subsequently, the Child Protection Sub-Working Group developed and disseminated a **service flyer with child-friendly illustrations for unregistered unaccompanied children** in all predominant languages including Tigrinya, Amharic, Oromo, Somali, Tigre, Arabic and English to help those children to easily access available services. The Child Protection Sub-Working Group is chaired by UNHCR together with UNICEF, with monthly sessions held in Cairo and Alexandria.

- In January and February, UNHCR Egypt and partner staff conducted a total of **179 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs)**. This ensured the identification of protection risks and needs of vulnerable children, and the necessary **referrals and follow-up for them to access the required services**. In 2018, Save the Children International (SCI) and Caritas Egypt implement child protection interventions on behalf of UNHCR. The UNHCR team has been supporting Caritas to set up a full case management program for unaccompanied children with heightened protection risk, including those below the age of 15 years and children exposed to abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. SCI supports unaccompanied children aged 15 years and above with mentorship or psycho-social support programmes.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- In January, **UNHCR and UNICEF finalized the joint 2017/2018 winter assistance programme**. During the winter months, 120,867 vulnerable refugees could pick up a one-off unconditional cash assistance of USD 34 per person at post offices or ATMs across the country.

- From 9 to 13 February, the **NilFurat** project participated in the **international consumer good fair 'ambiente'** in Frankfurt, Germany, together with refugee initiatives from nine other countries. This was part of a new global initiative by UNHCR and partners, which was designed to link refugee artisans with markets. **Made51** – Market Access, Design and Empowerment of refugee artisans – showcased the product collection from ten countries through branding and a joint marketing platform. NilFurat is a UNHCR initiative



Participants of the NilFurat project selling their handicrafts in Cairo ©Nilfurat

bringing together economically vulnerable Egyptian women with refugees from Syria, Eritrea, and Ethiopia to make high quality handicrafts.

- In Alexandria UNHCR continued to support the **Agamy Community Centre** through Caritas



Children during self-defence workshop at Agamy Community Centre in January ©UNHCR Egypt

Egypt. On a monthly basis, the centre serves several hundred refugees and asylum-seekers through its activities and information desks. Initiatives in January and February included **self-defence classes for children, workshops on income-generating activities, and recreational classes**. The centre also started to increase its outreach to **older people and people living with disabilities**, and now offers a variety of activities that are customized to their needs.



EDUCATION

- During the first two months of 2018, the 'Sehha W Salama' ('Health and Safety') project reached **40 schools attended by Egyptian and refugee children**. This initiative aims to promote a culture of peace and non-violent conflict resolution and to improve the protection space for all children in public schools. Students are familiarized with the concepts and culture of prevention, preparedness and risk reduction, in addition to healthy eating habits and protection of the environment. UNHCR implements 'Sehha W Salama' in partnership with the Egyptian Red Crescent and the Ministry of Education.



Students in school in Cairo. ©UNHCR Egypt/ S.Nelson



HEALTH

- On 22 January, the members of the Development Partner Group (DPG), including the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNHCR, other aid and development organizations, and donors, discussed the **new national social and health insurance scheme** during a meeting of the DPG thematic working group on health. UNHCR seized this opportunity to again **advocate for the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers into the insurance scheme**, which will be gradually introduced by the Egyptian government.



DURABLE SOLUTION

- In January and February, UNHCR Egypt submitted a total of 344 refugees to third countries for resettlement consideration and **285 refugees departed for resettlement** to Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America, Australia and Sweden.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR works closely with the Government of Egypt and its UN and NGO partners to provide protection and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees. The Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) led by UNHCR is the main coordination mechanism for the refugee response and oversees six sectorial working groups: Communication with Communities, Protection, Health, Education, Livelihoods, and Basic Needs and Cash-Based Interventions. The Protection Working Group has two sub-working groups which focus on Child Protection and response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).
- In 2018, UNHCR Egypt works through the following partners: Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trials (ACSFT) • CARE International • Caritas Egypt • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Dr Mostafa Mahmoud Society • Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR) • Egyptian Red Crescent Society • Plan International • Save the Children International (SCI) • Terre des Hommes (TdH) - Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) • United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) • United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

Financial Information



Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **US\$ 5.9 million** in 2018, including **US\$ 2.3 million** for the Syria situation.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by **Italy, the Netherlands, the European Union, Canada** and **Japan** who have contributed to this operation and those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Priv Donors Spain (13 M) | Italy (11 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Algeria | Argentina | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Estonia | Finland | Germany | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

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LINKS

Syria Regional Refugee Response: data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php
UNHCR Refugees & Migration Emergency Mediterranean Response:
<http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

