



Social Affairs Sector  
Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department



**UNHCR**

UN High Commissioner for Refugees  
المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين

**World Refugee Day 2021**

**اليوم العالمي للاجئين ٢٠٢١**



In light of the unprecedented increase in the number of refugees in the Arab region since 2011, hosting nearly half of the total refugees worldwide, and with the continuation of the refugee crisis and the suffering of millions of refugees, especially in light of Covid-19 pandemic, the League of Arab States is working to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in order to protect refugees and ensure the provision of services, aid and humanitarian assistance to them, believing in the importance of concerted efforts to deal with the refugee crisis and realizing that a durable solution for refugees cannot be achieved without regional and international cooperation. The League of Arab States and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees are working to implement joint strategic goals and priorities within the framework of implementing the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two organizations, and which represents a framework for partnership that outlines areas of common priority.

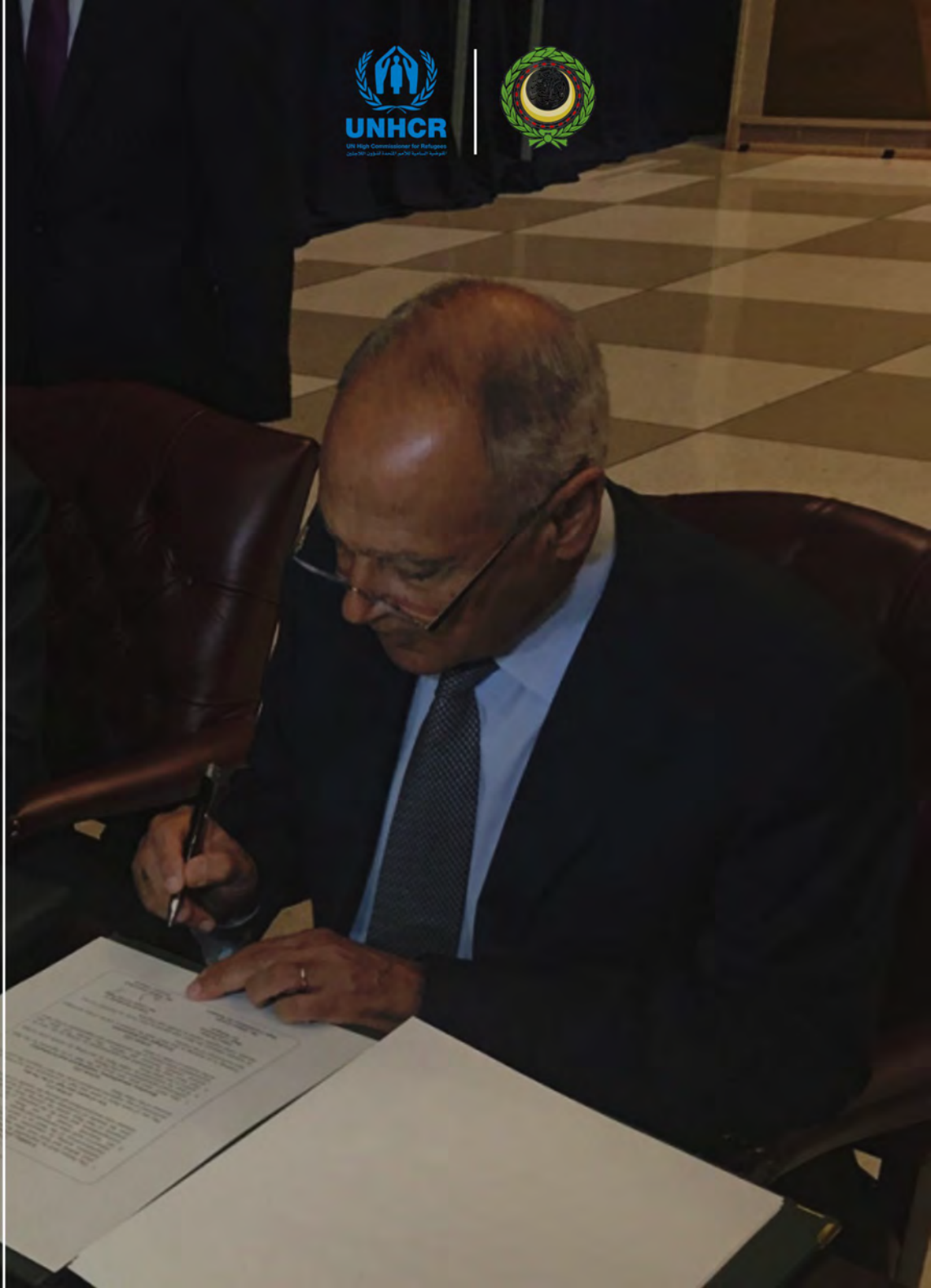
**Ambassador Haifa Abu Ghazaleh**  
Assistant Secretary General,  
Head of Social Affairs Sector



