

In March 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) as a pandemic following the spread of the virus in more than 196 countries and territories around the globe. The virus, characterized by its fast transmission, poses high threats to Egypt, whose population reaches more than 100 million, in addition to the more than six million migrants and refugees who are mainly concentrated in urban areas. Cairo has a population density of 19,376 people per square kilometer (50,180/sq. mi), creating a conducive scenario for communicable diseases to easily spread. With 20 million people living in the Greater Cairo area, COVID-19 represents a tangible threat to the population –migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and host communities alike, if not properly responded.

A great number of migrants and refugees face limited and sometimes non-existent health-care access and are largely exposed to poor living conditions, inadequate nutrition and diet compounded by food shortages, unemployment or casual work in the informal sector, in addition to an increasingly wide-spread level of stigma. Among them there are also people with underlying medical conditions such as hypertension and diabetes, which make them at higher risk for infection with COVID-19. According to IOM's health assistance provided to the migrants from 18 to 79 years old over the past two years, the prevalence of hypertension was reported at 32 per cent and diabetes at 20.3 per cent. Including migrants in the national response to any infectious diseases including COVID-19 pandemic benefits both vulnerable populations such as migrants and nationals together.

IOM Egypt is supporting the Government of Egypt through technical assistance and enhanced coordination and helping communities to prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from health threats along migration and mobility continuum. More importantly, IOM advocates for migrant-inclusive approaches in order to eradicate discrimination and stigma and achieve universal health coverage to leave no one behind.

567
NEW CASES

170,207
CONFIRMED CASES

9,699
DEATHS

1. Protection

- Resettlement Support Center continued referrals of vulnerable cases in need of financial and medical assistance and cases with serious protection concerns to UNHCR.
- Continuity of cash assistance provision to vulnerable migrants to cover their basic needs in Egypt.
- **70** cases comprise of **232** beneficiaries from **10** different nationalities were assisted with financial, housing, medical, and education.
- **30** new cases (**76** migrants) were screened to determine their eligibility and assess their situation in Egypt.
- Provision of education grants to migrants through issuing checks to community schools representatives where children are enrolled.
- Legal representation and counselling was provided to one case from Moldova.
- Prioritize urgent cases in need for cash assistance.
- IOM Egypt has assisted **10** stranded migrants to return to their home country with IOM operational staff. All of the returnees completed PCR tests before their travel. Under the pre-departure assistance, IOM has provided **3** socio-economic, **3** housing, and **10** medical assistances. Moreover, IOM Egypt has covered **7** exit visas and overstay penalty fees for AVRR beneficiaries.



IOM Egypt staff continue to deliver non-food items (NFIs) to migrants in need to help alleviate the negative-socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

2. Strategic Coordination and Partnerships

- IOM Egypt donated medical devices and medical supplies to Giza Governorate in coordination with the Giza Deputy Governor, and according to the needs of the Giza Health Directorate, in order to be distributed to the public hospitals in Giza. The donations included a ventilator, oxygen concentrator, continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), ultrasound device and more than **15,000** protective masks: surgical, KN95 and N95 masks.
- Around **300** closed cases with IOM were referred to Save the Children for cash assistance.

3. Points of Entry (PoE)

- Resettlement Support Center walk-ins are ongoing but still limited depending on urgency and need.
- Continuity of case consultations with applicants through the call centre, emails and the refugees website (Ref Info) where applicants are able to inquire about their case statuses and updates.
- Cultural Orientation telephonic sessions were conducted to United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP), Swiss, Canada, Germany & UK applicants and COVID-19 related messages and fact-sheets were relayed to applicants.



4. Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- **4** sessions of psychosocial support was held for **8** 'single mother' migrants was held in January and **1** webinar for **10** community leaders coping with COVID-19.
- A yoga session was provided for **8** female migrants during the support group as a stress relief method to enhance migrants' mental well-being.
- The community outreach session targeted Sudanese and South Sudanese migrant community leaders. The session focused on IOM protection services, rationale for MHPSS, common stress responses to COVID-19, exacerbating factors, healthy ways of dealing with COVID-19 – related stress , and IOM specialized MHPSS available.



49 forensic experts from seven governorates participate in passport examination trainings for the Egyptian Forensic Medicine Authority (EFMA).

5. Case Management and Continuity of Essential Services

- **38** medical assistance and assessments for migrants in Egypt including **6** cases in Alexandria.
- **117** medical follow-up assistance provided: **89** for Direct Assistance and **28** for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration.
- **20** psychosocial support including **1** support group for **8** migrant women and **2** PAX external psychiatric referral and **1** webinar for **10** community leaders coping with COVID-19.
- **46** medical assessments for medical AVRR returnees cases including **23** migrants referral for PCR tests.
- Continuity of screening new cases and provision of cash assistance to protect migrants living in Egypt.
- Cash assistance was provided to vulnerable migrants.
- **5** migrants received specialized MHPSS services including individual counselling sessions and psychiatric intervention.
- **30** new cases were screened in January and **70** cases (**232**) were assisted with different forms of services like multipurpose cash, medical, education, and transportation allowance.
- **155** individuals departed from Egypt and the region within January 2021.
- IOM Hosted Swiss selection Mission to conduct interviews starting 31 January 2021.
- **34** individuals transited through Cairo Airport within January 2021.

6. Logistics, Procurement and Supply Management

- **19** cash payments and **17** cheques during January 2021.
- **22** hospitals cheques and bank transfers in Cairo and Alexandria for medical surgeries and assistance.

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