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**Refugees in Egypt
Impacts and Policy Recommendations**

2024

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Refugees in Egypt: Impacts and Policy Recommendations



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May God guide us all to work for the betterment of our country.

President of the Institute

Prof. Dr. Ashraf El Araby

Refugees in Egypt: Impacts and Policy Recommendations

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Summary

The global refugee and forced displacement crisis has emerged as a significant and urgent challenge for global development. According to the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention, a refugee is someone who has fled their country due to fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership of a social group, or political opinion. The broader category of forcibly displaced people includes those who are forced to move due to persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations.

Recent data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) indicates that an estimated 117.3 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide by the end of 2023, with this number projected to reach 130.8 million by the end of 2024. This total includes 32.6 million registered refugees and 7 million asylum seekers.

The majority of refugees are hosted by developing countries, where they often place a strain on public services such as housing, healthcare, and education, potentially leading to resource shortages and social tensions. Egypt, a lower-middle-income country, exemplifies these challenges. The number of registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt surged from approximately 109,000 in 2010 to 646,291 according to the UNHCR latest data in May 2024. Government estimates, however, indicate that the total number of displaced people in Egypt could be significantly higher, potentially reaching several million.

Unlike many other countries that house refugees in camps, Egypt adopts a different approach by allowing them to live alongside local communities in urban areas. Refugees, particularly Syrians and Sudanese, have access to public services including healthcare and education comparable to that of Egyptian citizens. While Egypt lacks a formal integration policy, it encourages refugees to participate in the workforce, contributing positively to the economy.

The surge in the refugee population has sparked concerns and public calls for policy revisions, including proposals for repatriation and restrictions on settlement or naturalization. Recent events, such as the conflict in Sudan, have exacerbated the pressure on Egypt's refugee hosting capacity. In July 2023, the Prime Minister addressed the strain on Egypt's public services during a speech in Rome and appealed for international support. This mounting pressure has prompted the Egyptian government to reassess its refugee hosting policies.

Refugees in Egypt: Impacts and Policy Recommendations

This study aims to comprehensively explore the economic, social, cultural, and environmental impacts of hosting refugees in Egypt. By considering both the benefits and challenges. The study further proposes policy recommendations to mitigate negative impacts and foster sustainable refugee integration.

A mixed-methods approach is employed. In addition to secondary data, Primary data is collected through an online survey of Egyptian citizens and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders. Vector Autoregression (VAR) model is employed to analyze the dynamic relationship between refugee influx and key macroeconomic indicators: growth rate, inflation, and unemployment.

The Study is divided into four chapters, chapter one establishes a baseline on the current situation of refugees, chapter two analyzes economic impacts, chapter three explores citizen perceptions of social, cultural, and environmental impacts, chapter four highlights successful integration practices in other countries.

The findings reveal both challenges and benefits associated with hosting refugees. Economic challenges include increased prices, mainly housing costs, and competition in the low-skilled labor market. However, refugees can also contribute to job creation. The VAR model reveals a dynamic relationship between refugee influx and macroeconomic variables. The impact of refugee influx on inflation (housing and utilities) exhibits a lagged effect. Initially insignificant, then it becomes positive and significant in the later lags, suggesting that refugee settlement leads to increased demand over time. A short-term decrease in unemployment is observed, followed by a potential increase. This suggests a possible substitution effect, as refugee labor participation intensifies competition in the job market as their integration into the economy progresses.

Social and cultural negative impacts, as perceived by the surveyed sample, include pressure on health services. However, benefits include the potential for increased social networks. Environmental challenges encompass strain on resources such as water and energy, as well as the potential spread of diseases. Nevertheless, there is the possibility of attracting aid for environmental protection projects.

The conclusion synthesizes the findings and offers policy recommendations, it ends with recommendations for future research.

Key Words: Refugees –Egypt-Impacts- Forced Displacement-Sustainable integration

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Introduction

In the era of global polycrisis the refugee and displaced people problem emerges as one of the complex issues that pose a growing threat and an urgent challenge to global development, as indicated by the World Bank's 2023 flagship report on development "Migrants, Refugees, and Communities" (World Bank 2023).

The 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention defines a refugee as "a person who is outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted on grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion". Refugees are entitled to certain protections under international law, including the right to seek asylum in another country, non-refoulement (the principle that forbids the return of refugees to countries where they face threats), and access to basic rights such as education and healthcare. Asylum-seekers are individuals who have fled their homes and are awaiting a formal decision on their asylum claims, which may occur in a host country. Importantly, an asylum seeker may not necessarily be granted refugee status, depending on the specifics of their case. This legal distinction can influence their access to rights and resources during the adjudication process. Refugees and asylum-seekers are part of a larger group known as forcibly displaced people. Forced displacement (also forced migration or forced relocation) refers to the involuntary or coerced movement of a person or people away from their home or home region. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) defines 'forced displacement' as displacement resulting from persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations (UNHCR, 2015). While refugees, asylum seekers, and forcibly displaced persons all share the experience of being uprooted from their homes, each group is defined by unique legal circumstances and protections.

The global refugee and forced displacement crisis continue unabated due to the surge in their numbers during the last decade. According to the UNHCR's latest statistics by the end of 2023, an estimated 117.3 million people will be forcibly displaced worldwide because of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations (UNHCR Data Portal). This number is expected to increase to 130.8 million by the end of 2024, including 32.6 million registered refugees and 7 million asylum seekers (UNHCR, 2024).

The large influx of refugees raises concerns about their impact on hosting countries, particularly since 75% of the world's refugees and displaced persons are hosted in developing countries (UNHCR Data Portal). These countries are already grappling with chronic economic challenges triggered by recent global turmoil, leading to perceiving refugees as a burden. Studies have documented a clear correlation between refugee arrivals and increased strain on public services like housing, healthcare, and education. These pressures can lead to resource shortages, economic difficulties, and even social tensions within host communities (Hamza, 2021).

Egypt, a lower-middle-income country already facing chronic economic problems compounded by multiple global shocks, is also an appealing destination for refugees from neighboring countries. According to UNHCR in 2010, the number of refugees living in Egypt stood at around 109 thousand, by the end of 2023, following the war in Sudan, this figure increased to reach 646,291 by May 2024 (UNHCR,2024a). However, several government statements suggest that the actual number of displaced people hosted in Egypt is higher and could reach several million. (Youn7, 2022; 2023).

Unlike many countries, Egypt does not house refugees in camps, they are integrated into local communities. Refugees, particularly Syrians and Sudanese, have access to public healthcare and education similar to Egyptian citizens. Egypt also encourages refugees to participate in the workforce, contributing to the economy. However, the significant and rapidly increasing influx of refugees, especially Syrians and Sudanese, has raised critical concerns.

Social media is rife with calls for a policy review, advocating for refugee repatriation and denying settlement or naturalization (Arab, 2024; Youm7, 2024; BBC News, 2023). The Prime Minister's July 23, 2023, speech in Rome highlighted the immense burden Egypt bears in hosting millions of displaced persons who share equally in government services with Egyptians, prompting urgent appeals for international support (SIS, 2023). Faced with mounting pressure, the Egyptian government is actively revising its refugee hosting policies (Shehata, 2024). This escalating crisis underscores the critical need for effective integration policies to prevent challenges from becoming insurmountable.

The study's primary objective is to explore the impacts of hosting refugees in Egypt, both positive and negative. It aims to develop recommendations that assist policymakers in mitigating the challenges, while also fostering the positive integration of refugees into Egyptian society.

Refugees in Egypt: Impacts and Policy Recommendations

The study employs a mixed methods approach to examine the impacts of hosting refugees in Egypt. It combines primary and secondary data collection methods, applying both quantitative and qualitative data analysis to gain a comprehensive understanding of the situation.

Secondary data sources include:

Books, research and journal articles, in addition to data statistics and reports from international and national organizations (published and unpublished), including UNHCR, the Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), and relevant government authorities.

