

# EGYPT

## UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

November - December 2016

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### KEY FIGURES

**193,375**

Refugees and asylum-seekers (all nationalities) registered as of December 2016

**6,910**

Refugees submitted for resettlement in 2016

**4,050**

Refugees departed for resettlement in 2016

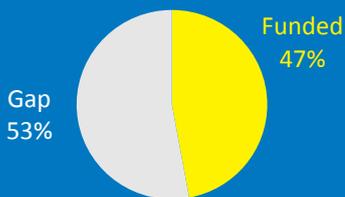
**2,540**

Unaccompanied and separated children registered to date

#### FUNDING

**USD 82.2 M**

Requested for the operation in 2016



#### Priorities

- Improve quality of basic health and education services through coordination and capacity strengthening for relevant Government ministries.
- Strengthen access to basic health care for African and Iraqi populations;
- Enhance access to livelihoods and skills training for refugees and host communities to improve self-reliance.
- Promote coexistence between refugee and Egyptian communities.
- Coordinate protection response, with emphasis on child protection, SGBV and prevention of irregular migration.

- UNHCR Egypt celebrated the *International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women* on 25 November with a marathon and a scooters parade of around 600 people along 6km of the Corniche in Alexandria. The event also marked the first day of the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign* that takes place annually from 25 November to 10 December.



40 Syrians living in Alexandria represented the Syrian Sports Academy, a sports initiative supported by UNHCR, while the Alex Free Riders Club participated with 45 riders parading side by side with the runners. The Alexandria Marathon Sports Group supports UNHCR in raising awareness about refugee issues in Alexandria.



Runners getting ready at the starting point at the Alexandria Corniche. ©UNHCR Egypt

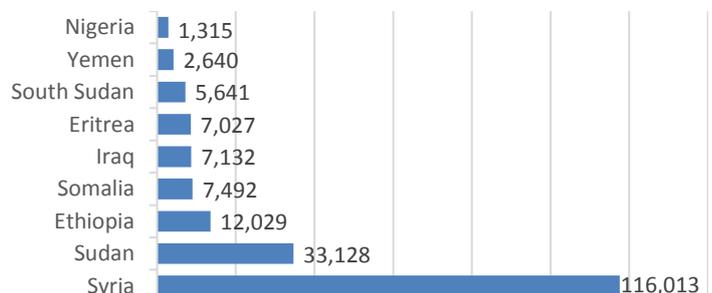
- In November 2016, UNHCR Egypt welcomed its new Representative, Karim Atassi, and gave farewell to Representative Elizabeth Tan, who had been with UNHCR Egypt Operation for the last six years.



Elizabeth Tan and Karim Atassi during their handover period ©UNHCR Egypt

#### Population of Concern

A total of **195,358** refugees and asylum seekers



## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Operational Context

Egypt remains a destination and transit country for refugees and asylum-seekers. By the end of 2016, a total of 193,375 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR in Egypt, of 66 different nationalities. Syrians represent 59 per cent of the total registered, followed by Sudanese (17%) and Ethiopians (6%). While refugees are dispersed throughout Egypt, including in remote areas, the majority are concentrated in three urban areas, namely Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta.

**In 2016, the total number of individuals newly registered by UNHCR increased by 70 per cent** compared to 2015. The increase was particularly important with Syrians, with 17,395 registered in 2016, compared to 7,459 in 2015, and can be attributed to the intensification of entry restrictions for Syrians implemented in different countries of the region; particularly new restrictions introduced in Turkey since January 2016. Most of the new arrivals continue to originate from urban areas in Syria, mainly Damascus and Aleppo. Other nationalities registered also reached unprecedented numbers.

### Protection in a mixed migration context

UNHCR Egypt is engaged with its national counterparts to address movements of asylum-seekers and refugees at Egypt's eastern and southern borders and from the country's northern coast, generally towards Europe by sea. UNHCR has gained authorization to enter detention centres with iris scanners in order to accurately **verify the registration status of detainees** on the spot, and to facilitate the release of people registered with UNHCR.

UNHCR and partners continue to assist all those in detention on the North Coast 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.

By the end of December 2016, a total of 4,985 non-Egyptians had been arrested and detained, in 121 incidents. This represents a 37 per cent increase from 2015. The majority of the detainees were from sub-Saharan Africa; most were Sudanese and Somalis, followed by Eritreans and Ethiopians. Syrians accounted for only two per cent of the total number of detainees. Over half (2,558 individuals) of non-Egyptians arrested for irregular departure by sea were registered with UNHCR.

