Refuge Egypt
Refuge Egypt is a humanitarian organization that seeks to serve refugees who have fled their original country of domain due to war or disaster, and who have well founded fears of return due to persecution or loss of rights. Refuge Egypt provides humanitarian assistance, spiritual guidance and encouragement to help build self-sufficiency and self-respect in preparation for repatriation, resettlement or local integration into Egyptian society.

Refuge Egypt is a ministry of the Anglican/Episcopal Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

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# 2021 Annual Report

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Context

Egypt is home to an estimated two to five million refugees\(^1\). This number is comprised of 267,734 registered asylum-seekers and refugees\(^2\) with the remainder being unregistered refugees or migrants from war-torn countries, all fleeing their home countries in search of a safe and secure life for their families. Although many register as asylum-seekers and later refugees, many others do not qualify, as they are fleeing a general war-torn or economically depressed situation as opposed to facing a specific threat to their lives. Others register with UNHCR but their cases are closed. These refugees no longer have a life in their home countries to return to and remain in Egypt with a passport or without documentation.

Refugees registered with UNHCR often reside in Egypt over a decade before being resettled in the West, and most will never be resettled. Refugees are integrated into Egyptian society but lack access to the same basic rights as their neighbors. They cluster in a handful of working-class communities across the greater Cairo area, where they rent small, poorly ventilated apartments, sometimes with multiple households living together in close quarters. Although many households come to Egypt with the expectation of receiving financial support from UNHCR, very few are granted any form of assistance due to the sheer numbers of refugees. Without legal access to work, refugees work in the informal labor market for low wages. Chronic health and nutrition issues are prevalent, and refugee children are particularly vulnerable.

Situation Update

Refugees lack the social safety nets for survival in times of crisis. That’s why, when the pandemic hit in early 2020, refugees were particularly vulnerable. Many lost their jobs, at least temporarily, as employers were scared of transmission of the virus. When the country began to open up later that year, we found that the job market available to refugees had changed. The demand for employees had decreased, as employers were nervous about the economic fallout of the pandemic and increasing inflation. Egyptian households looking for domestic workers were demanding live-in workers, due to the fear of daily workers bringing COVID-19 into their homes. Unfortunately, since the demand for domestic workers is primarily for women, this places mothers in a difficult position – live away from her family in order to provide financially, or remain at home to care for them. This changing employment landscape is compounded with rising inflation, causing greater financial instability.

COVID-19 also increased the isolation and anxiety of typically social cultures. There is a need for activities that bring refugees together across tribes, nationalities, genders and religions. There is also a need for mental health services. At the beginning of 2021, Refuge Egypt began a psychosocial clinic, providing one-on-one, group, and art therapy to refugees experiencing depression, PTSD, and other mental health conditions.

As we try to meet these needs, Refuge Egypt’s programs are holistic—combating the many and varied needs of refugees together—and responsive. As the response to our work below shows—refugees in Egypt need all the support and encouragement we can give.

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Refuge Egypt’s Humanitarian Assistance Program meets the most immediate needs of refugees as soon as they arrive in Cairo. Refugee newcomers fleeing their home country arrive with little more than the shirts on their backs. A little emergency assistance in this time can go a long way to help refugees land on their feet, by providing holistic support to refugee households as they work towards creating a self-sustaining life in Cairo.

In 2021, 3705 new arrival households (14,455 individuals) received emergency assistance. Most of these households (65%) come from Sudan, with another 13% from South Sudan, 12% from Eritrea, 7% from Ethiopia, and 3% from other countries.

The majority of our beneficiaries are families, and oftentimes the breadwinner is disabled or sick and unable to work. A number are also single-parent households or senior citizens. We have noticed a significant increase in the household size this past year, with some households having 10 or more dependents.
The Humanitarian Assistance Program registers refugees when they arrive, and conducts interviews with them to determine their greatest needs. Refuge Egypt provides food parcels, clothing, and blankets to newcomer families and connects them to services needed to find a job, receive medical care, and access education for their children. Refuge Egypt also serves families in emergency, through food, cash assistance, and household items.

