

## UNHCR Cairo: RSD Yearly Report – 2020

### 1. Overview:

Egypt is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, as well as to the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. UNHCR is mandated by the Government of Egypt to determining refugee status since 1954. Egypt hosts more than 259,292 registered asylum-seekers and refugees from 58 different countries. The majority are from Syria, followed by Sudan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Somalia. Currently, UNHCR Cairo RSD Unit is the biggest mandate RSD operation in the world.

### 2. Processing:

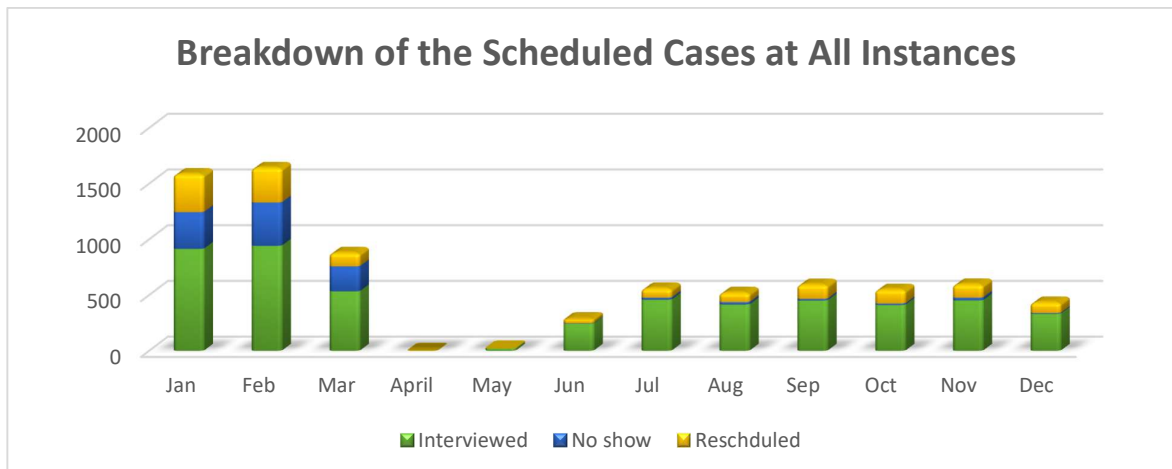
RSD Unit has different processing modalities in first instance, namely Merged Registration/RSD process, Regular RSD and Accelerated RSD.<sup>1</sup> Each asylum seeker is thoroughly counselled on the type of processing modality s/he will undergo as well as on the appeal and reopening procedures.

Ordinarily, all RSD activities take place in the RSD Building in 6<sup>th</sup> of October City, except for the Merged Registration/RSD process and decision notifications which are organized in the Main Building in 6<sup>th</sup> of October City. However, in mid-March 2020, due to outbreak of COVID-19, the Office moved to the work from home modality as a measure to avoid the spread of the virus among the persons of concern and staff.

In May 2020, the Unit started conducting remote RSD interviews for asylum seekers (for more information on remote interviews, please see the video at <https://rsd.unhcregypt.org/RefugeeInfo.aspx>).

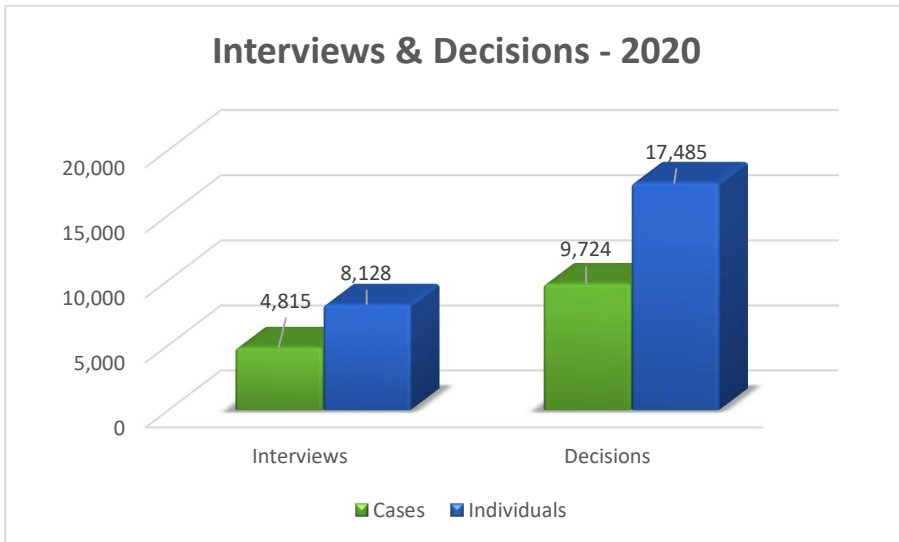
All asylum seekers have the right to have legal representation during their RSD process; and UNHCR Cairo has a Letter of Understanding signed with one of the legal aid providers in Egypt.