The two organizations are keen on increasing the effectiveness of responding to the refugee needs and expanding the scope of cooperation to include all categories of refugees, including the most vulnerable groups of women and children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and to ensure their access to public health services in the context of asylum in the Arab region, as well as to support their right to education and their inclusion into national education systems. Training and capacity building constituted a major pillar of the partnership, which contributed to raising awareness and enhancing the skills of government officials in Arab countries to address the refugee issues. Cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will remain an important tool for advocating refugee issues and mobilizing support for them through implementing and launching new future initiatives that will benefit both refugees and their host communities.

**Mr. Karim Atassi**  
UNHCR Representative  
to the Arab Republic of Egypt  
and to the League of Arab States

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING





The Arab Region alone hosts almost half of the refugee population and more than 60% of the total forcibly displaced persons worldwide. Tense security conditions, coupled with political unrest, in many parts of the Arab region remain a major challenge. On another note, several countries in the region have become important transit points along the irregular migratory routes used by refugees and migrants in “Mixed Movement Flows.”

As part of enhancing the partnership, UNHCR and League of Arab States updated the Memorandum of Understanding that was previously signed in the year 2000. Represented by Mr. Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR and the League of Arab States, Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, both signed on 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 in New York, a new Memorandum of Understanding with the aim of strengthening mutual cooperation, where the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, together with the Secretariat of League of Arab States, supports the broadening of the protection granted to refugees and in general UNHCR Persons of Concern.

The Memorandum of Understanding aims at establishing a cooperation framework covering the areas of joint action and related interests at the regional and national levels in accordance with current developments to ensure complementarity of efforts and more effective response to the needs of refugees in the Arab region and to facilitate humanitarian access and humanitarian response in emergencies, as well as facilitating cooperation among the General Secretariat and UNHCR in agreed areas.

These areas include the development of protection policies, technical cooperation, capacity-building, and exchange of information and analysis, particularly those related to protection challenges. They also include the promotion and protection of refugee rights within the Arab Specialized Ministerial Councils to support the formulation of regional strategies and conventions on the rights of refugees and persons at risk of statelessness, and to address all forms of violence.



# GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES AND THE COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK





In preparation of the UNGA High Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, UNHCR in collaboration with LAS organized an extraordinary meeting for the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugees Affairs (ARCP) at its Headquarters in Cairo, on 2- 3 August 2016 with the aim of enhancing the regional dialogue and unifying the Arab position towards the topics discussed in the UNGA High-Level Meeting and to maximize the input and contribution of the Arab States for the thematic roundtables of the meeting.

The meeting aimed at coordinating and unifying the Arab position about the themes discussed at the High Level Meeting which included: addressing the root causes of refugee' large movements; addressing drivers of migration particularly large movements and highlighting the positive contributions of migrants; the international action and cooperation on refugees, migrants and related issues of displacement: the way forward; the Global Compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees and respect for the international law.

Another extraordinary meeting for the ARCP was held on 25 - 26 July 2017 at LAS Headquarters in Cairo, in preparation for the consultations prior to the GCR adoption by the UNGA. The meeting was organized in cooperation between UNHCR and LAS in the framework of ensuring the active participation of LAS Member States in the consultations of the Global Compact on Refugees and encourage their diplomatic missions in New York and Geneva to coordinate internally in this regard. The meeting aimed at raising the awareness of LAS Member States on the preparatory process to develop the GCR, and to agree on the key messages that reflect the region's priorities and that the Arab region is keen to include in the Global Compact, to be presented in all the forums held for this purpose.

The meeting came out with some key messages the Arab region is keen to include in the Global Compact and implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), on reception and admission, supporting the immediate and ongoing needs for refugees, on providing support for host countries and communities and finally on finding durable solutions, which has been submitted for review by Member States globally during the formal consultation on the GCR in Geneva.

On June 8, 2021, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States - Social Affairs Sector, Department of Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs held the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs, with the aim of discussing the latest developments regarding the Global Refugee Compact and following up on its implementation in the Arab region; as well as providing an opportunity for representatives of Arab States to present the efforts made at the national level to implement the agreement, as well as to exchange experiences, expertise and best practices in this regard.



