

PROSPECTS

Improving prospects for forcibly displaced
persons and host communities



EGYPT

Country Vision Note

Vision Note for a new Partnership

between the Government of Netherlands, IFC, ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF and the WB

Egypt

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1. Introduction

Acknowledged by partners in the Global Vision Note¹, forced displacement has increased in scale and complexity in recent years and is becoming increasingly protracted². Egypt too has witnessed this trend.

The impact of forced displacement is substantial both among those in displacement and vulnerable host communities. Forcibly displaced persons³ face specific vulnerabilities, including loss of assets and psychological trauma, a protection risk as well as no or limited access to basic social services and adequate socio-economic opportunities. Vulnerable host communities have to pursue their own development efforts in an environment that has been transformed by an inflow of newcomers. Economic opportunities and access to jobs as well as services, especially education and protective services, are key to a successful management of such situations – for both refugees and vulnerable host communities.

Action is needed to mitigate the plight of both refugees and vulnerable host communities. Humanitarian assistance is critical, but insufficient when situations become protracted, and it needs to be complemented by a development approach that is focused on the medium- and long-term socio- economic dimensions of the crisis. In this context, development agencies and international organizations must build a new set of Partnerships that maximize synergies and leverage comparative advantages.

Inspired by the Global Vision Note, **the Country Vision Note for Egypt seeks to improve the living standards and inclusiveness of refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities, by contributing to the expansion of socio-economic opportunities through better education and mainstreamed protection**

interventions.

The Partnership focuses on supporting initiatives that will have long term sustainable impacts and that in turn will support the ongoing efforts of the Government of Egypt for building a more inclusive and productive society. The Partnership, by leveraging and amplifying existing programs, will promote a continuum approach that builds bridges across thematic areas, and new and innovative solutions to the identified challenges.

The Partnership will support the nationwide system and reforms in the area of socio-economic opportunities and education that benefit all families across Egypt, independently from their country of origin. Partners will identify priority areas of advocacy and system strengthening support that, in turns, will promote dialogue and awareness on important issues affecting the most vulnerable families in Egypt.

The direct support under this Partnership will work towards maximizing the impact on the ground of national level initiatives implemented by the Government and other agencies that aims at strengthening the human capital of families living in Egypt by specifically benefiting **refugees, asylum- seekers and vulnerable host communities**.

The Partnership will also create a platform for the partner agencies that will promote the implementation and expansion of joint and interlinked initiatives among the agencies that would act as catalyst for change.

The partners have identified children and young people as the main target population for this programme⁴, due to the compound benefits of investing in youth. Activities will be targeted in locations with significant mixed refugee, asylum-seeker and vulnerable host communities. Attention will be given to linking up these target groups to relevant (government led) national programmes where possible.

¹ Vision Note for a new Partnership between the Government of the Netherlands, IFC, ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF and the World Bank on “Inclusive Jobs and Education for forcibly displaced persons and host communities”.

² Vision Note for a new partnership between the Government of the Netherlands, IFC, ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF and the World Bank on “Inclusive Jobs and Education for forcibly displaced persons and host communities”.

³ Namely, refugees and asylum-seekers which will be the focus of this Partnership, along with the host communities. In the rest of this note, the terms refugees and asylum seekers will be used

2. Situation Analysis

► Country Context

Egypt is a lower middle-income country with an estimated population of 98 million in 2019⁶, of which over 5 million are estimated by the Government of Egypt to be “refugees and migrants”⁷. About a third of Egyptians live on less than the national poverty threshold in 2015, and another third is estimated to be vulnerable⁸.

The Government of Egypt has embarked on an ambitious IMF-supported reform programme and has implemented decisive measures to restore macroeconomic stability through various reforms which are having a positive impact on the economy as market confidence is growing. Inflation continued to recede in the first half of 2018. However, removal of subsidies on items in the energy sector (petrol, gasoline, diesel and electricity) have contributed significantly to increased costs of living, impacting the lives of the most vulnerable and poor.

In response, the government is strengthening national social safety nets through expanding the cash transfer schemes and increasing social pensions and food subsidy allocations for its citizens, but these do not extend to refugees or asylum-seekers. Egypt has made significant strides in human development in the areas of child mortality, life expectancy, primary and secondary school enrollment and literacy rates. Nevertheless, inequalities in access to and quality of basic social services still persist and are compounded by considerable population growth.