Items Distributed in 2021:

- **2800** Food parcels
- **2200** Articles of clothing
- **160** Sanitation kits
- **140** Blankets

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

**Case Study: Mahmoud**

Mahmoud is a 22-year-old male from Somalia. He faced many problems back home, including genocide and violence. The Somalian militia government killed his family. He escaped but was caught up to and ended up falling down a mountain and was taken for dead. He was not in fact dead, but permanently injured in his leg. He was able to make it to Ethiopia with the help of some people who found him. He then made it to Egypt. He was originally homeless and didn’t know anyone. He spoke no English or Arabic, just Somalian. Refuge Egypt helped him find a place to stay and registered him for the Arabic and English adult education classes. He was also approached by human traffickers here in Egypt. We contacted IOM due to this issue, which was able to support him and give him more resources. Now he speaks Arabic, and he can communicate with others here more easily. He also feels more comfortable opening up about his story. Upon learning more of his history, we also referred him to MSF for psychosocial support. He still requires much support for his leg and continues to use a crutch. Refuge Egypt also provides him with a cash assistance for rent and helps him with food and other resources. He has recently become sick and has been going to the clinic. The cash assistance also covered his tuition for adult education, transportation, and medicine.
Without meaningful work or opportunities for growth and self-improvement, many refugees fall into despair and hopelessness. Education provides young people with purpose and something to work towards, and contributes to one’s sense of accomplishment and dignity. Gangs, crime, and drugs are common among refugee communities, and educational opportunities keep youth off the streets and provide a means for productive activity.

From our Happy Child Preschool to the Adult Education program, Refuge Egypt provides opportunities for education to refugees of all ages, equipping them with the tools to become their best self.

Happy Child Preschool

Happy Child Preschool provides early childhood education to refugee children living in Maadi, equipping them with the literacy and numeracy skills necessary for academic achievement in grade school, while freeing up their parents to work outside the home. Implementing the Montessori Method, Happy Child Preschool takes a loving and gentle approach to learning. The curriculum includes math, Arabic, English and Bible, and Montessori tools and methods are used. Play, art, singing, and outdoor recreation are also central to learning and development. In 2021, 67 children were registered across three classes: KG 0, KG 1, and KG 2.
St. Raphael Primary and Secondary School

St. Raphael Sudanese Learning Center provides a quality education to 283 Sudanese children, mostly from the Nuba Mountains. In addition to teaching the Sudanese national curriculum, St. Raphael provides school meals, sports days, and medical check-ups, in an effort to care for the whole child. Teachers and staff from the same tribe as the children creates a safe environment where students feel a sense of belonging, despite the trauma many of them have experienced. The school also aims to create social cohesion, in partnership with Gabriel Social Center, responding to the community’s desire to combat gang activity, crime, and teen pregnancy that results when children drop out of school.

![Pie chart showing exam results]

In 2021, 24 of the 25 students who sat for the Grade 8 exams necessary to qualify for secondary school passed the required examinations, meaning that a total of 75% of students moved on to secondary school. Seven children were unable to sit for the examinations, due to the high fees students must pay to the Sudanese government.

In the Fall of 2021, St. Raphael School added 3rd Year Senior (11th Grade) for the first time, expanding the school to offer all grades of primary and secondary school. The first class of graduates will complete their education Spring 2022. After taking their Sudanese national examinations, they will receive a Sudanese diploma, which provides access to Egyptian universities and institutes. We are very proud of our graduating seniors!
Case Study: Yusuf

Yusuf joined St. Raphael School two years ago and brought a spark of energy to the school through his connections with his classmates, teachers and staff. He was always helping everyone, making him very beloved. He was also diligent in his studies and academic achievement. Despite all of this, he was still struggling with the death of his father, who had provided him with everything, supported him in his studies, and encouraged him to succeed on his exams. His father was always reminding him of the great future that was waiting for him.

His father also told him a lot about their migration from Sudan to Egypt due to the war. He encouraged him to work hard to pass his exams with the aim of enrolling in the Faculty of Medicine so that he could become a doctor to treat patients, relieving their pains and treating their wounds.