# ARAB STRATEGY FOR THE PROTECTION OF REFUGEE CHILDREN





In light of the developments in the region and the increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons, the risks encountered by the refugees, particularly refugee children, have increased. Refugee children in the region suffer immensely as a result of conflict and displacement – children have often been wounded or killed and suffered the consequences of conflict, destruction and violence. When fleeing into neighbouring countries, refugee children may find safety, ironically also uncertainty and daily struggles that are distressing both for the children and for their families. Statistics had shown that separation from family, difficulty accessing basic services and increased poverty led to negative coping mechanisms such as early marriage, child labour in dangerous and exploitative conditions, school dropouts and domestic violence whether in communities or schools. Children also faced risks of detention, trafficking, and other forms of exploitation during their displacement.

An Arab Strategy was developed in implementation of the recommendation laid out by the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the “Committee on Following up to Stop Violence against Children –General Secretariat November 2014, which stated “To request from the Technical Secretariat to draft an Arab strategy for the Protection of Refugee Children in close coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees”. The strategy aims at improving the refugee children’s status in the Arab region, and handling their living standards, which calls for all partners to work together to find solutions that ensure the best interests of refugee children, protecting them, adopting a non-discriminatory approach and working with host communities and families, taking into account the risks faced by those children.

This strategy has been laid out with close cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and was adopted at the Summit level in Beirut, Lebanon 2019, as well as its annexed plan of action. The adoption was followed by the preparation of the regional meeting on the follow-up on the implementation of the plan of action annexed to the Arab Strategy for Child Protection in Asylum Context and the production of a regional report as such.







The Arab Strategy for Child Protection in  
Asylum/Displacement Contexts in the  
Arab Region

The Arab Economic and Social Development Summit Conference, in its 4<sup>th</sup> regular session,

Upon consulting:

- Memorandum of the Secretariat,
- Report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic, social and development work,
- Economic and Social Council Resolutions No. (2187) O.S. (102) dated 6/ 9/ 2018 , and No. (2209) O.S. On 20/ 12/ 2018,
- Resolution of the Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers No. (854) O.S. (38) on 5/ 12/ 2018,
- Recommendations issued by the Follow-up Committee to Stop Violence against Children, emanating from the Arab Childhood Committee, in its 13<sup>th</sup> sessions: Sharm El-Sheikh: January 2016 and (14): Rabat: September 2018 on "Ensuring the protection and promotion of children's rights refugees in Arab countries,
- The results of the work of the joint meeting of permanent delegates and senior officials and the joint meeting of foreign ministers and relevant ministers of the Economic and Social Council to prepare for the summit.

- After listening to the clarifications of the General Secretariat;

- In light of the discussions;

Decides

1. Adopting the "Arab Strategy for Child Protection in Asylum/Displacement Contexts in the Arab Region" as a guiding document to ensure the protection of children in refugee context in Arab States and the enforcement of their rights.
2. Assigning the General Secretariat to follow up on the implementation of the strategy in coordination with Member States and relevant international organizations.

(D.D.: 62 O.S. (4) - Part 3 - 20/ 1/ 2019)

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الاستراتيجية العربية لحماية الأطفال في وضع اللجوء/النزوح  
في الدول العربية

إن مؤتمر القمة العربية التنموية: الاقتصادية والاجتماعية في دورته العادية الرابعة،

- بعد اطلاعه على:

- مذكرة الأمانة العامة،
- تقرير الأمين العام عن العمل الاقتصادي والاجتماعي والتنموي العربي المشترك.
- قراري المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي رقم (2187) د.ع (102) بتاريخ 2018/9/6، ورقم (2209) د.ع.ع. بتاريخ 2018/12/20.
- قرار مجلس وزراء الشؤون الاجتماعية العرب رقم (854) د.ع. (38) بتاريخ 2018/12/5،
- التوصيات الصادرة عن لجنة متابعة وقف العنف ضد الأطفال، المنبثقة عن لجنة الطفولة العربية، في دورتها (13): شرم الشيخ: يناير/ كانون ثان 2016، و(14): الرباط: سبتمبر/ أيلول 2018 بشأن "ضمان حماية وتعزيز حقوق الأطفال اللاجئين في الدول العربية"،
- نتائج أعمال الاجتماع المشترك للمندوبين الدائمين وكبار المسؤولين والاجتماع المشترك لوزراء الخارجية والوزراء المعنيين بالمجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي للتحضير للقمة،
- وبعد الاستماع إلى إيضاحات الأمانة العامة،
- وفي ضوء المناقشات.