In order to improve the quality of life and welfare for people living in Egypt, in 2016 the Government launched Vision 2030 which follows the sustainable development goals as a general framework and

⁴ However, the activities will be not limited to these two age groups.

⁵ The information used to draft the context is from: Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) in Response to the Syria Crisis 2018-2019; Supporting Egypt Education Reform Project of The World Bank; Decent Work in Egypt 2017 results of ILO; Information from UNICEF/UNICEF; Statistical data and information on refugees and asylum-seekers from UNHCR.

⁶ Data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

⁷ <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/242459/Egypt/Politics-/Egypt-hosthosting--mln-refugees-despite-economic-chall.aspx>. While data on asylum-seekers and refugees are recorded by UNHCR, there is no systematic collection of such data for migrants in Egypt. Recently, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has

given a possible breakdown and update of this number, suggesting that the current total is over six million, consisting of: 1 million stranded Libyans; 4 million Sudanese, of whom some are already in their second generation; 1 million Syrians, of whom 100,000 are registered as refugees by UNHCR; 2,900 Palestinians, mostly from Syria and a minority from Gaza; and between 180,000 and 200,000 individuals from Yemen.

has three main dimensions focusing on economic, social and environmental aspects. The Vision is particularly relevant to this Partnership as it activates social transformation with the aim to achieve greater social cohesion and prosperity.

Within this context, Egypt has a relatively small but extremely vulnerable and diverse refugee and asylum-seeker population composed of 58 different nationalities. To foster greater inclusiveness, this population requires additional support to benefit from national education and socio-economic opportunities.

Despite Egypt being a signatory of the 1951 Refugee Convention, it does not yet have neither a national asylum system nor refugee legislation. It has therefore mandated the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to conduct registration, documentation, and Refugee Status Determination. Currently, UNHCR has registered more than 240,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, among which Syrians are the majority (54 per cent) and asylum-seekers and refugees from sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq, and Yemen account for 46 per cent. There are no camps or reception centers in Egypt, therefore refugees and asylum-seekers live in urban areas alongside Egyptian communities across the country and are mainly concentrated in Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. They are granted access to health services at an equal level with Egyptian nationals, and some nationalities also have access to public education. Such sharing of public services with refugees represents an added challenge for the Egyptian economy, which has been facing difficulties over the recent years. While state institutions play a key role in supporting refugees and asylum-seekers' protection, education, and health needs, they require further support in providing broad and quality services for both the refugee and vulnerable host communities. In this context, it is crucial to support the Government of Egypt's efforts and further enhance the capacity of national institutions to absorb and respond to the increasing demand on public services

⁸ CAPMAS data.

Out of the 240,008 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR by the end of October 2018, 91,776 (39%) are children (0-17 years) and 38,489 (16%) are youth aged 18-24 years. The number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) has risen continuously since 2014 and currently 3,929 UASC are registered with the Office. 73% of all UASC are aged 15-17 years. Female-headed households form 36% of all refugee households registered with UNHCR Egypt. 68% of which are from the East and Horn of Africa including Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan and Somalia being caregivers to a large number of young children ranging from early childhood age to school-aged children.

Despite a decreasing number of new registrations/arrivals compared to the previous year, UNHCR is recording a remarkable increase in continuous registration (over 78,000 between January and October 2018 only) as the total number of registered population continue to increase and, consequently, the request for registration-related services (verification, reactivation, closure, family unity). Moreover, 6,700 cases are currently waiting to be newly registered.

The Government allows refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR to regularize their residency and grants six-month renewable residence permits. However, a major challenge faced by refugees and asylum-seekers is the lengthy process to obtain and renew residence permits valid only for six months. Delays in receiving residence permits deprive refugees to access services, including education, health, etc. A valid residence permit stamped on the passport is required to open bank accounts and as a first step to be able to access finance in Egypt. In 2017, the GoE has agreed to a proposal put forward by UNHCR to prolong the duration to one year and to decentralize the process for issuing the permits in Alexandria but the digitalization of the system is still pending. Recently, the Ministry of Interior has introduced new measures to improve granting and renewal of the residence permits. Advocacy continues with the Government of Egypt to enable all refugees to obtain a one- year residence permit on their UNHCR documentation (instead of the current six-month).

