



EGYPT

PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO

COUNTRY	BUDGET 2017-18	TITLE
EGYPT		
EPr1	9,000,000	Strengthening capacities of local partners to provide livelihoods services to vulnerable Syrian refugees and host populations in Egypt to enhance resilience of communities
TOTAL	9,000,000	

UNDP Response in Egypt

Since the onset of the Syrian crisis, Egypt has been generously hosting Syrian refugees. As of September 2016, there are approximately 117,350 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Egypt, out of an estimated total of nearly half a million of Syrians currently living in Egypt. Syrians in Egypt live among Egyptians in an integrated manner; they are mostly concentrated in an urban areas particularly in Giza, Greater Cairo, Alexandria, Damietta and Qalyubia, with access to public services, resources and many of the local citizen privileges such as public health and education. This, however, represents a burden on the Government especially in light of economic challenges over the recent years.

More recently, the structural reform launched in 2016 and the resulting high inflation rate have had an impact on vulnerable refugees and host communities, with the devaluation of the Egyptian Pound leading to a significant increase in the cost of living. The unemployment rate is currently 12.6% and the poverty rate is estimated at 27.8%. According to a recent UNHCR survey, 94% of registered Syrian refugees are identified as severely or highly vulnerable and 48% need to borrow money or purchase on credit to meet their basic needs. All of these factors highlight the need to further support efforts to strengthen the capacities of national and sub-national service delivery systems to respond to the increased demand, and the need to enhance access to livelihoods opportunities for refugees and host communities, with the overall aim of enhancing their self-reliance and resilience, and promoting sustainable community development.

Since 2015, the UN in Egypt, in cooperation with national partners, has been exerting efforts to respond to these needs through the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). Such efforts will continue through the 3RP chapter for Egypt (2017-2018) which was also developed under the leadership of the Government of Egypt with the support of the United Nations in Egypt and all 3RP partners, and which was launched in April 2017 under the auspices of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Plan aims to respond to the needs of Syrian refugees and host communities through two interconnected components "Refugee" and "Resilience" with a focus on 5 Sectors namely: Protection; Food Security; Health; Education; Basic needs and Livelihoods. The "Resilience" Component compliments the humanitarian assistance by addressing the stabilization and resilience needs of the impacted and vulnerable communities in all sectors, builds the capacities of national and subnational service delivery systems and strengthens the ability of the government to lead the crises response. 3RP partners have appealed for \$131,164,398 in 2017 and \$127,822,052 in 2018. The Government of Egypt requirements amount to \$216,977,000 in 2017 and \$225,000,000 in 2018.

Within this framework, UNDP is providing support for this response as part of its broader development partnership across the country. As the lead agency on resilience within the 3RP, UNDP's focus is on mainstreaming resilience into the response so that host communities are better positioned to withstand the new challenges and continue to pursue their development pathways. Furthermore, building on its expertise in fighting poverty and its strong partnerships with government and development partners, UNDP is well positioned to continue to support national efforts to enhance the resilience of host communities of Syrian refugees, through strengthened access to livelihood opportunities and services, to help respond to the increasing demand in these areas.

PROJECT BRIEF

2017-18



TIMELINE

Total \$9 million
(requested \$4.5m
per year)



COST

PROJECT TITLE:

Strengthening capacities of local partners to provide livelihoods services to vulnerable Syrian refugees and host populations in Egypt to enhance resilience of communities

RESILIENCE/STABILIZATION RESULTS ACHIEVED:

UNDP and the Social Fund for Development (SFD) launched in October 2016 a public works (cash-for-works) programme in three impacted host communities of Syrian refugees (high concentration of Syrian refugees and high poverty rates) in Alexandria. Recently, the coverage was expanded to include two host communities in Menoufia and Sharkia. The project aims to create short to mid-term emergency jobs in the field of social services (particularly health, waste management), with a focus on young men and women, while improving services in these communities.