يقرر

1. اعتماد "الاستراتيجية العربية لحماية الأطفال في وضع اللجوء/ النزوح في الدول العربية"، كوثيقة استرشادية لضمان حماية الأطفال في وضع اللجوء في الدول العربية وإنفاذ حقوقهم.
2. تكليف الأمانة العامة متابعة تنفيذ الاستراتيجية بالتنسيق مع الدول الأعضاء والمنظمات الدولية المعنية.

(ق.ق: 62 د.ع (4) - ج 3 - 2019/1/20)



**A** RAB STRATEGY ON  
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE  
TO COMBAT ALL FORMS OF  
VIOLENCE IN ASYLUM  
CONTEXT, ESPECIALLY  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN AND GIRLS

## الدورة التاسعة والثلاثون للجنة المرأة العربية

تعزيز المرأة - تنمية للمجتمع

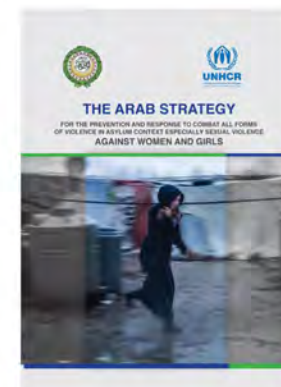


Syrian refugee children and women in neighbouring countries account for 79%, facing gender inequality, poverty, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), sexual exploitation and abuse, harmful traditional practices, trafficking in person, lack of access to services, livelihood opportunities and education. The most vulnerable among the refugees are female headed households and women and girls with disabilities. During violent conflicts and displacement, social structures are disrupted, and many women are forced to flee to new and unfamiliar places. Women who head their households alone, in exile, face a particularly difficult challenge.

The Arab Strategy for the Prevention and Response to All Forms of Violence in Asylum Context, especially Sexual Violence against Women and Girls was drafted in implementation of the recommendation of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Arab Women Committee, which stipulates: *"To request the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to draft the Arab strategy on preventing and protecting women from all forms of violence and sexual violence in asylum context", and circulate it to Member States for their comments before submission to the League Council at its Ministerial Level"*.



The Strategy outlines the key strategic priorities to be undertaken by the Arab Countries to protect refugees against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). It includes adoption and enforcement of key laws and policies, prevention of SGBV and survivor-centred multi-sectoral services to be provided by national governmental and civil society actors. The strategy builds upon existing laws, policies and services in the region and details key recommendations to strengthen national SGBV prevention and response systems to better protect refugees against SGBV in line with relevant international laws and standards. The Strategy was followed by a regional plan of action, and both were adopted at the Summit Level on 03 March 2021.





Arab Strategy for the Prevention and  
Response to Combat All Forms of Violence  
in Asylum Context, especially Sexual  
Violence against Women and Girls

The League Council at the ministerial level,

Upon Consulting:

- The memorandum of the Secretariat,
- And the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the General Secretariat between the two sessions,
- The recommendations of the Women's Committee for the 40<sup>th</sup> session, which stipulated the adoption of the Arab Strategy for the Prevention and Response to Combat All Forms of Violence in Asylum Context, especially Sexual Violence against Women and Girls,
- And the recommendations of the Women's Committee of the 35<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup>, and 39<sup>th</sup> sessions,
- And the decision of the League Council at the ministerial level No. 8313 O.S. (150) dated 11/ 9 /2018,
- And the decision of the League Council at the ministerial level No. 8565 O.S. (154) dated 9/ 9/ 2020,
- The matrix of comments of Member States,
- And the Arab Strategy for the Prevention and Response to Combat All Forms of Violence in Asylum Context, especially Sexual Violence against Women and Girls,
- And the regional plan of action to implement the Arab Strategy for the Prevention and Response to Combat All Forms of Violence in Asylum Context, especially Sexual Violence against Women and Girls,
- In light of the results of the Council's meeting at the level of permanent delegates on 1/ 3/ 2021,

Decides:

Adoption of the " Arab Strategy for the Prevention and Response to Combat All Forms of Violence in Asylum Context, especially Sexual Violence against Women and Girls", and its annexed plan of action, document No. (M06/(2020)/01 - D(022)) as a guiding document.