► Area of focus

In line with the Global Vision for this Partnership, and the context analysis for Egypt, **the Partnership has prioritized two main focus areas, socio-economic opportunities and education, while protection will remain a cross-cutting area. These focus areas are deeply interlinked as system strengthening interventions in education will create a platform for social and economic inclusion.** Vice versa, interventions that aim at expanding socio-economic opportunities for refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities will have a direct impact in improving their living standards and prospects for **refugee, asylum-seeker and vulnerable host communities**. Protection interventions will be mainstreamed throughout the focus areas in order to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have adequate legal status and documentation, and are protected from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Socio-economic opportunities: the challenges in Egypt

In line with the Vision 2030, the Government of Egypt is committed to continue supporting a market-driven economy and is leading national efforts to generate jobs, establish infrastructures for investment and economic growth, and enhance the efficiency of government institutions. A target of reducing unemployment to five per cent by 2030 has been set forth. Unemployment is showing a slight decline from 12.6 per cent at the end of 2016 to 11.9 per cent at the end of the first quarter of 2017. However, the share of formal employment is decreasing while that of irregular and informal employment is estimated at 40 per cent and 30 per cent respectively. The decrease in formal jobs is largely related to the downsizing of the public sector, while economic growth is not generating formal jobs at that scale.

Labour force participation remains low at 48 per cent on account of particularly low economic participation of women, with only one out of four women participating in the labour market. Unemployment – despite recent signs of decline – remains relatively high, and it is concentrated among the new entrants, young people and people with a secondary level of education. Large part of the Egyptian economy is informal (63.3 per cent of all employment is informal), and a substantial part of the active population is underemployed and/or working poor. 98 per cent of Egypt's firms are microenterprises, often limited to low-value added activities. Evidence shows that microbusinesses are not scaling up the value chain and growing to become small and medium size enterprises.

MSME development in Egypt are faced with major constraints such as lack of access to finance, and only 6 per cent of MSMEs have access to bank loans compared to 18 per cent of large firms. Other important constraints include cumbersome regulations and administrative procedures, corruption and other market distortions as well as limited availability of skills required by the enterprise/firm to grow, and inadequate skills of entrepreneurs themselves, the matter which reflects the problems of the skills

mismatch. Despite the challenges, private sector development is crucial to enhance socio-economic opportunities.

The structural economic challenges in Egypt significantly affect all aspects of the lives of refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities. The difficult socio-economic conditions and increases in the cost of living have reduced households' purchasing power⁹ and increased their vulnerability. This has resulted in refugee, asylum-seeker and vulnerable host communities not being able to meet their basic needs and, therefore, their dependence on humanitarian assistance and social safety nets, such as cash grants and food vouchers, has increased. The situation in Egypt remains challenging for refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities to pursue formal economic activities and employment because of limited number of opportunities. A major challenge for refugees and asylum-seekers is the lack of a legal framework to enable them to work in the formal market. Moreover, refugees and asylum-seekers face a number of protection risks and a feeling of insecurity while exploring opportunities in the Egyptian labour market.

The private sector plays a key role in creating demand for jobs and to do so there is a need to further support a creation of a business enabling environment which is conducive to private sector investment and inclusive towards vulnerable communities.

In principle, refugees and asylum-seekers are treated as foreigners when it comes to access to the labour market¹⁰. Foreigners can access the formal job market through the 10 per cent quota clause defined under the Egyptian Law for Foreign Labour. However, in reality work permits for foreigners and refugees are very difficult to obtain due to the lengthy administrative procedures and the demanding requirements for employers who are requested to prove that the foreigner/refugee is not competing with the domestic labour force, and has expertise and skills that cannot be found among Egyptian workers. Moreover, some of the documentation requested by the government for the issuance of work permits for foreigners (university degrees, certifications, etc.) may also not be available with a refugee who may have lost or left behind such documents while fleeing his/her country. Therefore, the informal economy remains the only viable option for many refugees and asylum-seekers with the high risk to be subjected to exploitation and assaults. Many refugees, especially men and young people, are confronted with day to day temporary work which may involve serious protection risks.

⁹ World Bank "Egypt's Economic Outlook – October 2018

Moreover, it is extremely difficult for most of the refugees and asylum-seekers to open a bank account, to be formally employed, to start a formal business or to access credit (through micro- finance). This poses significant challenges for refugees and asylum-seekers to become self-reliant by having access to the formal economy.

Challenges in socio-economic opportunities can be summarized as follows:

- ▶ Lack of adequate legal framework to include refugees and asylum-seekers in the formal economy
- ▶ Lengthy waiting period for registration, documentation and Refugee Status Determination;
- ▶ Lack of specific market relevant skills and technical knowledge to access to or generate employment opportunities;
- ▶ Lack of formal employment opportunities and inadequate information on available job opportunities and limited knowledge of labour market needs/requirements;
- ▶ Lack of or limited access to finance;
- ▶ Language barriers;
- ▶ Lack of socio-economic opportunities and recreational activities for refugee youth.