The Vector Autoregressive (VAR) methodology is employed to analyze the impact of refugee influx on economic variables, including economic growth, unemployment, and inflation. The data used for this study covers the three governorates in Egypt that host the majority of the refugee population according to the UNHCR data: Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria. The data set spans the period from 2012 to 2023 on a quarterly basis.

Primary data sources include:

Online Survey: A self-administered questionnaire gathered data from a convenience sample of Egyptian citizens in Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria, where most refugees reside (UNHCR, 2024; IOM, 2022). The sample aimed to represent a segment of the local population and their perception on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental benefits and challenges associated with hosting refugees in Egypt. The questionnaire was distributed electronically via Google Forms from February 1 to March 20, 2024, through social network groups representing areas with refugee populations in the three governorates (e.g., Facebook groups for specific neighborhoods). The unit of analysis is the Egyptian individual citizen, and the required research data have been collected once, which makes this current research cross-sectional in nature.

The questionnaire was prepared through a multi-stage process to ensure its validity and reliability. Following the literature review, a five-member expert panel with experience in survey design and refugee integration evaluated it. A pilot test with 10 Egyptian citizens from the targeted governorates further informed revisions and removal of non-performing questions. This resulted in a three-part instrument:

- Part 1: Demographics
- Part 2: Perceived Social, Cultural, and Environmental Impacts
- Part 3: Perceived Economic Impacts

A control question was added to exclude participants who indicated less than one year of residence in the surveyed governorate. Importantly, the questionnaire was administered in Arabic, the native language of the target population (Appendix A).

Reliability (internal consistency) was assessed using Cronbach's Alpha ($\alpha = 0.72$), indicating good internal consistency. Validity was assessed with Pearson's correlations (0.452 to 0.724) suggesting the questions effectively capture intended constructs.

Data collection yielded 1,544 completed and valid responses. The collected demographic data describes the surveyed citizens. The sample, as shown in Appendix B, exhibits a reasonable degree of balance.

Semi-Structured Interviews: To gain clarification and a deeper understanding of refugee hosting practices in Egypt, semi-structured telephone interviews were conducted with representatives from three key stakeholder groups (a total of 19) as follows:

- **Field-Level Experts:** This group included researchers, legal professionals, and NGO representatives directly involved in refugee assistance and integration efforts (12 interviews).
- **Policymakers:** This group comprised relevant government officials responsible for developing and implementing refugee policies (6 interviews).
- **UNHCR Representatives:** This group included personnel from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Egypt (1 interview).

Oral consent to participate was obtained from all participants.

Research limitations include:

1. **Time and resource constraints** hindered the scope and depth of data collection.
2. **Limited availability and accessibility of relevant secondary data** from government organizations.
3. **The chosen convenience sample** restricts generalizability to the entire Egyptian population.
4. **Using a self-administered questionnaire** is one of the limitations.
5. **Finally, the sensitivity of the topic** could have impacted participant recruitment and responses and limited on-site surveys.

Refugees in Egypt: Impacts and Policy Recommendations

Organization of the Study:

According to the objectives of this study it is divided into four chapters. Chapter one, “Refugees in Egypt: The Current Situation” This chapter lays the groundwork for the study by examining the current situation of refugees in Egypt. It discusses refugee vulnerabilities and the challenges they face and establishes a baseline for assessing their interactions with the host community and their potential impacts. Chapter two, “The Economic Impacts of Refugees in Egypt”, discusses the economic benefits and challenges associated with hosting refugees in Egypt. Chapter three, “Social, Cultural, and Environmental Impacts of Refugees in Egypt” delves into the perceptions of Egyptian citizens on these benefits and challenges of hosting refugees in Egypt. Finally, chapter four, “Learning from Success Stories” highlights the integration practices of Uganda, Turkey, and Germany, offering valuable lessons for Egyptian policymakers. The conclusion comes with policy recommendations for mitigating the challenges associated with hosting refugees in Egypt while enhancing their positive integration.

Chapter 1

Refugees in Egypt: Current Situation

1- Introduction

Egypt has a long history of providing sanctuary to refugees and welcoming immigrants. Its unique location at the crossroads of Africa, the Middle East, and Europe positions it as a familiar and readily accessible destination for many diverse communities, with shorter travel distances and cultural similarities further enhancing its appeal. Furthermore, the presence of UNHCR and NGOs offering humanitarian assistance, refugee advocacy, and resettlement opportunities strengthens its support network. Additionally, greater urban integration, accessibility to services shared with locals, and a sizable informal economy allowing work outside traditional job markets all contribute to Egypt's pull factors, making it an attractive destination for refugees.

This role stretches back to World War I (1914-1918), when the country opened its doors to Armenian refugees, establishing a camp in Port Fouad. This act of humanitarianism set the stage for Egypt's future role as a safe haven.

During World War II (1939-1945), Egypt continued this tradition by welcoming Greeks and other European refugees, including Poles and Yugoslavians, fleeing the turmoil of the conflict. This episode underscored Egypt's unwavering commitment to sheltering those facing persecution irrespective of their origin.

The post-colonial era witnessed an influx of individuals seeking sanctuary from various African and Middle Eastern liberation movements in the 1950s and 1960s. These movements often faced political repression in their home countries, and Egypt offered them a critical space for safety and potential collaboration.

The early 1990s experienced another stream of refugees arriving in Egypt due to the devastating conflicts in the Horn of Africa. Individuals from Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia sought refuge and support in Egypt, demonstrating the country's continued commitment to providing a safe haven despite regional instability.

The continued presence of Iraqi and Palestinian refugees highlights the long-standing challenges faced by these displaced populations and the ongoing need for international support, which Egypt has addressed by providing safe haven and opportunities for integration.

Refugees in Egypt: Impacts and Policy Recommendations

Following the Arab Spring's eruption in Tunisia in 2011, and subsequently in Libya, Syria, and Yemen, citizens from these countries sought refuge in Egypt. Despite facing political unrest of its own (2011-2013), Egypt provided continued sanctuary for citizens from these conflict-affected countries (UNHCR, 2022).

Recently, the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan in April 2023 once again forced large numbers of civilians to flee to Egypt in search of safety, leading to a significant increase in the number of refugees and displaced persons hosted in Egypt.

Egypt lacks a national asylum law. Its Egypt's legal framework for refugees is established through its adherence to international agreements, including the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Organization of African Unity's Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (OAU Convention), alongside domestic laws concerning foreigner status and relevant ministerial regulations and decrees. The cornerstone of the 1951 Convention is the principle of non-refoulement contained in Article 33. According to this principle, a refugee should not be returned to a country where he or she faces serious threats to his or her life or freedom.

It's important to note that Egypt has reservations on specific articles within the 1951 Convention. These articles address the rights of refugees to access public education, social security, and rations (Sharafeldin, 2020). Additionally, Egypt's citizenship follows the jus sanguinis principle, restricting pathways for refugees to acquire Egyptian nationality (Feinstein International Center, 2012).

Egyptian government and UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1954. Within the framework of this MOU, UNHCR provides protection services including all aspects of registration, documentation, refugee status determination and resettlement to persons of concern.

Egypt doesn't have a formal integrating policy for refugees. However, refugees and asylum-seekers are allowed to live alongside Egyptians in cities, potentially accessing public services and opportunities that might be restricted in traditional refugee camps in many other countries. Additionally, established communities with similar backgrounds can offer support networks for newcomers. These factors, combined with Egypt's diverse job market, particularly in the informal sector, contribute to Egypt being a destination for refugees fleeing conflict and persecution.

