Refuge Egypt
خدمة اللاجئين
Refuge Egypt serves refugees, migrants and asylum seekers living in Egypt who have fled their original country of nationality due to war or disaster, and who have well founded fears of return due to persecution or loss of rights.

We seek to provide humanitarian assistance, spiritual guidance and encouragement to help build self-sufficiency and self-respect in preparation for repatriation, resettlement or integration into Egyptian society.

Our programs are holistic, designed to meet the wide range of refugees’ needs, acknowledging that those needs are deeply connected. And our programs are responsive, based on our decades of mutual interaction with the people we serve.

Refuge Egypt is a ministry of the Anglican Episcopal Diocese of Egypt with North Africa.
Egypt’s Refugees

Egypt is home to hundreds of thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers. The UNHCR has an active caseload of around 180,000 individuals—but the actual number is 5 or 10 times that figure.

Why? For decades, refugees and asylum seekers have escaped the multiple wars and famines that have raged in Sudan’s hinterlands, the repressive politics of the Horn of Africa, and internecine strife in the Middle East. The map on the right shows that many of these trends continue today.

For the neighbourhood, Egypt presents a land of safety and opportunity. Many diaspora communities are well-established in Cairo. And Alexandria is a tempting port of entry to the Mediterranean Sea—to Europe, and further afield.

But the problems refugees face in Egypt are many: they are unable to access medical services; many are prevented from receiving education; most lack the skills and training for a sustainable livelihood; most struggle to find even informal unskilled work; while households are vulnerable to inflation and economic shocks; many struggle with trauma, and have huge emotional and spiritual needs.

Refuge Egypt exists to serve these refugees and to meet their material, medical, and spiritual needs.
Humanitarian Assistance

Refuge Egypt’s Family Support program has been operating for over a decade, meeting the most immediate needs of refugees as soon as they arrive in Cairo.

We register refugees when they arrive, and conduct short interviews with them to determine their greatest needs. We then seek to provide refugees with parcels containing essential food items, as well as clothing and blankets, and refer them to other services where necessary.

Those receiving food parcels are the most vulnerable refugees, with no other means of support. This program gives support and stability for these cases for the first 2 years in Egypt—providing a safety net while they take the first steps to sustainability.

In 2015, we registered 3,028 new arrivals in need of emergency assistance. Of those 3,028, 410 (14%, lighter red) were dependent adults, and 1,367 (45%, lightest red) were under 18.
We work to enable refugees to access employment so that they can be self-reliant and integrated into Egyptian society.

Our Domestic Placement Office places prospective employers and employees together, and provides training in domestic work, baby-sitting, and elderly care, providing refugees with employable skills.

Refuge Egypt acts as a mediator between employees and employers, negotiating contracts that ensure the rights of refugees in our care are protected. We place hundreds of refugees in jobs that allows them to become self-sufficient.

In addition, we run comprehensive English language courses at multiple levels of proficiency to allow refugees to gain skills to access employment and further education.
The Happy Child Preschool provides the foundational literacy, numeracy, and social skills for access to further education, as well as the structure and the predictability all children need.

It also frees the time of parents and caregivers so that they can pursue any employment opportunities or attend school. Located in the heart of Ma’adi, the Montessori-bases preschool an opportunity for refugee children to get the best possible start in life.

The preschool gives an opportunity for people of different backgrounds to forge friendships and learn together from a young age. KG 0, 1 and 2 classes are 5 days a week, and trained teachers cover a range of topics, including English, Arabic, math, music, and religious studies, with free and structured play throughout the day.

In 2014/15, we began with 46 students, had an average attendance of 32, and graduated 20 students. In September 2015, we had a starting attendance of 90, and an average of 65.
Access to quality medical care and psychosocial support is a challenge for refugees. Refuge Egypt delivers accessible and comprehensive health care for refugees in Cairo with qualified doctors, nurses, counsellors, community health workers, and volunteers.

Refuge Egypt’s medical doctors provide primary health care services to refugees in Egypt, and give referrals to other trusted health care providers. These services include maternal health clinics, HIV counseling and testing, TB and HIV clinics, malnutrition clinics, as well as general physical check-ups.

In addition, the Well Baby and Well Child Clinics, in our clinics throughout Cairo and Alexandria, monitor children from birth to five years. The clinics ensure that children develop well and screen for common diseases such as malnutrition and rickets, as well as psychosocial problems.
Our Youth Program has been a key program in reaching the needs of refugee youth (18–30) in Cairo for over a decade. Its activities have included sports outreach, conferences for teenagers, informal fellowship, and a reconciliation conference with Sudanese street gangs attended by over 500 people.

Since 2013, our focus has been on meeting the educational needs of refugee youth in Cairo while maintaining a program of community-building and spiritual and personal development.

We run regular trainings in life skills and household management, sponsor refugee youth in short computer courses, and work with refugee youth in pastoral and mentorship relationships to help them overcome the difficulties of life in Cairo.

In 2015, our adult education programme ran three semesters of 9 classes at levels ranging from absolute beginner (ABCs) to Intermediate. Of a total 450 students starting, 303 graduated their class with a passing grade.
Refuge Egypt is a ministry of the Anglican Episcopal Diocese of Egypt with North Africa.

For more information on our programs and how to support us, please contact us at info@refuge-egypt.org or write to the following address:

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