Education: the challenges in Egypt

In alignment with the Vision 2030, the Government of Egypt has embarked on a major Education Reform Programme in September 2018. The Ministry of Education and Technical Education is committed to bring back learning to the classroom using a two-pronged approach. This approach includes: (a) reforming the current system, referred to as Education 1.0 (EDU 1.0), and (b) transforming the education sector, referred to as Education 2.0 (EDU 2.0). EDU 1.0 aims to serve students in the existing education system through initiatives that make incremental, targeted improvements to the sector. EDU 2.0 encompasses bold interventions to modernize the education system and catapult education outcomes toward Egypt Vision 2030 targets. This reform is focused on the whole of the pre-tertiary education for the first cohort to graduate from secondary education after 12 years, one year per grade. This reform programme will benefit all students attending pre-tertiary schools, including public and private schools (except international schools). Improving the quality and access of education will ensure that the children will be able to better learn and innovate, and be more equipped to enter the labour market.

While Egypt has the highest share of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) among North African countries with around every second student at secondary school education being enrolled in technical streams, challenges exist in the quality and

market relevance of skills provided, with less than two percent of all students benefiting from work-based learning within enterprises. Moreover, the system is fragmented and responsibilities shared between 17 different ministries. There is a similar reform program for technical education, which started with technological schools that are created in collaboration with the employers.

A cross cutting constraints in the education sector is related to a limited availability of physical infrastructure needed to accommodate the increasing number of students in schools. Access to and quality of education brings additional challenges for refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities. In the case of refugees and asylum seekers, only Syrian, Sudanese, South Sudanese and Yemeni children have been granted access to education in public schools by the Government of Egypt at equal footing to Egyptians. For those who can attend, schools and teachers are not yet sensitized to the specific needs of refugee and asylum-seeker children, and require further training. Additionally, many of these children face protection issues within school such as discrimination and harassment. Refugee children from other nationalities rely on private education under the Ministry of Education or informal education institutions. Many attend refugee community schools which are outside the formal education system and deliver certificates that are not always accredited by the Egyptian Ministry of Education. Fewer refugees and asylum-seekers enroll in the more expensive private schools, which many cannot afford. Moreover, many refugee and asylum-seeker children, including unaccompanied and separated children, have been out of school for years before they get the opportunity to enroll again. As a result, they are sometimes placed in grades that do not match their age or their educational, developmental and psychological needs. Language barriers and lack of resources to cover education expenses are additional hindrances to children's access to education. Many refugees and asylum-seekers from sub-Saharan Africa do not speak Arabic and, with a majority also not speaking English, there is a risk of isolation, social economic challenges and dependency on people who speak their language to help them with their daily needs. As a result of all these challenges, many refugee and asylum-seekers children see no option to pursue higher education which in turn contributes to an increase in the number of out-of-school children at secondary school level. This leaves them increasingly vulnerable to becoming exposed to protection risks and to engaging in child labour.

¹⁰ With the exception of Sudanese. As per the "Four Freedoms Agreement" between Egypt and Sudan, they are treated as nationals.

Challenges in education can be summarized as follows:

- ▶ Lengthy waiting period for registration, documentation and Refugee Status Determination;
- ▶ Need to improve quality of education, which currently depends on rote learning and not active learning;
- ▶ Teaching skills and classroom management need improvement;
- ▶ Lack of sensitization of teachers to the specific needs of refugee and asylum-seeker and students;
- ▶ Lack of specific skills such as language skills, life skills and citizenship education;
- ▶ Limited physical infrastructure (e.g. overcrowded classrooms);
- ▶ High number of youths and adolescents subject to bullying, violence in school;
- ▶ Registration is a prerequisite for refugees and asylum-seekers to obtain residence permits which enable them to access services, including access to public education. UNHCR is mandated by the Government of Egypt to conduct registration, documentation and Refugee
- ▶ Status Determination on its behalf. Cumbersome process of issuance of residence permits and short-term duration (only 6 months);
- ▶ Limited or no access to public education for some nationalities (e.g. Ethiopians, Eritreans, Somalis, etc.) of refugees and asylum seekers;
- ▶ Risk of increasing school drop-outs among refugee and asylum-seeker children because households lack the resources to meet the cost of educating their children

▶ Target group and geographical scope

The partners have identified young people, with a specific focus on women, as the main target population for this programme, due to the compound benefits of investing in youth.