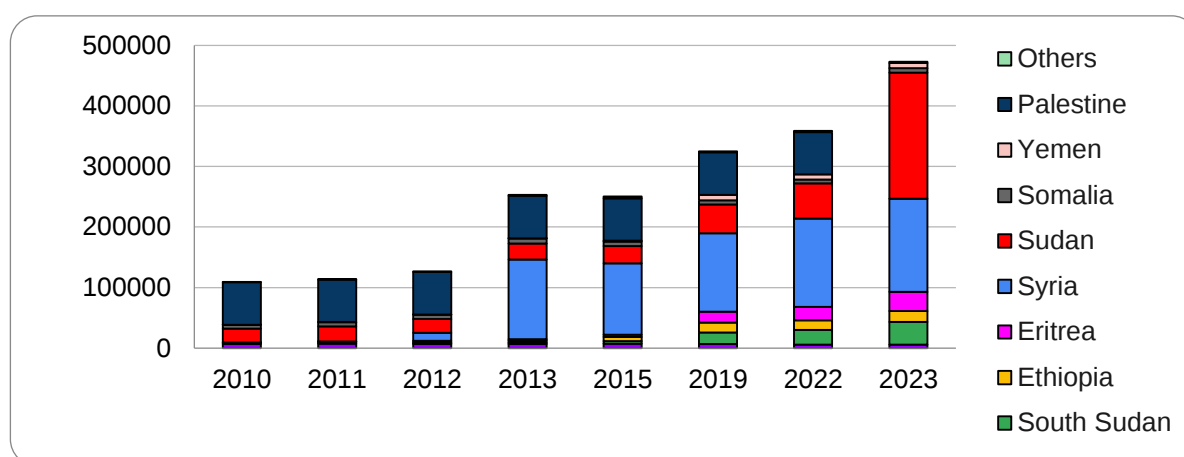
Egypt, as a lower-middle-income country, already faces a strained economic situation with limited opportunities for both Egyptians and refugees, leading to various vulnerabilities and challenges.

This chapter lays the groundwork for studying the impacts of refugees in Egypt by examining their current situation. It establishes a baseline for assessing refugee needs, vulnerabilities, and potential interactions with the host community. Understanding their present circumstances is crucial for identifying both potential challenges and opportunities.

The chapter primarily relies on secondary data from existing literature and reports. However, to clear understanding into specific issues, semi-structured interviews were conducted with various stakeholders, including government officials, researchers in the field, and UNHCR and NGO employees.

1-1 The Context of Registered Refugees in Egypt:

Over the past decade, Egypt has witnessed a significant influx of refugees due to conflicts and political unrest in neighboring countries. In 2010, the number of refugees and asylum - seekers living in Egypt stood at around 109,480. By the end of 2023, following the war in Sudan, this number increased significantly to reach 472,800. Figure (1-1) demonstrates the increasing number of refugees in Egypt over the last Thirteen years (2010-2023).



Source: UNHCR Data Portal

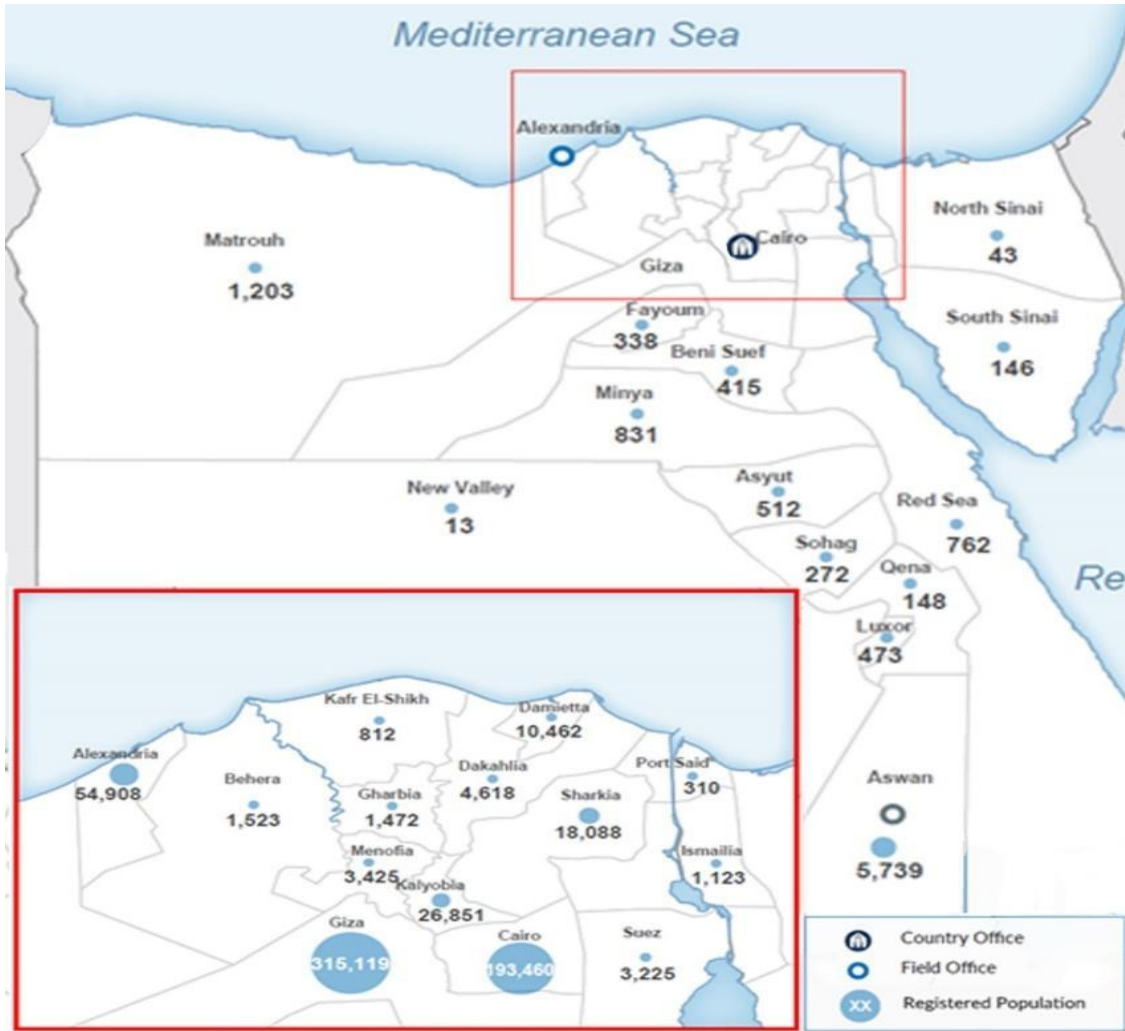
Figure (1-1)
Numbers of Registered Refugees & Asylum Seekers in Egypt (2010-2023)

Refugees in Egypt: Impacts and Policy Recommendations

According to recent UNHCR data from late May 2024, Egypt hosts a registered population of 646,291 refugees and asylum-seekers from 62 countries. Sudanese refugees comprise the largest group, accounting for about 57% (367,147), followed by Syrians at 24% (156,378). Other nationalities include South Sudanese about 7% (42,626), Eritreans 6% (36,470), Ethiopians 3% (18,476) and refugees from other countries collectively representing about 4% (25,194) (UNHCR, 2024a).

Refugees are predominantly concentrated in urban governorates of the north, with Giza hosting the largest population (50%), followed by Cairo (32%), Alexandria (8%), Qalyubia (5%), Sharkia (3%), and Damietta (2%). Figure (1-2) specifies the geographical distribution of registered refugees and asylums in Egypt (UNHCR, 2024a).

This urban concentration can be attributed to a multifaceted interplay of factors. Firstly, urban proximity to UNHCR offices facilitates registration and access to essential assistance programs. Secondly, compared to rural areas, cities generally offer greater access to crucial services like healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. These factors enhance refugees' prospects for self-sufficiency and improve their overall well-being. Finally, the desire for social support and familiarity may incentivize refugees to settle near established communities from their home countries. However, this urban concentration also presents challenges. The influx of refugees can strain resources in these areas, increasing pressure on essential services like housing, healthcare, and education.

