

2025 RAPID NEED ASSESSMENT (RNA) FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN EGYPT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA), conducted between October and November 2025 as a joint initiative with members of the Child Protection Sub-Working Group (UNHCR, UNICEF, Save the Children (SCI), Plan International, and Caritas), aimed to identify protection needs of children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), in Egypt, and inform key priorities and programming in 2026. The RNA was conducted through phone interviews with 312 children and caregivers. The RNA highlights those key risks facing children which include lack of safety, significant gaps with regards of school enrolment, inability of families to meet basic needs for their children resorting to negative coping strategies such as reducing food consumption, borrowing money, and child labour. This reflects the constraints in funding and services in the past year, which has affected refugee communities significantly.

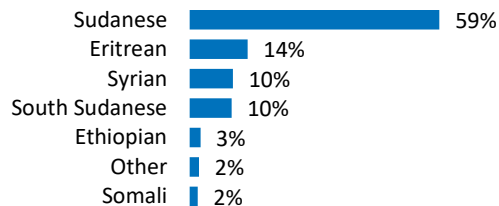
Given the increased needs and limited operational capacity, it is essential for Child Protection (CP) actors to prioritize essential services, which were highlighted during the survey as education, cash assistance, health and case management. However, access to these services remain hindered by key barriers to such as lack of information, no or delayed organizational response, transportation costs, and challenges with documentation/residency.



METHODOLOGY

The **RNA** was a joint initiative by five (5) members of the CP Working Group. Data were collected using a KoBo form and a probability-based simple random sampling method.

BREAKDOWN BY NATIONALITY



SAFETY IN THE CHILDREN'S CURRENT RESIDENCE

Most respondents (**35%**) reported feeling **somewhat safe** while **29%** indicated feeling either **very safe** or **extremely safe**. Conversely, **20%** felt **unsafe**, and **16%** reported feeling either **very unsafe** or **extremely unsafe**. The primary reason children reported feeling unsafe is **violence in the area 44%**.



REASONS OF FLIGHTS

The primary reason children fled their countries was **conflict or war (69%)**, followed by notable reasons including military conscription and family reunification, among others (**18%**).



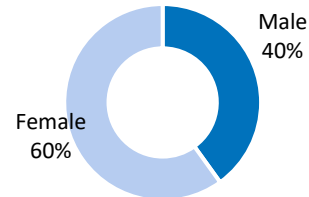
CHILD LABOUR: PREVALENCE AND WORK TYPES

While **13%** of children are **currently working**, the majority are engaged in **casual or full-time jobs**, with (**76%**) involved in various **informal or unspecified work** types. Common sectors include **factory (26%)** and **food services (24%)**, highlighting the diverse yet often precarious nature of their employment. Some **12%** of the children engaged in child labour activities were UASC. Additionally, of those engaged in child labour activities, **11%** were not enrolled in school.

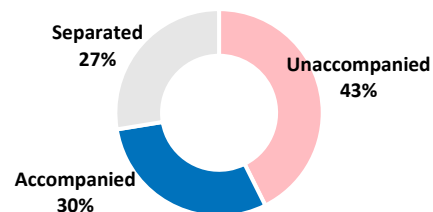
OVERVIEW

Some **312** children or caregivers/parents were interviewed in **October 2025** covering four (4) governorates: Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, and Damietta.

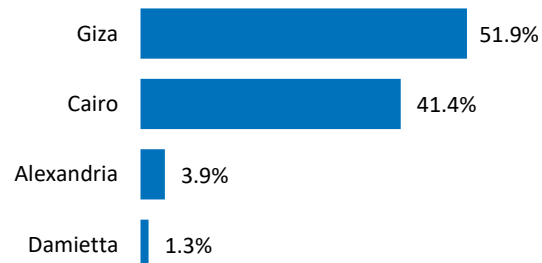
GENDER BREAKDOWN



BREAKDOWN BY CHILD CATEGORY



BREAKDOWN BY GOVERNORATE



CHALLENGES FACED BY CHILDREN ON JOURNEY TO EGYPT

While **54%** of children **reported no challenges** during their journey to Egypt, **42%** faced **significant difficulties/ protection concerns**. The most common protection concerns included **lack of access to basic needs (33%)**, **violence (22%)**, **family separation (17%)**, and arrest. **Other** challenges involved conflict-related injuries or death (**17%**).



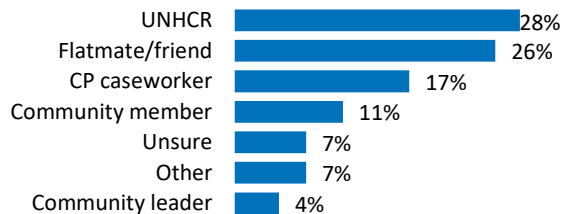
HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN EGYPT

Some **43%** of the respondents **have accessed healthcare** in Egypt, with a significant **reliance on public clinics or partner organizations** like Save the Children. However, awareness of where to seek medical support remains a concern, with **52%** of respondents **not aware of available services**.



ACCESS TO FEEDBACK MECHANISM AND INFO SOURCE

Only **33%** of respondents **can access** a feedback and complaints mechanism, with **lack of information** being the primary barrier for **91%** of those unable to do so. The main sources are UNHCR and flatmates or friends. Below is a representation of the sources of information that respondents mentioned that they rely on.



The above indicates that there needs to be more effort on information sharing, especially by developing child friendly materials on accountability channels, to ensure that there is a transparent process for children and families to access information and report any issues.



INABILITY TO MEET BASIC NEEDS & COPING MECHANISMS

With **58%** of respondents **unable to cover basic needs**, **53%** have resorted to **harmful coping mechanisms** including **reducing food consumption (27%)**, **borrowing money (23%)**, taking up **work to supplement income (18%)** and **relocating to cheaper housing (14%)**. Others reported children dropping out of school, resorting to begging, or selling some of their personal items, reflecting the severe financial strain faced by many refugee children and their families.



SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Some **58%** are not enrolled in school, with **52%** citing **lack of financial** support as the primary barrier and **20%** face challenges **due to lack of documentation or residency**.



TOP PRIORITIES FOR CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

Education is the top priority for children, identified by **30%** of respondents, followed by **cash assistance (24%)** and case management (**13%**). Health and community-based protection are equally prioritized (**8%** each). Other services such as MHPSS, livelihood and legal services also play important roles but are perceived as less critical.



BARRIERS IN ACCESSING TOP PRIORITY SERVICES

Some **62%** of respondents report barriers to accessing top-priority services, primarily due to limited awareness of services and poor responsiveness from service providers.