As education is seen as a catalyzer to expand socio-economic opportunities, school age children in selected geographical areas with high concentration of refugees and asylum-seekers, are an important focus in this Partnership. Focusing on this group of children will enhance equal educational opportunities and access to quality services, independently of their nationality.

In regard to socio-economic opportunities, the target group will be primarily young men and women from selected geographical areas. Nearly one in every six refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Egypt are youth aged 18-24. Having experienced a disruption to their education and access to skills building opportunities, most refugee youth lose confidence in their chances of restarting their lives or building better futures for themselves. They are particularly impacted by the absence of higher

education opportunities and their inability to access meaningful employment or entrepreneurship opportunities which leads many of them to work in the informal economy, in unstable and often unsafe working conditions, and/or to resort to negative coping mechanisms, including unsafe onward movements.

Activities will focus on areas with high concentration of refugees and asylum-seekers. In Egypt, refugees and asylum-seekers live in urban areas alongside host communities (there are no refugee camps). Main concentrations are found in major urban areas such as Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta and during the Country Programme development phase, selected areas will be further prioritized to ensure the Partnership will have a meaningful and tangible transformational impact. These areas have been selected in order to cover the diverse refugee population: while in Greater Cairo the majority of refugees and asylum-seekers are from Sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq, and Yemen (57,2%), in Alexandria and Damietta the majority are Syrians (86% and 99% respectively). Moreover, Alexandria and Damietta have been chosen for their strategic position on the North Coast which in the past years have been point of departure for further movements. Finally, these areas have been selected because activities foreseen under the Partnership are complementary to existing programmes carried out by Partners and other stakeholders. In addition, the Partnership will support the nationwide system and reforms which benefit all families across Egypt, independently from their country of origin.

3. Theory of change, Outcome, Results and Key strategic activities of the Partnership

Refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities in Egypt are yet to have equitable access to socio-economic and education opportunities in Egypt.

The Partnership recognizes that with greater investment, the target group - youth and children - has the potential to make significant economic contributions to their families, communities and towards the greater development of the society. The working assumption of the Partnership is that in order to stimulate educational and socio-economic opportunities for the target group, many existing constraints need to be overcome.

This theory of change assumes that life skills-based education and greater socio-economic opportunities for both, vulnerable host communities, and refugees and asylum-seekers will create a more skilled population and reduce competition for socio-economic opportunities, thereby improving social cohesion.

Focusing on the socio-economic opportunities will help to strengthen the vulnerable

host communities and to build the resilience of the refugees and asylum-seekers.

Expanding socioeconomic opportunities for refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities is fundamental for **improving the living standards of the targeted group, so as to facilitate their social and economic inclusion in the society. Focusing on expanding socio-economic opportunities, such as improving their employability skills, linking labour demand and supply, job matching and job search, is expected to have immediate and sustainable positive returns for** refugee, asylum-seeker and vulnerable host communities.

Quality education is a driver towards creating better socio-economic opportunities.

Quality education (which defines an individual's cognitive abilities and life skills needed to be successful in the workplace), in conjunction with socioemotional and mental health wellbeing, has large economic and social returns, as individuals will be more productive and will increase their chances to fully participate in the society. Benefits also accrue beyond the generation in which the investments are made. Quality education equips young children with skills needed to expand their critical thinking as well as, later in life, it provides older children with skills needed to enter and fully participate in the national economy.

Expected outcomes of this Partnership will be aligned with the SDGs and the principle of “leaving no-one behind”.

Outcome: By 2022, refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities, in selected areas, improve their living standards and social and economic cohesion. This will be achieved by improved access to expanding socio-economic opportunities and increased access to market relevant and quality education, skills and opportunities while mainstreaming associated protection interventions.

Outputs

Socio-economic opportunities

- ▶ **Output 1** – Socio-economic opportunities: Socio-economic opportunities for refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities are enhanced;
- ▶ **Output 2**- Documentation and Legal Protection: the number of asylum-seekers waiting for registration and without adequate documentation and associated legal protections is reduced.

Education

- ▶ **Output 3** – Quality Education: Access and quality of education for refugee, asylum-seeker and vulnerable host community children is improved;
- ▶ **Output 4** – Protection: The capacity of national systems for the protection of refugee, asylum-seeker and vulnerable host community children is enhanced.