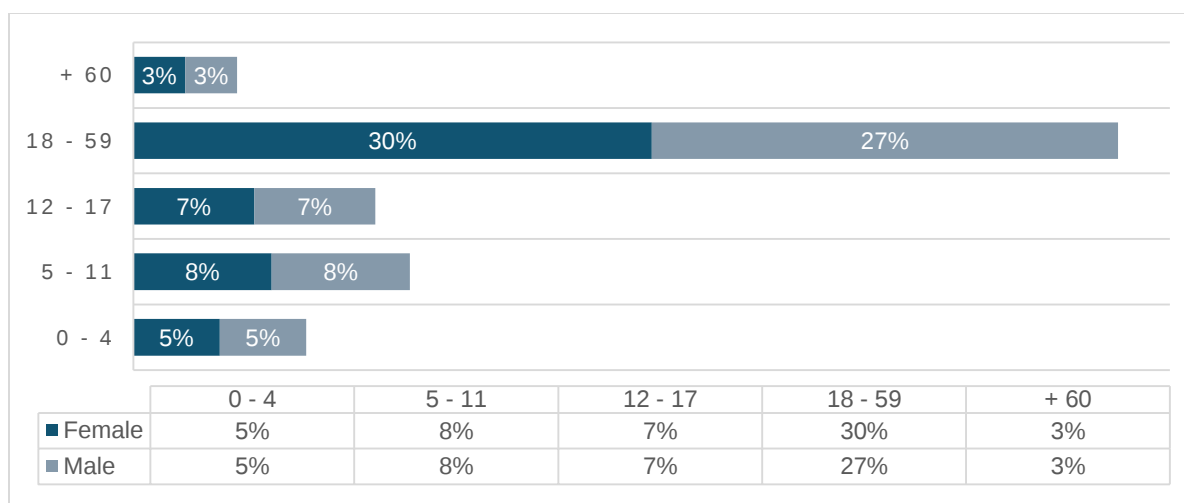


Source: UNHCR Egypt, 2024a.

Figure (1-2)
Geographical Distribution of Registered Refugees & Asylum Seekers in Egypt (May2024)

Regarding the gender and age profile of registered refugees and asylum seekers, data indicates a relatively balanced gender distribution. The majority (57%) falls within the working-age range of (15-64) years old as illustrated in figure (1-3).

Refugees in Egypt: Impacts and Policy Recommendations



Source: UNHCR Egypt, 2024a.

Figure (1-3)

Registered Refugees & Asylum Seekers in Egypt gender/Age May 2024

This demographic breakdown presents both opportunities and challenges. The large working-age population represents a potential economic benefit. Furthermore, the significant children population necessitates investment in education and support services to ensure their successful integration into society.

1-2 Uncertainty About the Actual Numbers of Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons in Egypt

The issue of refugees hosted in Egypt and the associated state expenditure has focused on the ambiguity surrounding the actual number and legal status of refugees and displaced persons in the country. Research suggests that the actual population of individuals who have fled conflict and persecution residing in Egypt likely surpasses official refugee figures (UN, 2022; Karasapan, 2016; Kagan, 2014). Egyptian officials have publicly claimed that the number exceeds millions (Shehata, 2024; Youm7, 2023&2022), while the Prime Minister asserted at the 2023 International Conference on Irregular Migration in Rome that Egypt hosts nine million refugees and migrants with equal access to public services as citizens (SIS, 2023).

The substantial disparity between UNHCR official refugee numbers and Egyptian government claims stems from differing definitions of refugee status. While UNHCR recognizes only formally registered individuals, Egypt extends refugee status to all those forcibly displaced persons or forced migrants and other migrants within its borders. As a result, Egyptian estimates of the refugee population

significantly exceed international figures, potentially more accurately reflecting the actual burden borne by the government in providing care and services.

Refugees' statistics provide a somewhat distorted view since the Egyptian government figures include immigrants and refugees. Conducting a thorough audit of refugee and asylum-seeker numbers is crucial for establishing reliable data on the hosted population and formulating policies for sustainable integration. Several factors in Egypt may hinder accurate data collection and auditing, including¹:

- **Challenges in Refugee Registration and Illegal Entry**

According to the MOU signed between Egypt and the UNHCR, the UNHCR is the sole authority responsible for registration, documentation, refugee status determination and resettlement of persons of concern in Egypt. However, refugee registration in Egypt faces a multitude of challenges. A significant factor is the sheer volume of refugees seeking asylum, straining the UNHCR's capacity to efficiently register and process claims. This influx results in backlogs and lengthy delays, particularly for the crucial Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interview. Asylum seekers can remain in legal limbo for months or even years while awaiting their RSD interview². Some refugees choose informal entry routes, bypassing official channels due to fear of deportation, lengthy wait times, lack of awareness regarding registration procedures, or other personal considerations. Additionally, the lack of a clear mechanism for enforcing the departure of rejected applicants ("closed files") leads to an unregistered population residing in Egypt with no legal status (Sharafeldin, 2020).

Badawy (2010) criticizes the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Egypt and the UNHCR, arguing that it has become outdated and requires revision by the Egyptian government. He highlights a discrepancy between the MOU and the Refugee Convention. According to the Convention, the Egyptian government should be the primary source of information for the UNHCR, allowing them to fulfill their supervisory role. However, Badawy argues that this is not the case, and the UNHCR continues to be the primary source of information for the government. This situation demonstrates how the arrangements between Egypt and the UNHCR have remained unchanged since the country's ratification of the 1951 Refugee Convention in 1981.

¹Based on stakeholders' interview

² According to UNHCR officials, the UNHCR has implemented extended workdays and hours in response to the recent surge in displaced persons.

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- **Lack of a clear legal framework:** Despite Egypt's long history of hosting refugees, the country lacks a national asylum law. This absence of a legal framework creates ambiguity regarding the status, rights, and obligations of refugees residing in Egypt (Sharafeldin, 2020).

- **Dispersed Settlement:** Scattered settlement of refugees across various governorates in Egypt complicates efforts to accurately track and enumerate the refugee population.

- **Data Collection Challenges:** Accurate data collection on refugees is a complex undertaking requiring significant resources and expertise. Limited funding and logistical constraints in Egypt can significantly hinder data collection efforts.

- **Political Sensitivity:** The issue of refugees can be politically sensitive in Egypt. This can make it difficult to conduct research and collect data on this topic.

These factors, in addition to previous relaxed visa requirements for some major refugee groups, like those from Sudan and Libya, contribute to a significant number of refugees remaining outside the formal registration system, hindering accurate data collection

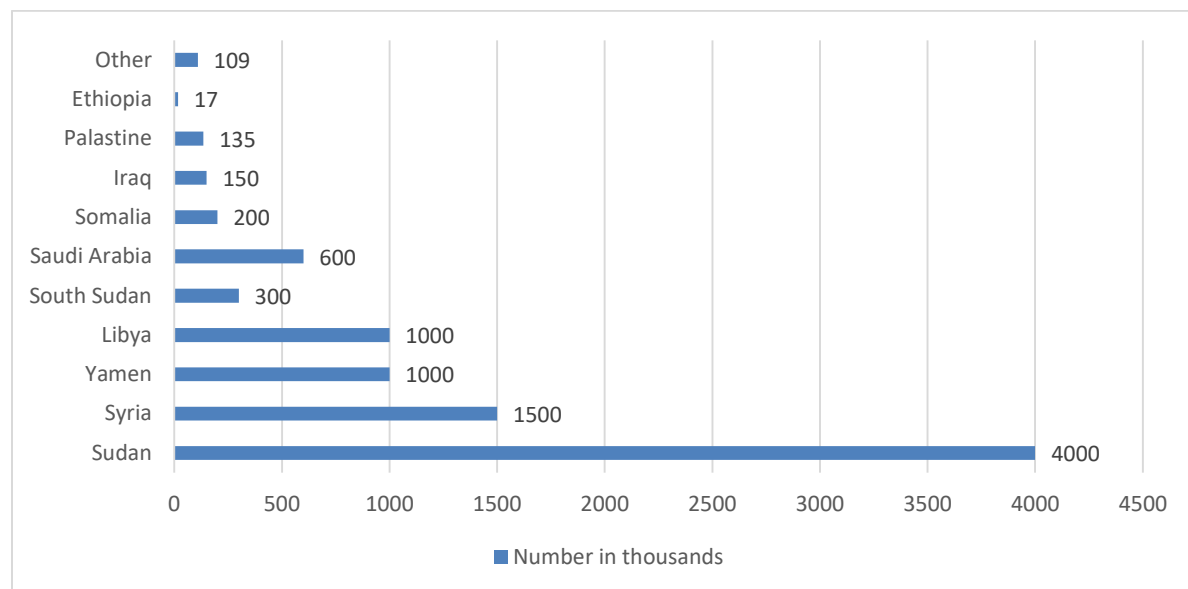
Recognizing the limitations of the current system, the Egyptian government is actively taking steps to improve refugee data collection. One initiative involves advocating for a clear legal framework. A draft law, approved by the cabinet in June 2023, aims to regulate refugee rights and establish a one-year timeframe for formalizing their status (Ahram Online, 2023). This legislation also proposes the creation of a permanent committee for refugee affairs, tasked with collaborating with the UNHCR. This committee would conduct an audit to document the actual number of refugees, and the costs associated with providing them with essential services (Pieters, 2024).