(D.: No. 8636 – O.S. (155) - Part 2 - 3/ 3/ 2021)



الاستراتيجية العربية للوقاية والاستجابة لمناهضة كافة  
أشكال العنف في وضع اللجوء وخاصة العنف الجنسي ضد  
النساء والفتيات

إن مجلس الجامعة على المستوى الوزاري،

بعد اطلاعه:

- على مذكرة الأمانة العامة.
- وعلى تقرير الأمين العام عن نشاط الأمانة العامة فيما بين الدورتين.
- وعلى توصيات لجنة المرأة الدورة الأربعين والتي نصت على إقرار الاستراتيجية العربية للوقاية والاستجابة لمناهضة كافة أشكال العنف في وضع اللجوء وخاصة العنف الجنسي ضد النساء والفتيات،
- وعلى توصيات لجنة المرأة الدورة الخامسة والثلاثين، والسادسة والثلاثين، والسابعة والثلاثين، والتاسعة والثلاثين،
- وعلى قرار مجلس الجامعة على المستوى الوزاري رقم 8313 د.ع (150) بتاريخ 2018/9/11،
- وعلى قرار مجلس الجامعة على المستوى الوزاري رقم 8565 د.ع (154) بتاريخ 2020/9/9.
- وعلى جدول ملاحظات الدول الأعضاء،
- وعلى الاستراتيجية العربية للوقاية والاستجابة لمناهضة كافة أشكال العنف في وضع اللجوء وخاصة العنف الجنسي ضد النساء والفتيات.
- وعلى خطة العمل الإقليمية لتنفيذ الاستراتيجية العربية للوقاية والاستجابة لمناهضة كافة أشكال العنف في وضع اللجوء وخاصة العنف الجنسي ضد النساء والفتيات،
- وفي ضوء نتائج اجتماع المجلس على مستوى المندوبين الدائمين بتاريخ 2021/3/1.

يقرر:

اعتماد "الاستراتيجية العربية للوقاية والاستجابة لمناهضة كافة أشكال العنف في وضع اللجوء وخاصة العنف الجنسي ضد النساء والفتيات"، وخطة العمل. بالمستند رقم (م06/(2020)/01 – د(022)) كوثيقة استرشادية.

(ق: رقم 8636 – د.ع (155) – ج 2 – 2021/3/3)

# ARAB STRATEGY ON ACCESS TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN ASYLUM CONTEXT





Health issues affect refugee communities in various ways, and are heightened by the lack of access to services, gender dynamics, existing health problems such as communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and aggravated by arising problems such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), early marriage, maternal and child health (MCH) complications, non-communicable diseases and others. Much work is needed in the area of public health services to meet the health needs of refugees and to ensure the integration of those needs and the related public health initiatives into an overall public health strategy, especially those that are not well-defined in original service delivery packages but constitute integral components of refugees' health care needs, e.g. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for those with disabilities.

Many Arab countries have adopted global resolutions that are relevant to the health rights of refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum-seekers; however, entitlement to health care and health-care rights are governed by national legislation. To address this, UNHCR developed an Arab Strategy on Access to Public Health Services in Asylum and Displacement Contexts in the Arab region, to ensure access to public health, which was submitted by the Technical Secretariat of the Arab Health Ministers Council for review by Member States and adoption.

The strategy aims at responding to the needs of refugees, displaced persons and asylum-seekers for health promotion, disease prevention, health care and support for national health systems to ensure that the health needs of refugees and host communities can be met, and also to reduce morbidity and premature mortality, adopting the universal health coverage (UHC) paradigm and in alignment with the SDGs.

The strategy also helps enabling, supporting and improving access and availability to quality national primary health care services including emergency services, referrals to secondary and tertiary care and inter-related sectors while ensuring mainstreaming and inclusion. The Strategy was adopted by the Arab Health Ministers Council, on 19 - 20 May 2019 in Geneva.

The Plan of Action annexed to the Arab Strategy on Access to Public Health Services in Asylum Context was adopted by the Arab Health Ministers Council on 15 March 2021 and aims to develop and support the implementation of the updated health policies established by the League of Arab States through its mechanisms of action in specialized Arab councils that take into account the health needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, which respect and promote their rights to access to equitable, quality and affordable basic health care; in line with international and regional conventions, which guide the development of national health laws, frameworks and practices for Arab countries.





Resolution No. (4)  
The Arab Strategy on Access to Public  
Health Services in Asylum and  
Displacement Contexts in the Arab Region

The Arab Health Ministers Council in its Ordinary Session (52), and after consulting the following:

- The memo of the Technical Secretariat of the Arab Health Ministers' Council on the subject matter;
- The draft Arab Strategy on Access to Public Health Services in Asylum and Displacement Contexts in the Arab Region;
- The recommendation of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Consultative Committee of the Arab Health Ministers' Council;
- The draft Resolution issued by the Executive Bureau of the Arab Health Ministers' Council, in its preparatory meeting for the work of this session in this regard, that was convened at the Arab League Mission's Headquarters in Geneva on 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2019, and upon discussion,

has decided:

1. The adoption of the "Arab Strategy on Access to Public Health Services in Asylum and Displacement Contexts in the Region."
2. Requesting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Regional Office to the Arab Republic of Egypt and to the League of Arab States to prepare a draft plan of action and executive program for the Arab Strategy on Access to Public Health Services in Asylum and Displacement Contexts in the Region, within two months as of dated, in coordination with the Technical Secretariat of the Arab Health Ministers' Council, and to provide the General Secretariat with the aforementioned plan of action to be presented to the Member States for comments.
3. Reaffirming the importance of registering, refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons in the hosting Arab countries, in coordination and cooperation with the various governmental sectors concerned, the concerned United Nations' organizations and its competent agencies.
4. Inviting the international community, donor countries, international and regional organizations to provide sufficient financial and technical support to the hosting Arab countries, to sustain the funds for the necessary health needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons.



قرار رقم 4  
بشأن

الاستراتيجية العربية بشأن إتاحة خدمات الصحة العامة في  
سياق اللجوء و النزوح في المنطقة العربية

إن مجلس وزراء الصحة العرب في دورته العادية الثانية والخمسين، بعد اطلاعه على،

- مذكرة الأمانة الفنية لمجلس وزراء الصحة العرب حول الموضوع،
- مشروع الاستراتيجية العربية بشأن إتاحة خدمات الصحة العامة في سياق اللجوء والنزوح،
- توصية الاجتماع السابع للجنة الفنية الاستشارية لمجلس وزراء الصحة العرب،
- مشروع القرار الصادر عن المكتب التنفيذي لمجلس وزراء الصحة العرب، في اجتماعه التحضيري لأعمال هذه الدورة بهذا الشأن، الذي انعقد بمقر بعثة جامعة الدول العربية، بجنيف بتاريخ 19 مايو 2019 وبعد المناقشة؛

يقرر

1. اعتماد "الاستراتيجية العربية بشأن إتاحة خدمات الصحة العامة في سياق اللجوء والنزوح في المنطقة".
2. الطلب من المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين - المكتب الإقليمي لدى جمهورية مصر العربية ولدى جامعة الدول العربية، بإعداد مشروع خطة عمل وبرنامج تنفيذي للاستراتيجية العربية بشأن إتاحة خدمات الصحة العامة في سياق اللجوء والنزوح في المنطقة العربية" خلال شهرين من تاريخه، بالتنسيق مع الأمانة الفنية لمجلس وزراء الصحة العرب، وموافاة الأمانة العامة بها عرضها على الدول العربية الأعضاء لإبداء ملاحظاتها حولها.
3. التأكيد على أهمية تشجيع تسجيل النازحين واللاجئين وملتهمسي اللجوء بالدول العربية المستضيفة بالتنسيق والتعاون مع مختلف القطاعات الحكومية المعنية، ومنظمات الأمم المتحدة ووكالاتها ذات الصلة.
4. دعوة المجتمع الدولي والدول المانحة والمنظمات الدولية والإقليمية إلى تقديم الدعم الهالي والفني الكافيين للدول العربية المستضيفة، لاستدامة تمويل الاحتياجات الصحية للنازحين واللاجئين وملتهمسي اللجوء.



**Resolution 6**  
on  
**The Plan of Action annexed to the Arab  
Strategy on Access to Public Health  
Services in Asylum and Displacement  
Contexts in the Arab Region**

**The Council of Arab Health Ministers,**

**After reviewing:**

- A note by the Technical Secretariat on the subject,
- Recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Council of Arab Health Ministers on February 16, 2021,
- Draft decision of the Executive Office of the Council of Arab Health Ministers on March 14, 2021,
- and, after the discussion,

**Decides:**

- 1- Adoption of the Plan of Action annexed to the "Arab Strategy on Access to Public Health Services in the Asylum and Displacement Contexts in the Arab Region",
- 2- Launching the "Arab Strategy on Access to Public Health Services in Asylum and Displacement Contexts in the Arab Region" and its action plan in cooperation with the Ministries of Health and the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean,
- 3- Establishing a framework for follow-up at the level of member states that includes monitoring and evaluation indicators, taking into account the timeline and national contexts,
- 4- Assigning the Technical Secretariat to study the possibility of establishing a central system to collect evaluations and translate them into policies and technical support, through the Arab Platform for Health Ministers, and in coordination and cooperation with each of the ministries of health in the Arab member states, the regional office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Cairo, and the regional office of the World Health Organization For the eastern Mediterranean.