Scope of Activities

Socio-economic opportunities

- ▶ **Output 1 – Socio-economic opportunities: Socio-economic opportunities for refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities are enhanced;**

Strategic areas of Joint Interventions:

1. Implementing studies, diagnostics and assessments on employability of refugees and asylum seekers and market needs, business regulations, access to finance and microfinance, identifying priority sectors for (formal and informal) employment, and value chain
2. Supporting the delivery of skills programmes (employability, financial literacy, business management and entrepreneurship, among others) in conjunction with social and behavioral change communication initiatives to enhance alternative knowledge, attitudes and practice on socio-economic opportunities
3. Supporting the testing, delivery and assessment of new initiatives that facilitate and create socio-economic opportunities¹¹ with a focus on youth and women
4. Promoting policy dialogue and advocacy on socioeconomic opportunities and inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers through knowledge products and communication campaigns
- 5.

- ▶ **Output 2- Documentation and Legal Protection: the number of asylum-seekers waiting for registration and without adequate documentation and associated legal protections is reduced;**

Strategic areas of Joint Interventions:

1. Conducting registration, documentation and Refugee Status Determination (RSD) of refugees and asylum-seekers
2. Conducting protection counselling and protection interventions for refugees and asylum-seekers
3. Promoting policy dialogue and advocacy on protection and inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers through knowledge products and communication campaigns

Education

- ▶ **Output 3 – Quality Education: Access and quality of education for refugee, asylum-seeker and vulnerable host community children is improved;**

Strategic areas of Joint Interventions:

1. Implementing and expanding initiatives that increase access to education, including TVET, for refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities

2. Supporting the enhancement of quality education, in both formal and informal settings
3. Promoting policy dialogue and joint advocacy on education, inclusion, social protection through knowledge products and communication campaigns

► **Output 4 – Protection: The capacity of national systems for the protection of refugee, asylum-seeker and vulnerable host community children is enhanced;**

Strategic areas of Joint Interventions:

1. Implementing initiatives in schools aimed at addressing protection issues to enhance non- discrimination, positive parenting and inclusiveness
2. Supporting the establishment of quality protection services for vulnerable children
3. Exploring the potential role of the private sector to expand infrastructure capacity (i.e. PPP solutions in the sector)
4. Promoting policy dialogue and joint advocacy harmful practices through knowledge products and communication campaigns

¹¹ For example, self-employment support and active labour market programmes.

4. Value Added of the Partnership

By working together in this Partnership the needs of the vulnerable host community will be addressed from different angles as each organization brings in its own expertise to contribute to the outcome. Additionally, more interventions will be accessible to refugees and asylum-seekers within the given legal framework. Moreover, joint advocacy will take place on previously stated areas. In short, it can be noted that the World Bank will bring in sector expertise on Education because of its involvement in part of the Education Reform Programme. UNHCR has the knowledge of the refugees and asylum-seekers and maintains accurate data on the situation and number of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country. UNICEF brings in its expertise on the vulnerable host communities especially children and a child-centered approach and protection issues. The ILO brings in expertise with respect to the specific themes of work, socio-economic opportunities and social protection, and its experience on working with vulnerable host communities, especially on youth, including on skills training for employability. IFC will bring expertise and experience in promoting private sector development by providing financing instruments and advisory services that can catalyze private investment, create employment opportunities, entrepreneurial activities and more efficient service delivery to create jobs and facilitate economic growth in vulnerable hosting areas with possible positive fallout on refugees' community. The government of the Netherlands brings in diplomatic leverage and financial input. In the annex more information is provided about the input of each organization. Moreover the Partnership will provide a platform for mutual learning across all institutions including to build "bridges" across thematic areas, to strengthen dialogue with governments and other stakeholders, and to foster innovation.

► Evidence generation and policy support

The generation of evidence and analysis on the situation of refugees and vulnerable host communities is a key strategy adopted by the Partnership in Egypt. A better understanding of the socio-economic and education realities of the areas of concentration of refugees is a condition for effective planning, implementation and evaluation of the programme's actions and advocacy and the envisaged policy support. The Partnership work will complement and strengthen the evidence and analysis already generated as part of the Regional Refugees and Resilience Plan in response to the Syrian Crisis and the Egypt Response Plan for Refugees and Asylum-seekers from Sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq & Yemen, by enhancing the focus on the barriers of access to quality education and training, and to decent jobs opportunities and sustainable socio-economic opportunities.