However, these efforts might be hampered by recently adopted stricter residency requirements. These requirements, including fees and justifications for staying in Egypt, could discourage some refugees from registering (Sadek, 2023).

In an attempt to identify the actual number of foreign individuals residing in Egypt, including migrants and refugees, the Egyptian government collaborated with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) between October 2021 and June

2022. This comprehensive audit aimed to document the demographics (gender, age, place of residence), duration of stay, reason for residence, and employment status of migrants and refugees residing in Egypt (IOM, 2022a). The study represents the most comprehensive data currently available on forcibly displaced persons in the country.

The research identified an overall estimate of 9 million migrants in Egypt, with 80% originating from four primary countries: Sudan (fleeing conflict), Syria (fleeing conflict), Yemen, and Libya (due to security and political instability). This figure does not capture the recent influx of Sudanese civilians seeking refuge in Egypt following the April 2023 outbreak of armed conflict. UNHCR reported in March 2024 that over 450,000 Sudanese have fled to Egypt since mid-April 2023, with the number of registered Sudanese refugees quadrupling between the conflict's onset and February 2024 (UNHCR, 2024b). The findings of the study regarding migrants and refugees in Egypt are illustrated in Figure (1-4).



Source: IOM, 2022a

Figure (1-4)
Migrants and Refugees in Egypt 2022

Interestingly, the IOM report findings on migrant and refugees' demographics and residency patterns in Egypt align with UNHCR data, particularly regarding their geographical distribution. Over 56% of migrants, likely including a significant number of refugees, reside in four governorates: Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, and Damietta. This concentration in urban centers suggests a potential overlap between migrant and refugee populations.

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The analysis reveals a young migrant and refugees' population with an average age of 35.2 years. Notably, only 2.4% are 60 years old or above, indicating a predominance of working-age adults. Additionally, the analysis finds a balanced gender distribution, with nearly equal proportions of females (49.6%) and males (50.4%).

Furthermore, the report sheds light on residency patterns. The average stay in Egypt is 11.2 years. Interestingly, a significant majority (94.3%) have been in the country for less than 15 years. Only a small portion (5.7%) have resided in Egypt for 15 years or more, which could indicate long-term integration and establishment within the community.

The alignment between the report's findings and UNHCR data focuses on the need for a thorough audit of refugee and asylum-seeker numbers in Egypt. This comprehensive data is essential for assessing the impact of refugee populations and formulating effective strategies to address their needs and promote their well-being.

1-3 A Multifaceted Vulnerability: Challenges Faced by Refugees in Egypt

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt face a multitude of challenges that impact their daily lives and well-being, including psychological trauma, socio-economic vulnerabilities, and limited opportunities. These factors often hinder their ability to reach their full potential and achieve self-sufficiency (ILO, 2023).

Unfortunately, a critical gap exists in recent and comprehensive data on the specific vulnerabilities faced by this refugee population. The most recent UNHCR assessment, conducted in 2019, predates significant global and local economic and political disruptions. These disruptions are expected to have impacted the economic situation of both refugees and Egyptian citizens alike (El Laithy & Armanious, 2019). The IOM report on migrants and refugees in Egypt (2022a) included a vulnerability assessment. However, its focus on specific criteria likely provides an incomplete picture. Despite the data gaps, other research shed light on the precarious situations faced by refugees in Egypt. This research can be used to identify factors contributing to refugees' precarious situation, ultimately limiting their ability to secure basic rights and build a secure future. These factors will be explored in the following section.

1-3-1 Residency Restriction:

The complex Egyptian residency system, coupled with new financial burdens, creates significant barriers for refugees seeking to establish themselves in the country. Without a valid residency permit, a refugee's status becomes irregular, exposing them to fines and potential deportation.

While registering with the UNHCR grants refugees a six-month residency permit, renewable every six months, the registration process itself faces challenges. This pushes some refugees, particularly younger ones, to resort to tourist visas. Tourist visa offers residency and can be renewed every six months for a fee (recently paid in USD), but it strictly prohibits working.

Families with school-aged children can obtain year-long study visas for all members, provided the students are enrolled in Egyptian schools. However, this option also comes with a work prohibition.

A recent government initiative offers undocumented and illegal residents in Egypt a chance to "regularize their status." However, it comes with a cost of US\$1,000 in administrative fees alone, which has been perceived as a significant financial hurdle. These financial hurdles and limited visa options create a precarious situation for refugees. This situation not only impacts refugees' well-being but also limits their integration into Egyptian society (Parlmany, 2023; ECRF, 2023).

1-3-2 Losing Documentation:

Compounding the residency issue is the challenge of lost documentation. Often, refugees flee their homes without complete documentation, creating a cascade of problems in the host country. Missing paperwork can prevent them from registering marriages and births, jeopardizing their legal status and family ties. Additionally, accessing essential services like education and healthcare becomes difficult without proper documentation (Arab Women Organization, 2016).

While some origin countries, like Syria since 2014, have simplified obtaining passports at embassies abroad, these often come at a significant financial burden. Fees can range from \$200 to extend an old passport to \$400 for a new one, further straining refugees' limited resources (Arab Women Organization, 2016).

1-3-3 Limited Access to Formal Employment:

Refugees in Egypt face significant hurdles when entering the formal labor market due to legal and administrative restrictions.

Firstly, Egypt's reservations on Articles (24) of the 1951 Refugee Convention, which is labor legislation and social security, prevent them from receiving the same employment rights as Egyptian citizens (Sadek, 2023).

Secondly, although Article 53 of the Egyptian constitution allows refugees granted asylum to apply for work permits, the process itself is complex and challenging. Similar to all foreigners, refugees require a sponsor and must navigate a costly application process. Furthermore, they face the additional burden of demonstrating unique qualifications that a local candidate cannot fulfill. This requirement is particularly disadvantageous for many low-skilled refugees seeking work opportunities similar to those available to low-income Egyptians.