### Achievements

#### Protection

- UNHCR coordinated sector activities aiming at raising awareness on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) during the **16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence**. This year's theme *Healthy Relationships at Home, in Schools, and in the Community* was addressed through a range of events including sport and artistic activities, information sessions, games and community discussions. UNHCR's partners organized these events with refugee and host communities in women safe spaces, community centres, partner premises, community schools and universities. Sensitization material was circulated during this period.



Poster as part of the sensitization material used during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence



Child waiting with her family for an appointment in UNHCR's office in 6<sup>th</sup>October City. ©UNHCR/Nader Abdo

- An **interactive theatre play on the prevention of Female Genital Mutilations (FGM)** was organized with the Egyptian Theatre Troupe Noon for UNHCR staff and interpreters. Despite being banned since 2008, FGM continues to be a widespread practice in Egypt both in local communities and in some of the refugee communities. The 2015 Egypt Health Issue Survey published by the Ministry of Health underlines that 87 per cent of Egyptian women aged 15 to 49 have been subjected to FGM.

- **Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)** remained the largest group of children at risk in 2016, as the number of new arrivals of UASC continued to increase throughout the year. As of 31 December 2016, UNHCR recorded a total of 2,540 UASC, with the majority of children **having fled war**

**and civil unrest in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan.** UNHCR has a special procedure to determine the best interest of the child. During the reporting period, 44 reports were completed to identify durable solutions for children and the Best Interest Determination Panel reviewed the situation of 70 refugee children.

- In efforts to **train child protection case workers** across different partner organizations, UNHCR delivered a one-day orientation session on case management. The 38 attendees from 14 organisations learned about the steps of case management, available tools, identification and referral mechanism as well as case prioritization. UNHCR also provided a comprehensive four-day training to its implementing partner Save the Children. The training was attended by 25 case workers and covered the case management process, as well as specific issues such as domestic violence, sexual abuse of children and early marriage.

- UNHCR continued to work closely with authorities **in conducting capacity building activities with government officials, law enforcement agents and judiciary** at both central and local level. The topics tackled included access to asylum and prevention of refoulement; an analysis of protection gaps; and evolving protection problems in light of the absence of national asylum legislation. Detention of refugee and asylum-seekers and the irregular crossing of international borders were also issues that were discussed with the aim of promoting prompt access to detention and release of refugees and asylum-seekers arrested for immigration-related purposes, in particular children, and recommending alternative mechanisms.



UNHCR Egypt staff during interview with an asylum-seeker. ©UNHCR/Nader Abdo

- In November and December 2016, UNHCR conducted two **workshops for 40 police officers** working in Alexandria and Matrouh police directorates. The office also conducted a five-day training of trainer for ten military officers on the principles of international protection; including the non-refoulement principle, rights and obligations of refugees, and challenges of refugee protection in the context of mixed migration.

- As part of its **community-based protection**, UNHCR conducted **six outreach meetings** in November and December 2016 reaching approximately 200 refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR also met with an association for refugees living with disabilities and with a remote community that previously had little contact with UNHCR and partners. These outreach meetings are useful both for UNHCR staff and partners, to improve our understanding of protection risks and concerns of refugee communities, as well as for refugees and asylum seekers, as they serve as a venue to clarify UNHCR services and procedures.
- The UNHCR **infoline** received a total of 57,925 calls during the months of November and December. Similarly to previous months, the **main queries related to registration, refugee status determination and assistance**. Callers also enquired about documentation renewal and protection concerns such as resettlement but also theft, rape or domestic violence. The infoline is handled by ten call attendants speaking in Arabic and English. Interpreter services are available in five languages on specific days: Somali (Sunday), Oromo (Monday), Tigrinya (Tuesday), Amharic (Wednesday) and French (Thursday).