Knowledge generation will be prioritized in the first year of activities by data collection and analytical initiatives on domains - like access and quality of education, poverty and inequality, gender equality, situation of young people, access to professional and life skills training, access to social protection and economic assistance, labour market and socio-economic opportunities, access to credit and entrepreneurship - focusing on the areas of concentration of refugees. Data and evidence will be disseminated, presented and discussed with stakeholders and national and development partners, to strengthen their quality and to ensure their wider use beyond the activities undertaken by the Programme.

The advocacy and policy support of the Partnership is strictly interlinked with the evidence generation and analytical work. It aims at strengthening the existing national policies to ensure that their provisions are effectively reflected in the realities of the field for inclusive access to education, social services, job, socio-economic opportunities, protection and finance for refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities.

The Partnership will promote policy dialogue with national actors to discuss evidence and emerging issues related to the effective social and productive inclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities.

► Gender Equality

The agencies are committed to gender equality as core strategy to realize the rights of all individuals and children, especially the most disadvantaged, and to contribute to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women is grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and is anchored in the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Gender equality is also in line with the Government of Egypt's National Strategy for Women and the national 2030 Vision for sustainable development which include social and economic empowerment as two basic pillars along with protection and political empowerment.

The participating agencies will place a special focus on women and disadvantaged adolescent girls for whom investment in multiple interlinked areas has the potential to bring about transformative change, with continuing multiplier effects for their families, communities, and especially the next generation.

This starts from promoting a culture of girls' participation in the programme activities including the leadership and participation of girls in community-based initiatives. It also involves awareness-raising, building self-confidence, expansion of choices, increased

access to and control over resources and actions to transform the structures and institutions which reinforce and perpetuate gender discrimination and inequality. In turn, this will eventually contribute to the multiplier effect and will help position girls at the forefront not only as beneficiaries, but also as civil society actors. To the extent possible, agencies will prioritize the collection and analysis of disaggregated data and promote more measures of gender inequality, beyond gender parity.

► **Strategic collaboration and process**

This Partnership has a four-year initial time horizon with a national annual budget of 10 million Euros for Egypt. The budget is indicative and is subject to change. Partners see an added value working together in the fields described above. A number of consultations among all partners have been held to design this Country Vision. This represents the first step that will lead to the design of the Country Programme which will include the foreseen activities under the Partnership in Egypt. Partners will continue consultations to gather input to design the Country Programme. However, before this stage, the Country Vision will also be shared with the relevant authorities of the Government of Egypt and other relevant stakeholders.

Annex

Each partner will bring in its individual expertise to serve the overarching objectives. In the case of Egypt, the individual expertise of each organisation is:

The Government of the Netherlands

- ▶ **The Embassy of the Netherlands in Egypt** – The government of the Netherlands brings long- term, flexible financial inputs to operationalize a development response to the situation of refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities. The government leverages its diplomatic link to catalyze dialogue with the Government and other stakeholders to generate an enabling environment for development interventions and to support coordination among the partners below. Additionally, the Embassy will liaise with the Capital to stay in tune with good practices from Partnerships from other countries.

The World Bank

- ▶ **The World Bank** – Thanks to its support to the Ministry of Education and Technical Education through the “Supporting Egypt Education Reform Project”, the World Bank brings significant expertise and leverage to support partners’ efforts in identifying opportunities to mainstream refugees and asylum seekers. In alignment with Vision 2030, the project (USD 500 million, five years) supports the government’s reform of the Egyptian education system that drives this Partnership within education. The project development objective is to improve teaching and learning conditions in public schools, to be achieved through five components: (a) improved early childhood education to enhance children’s readiness for learning; (b) effective teachers and education leaders through the reform of professional development systems; (c) comprehensive assessment reform for improved student learning; (d) enhancing education service delivery through connected systems, to include the intensive use of education technology; and (e) project management, communication, and monitoring and evaluation. The project was approved in April 2018, declared effective in August 2018, and will close in September 2023.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- ▶ **UNHCR** – As mandated by the General Assembly of the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for worldwide protection and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR brings substantial knowledge and tailored