After the death of his father, Yusuf was not as active and cooperative as he was before. He had become isolated from everybody and did not attend school regularly. His engagement declined, and his academic achievement suffered. When his teachers and fellow students noticed how badly the situation had affected him, they decided to do their best to help Yusuf return to how he was before and achieve his father’s wishes. Everyone from the school went to visit him at his home after the death of his father. The visit had a positive impact on Yusuf. He listened to the teachers talk with receptive ears. He immediately returned to school and paid great attention to his lessons. This resulted in him earning good grades. In addition, Yusuf discovered other talents that he had never explored in the past, namely drawing and music, which he excelled in. He achieved first place at the school level in both drawing and music. He was able to form a special musical group for the school, and the band became known throughout the community. They were asked to play at many school celebrations and special events for students’ families. Today, Yusuf still wishes to enter medical school to become a doctor and fulfill the wish of his father.
Adult Education

Refuge Egypt’s Adult Education Program provides refugees the language skills needed to survive and thrive in Cairo and after resettlement to the West. Arabic literacy and Egyptian Colloquial Arabic classes give non-native speakers basic language skills for going to the market, communicating with landlords, and finding a job. Improving one’s English language skills can open doors to better employment, such as work at a company or as a cleaner in the home of a foreigner. For those who are eventually resettled to Western receiving nations, reaching an intermediate level of English while in Egypt means they can begin to work immediately in their new host country rather than enrolling in months of language classes.

An average of 200 students enroll per term in 11 classes, across 8 levels, from absolute beginner to intermediate. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, language classes have provided an important sense of friendship and community that people are longing for. Over the four-month term, students form bonds and help each other across gender and nationality barriers.
Student rates of passing increased over the course of 2021, from 73% in Term 1 to 95% in Term 2 and 92% in Term 3.
Capacity and Livelihoods

As a UNHCR implementing partner, Refuge Egypt’s Capacity and Livelihoods Department serves as a Job Hub for refugees seeking employment. Refugees who visit our office are profiled, in order to determine their skills, experience, and qualification gaps. Where possible, the Office tries to match refugees with jobs that align with their skills and previous work experience. Those who could benefit from additional qualifications are placed in vocational training programs, either at Refuge Egypt or at partnering service providers.

Those without specialized qualifications can register for a two-week cleaning course, where they learn proper cleaning techniques and receive cultural orientation to improve communication with their Egyptian employers. After the conclusion of the two weeks, participants take a test and earn a certificate that allows them to interview with employers looking for cleaners. Refuge Egypt facilitates the interview process, signing of a contract, and mediation in the event of any conflicts that might arise throughout the employment.

These jobs enable refugees to provide stable incomes for their households, making them more resilient to crises and emergencies. As we look to expand the types of jobs that refugees have access to, we aim to empower refugees to be self-sufficient, independent, and thriving—even in Cairo.
### Outcome

**Refugees receive training to equip them in finding a job**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021 Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>794</strong> individuals completed a training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Domestic cleaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vocational skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Customized</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Soft skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>384</strong> individuals were trained for employment in domestic cleaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>24</strong> two-week courses were held</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>302</strong> individuals completed soft skills training</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Refugees are matched with appropriate employers through the Job Placement Office**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021 Beneficiaries</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>639</strong> refugees attended one or more interviews with potential employers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>317</strong> individuals signed contracts with an employer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An average of <strong>26</strong> matches between employer and employee were made per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>49%</strong> of employees stayed with the same employer for longer than 6 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Medical Services

Access to quality medical care and psychosocial support is a challenge for refugees. Chronic health problems persist in refugee populations—particularly those arriving from famine-stricken conflict areas—but go untreated. Medical care is relatively expensive, both with admission fees and associated costs (time off work, transport across Cairo). Many simply lack the resources to attend to urgent medical issues, and those who do face cultural, linguistic and bureaucratic barriers to adequate care.