### Cash-based interventions

- UNHCR supported over **104,900 refugees and asylum-seekers with one-time payments to prepare for the winter**, intended for the purchase of clothing and heating solutions. As funding did not suffice to support all vulnerable cases in need of this assistance, priority was given to people with specific needs focusing particularly on the elderly, people living with disabilities, and large households.
- After the Egyptian government's liberalization of the Egyptian pound (EGP), there has been a **significant increase in the cost of living including all food commodities and services**, which makes it more difficult for vulnerable populations to meet their basic needs. As a result, UNHCR increased its cash assistance for refugees of all nationalities in December 2016. In the same month, unconditional cash assistance was provided to over 13,260 cases.
- UNHCR supported the survivors of an apartment explosion in Maadi that caused **70 refugees to lose their homes**. Those affected were provided **with emergency assistance** of up to EGP 4,000 to relocate to safe housing and recover some of their lost belongings. Another 82 individuals received emergency assistance during the reporting period to cope with sudden shocks to their living conditions including the death of the family's breadwinner, property theft, and threat of eviction.



Syrian refugee at a post office branch to cash his monthly cash assistance. ©UNHCR/Tarik Argaz

### Education

- In December, UNHCR supported 525 vulnerable Sudanese students with **exam fee assistance**. This enabled the students to obtain the Sudanese certificates for primary and secondary education. The cost to sit for the exam (ca. 100 - 200 USD) is often too high for refugees and a barrier that hinders the students from completing their education.
- By the end of the year, UNHCR had provided cash grants for **educational assistance to 14,188 refugee families** for the academic year 2016/2017 that started in September. This enabled 29,406 children between the ages of five and 21 years to secure access to public and refugee community schools.
- In December 2016, **205 students were accepted to receive a scholarship** by the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund (DAFI). DAFI grants young refugees scholarships at universities, colleges and polytechnics in their host countries.



## Health

- UNHCR sponsors a project implemented by its health partner, the Arab Medical Union (AMU), on “**Healthcare Quality Improvement – Improving Capacity of Healthcare Professionals in Ministry of Health Hospitals and Primary Healthcare Centers**”, which was launched in December 2016. Through this project, AMU aims to train 50 healthcare professionals on healthcare quality improvement. The trained healthcare professional were selected from facilities where UNHCR provides material support. The project yielded ten quality improvement initiatives that have been successfully implemented in public facilities and that have positively impacted the quality of care provided.



A Sudanese child is weighed during a health check-up in Cairo.  
©UNHCR/Scott Nelson

Through this project, AMU aims to train 50 healthcare professionals on healthcare quality improvement. The trained healthcare professional were selected from facilities where UNHCR provides material support. The project yielded ten quality improvement initiatives that have been successfully implemented in public facilities and that have positively impacted the quality of care provided.

- In November 2016, UNHCR attended the launch of the initiative “**Mainstreaming Psychosocial Programs in Primary Health Units**” by the Ministry of Health and Population and UNICEF. UNHCR emphasized that its support to government institutions will be maintained and strengthened to help Egypt extend equal support for its nationals and refugees alike. The Ministry of Health underlined its efforts to provide access to public health care services to refugees on equal footing with citizens.



## Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- In November and December, 385 people participated in livelihood related training. 50 individuals were supported in finding jobs and 313 people started their own business with support from UNHCR.
- The **NilFurat** project – which is a UNHCR initiative bringing together low-income Egyptian women with refugees from Syria, Eritrea, and Ethiopia to make **high quality handicrafts** - participated in an international handicrafts show in Cairo at the end of November. In addition to women’s economic empowerment the NilFurat project provides a space for interaction and social support. During the exhibition, the NilFurat team had their first selling experience and presented products in the “Kids Category” that included bags, baby carpets, and curtains with authentic patterns.



Bags with authentic patterns produced by the NilFurat team.  
©NilFurat

## Working in partnership

UNHCR in Egypt works through the following partners:

Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trials and Human Rights (ACSFT) ● Arab Medical Union (AMU) ● Care Int/USA ● Caritas ● Catholic Relief Services (CRS) ● Danish Refugee Council (DRC) ● Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR) ● ICMC ● IOM ● Dr Mostafa Mahmoud Society ● Refuge Egypt ● Save the Children ● St Andrews Refugee Services (StARS) ● Terre Des Hommes (TdH) - Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) ● UNDP ● UNFPA ● UNHABITAT ● UNICEF ● UNOPS ● UNV ● WFP ● WHO

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to approximately **US\$ 38.7 million**

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by [Canada](#), [the European Union](#), [Germany](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [Monaco](#), [United Kingdom](#), the [United States of America](#) and [Private donors in Egypt and UAE](#) who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds in 2016.