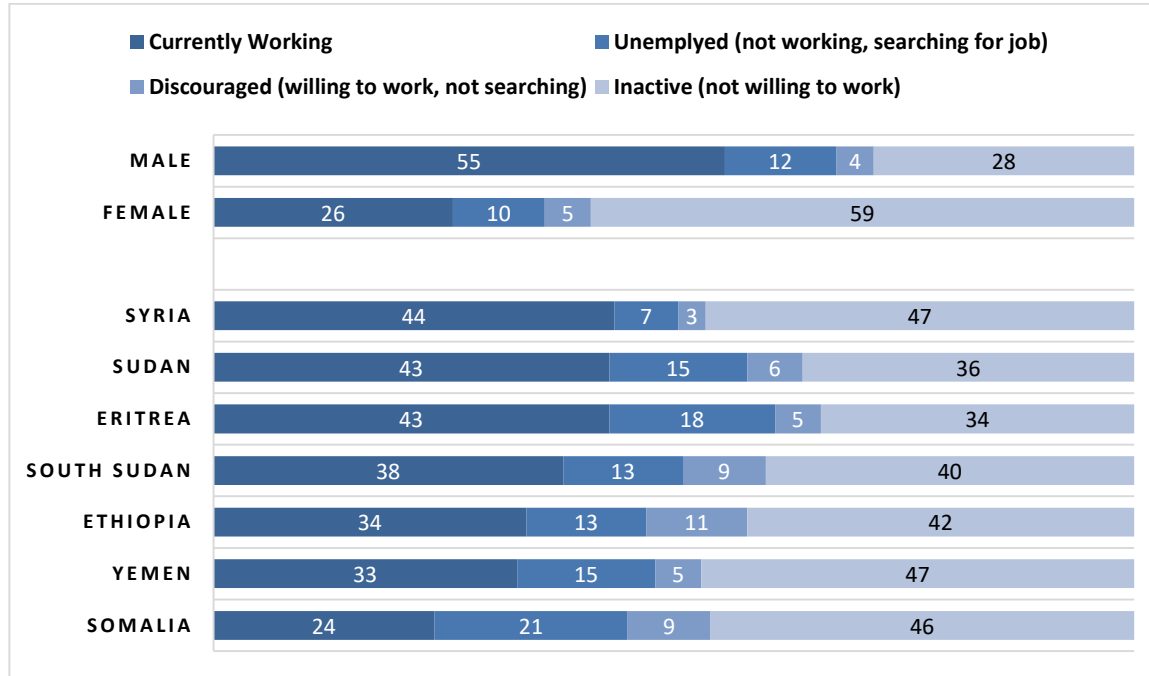
Finally, regulations further restrict the number of foreign workers allowed within organizations compared to Egyptian nationals. To add to these complexities, temporary residency permits issued by the Ministry of Interior often lack clear information regarding work authorization, creating further confusion and hindering employment opportunities for refugees.

Sudanese nationals enjoy a special status due to the Four Freedoms Agreement between Egypt and Sudan. They receive visas upon arrival that function as residency permits, allowing them to apply for work permits without sponsorship (Egyptian Official Journal, 2004).

Illegal residents are pushed towards the informal sector, where they face increased vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) study on the socioeconomic profile of refugees in Egypt (2023) found that almost all working refugees are employed informally, lacking work contracts and social security coverage. Only 1.3% reported having a formal work contract. Additionally, more than a third (36%) of employed refugees are considered underemployed.

(Figure 1-5) provides a closer look at the employment status breakdown for refugees. It illustrates that only two-fifths (40.5%) are currently employed. An additional 11% are classified as unemployed, meaning they are actively searching for work. A smaller group (5%) is discouraged from seeking work but would be willing to accept a job if offered. The remaining 43% are considered economically inactive, meaning they are not currently willing or able to work. These percentages differ according to nationality. Syrians have the highest employment rate (44%), while Somalis have the lowest (24%)



Source: ILO 2023

Figure (1-5)
Employment Status of Refugees in Egypt by Nationality

Notably, these findings align with an IOM report (2022), which identifies unemployment as a major challenge affecting a significant portion of the migrant population across nationalities. The report estimates that 63% of migrants are outside the labor force, meaning they are neither working nor actively seeking work.

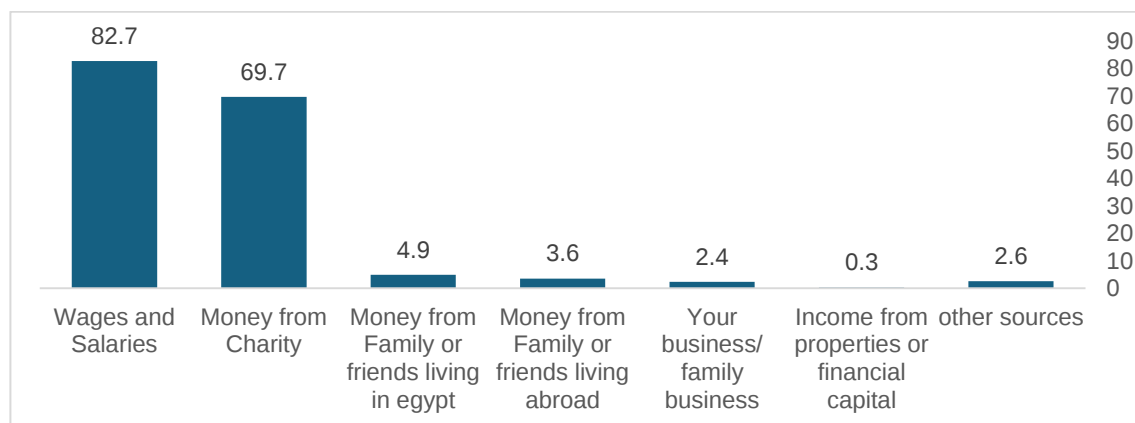
Egyptian Ministry of Labor data confirms that the majority of refugees in Egypt work in the informal market. Only a small number, for example, 1,439 Syrians and 288 Sudanese, have work permits (MoL, unpublished data).

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1-3-4 Poverty and Precarious Livelihoods:

Faced with high unemployment, low wages in the informal sector, and a rising cost of living in addition, refugee families in Egypt struggle to meet their basic needs.

As highlighted in the ILO study on the Socio Economic Profile of Refugees in Egypt (2023), many refugees rely heavily on aid and charity in addition to wages to make ends meet (Figure 1-6).



Source: ILO,2023

Figure (1-6)
Sources of Income for Refugees in Egypt

However, while the number of refugees in Egypt is increasing, funding for humanitarian assistance has not kept pace. This has resulted in a significant funding gap for the UNHCR, the UN agency responsible for refugees. According to the UNHCR refugee response plan as of November 2023, the agency faces a staggering 73% funding gap, with only \$74.4 million secured out of a required \$281 million (Figure 1-7).

The funding shortfalls have forced the UNHCR to scale back its financial aid and food assistance programs. Thousands of families have been entirely removed from the food ration program, and the value of rations for remaining families has been reduced. This has caused significant hardship for many refugees who rely on this assistance for survival.

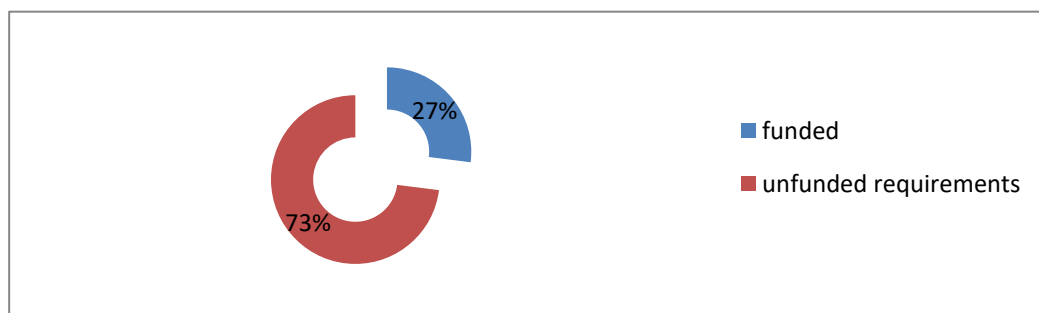
The removal of families from the food ration program was based on a 2015 UNHCR assessment of their vulnerability in Egypt. This assessment considered factors such as family size, income sources, and the presence of absent breadwinners or disabled members. The UNHCR study established a benchmark of 3,000 Egyptian pounds for

a decent living standard, including housing and food. However, the assessments revealed a significant gap: about 60% of refugees fell short, living on less than half the amount needed. Furthermore, around 30% struggle with extreme economic hardship, managing far less than the benchmark. Only 10% of refugees barely meet or fall below this amount.

Critics argue that the removal process overlooked the fact that some families receiving more than the benchmark still depended heavily on the aid. Losing this assistance caused significant hardship for these families.