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**قرار رقم 6**  
بشأن

خطة عمل الاستراتيجية العربية بشأن إتاحة خدمات  
الصحة العامة في سياق اللجوء والنزوح في المنطقة العربية

**إن مجلس وزراء الصحة العرب،**

**بعد اطلاعه على:**

- مذكرة الأمانة الفنية حول الموضوع،
- توصية اللجنة الفنية الاستشارية لمجلس وزراء الصحة العرب بتاريخ 16 فبراير 2021.
- مشروع قرار المكتب التنفيذي لمجلس وزراء الصحة العرب بتاريخ 14 مارس 2021.
- وبعد المناقشة،

**يقرر**

1. اعتماد خطة عمل "الاستراتيجية العربية بشأن إتاحة خدمات الصحة العامة في سياق اللجوء والنزوح في المنطقة العربية".
2. إطلاق "الاستراتيجية العربية بشأن إتاحة خدمات الصحة العامة في سياق اللجوء والنزوح في المنطقة العربية" وخطة عملها بالتعاون مع وزارات الصحة والمكتب الإقليمي لمنظمة الصحة العالمية لشرق المتوسط.
3. وضع إطار للمتابعة على مستوى الدول الأعضاء يشمل مؤشرات المتابعة والتقييم مع الأخذ في الاعتبار الخط الزمني والسياقات الوطنية.
4. تكليف الأمانة الفنية بدراسة إمكانية إنشاء نظام مركزي لتجميع التقييمات وترجمتها إلى سياسات ودعم تقني، من خلال المنصة العربية لوزراء الصحة، وبالتنسيق والتعاون مع كل من وزارات الصحة بالدول العربية الأعضاء والمكتب الإقليمي للمفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين بالقاهرة، والمكتب الإقليمي لمنظمة الصحة العالمية لشرق المتوسط.





# EDUCATION FOR REFUGEES IN THE ARAB REGION



With 19.9 million children currently under the mandate of UNHCR, 7.4 million of them remain at school age, with 4 million unable to access education. Children's access to education can be hindered by the lack of children's ability to obtain identification documents, resulting in their prevention from access to services, including and not limited to education.

To this end, UNHCR, supported the League of Arab States to adopt major Declaration on Refugee Education. In May 2017, UNHCR in collaboration with the Arab League and the Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) organized in Tunis a High-Level Regional Meeting titled Education for Refugees in the Arab Region: Challenges and Future Prospects aimed at sharing experiences, highlighting innovations and reforms, and identifying best practices for upholding children rights to education including by mainstreaming them within the National Education Systems; and through addressing the challenges of their access to secondary, vocational and higher education, and highlighting and overcoming the obstacles faced by Arab states in formulating policies for the provision of education to refugee students. The meeting also highlighted the means of enhancing the effectiveness of coordination mechanisms that would facilitate access of refugees and displaced children in the Arab region to educational opportunities which meet their needs and ensure their right to education.

Further to that, and within the Tunis Declaration issued through the High Level Regional Meeting on Child Education: Challenges and Future Prospects, through its recommendations called for the preparation of an Arab Convention to Ensure the Right to Education for Victims of Conflicts in the Arab Region.



# BELONGING AND LEGAL IDENTITY





According to UHNCR statistics, 3.9 million cases of statelessness have been documented out of a total of 10 million around the world, of whom about a third are children with approximately 370,872 people located in the MENA region. To tackle statelessness worldwide, and in order to overcome the challenges posed by new conflicts and instability, UNHCR launched the "I belong" campaign in November 2014 aiming at ending statelessness worldwide within 10 years, by ensuring all children enjoy their rights to legal identity, which includes the right to a name, to be registered at birth, and to be cared for by their parents and to acquire a nationality.

UNHCR and the Arab League are strongly advocating and seeking solutions to address risks of women and children suffering from undocumented/existence within their communities or host communities that may arise through the lack of gender equality in nationality laws, while also ensuring that every child begins life with a birth certificate that serves as proof of its legal identity, enhances the enjoyment of key child rights, and documents the child's links to its country of nationality.

UNHCR and League of Arab States had convened a Regional Expert meeting entitled "Our Children, Our Future: Belonging and Legal Identity", that took place in October 2016 in Cairo, whereby Member States' representatives reaffirmed their commitment to protect the legal identity of all children in the Arab region, and to work in concert to identify and promote solutions at the national and regional levels.

Building on this momentum, the First Arab Conference on Women's Nationality Rights took place in October 2017 with the aim to further the discussion between Arab States and to share good practices and exchange views on regional opportunities. The conference was co-organized by UNHCR and League of Arab States and provided added values to previous efforts by focusing on how reforms were achieved on nationality laws.