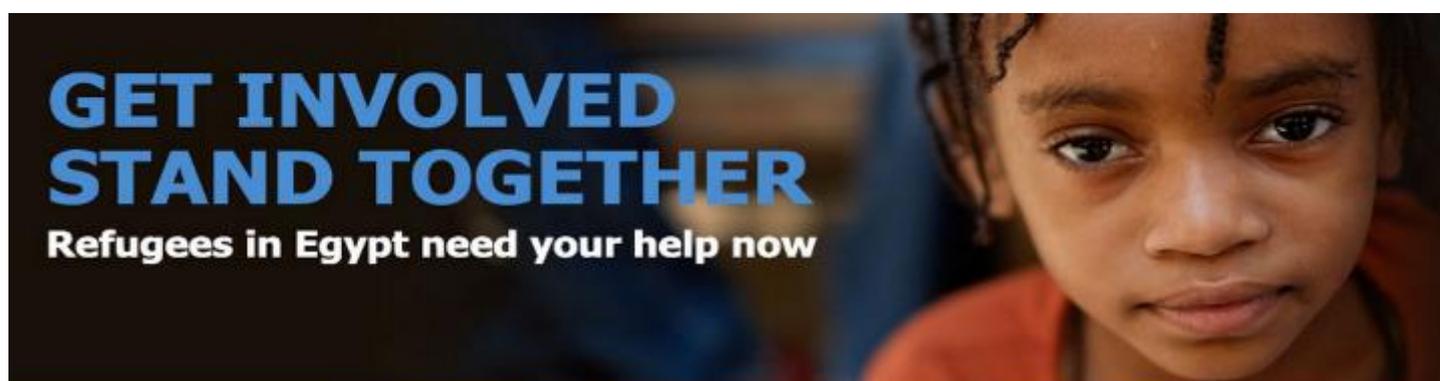
### Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to UNHCR in 2016 (in USD):

[United States of America \(200 M\)](#) | [Sweden \(95 M\)](#) | [Priv Donors Spain \(58 M\)](#) | [Netherlands \(46 M\)](#) | [United Kingdom \(45 M\)](#) | [Norway \(40 M\)](#) | [Japan \(24 M\)](#) | [Denmark \(24 M\)](#) | [Priv Donors Republic of Korea \(21 M\)](#) | [Priv Donors Italy \(20 M\)](#) | [Priv Donors Japan \(18 M\)](#) | [Priv Donors Sweden \(18 M\)](#) | [Priv Donors USA \(16 M\)](#) | [Canada \(16 M\)](#) | [Australia \(15 M\)](#) | [Switzerland \(15 M\)](#) | [France \(14 M\)](#) | [Germany \(13 M\)](#) | [Italy \(10 M\)](#)

### Other donors of unrestricted and regional funds to UNHCR in 2016:

[Algeria](#) | [Argentina](#) | [Austria](#) | [Azerbaijan](#) | [Belgium](#) | [Bulgaria](#) | [China](#) | [Costa Rica](#) | [Cyprus](#) | [Ecuador](#) | [Estonia](#) | [Finland](#) | [Holy See](#) | [Hungary](#) | [India](#) | [Indonesia](#) | [Ireland](#) | [Israel](#) | [Kuwait](#) | [Liechtenstein](#) | [Luxembourg](#) | [Mexico](#) | [Monaco](#) | [Mozambique](#) | [New Zealand](#) | [Peru](#) | [Poland](#) | [Portugal](#) | [Qatar](#) | [Republic of Korea](#) | [Romania](#) | [Russian Federation](#) | [Saudi Arabia](#) | [Serbia](#) | [Singapore](#) | [Sri Lanka](#) | [Thailand](#) | [Turkey](#) | [United Arab Emirates](#) | [Uruguay](#) | [Private Donors](#)

**Thank you to all donors for your contributions in 2016**



#### Contacts:

Ragnhild Ek, Senior External Relations Officer, [EK@unhcr.org](mailto:EK@unhcr.org), Cell +20 120 042 1996

Silja Rezk, Reporting Officer, External Relations Unit, [REZKS@unhcr.org](mailto:REZKS@unhcr.org), Cell +20 127 127 0375

#### Links:

Regional portal: [data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php)

Twitter: [@UNHCREGYPT](https://twitter.com/UNHCREGYPT)