Similarly, the value of food rations for remaining families was reduced, from a minimum of 500 Egyptian pounds and a maximum of 1,200 pounds per family (with a per-person allocation of 200 pounds) to a minimum of 400 pounds per family with a standard 120-pound per person allocation (Arab Women Organization, 2016).

According to the UNHCR's (2023) Refugee Response Plan, a mere 1.3% of basic needs are currently being met for refugees in Egypt. Less than half of the food requirements are covered, and only 9.4% of funding is available for vital livelihood and resilience programs. These requirements are likely to increase further if unregistered refugees are included.



Per sector	% Funded	RECEIVED UNMET	REQUESTED	FUNDING	UNMET
Basic Needs	1.3%		76.7 M	0.9 M	75.8 M
Food Security	44.5%		46.8 M	20.8 M	26 M
Protection	29.8%		44.6 M	13.3 M	31.3 M
Health & Nutrition	5.2%		38.5 M	2.1 M	36.4 M
Multi-sectors	100%		31.9 M	31.9 M	-
Education	5%		30.7 M	1.5 M	29.2 M
GBV	24%		8.7 M	2.1 M	6.6 M
Livelihood & Resilience	9.4%		6.4 M	0.6 M	5.8 M
Child Protection	7.6%		5.9 M	0.4 M	5.5 M
Wash	10.5%		5.7 M	0.6 M	5.1 M

Source: UNHCR Egypt, 2023

Figure (1-7)
Refugees Funding Requirements 2023

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Earlier estimates from the UNHCR (2020) suggest that 67% of Syrian refugees in Egypt already live in extreme poverty and require financial assistance. The situation is expected to be further strained by the recent devaluations of the Egyptian pound in 2022, which have led to inflation and soaring consumer prices that burden both Egyptians and Syrian refugees alike.

The 2019 UNHCR study on refugee vulnerability in Egypt, conducted before the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recession, revealed a concerning situation. Nearly 40% of refugees in Egypt live in poverty, with 19.3% classified as extremely poor, meaning they fall below the food poverty line. This alarming rate is even higher in urban areas, where most refugees reside.

The study identified several factors contributing to refugee poverty. Larger household size significantly increases vulnerability, with nearly 34% of refugees living in families of six or more. Female-headed households are particularly disadvantaged, with over half (51%) of extremely poor refugees living in such households. This challenge is especially pronounced for non-Arabic speaking refugees (53%), compared to only 16% of Syrian refugees. This suggests language fluency plays a role in accessing opportunities.

The study also found a counterintuitive correlation between duration of asylum and poverty. While extremely poor refugees had an average asylum duration of 40.7 months, this number rose to 53.8 months for near-poor refugees and 57.3 months for non-poor refugees. This might be explained by refugees with longer asylum periods having more time to establish income sources, build support networks, and improve skills (El Laithy & Armanious, 2019).

1-3-5. Housing Challenges

As mentioned before, unlike many countries, Egypt does not house refugees in designated camps. While this avoids some issues associated with camps, it presents a distinct challenge for refugees seeking affordable and safe housing. The combination of limited financial resources and high rental prices often forces refugees to live in poor neighborhoods on the outskirts of cities, particularly Greater Cairo. Here, they compete in the private rental market, where rents frequently exceed the financial assistance they receive from the UNHCR.

Limited UNHCR resources translate to scarce housing funding, leaving many refugees struggling to find suitable accommodation. Some local charities working

with refugees attempt to bridge this gap by renting suitable housing for families and covering the cost of rent for extended periods. However, this approach has limitations in terms of scalability.

As a result, many refugee families are forced to adopt alternative solutions to make ends meet. These often involve multiple family members working or resorting to shared accommodations with other families (Arab Women Organization, 2016).

The ILO study (2023) highlights the nearly ubiquitous reliance on rented housing among refugees, with 98% living in rented dwellings. The data also reveals a disparity in the average monthly rent paid by refugees based on their country of origin. Refugees from Yemen (EGP1,810) and Syria (EGP 1,785) pay the highest rents, while Eritrean refugees pay the least (EGP 1,110). These variations suggest differences in housing affordability and living conditions among refugee populations based on their nationality.

1-3-6 Education Challenges:

Despite Egypt's reservation on Article 22 "Public Education" in the 1951 Refugee Convention concerning the right to education, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1989 effectively nullifies this reservation. However, refugees in Egypt face challenges in accessing education

First, Access to education in Egypt remains nationality-based, resulting in significant disparities. Laws for foreigners or exceptional presidential decrees determine access following large influxes of refugees of specific nationalities. Currently, the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) allows Sudanese, South Sudanese, Syrian, and Yemeni refugee and asylum-seeker children to access public schools alongside Egyptian nationals for all basic and secondary education grades. Ministerial Decree 284/2014 establishes these arrangements, with further clarification provided by annual ministerial guidance. This guidance details enrollment procedures, required documents, and exemptions from regular foreign student tuition fees.

However, other refugee nationalities, including Ethiopians, Eritreans, Somalis, and Iraqis, are excluded from these arrangements. Consequently, they rely on private, community, or potentially unaccredited schools. These policy inconsistencies create ambiguities for both the Ministry of Education and refugees themselves.

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Second, Public schools, while offering integration benefits, are often overcrowded and under-resourced. This may necessitate additional tutoring, which many families cannot afford, potentially leading to higher dropout rates. Some refugee families choose community schools due to the familiar curriculum, but these often face significant drawbacks. They frequently lack official recognition, proper supervision, and may have inadequate facilities and hygiene. Additionally, the cost associated with some community schools can be a further burden for refugee families. The language barrier complicates access to public schools for non-Arabic speakers, making private or church schools offering native language instruction a potential alternative, but their limitations remain significant.³

Third, the UNHCR supports refugee education through cash assistance programs. However, the program highlights the existing challenges of unequal access to public schools. Refugees with access to public schools receive (EGP 800) compared to those attending private schools (EGP 4,000) or community schools (EGP 1,250). This disparity incentivizes enrollment in non-public schools, which may not be the most suitable option for all refugees (UN, 2022).

According to the IOM study conducted in 2022 (IOM,2022b) on migrant community leaders, the main reported reasons for the lack of accessibility of migrant children to education in Egypt are as follows:

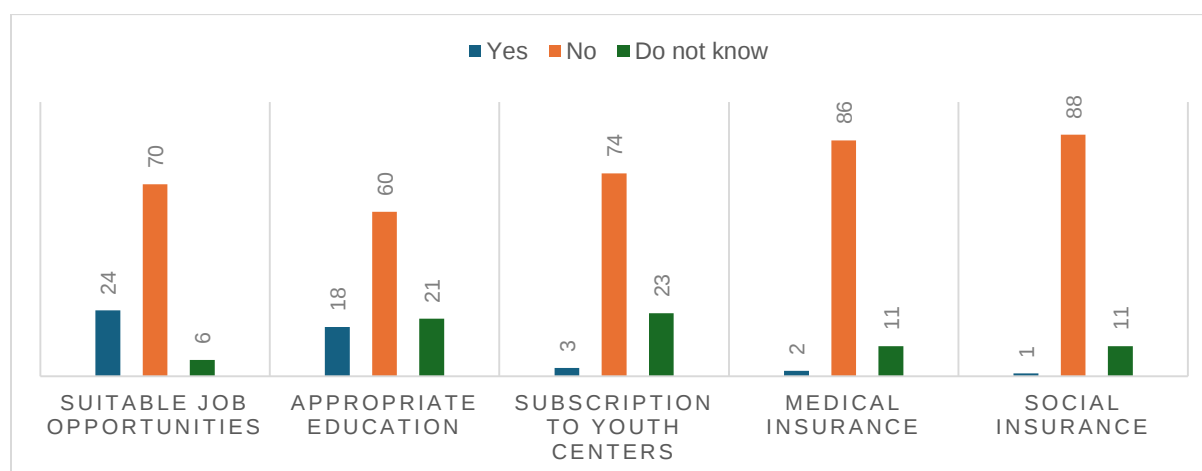
- Lack of financial capacity (62%): 36% of respondents indicate that tuition fees, along with associated expenses, such as transportation, clothing, food and others, are considered a burden for the parents. Therefore, education fees associated with additional expenses combined with the shortage of income (26%) prevent full access to education.
- Documentation and identification papers (26%): 16% of responses stated that the administrative status of migrants and their inability to present a valid identity paper or residence document hinder their children's access to public schools. Admission to public schools requires proper documentation

³ As clarified by interviewed researchers, many refugees' parents object to the Islamic curricula taught in Arabic in government schools. Consequently, unaccredited refugee schools, often offering classes in English, become the only viable alternative for these students. However, the lack of recognized certification from these schools prevents most graduates from pursuing higher education.

of parents and children. As a result of a failure to do so (for 10% of surveyed migrant community leaders), parents enroll their children either in community schools, which are limited in number, or in private schools which are more expensive.