Under the health component, young women are hired to conduct health awareness programs through home visits and medical convoys with the aim of improving and enhancing access to basic maternal and child health care services in targeted communities. With regards to waste management, the project employs young men and women to implement a garbage collection campaign while also putting in place a system for waste collection from households to prevent garbage accumulation in the future; this component also involves the training of young people to conduct environmental awareness campaigns.

THE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE:

The Government of Egypt is playing a key role in supporting Syrian refugees and is currently hosting approximately 500,000 Syrians who are living alongside Egyptian citizens in an integrated manner, with access to public services such as health and education. However, Egypt is currently facing economic challenges; the structural reform and high inflation rate are impacting vulnerable refugees and host communities, with the devaluation of the Egyptian Pound leading to a significant increase in the cost of living. The unemployment rate is currently 12.6% and the poverty rate is estimated at 27.8%. According to a recent UNHCR survey, 94% of registered Syrian refugees are identified as severely or highly vulnerable and 48% need to borrow money or purchase on credit to meet their basic needs. This highlights the need to further support livelihoods opportunities for refugees and host communities with the aim of enhancing resilience and promoting sustainable community development.

THE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTION:

The project applies a resilience approach (area-based) to support the most impacted host communities to cope with and recover from the increased pressure, through the provision of additional income. It also has a secondary social impact by enhancing access to community services for both host communities and Syrian refugees, which will help enhance their quality of life and social interactions.

The project therefore responds to the urgent need to create employment opportunities and to build the capacities and skills of unemployed youth (18-29 years of age) and will also help enhance their prospects for future employment.

It also builds on UNDP and SFD's extensive experience in the implementation of public works programmes, during the period 2012-2015, in the poorest Egyptian villages. Given the gender dimension of unemployment in Egypt, and the fact that labor-intensive public works projects in infrastructure traditionally generate jobs for men, a social services component was introduced during this period particularly targeting women. Within this framework, a total of 913,228 workdays were created (between 2012-2015), in labor-intensive infrastructure

and social services projects in 11 governorates in Egypt providing emergency relief to poor and vulnerable populations in need of jobs and additional income. Such programmes have proven a dual benefit: at once effective social protection mechanisms that provide emergency jobs for unskilled and semi-skilled workers, and means of improving community infrastructures such as roads and water networks, and social services such as public health and waste management.

OUR APPROACH:

The project builds on UNDP's long-standing partnership with the Social Fund for Development which was established by the Government in 1991 to support job creation through micro and small enterprise development and enhance the livelihoods of low-income groups. The SFD also has outreach at the local level in all governorates through its 31 regional offices which facilitates the implementation of project activities.

UNDP Egypt aims at continuing its support to improve the resilience of host communities of Syrian refugees, through a two-track approach:

- Strengthening local capacity to design and deliver resilience-building interventions: includes building capacities of local governments to identify the challenges of the local population, and tailor livelihoods support interventions in jobs creation, entrepreneurship support, and business development services
- Increasing self-reliance of vulnerable host and refugee populations while improving access to services and social and economic infrastructure: this component will focus on upscaling the public works model in other high-poverty districts with large populations of Syrian refugees, with the aim of creating emergency jobs for with a focus on women and youth. This will include projects to upgrade infrastructure (public marketplaces, health clinics, schools and road networks) and to enhance community services such as waste management, public health promotion and environmental protection services. This labor-intensive scheme will provide community members with income while also benefiting the local economy. The public works model is easily scalable and replicable with sufficient funding and there is strong national and local capacity to support its implementation.

The focus will be on areas with high levels of poverty that have been most affected by the influx of Syrian refugees – including Giza, Greater Cairo, Alexandria as well as Menoufia, Sharkia and Damietta as these Governorates also host numerous registered Syrian refugees.

THE IMPACT:

The project is expected to create around 140,000 workdays by end of 2017 for approximately 500 poor men and women in Alexandria, Menoufia and Qalyoubia, thereby creating employment opportunities; strengthening the skills of beneficiaries and consequently improving their future employment prospects; boosting local economic development in target areas; while improving health and environmental services. These activities will also contribute to the strengthening social cohesion among members of impacted communities.