Refuge Egypt delivers accessible and comprehensive health care for refugees in Cairo with qualified doctors, nurses, counsellors, community health workers, and volunteers. We have 4 clinics in Cairo: Zamalek, Arba wa Nos, Maadi, and 6th October. Specialized health care is provided in the following areas:

- Antenatal care and women’s health issues, including FGM and SGBV;
- Well Baby and Well Child Clinics, which monitor child development ages 0–5;
- Malnutrition screening and treatment;
- HIV and TB testing, counselling and treatment;
- Psychosocial care, including art therapy for HIV and other stigmatized groups

Our services offer affordable, accessible care for refugees’ most urgent and life-threatening issues, and provide extensive referral services, to ensure that refugees are well-served by the national clinics and services to which they are entitled.

The chart on the next page shows the total beneficiaries served in our four clinics.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>2021 Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preventative and curative healthcare services for pregnant women</td>
<td>631 complicated pregnancies managed with full antenatal care (3163 consultations)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>128 successful deliveries amongst pregnant ladies in antenatal program</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1198 food packages distributed to pregnant ladies in ANC clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventative and curative healthcare services for refugee children aged 0-5</td>
<td>952 children aged 0-2 receive our full package of preventative, curative and nutritional care at our Well Baby Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>819 children aged 2-5 receive our full package of preventative, curative and nutritional care at our Well Baby / Well Child children’s clinics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>81 malnutrition cases provided regular consultations for 7 months, supplementary food bags, and vitamin supplements (382 consultations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28 malnutrition cases discharged as cured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1474 food packages distributed to WBCC and malnutrition patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicable diseases (TB and HIV/AIDS) diagnosed and treated or controlled</td>
<td>1286 TB consultations provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>222 TB cases diagnosed and receive treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>118 TB patients complete treatment regime of 6 months</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1507 people tested and counselled for HIV at our VCT clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>431 PLHIV receive first-line ARTS treatment and nutritional supplements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Awareness Sessions to encourage good health and disease prevention</td>
<td>1264 individuals (897 households) receive health awareness sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>92 health education seminars provided on topics including immunization, healthy pregnancy practices, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, TB, hygienic practices, COVID-19, childhood disease prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosocial support for PLHIV, TB, and SGBV</td>
<td>37 individuals receive one-on-one therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29 individuals receive group therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 HIV support group sessions</td>
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</tbody>
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Case Study: Nadal

Nadal’s a beautiful child from Sudan. When she was one year old, she was diagnosed with cancer (Sacrococcygeal yolk sac Turner grade 4 – with metastasis to liver and lungs). Her family was living in Sudan at that time. After her diagnosis, her family left their homeland and came to Egypt to find help for their little daughter, since in Sudan they wouldn’t be able to afford the medical care she needed.

After the operation in Egypt, she suffered from Calcium-Deficiency/Rickets, so her family brought their daughter to our pediatricians and she registered at our malnutrition clinic. Our medical staff showed care towards her and sympathized with her, not only with regards to the medical situation but also for her family’s economic situation. They took care of the child’s treatment and followed up with her for a year and a half, until she regained her full health.

Nadal’s mother is a single mother of six children who makes a living as a domestic worker, so she isn’t able to provide her children with all their needs. The medical clinic referred her family to the Humanitarian Department, which provided winter clothes, a blanket and food. They also provided her with age-appropriate toys for Christmas. Nadal’s mother told us, “When my daughter feels sick, I bring her here because I know she’s going to be treated.” She adds, “Usually when we’re hungry, we come here because I know you’re going to feed us.”
**Our Partners**

This work would not be possible without the support of our international and local donors and local partners. With special thanks to:

*International Partners*
— Anglican Aid Australia
— Caritas Egypt
— Coworkers International
— Embrace the Middle East
— Handicap International
— Mennonite Central Committee
— Samaritan’s Purse Canada
— St Ursula’s, Berne
— UNHCR
— Worldwide Christian Churches Ministries (WCCM)

*Refuge Egypt is a ministry of Episcocare and the Anglican/Episcopal Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Middle East.*
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.

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