services to refugee and asylum-seeker populations, including in Egypt. Moreover, due to the absence of a national asylum system, UNHCR Egypt registers and documents refugees and asylum-seekers, conducts Refugee Status Determination (RSD) on behalf of the Government of Egypt (GoE), and maintains accurate data on the situation and number of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country. The Office leads the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) which is the highest coordination level for the refugee response in Egypt, composed of heads of humanitarian organizations, UN agencies and NGOs working with refugees. This ensures activities under this Partnership are not duplicated elsewhere and are based on needs. UNHCR chairs the sectoral working groups (Protection, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Basic Needs) and closely coordinates with the Government of Egypt (MFA) the funding appeals (3RP and Africa Response Plan). UNHCR provides refugee school-children and youth with education grants and higher education scholarships. UNHCR supports the Ministry of Education and Ministry Health and Population through capacity building interventions and advocates for broad refugees' access to public services (health, education). UNHCR systematically reaches out to refugee communities across Egypt. Within the existing legal framework, UNHCR advocates for refugees' socio- economic inclusion and opportunities to expand their potential.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- ▶ **UNICEF** - One of UNICEF's key strengths is its presence on the ground, and therefore its ability to identify the specific protection concerns of all vulnerable children. In addition, its programmes use community based approaches wherever possible to foster social cohesion, but also strengthen existing national systems to better serve vulnerable populations. UNICEF is therefore able to reach the most vulnerable in major urban centres with high refugee and asylum seeker concentrations, namely Giza, Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta governorates, as well as those governorates where asylum seeker and refugee children are held in detention (Al Behira, Kafr Al Shiekh, Marsa Matrouh, Aswan, and the Red Sea). In the field of education, UNICEF offers expertise not immediately covered under the Education Reform program such as improved teaching practices to facilitate child centered learning. UNICEF is a key counterpart of the Ministry of Education in the reform process, and can advocate for the integration refugee and asylum-seeker students in the public-school system, from kindergarten upwards. For young people and adolescents, UNICEF is a key partner to the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the provision of life skills and employability training to support the socio-economic participation of young people in society. UNICEF is also investing in the accreditation and

capacity building of social workers, and works with the Ministry of Justice and Prosecutor's Office towards the provision of alternatives to detention for children arrested during irregular migration attempts.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- ▶ **ILO-** The ILO brings in expertise with respect to the specific themes of work, socio-economic opportunities and social protection and contributions to strengthening the knowledge base on decent work, identification and development of specific areas for skills development/training and ensure that refugees and vulnerable host communities, regardless of nationality, gender and legal status, can benefit from the fundamental principles of equal treatment and opportunity, rights at work and international labour standards under this Partnership. The ILO brings in tools and expertise in expanding economic opportunities, promoting better access to jobs and enhancing the economic inclusion of refugees and vulnerable host communities through active global engagement and experience, in similar context around the world. The ILO contribution will focus on preparing refugee and vulnerable host community members for the world of work, including through skills development (with for example community-based training), promotion of entrepreneurship (business start-up, management, access to markets and finance) and financial literacy, counseling and employment services, and local economic development as key priorities. The ILO's expertise also extends to conducting specific assessments in labour market demand to identify and provide appropriate skills to refugees needed by employers, value chain assessment which collectively strengthens opportunities for employment. The ILO will therefore leverage existing experience on engagement in the informal economy in the refugee and vulnerable host community areas where many refugees already work to address "informality" through supporting the transition to the formal economy and expanding social security and rights at work.

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

- ▶ **IFC** is the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector in developing countries. Bringing private sector solutions to refugees and vulnerable host communities alike in contexts of fragility and conflict fits well with IFC's 3.0 Strategy that aims to stimulate private sector interventions in challenging geographies and to underserved target groups. Recently, the UNHCR has requested IFC to up its presence in the space of refugees and vulnerable host communities in selected African and Middle Eastern countries. IFC brings expertise and experience in promoting private sector development by providing financing instruments and advisory services

that can catalyze private investment, create employment opportunities, entrepreneurial activities and more efficient service delivery to create jobs and facilitate economic growth in vulnerable hosting areas with possible positive fallout on refugees' community. Private sector development is an integral part of economic growth and is key to pursuing the jobs/social protection focus area under this Partnership and is a potential area in the livelihood strategy response plan. IFC will conduct - in coordination with the other partners - relevant assessments and studies building on existing diagnostics. This will inform IFC on the potential of relevant vulnerable host communities zone (i.e.; mainly Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta). The findings will be, in combination with an economic activity mapping building on outcomes of recent "Doing business" exercises carried out by IFC, will be the basis for the selection of vulnerable host communities' in-depth consumer and market studies. In parallel IFC will work with private sector companies to explore possibilities for scaling-up or starting their operations in refugee vulnerable hosting areas and identifying bottlenecks for investments.