### 3. Statistics:<sup>2</sup>



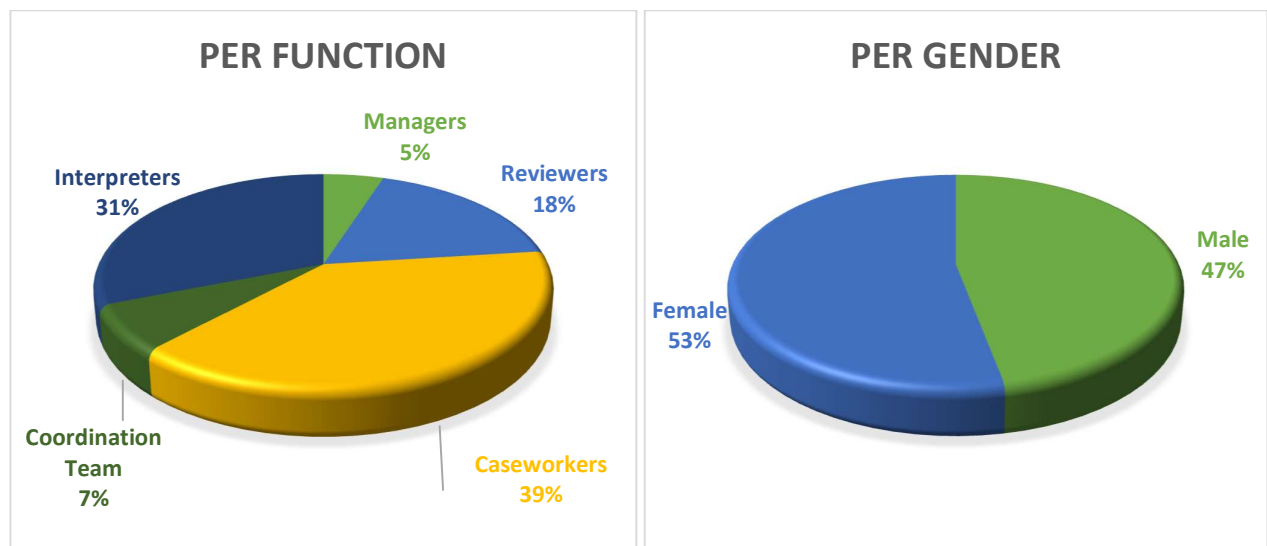
<sup>1</sup> For explanation about each process and processing modality, please refer to Aide-Memoire & Glossary of case processing modalities, terms and concepts applicable to RSD under UNHCR's Mandate (The Glossary), 2020, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a2657e44.html> [accessed 17 February 2021].

<sup>2</sup> The numbers of derivative status interviews and decisions are not included in the statistics as the process is led by the Registration Unit.



**4. Staffing:**

The Unit is under the supervision of the Senior RSD Officer who oversees the Registration and RSD Units together due to the close cooperation between the two units. The RSD Unit is composed of 50 staff members and 22 interpreters the below graphs indicate the breakdown per function and per gender of the staff:



**5. Communication Channels:**

All asylum seekers who undergo the RSD process can check their results via the RSD Website at <https://rsd.unhcregypt.org/RefugeeInfo.aspx> by entering their case numbers and dates of birth. The website also offers a comprehensive Q&A section as well as useful links and forms that can be downloaded.

On an average, the website is viewed 5,000 to 6,000 times daily both by new and returning visitors. In addition to the RSD Website, the Unit actively posts announcements in the official Facebook page of the Office and participates in the community meetings whenever the RSD presence is requested.