In February 2018, UNHCR and the Arab League worked closely on the organization of the first ever Ministerial Conference on "Belonging and Legal Identity" in Tunis. The Ministerial Conference build on important global and regional frameworks and declarations such as the Arab Charter on Human Rights, the Sharjah Declaration on "Fundamental Principles for the Protection of Refugee Children" and the "Cairo Declaration for the Advancement of Women" and the "Arab Strategy for Women Development 2030". The Ministerial Conference ended up with the Arab Declaration on "Belonging and Legal Identity" that called on working to end statelessness in the region. The Plan of Action annexed to the Declaration was recently endorsed within the Arab Regional Meeting on Belonging and Legal Identity on 25 May 2021.





# CAPACITY BUILDING



Training opportunities have played an important role in developing and forging stronger partnerships with governments officials and have often enabled UNHCR to raise awareness on asylum practices and the treatment of refugees. The participation of LAS and member states officials in capacity building sessions have contributed to enhancing the expertise of government officials to deal with refugee, IDPs and Statelessness issues. During the past 5 years, UNHCR and LAS General Secretariat organized 9 training sessions for 583 officials from 21-member states (Ministries of Interior, Justice and Foreign Affairs).

The capacity building sessions evolved around three themes: International Refugee Law, Internal Displacement in the Arab region and Statelessness. All the trainings were conducted jointly by UNHCR, the League of Arab States and Arab Interior Ministers Council. Trainings on International Refugee Law had been ongoing since 2016 to help UNHCR disseminating knowledge about its mandate and role, as well as the definition of the refugee under the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and the protection of refugees in mass influx situations and mixed movements. Along the same direction, trainings on internal displacement were conducted since 2018, in application of LAS Resolution (72329/J3 15/ 4/ 2018) adopted at the LAS Council on the Summit level, aiming at promoting the IDPs Guiding Principles and developing a



common understanding on how international and regional instruments and policies can be promoted and implemented on the national level to enhance developing and applying policies and standards in conformity with the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Emanating from the importance of strengthening the knowledge of UNHCR mandate on "Statelessness" and raising awareness on UNHCR's work on reducing and preventing statelessness in the region, trainings on Statelessness took place since 2017. In 2019, a training of trainers on the same theme was conducted to respond to the growing need for knowledge on ways to reduce stateless situations based on the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on "Belonging and Legal Identity" held in partnership with the Arab League in February 2018. The ToT aimed at providing participants with the necessary legal background and practical experience to serve as professional trainers in dealing with statelessness and to promote the exchange of good practices on how to effectively reduce statelessness.





UNHCR  
المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة  
لتحقوق اللاجئين



UNHCR  
The High Commissioner for Refugees  
الهيئة العامة للاجئين الفلسطينيين العرب



جامعة الدول العربية  
الجامعة العربية

المؤتمر الإقليمي للخبراء لمناقشة إيجاد صيغة متزنة لمعالجة المخاطر الأمنية  
دون الإخلال بحماية اللاجئين  
تونس : 26-27 / 1 / 1438 هـ الموافق: 27-28 / 10 / 2016 م

Regional Expert Meeting on Addressing Security  
Concerns without Undermining Refugee Protection  
15-16 November 2016

# ADVOCACY AND MOBILIZATION





In accordance with the Memorandum of understanding that indicated the mutual representation between the League of Arab States and UNHCR, UNHCR has advocated through its presence within relevant ministerial councils, as well as relevant committees, such as the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP), Arab Women's Committee and Arab Child Committee, to work together with the League of Arab States, in order to remove protection barriers to the most vulnerable and enhance their sphere of access to services at an equal footing with citizens of their host communities.

As part of the joint cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, various joint initiatives to remove protection barriers for refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR were undertaken including in the mid of Covid-19 context. UNHCR in cooperation with the Arab League and other international organizations, focused on the situation of children in the Arab region, in light of Corona pandemic, considering how children's pursuit of survival can often lead them resorting to negative coping strategies, and launched an initiative for children to share their successful experiences in overcoming the pandemic negative effects #Tell your story with COVID-19.

A similar initiative tackled women #Ehki\_Kessetek and aimed at strengthening and documenting the voice of Arab women in decision-making when preparing and responding to the consequences of the influences of the emerging corona virus, while shedding the light on the role that women and girls play and how their lives are transformed in the face of this emerging pandemic.

Additionally, in 2020 and 2021, the League of Arab States has undertaken a significant role in celebrating the World Refugee Day, demonstrating its continued support to refugees across the region.



#إحكي\_قصتك





