

KEY FIGURES

204,767

refugees and asylum-seekers (all nationalities) registered as of April 2017

2,789

Unaccompanied and separated children currently registered

686

refugees submitted to resettlement countries in 2017

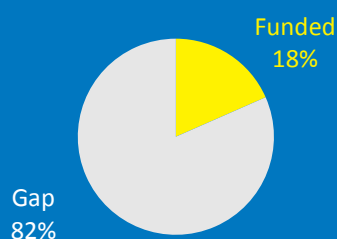
839

Refugees departed for resettlement in 2017

FUNDING

USD 79.3 M

Requested for the operation in 2017



Priorities

- Effective and strategic use of refugee status determination in merged procedures with registration.
- Support refugees' participation in decision-making and implementation of humanitarian programs.
- Enhance vulnerability assessment and provide targeted cash assistance to the most vulnerable.
- Support access to public primary health care across all nationalities.
- Support quality of education in public and community schools.
- Prevent and respond to SGBV and undertake child protection activities.
- Reduce incidents of detention and prevent refoulement.

EGYPT

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

March - April 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- New, faster asylum procedures introduced in March 2017:** to reduce waiting period to claim asylum, UNHCR Egypt merged the registration and refugee status determination interviews into one single interview. The waiting period between the two interviews had previously been reduced from five years in 2014, to 18 months in 2016. The new process will initially be targeting South Sudanese, Somali and Iraqi asylum-seekers, and will gradually be expanded to other nationalities.

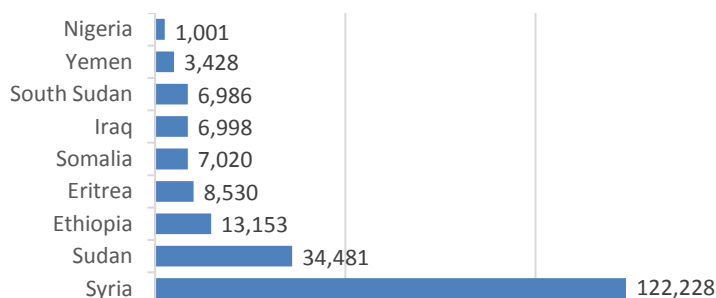


Family during registration process. ©UNHCR/Scott Nelson

- Launch of the Egypt chapter of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP):** On 2 April 2017, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations (UN) jointly launched the Egypt chapter of the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (Egypt 3RP) 2016-2017. The Egypt 3RP aims to address the needs of Syrians registered with UNHCR and living in different governorates in Egypt as well as their host communities. The government of Egypt, the UN and partners are appealing for US \$348 million to cover both the refugee and resilience components in 2017-2018. The launch took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the presence of representatives of donor countries, UN and government officials. The opening remarks were followed by two round table discussions on education and health, chaired by the respective ministries.

Population of concern

A total of **204,767** refugees and asylum-seekers



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

Egypt remains a destination and transit country for refugees and asylum-seekers. **18,668 people registered with UNHCR since the beginning of 2017**, of which 9,051 registered in March and April alone. The total number registered so far constitutes an increase of almost 50 per cent compared to the same period last year. Half of the newly registered are Syrians, followed by Sudanese, Eritreans, and South Sudanese.

As of end of April, a total of **204,767 refugees and asylum-seekers of 63 different nationalities are registered with UNHCR in Egypt**. While refugees are dispersed throughout Egypt, including in remote areas, the majority are concentrated in three urban areas, namely Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta.



Sudanese mother and daughter.
©UNHCR/Scott Nelson

Achievements



Protection

- In March and April, UNHCR **attended to 9,100 cases** through the reception windows of its office located in 6th of October city and **answered 37,665 phone calls** on the Infoline. The majority of refugees contacted UNHCR in order to register with the agency or to renew their refugee or asylum-seeker documentation. Another reason for asylum-seekers to contact UNHCR is to enquire about the results of their refugee status determination interview.
- UNHCR and partners continue to advocate for release from detention for asylum-seekers and refugees. On the North Coast, UNHCR advocated for release and **assisted detained refugees and asylum-seekers** with daily meals, medical assistance, psychosocial support, non-food items, and small-scale maintenance to detention centres, as well as with post-release support as necessary. There has been a significant reduction of the scale of irregular departures by sea in the recent months. No arrest or detention has taken place so far in 2017 as a result of interception and rescue on the North Coast.
- Since January 2017, UNHCR and its protection partner ACSFT facilitated the registration of 40 newly born babies; out of these, **15 birth certificates were for babies of survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)**. Registering births out of wedlock and SGBV cases comes with challenges in Egypt. Speedy actions are necessary to fulfil the requirement for early birth registration, as a later registration (after 14 days) entails significantly higher administrative barriers. UNHCR and ACSFT therefore increased their coordination efforts to enhance the quick referral of SGBV cases.
- On 23 and 24 April 2017, UNHCR organized a two day **workshop on community-based protection** for 26 participants from six partner agencies and UNHCR. Participants reflected on how to best harness the skills and knowledge of the refugee community into developing activities to improve their lives. UNHCR and its partners will develop action plans to strengthen community-based protection in their projects. A follow-up session after three months will give the opportunity to reflect on the progress achieved.



