

UNDP IN EGYPT

SUPPORTING HOST COMMUNITIES THROUGH A LIVELIHOODS APPROACH



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Despite not having a land border with Syria, Egypt has also been a destination for refugees from Syria since the crisis broke out, and as of September 2016, there are nearly half a million Syrians living in the country. Refugees in Egypt are living in urban settings among Egyptian communities, predominately in Giza, Greater Cairo Alexandria and Qalyubia. The Government of Egypt and local communities are stretching their capabilities to support Syrian refugees, despite facing economic challenges that have deepened over the past few years.

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.

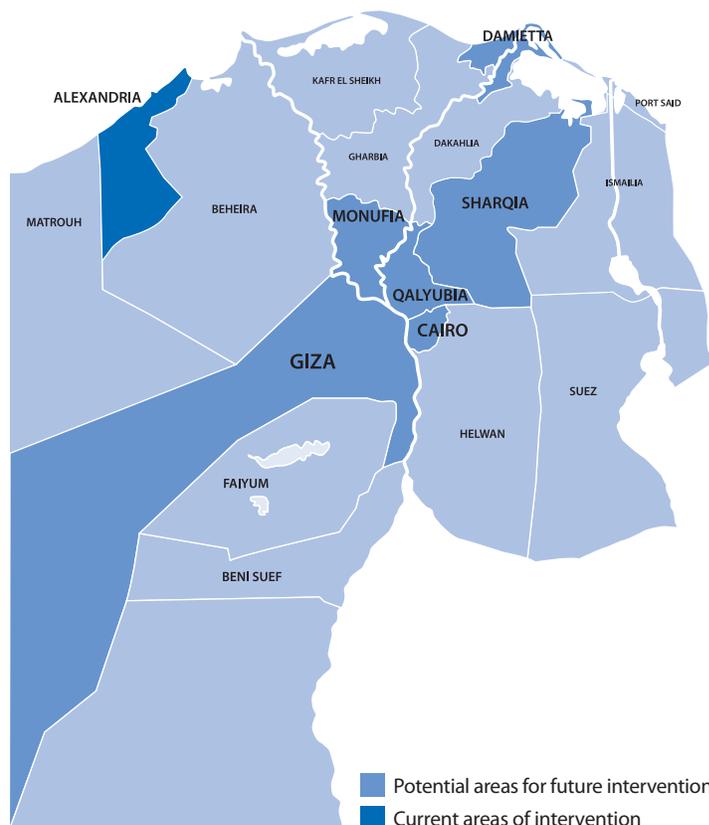
In particular, UNDP Egypt is partnering with the Egyptian Social Fund for Development (SFD) on a cash-for-work programme which targets impacted communities hosting Syrian refugees, creating job opportunities in public health awareness and waste management. Funded by the Government of Kuwait, the project began in October 2016 and has created 1,083 workdays for 30 persons, two-thirds of them women. An estimated 100,000 workdays for some 300 young men and women are expected by end-2017 and plans for scaling up are in place. The programme will also help sustain development gains by providing vocational training, and bolster social cohesion at a time of new development stresses.

The programme builds on UNDP and SFD's successful experience in implementing cash-for-works programmes in the poorest Egyptian villages from 2012 to 2015, creating 913,228 workdays for poor men and women in labor-intensive infrastructure and social services projects. 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.

LOOKING AHEAD

UNDP Egypt is appealing for US\$9million in 2017 and 2018 to continue to support efforts to boost the resilience of communities hosting Syrian refugees, through a two-track approach that increases the self-reliance of communities and strengthens public capacity for a robust response:

- **Strengthening local capacity to design and deliver resilience-building interventions:** includes building capacities of local governments to gauge 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:** Focused on upscaling the public works model in additional high-poverty districts with large populations of Syrian



refugees, with the aim of creating emergency jobs 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 the localities mentioned above as well as Monufiya, Sharkia and Damietta, as these Governorates also host numerous registered Syrian refugees.

“I’m very happy to be part of this program, I learned a lot and benefited a lot, including financially, I had stayed home unemployed for a year before being accepted into this program.”

Iman, participant in the UNDP Egypt – SFD cash-for-work programme