UNHCR staff helps an old man to sit inside the UNHCR office in 6th of October city. ©UNHCR/Asmaa Waguhih

Education

- UNHCR continues its **joint capacity building programme with the Ministry of Education**. In April 2017, 240 senior **social workers were trained** on identification of vulnerable refugee children, referral mechanisms and on UNHCR's Protection Mandate. The one-week training programme was delivered by senior academics and university professors to social workers working with Syrian refugee students, in governorates with a large refugee population.

Community Empowerment

- With the support of UNHCR, refugees in Alexandria participated in the **Heya ("She") Campaign at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina**, a three-day event launched on 19 March 2017 to raise awareness on the active role of women in society. 'Al Rahala Al Mohageroun', a Syrian theatrical group founded and directed by Syrian artist Bassem Al Attar, presented an interactive performance, in which the audience becomes active, based on the "Theatre of the Oppressed" form created by Brazilian theatre director Augusto Boal in the 1970s. The Souryana Center presented "Ah Ya Zaman," a play directed by Egyptian director Mayer Magdy, in which 25 Syrian, Sudanese and Egyptian youth performed, with the support of Care International. The play depicted situations showing discrimination, sexism, and racism in different societies. Finally, in another event, two Syrian refugee women shared their emotional stories with the audience. They spoke about how they had overcome challenges and found success in spite of all obstacles.



Left to right: Syrian and Sudanese refugee acting in "Ah Ya Zaman"; member of "Al Rahala Al Mohageroun" theater group during performance; Syrian writer and entrepreneur Ghada Bakdounes sharing her story. ©UNHCR/Mohamed Saleh (left and center), Nora Ibrahim (right)

- Outreach volunteers** in Alexandria continued to conduct **awareness sessions** and to **disseminate information** about services provided by UNHCR and partners. In March and April, 40 awareness sessions were conducted on various topics such as prevention of early marriage, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, as well as information on protection, education, residency permits and health services. On 22 March 2017, on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day, Caritas health team and the outreach volunteers organized various activities at the Agamy community center: women participated in a formal educational session on prevention measures from Tuberculosis, while their children watched a puppet show on the same topic, facilitated by outreach volunteers.

Health

- In March and April, UNHCR worked closely with the Egyptian **Ministry of Health** to map out their collaboration in 2017. By supporting primary and secondary Egyptian healthcare services with equipment, UNHCR is improving healthcare for both refugees and asylum seekers and for their host communities. Focus will be given to emergency care (intensive care) and integration of the chronic disease clinics in the public primary healthcare facilities. UNHCR and the Ministry of Health plan to sign a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with yearly adjusted plans and activities. In March and April alone, UNHCR handed over 25 renal dialysis machines to two public hospitals in Giza.
- Following the government decision to grant access to its health facilities to refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities, UNHCR supports the **mainstreaming of African and Iraqi refugees** into the system, with a focus on 15 public primary health care units in Cairo, Giza, Alexandria and Qalubia. Mainstreaming activities in March and April comprised of **awareness raising** of refugees and asylum-seekers, **development of outreach material** and activity monitoring in primary health care units in coordination with the Ministry of Health.

Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- On 18 March, UNHCR hosted a **business fair for refugee and Egyptian women** at the Greek Campus in Cairo under the theme 'UNHCR Supports Women's Right to Decent Work'. Over 85 participants offered a diverse selection of art, jewellery, clothes and accessories combined with dishes from Ethiopia, Syria and Sudan. The event marked International and National Women's Day, and was held to recognise and celebrate women's socio-economic empowerment in line with the national Taa-marbuta campaign.



Vendors and visitors during the business fair for refugee and Egyptian women. ©UNHCR/Jessica Gulhane (left), David Degner (center and right)

Working in partnership

UNHCR in Egypt works through the following partners:

Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trials (ACSFT) • Arab Medical Union (AMU) • 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) • UNOPS • UNV

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **US\$ 14.6 million.**

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by [Canada](#), [the European Union](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#) and the [United States of America](#) who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds in 2017.

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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>

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