- Racism and bullying (4%) are one of the reasons why parents prefer not to send their children to public schools. Reportedly, their children suffer from verbal and physical violence from teachers and peers.
- Lack of prioritization by parents (4%). Parents prioritize access to basic needs (food, shelter, health) and consider it a primary concern.
- Limited school facilities are also mentioned as one of the issues parents faces in public schools (2%)

This data aligns with the perceptions of refugees on the availability of adequate education in Egypt, as reported in the ILO study (2023), 60% of respondents reported that appropriate education is not available in Egypt, while only 18% felt it was available. The remaining 21% were unsure. (Figure 1-8)



Source: ILO 2023

Figure (1-8)
Refugees' Perceptions of Services Availability in Egypt (%)

Similarly, affording university fees remains a significant obstacle for many refugees in Egypt. As to primary education, access to higher education for refugees is not explicitly addressed in Egyptian law. However, Presidential Decree 49 (1972) allows non-nationals to pursue higher education in Egypt, though not for free.

Since 2012, the Ministry of Higher Education has granted Syrians equal access to higher education as Egyptians, with no tuition fees. Sudanese refugees residing in Egypt enjoy the same benefit. However, in response to the increasing number of

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Syrians enrolling in Egyptian universities by 2016, another ministerial decree was issued. This decree differentiated tuition fees based on where Syrians completed their high school education.

The UNHCR partially addresses this challenge by offering the DAFI scholarship program, funded by Germany and covering four years of study, however, it is provided for a very limited number of selected students (Only 349 in 2020) (Sharafeldin, 2020; Hetaba et al., 2020)

1-3-7 Health Challenges:

While Egypt grants the refugees access to the healthcare system, significant challenges hinder their ability to utilize these services. Primary healthcare is universally available for all migrants and refugees in public facilities, placing them on an equal footing with Egyptian citizens. The Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) further expands access for refugees from key source countries (Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, and Syria, they comprise nearly 85% of registered refugees by granting them access to secondary and tertiary care in public hospitals.

Additionally, refugees are included in national healthcare initiatives. This includes programs like anti-polio campaigns for children under five, breast cancer screening, early detection and rehabilitation of hearing deficits, and the "100 million Healthy Lives" initiative to eradicate Hepatitis C and reduce non-communicable diseases (Sharafeldin, 2020).

Furthermore, article 68 of the Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) (issued by Prime Minister Decree 909 in February 2018) leaves room for considering special health insurance programs for refugees and asylum seekers, in consultation with relevant government agencies (UN, 2022).

However, the fragmented healthcare system, with services divided between public and private hospitals, creates difficulties for refugees in navigating the system. Furthermore, limited employment opportunities often leave refugees unable to afford healthcare costs or participate in the Health Insurance Scheme (UN,2022)

UNHCR directly or through partners provides healthcare services, contributing to medication costs (up to 150 EGP monthly, with potential increases based on individual case review). Similarly, they contribute to surgery costs (up to 8,000 EGP,

with potential increases based on individual case review). However, due to limited resources, UNHCR can only meet 5% of the total healthcare funding needs (UNHCR, 2023).

According to the UN report “Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees in Egypt” (2022), migrant community leaders expressed significant concerns regarding migrant access to public healthcare. A survey revealed that 60% of respondents felt migrants had "very poor" access, while only 15% described it as "good." The desk review attributed this limited access to the strain on public facilities in densely populated areas. Additionally, factors like poor quality of public healthcare units, lack of awareness about migrant rights, and language barriers further complicate access.

A deeper analysis of the survey results identified the following key barriers:

- Cost and Financial Capacity (40%)
- Overcrowded Facilities (19%)
- Discrimination (19%)
- Documentation Issues (14%)
- Language Barrier and Support (7%)

This data is supported by the perception of refugees on the availability of health insurance in Egypt, as reported by ILO study (2023). 86% of respondents reported that health insurance is not available in Egypt, while only 2% felt it was available. The remaining 11% were unsure (Figure 1-9).

Finally, while the previously mentioned challenges affect all refugees and asylum seekers, they are further amplified for Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs). This group includes children at risk, unaccompanied and separated children, older persons at risk, women at risk, refugees with disabilities and serious medical conditions. UNHCR estimates that around 8,64% of registered refugees and asylum seekers fall into this category (UNHCR, 2024a).

Conclusion:

Throughout history, Egypt has adopted an open-door approach towards refugees and asylum seekers. This model allows them to integrate into cities, not camps, and access public services alongside citizens. While reflecting a commendable humanitarian vision, it could present challenges and requires management through a strong legal framework and organization.

Refugees in Egypt: Impacts and Policy Recommendations

Currently, Egypt lacks a unified asylum law, leading to fragmented policies governing refugees. This results in ambiguity and inconsistencies when implementing policies for refugee integration.

A key challenge lies in the ambiguity surrounding refugee numbers. The Egyptian government's estimates significantly exceed those of UNHCR due to differing definitions of "refugee." This highlights the urgent need for a more robust registration system to accurately assess the impact of refugee populations and formulate effective policies.

The context of refugees and their distribution across Egyptian governorates presents a complex and multifaceted challenge. While the large working-age population offers potential economic benefits, the significant number of children necessitates investment in education for their future integration. However, their concentration in urban areas strains basic services including education and health.

Refugees face significant hurdles in accessing basic rights and building a secure future. The complex residency system, lack of documentation, and legal restrictions limit their ability to work in the formal sector and access public services. This, coupled with high unemployment and a rising cost of living, forces many refugees into poverty.

Funding shortfalls for humanitarian assistance exacerbate these challenges, forcing the UNHCR to scale back programs, leaving many refugees struggling to meet their basic needs, including housing, education, and health needs.

These factors are likely to influence the economic, social, and environmental impacts of hosting refugees in Egypt. The following chapters explore these impacts and end with proposing policy recommendations to mitigate negative consequences and promote the sustainable integration of refugees in Egypt.

Chapter 2

Economic Impacts of Refugees in Egypt

2. Introduction:

Over the past two decades, the MENA region has witnessed more frequent and severe conflicts than any other regions in the world. Exacting a devastating human toll. Causing a refugee crisis described by the international Monetary Fund (IMF) (2016) as a crisis bigger than any since World War II. The crisis has not only affected the neighboring countries but also affected Europe and other regions. An estimated 10 million refugees originated from the region and registered by UNHCR have stayed mostly in other countries in the region and numbers of non-registered refugees and displaced persons are even higher.

Refugee Crises affect economies of host countries through multiple channels. Direct channels which refer to the impacts on labor markets, public deficit, and price level. and indirect channels as its impact on investment, bilateral trade and other indirect impacts. The negative impacts may include high unemployment rates, high population growth, and consumption of local resources.

The presence of a high population of refugees in a given country, especially in the rural areas, unavoidably puts a strain on the local authorities. The regional and national authorities of the host country set aside considerable manpower and resources from the urgent and pressing demands of their citizens to maintain the welfare of the refugees and ensure that the displaced persons have adequate security. Whereas many governments that host refugees do show the willingness to bear the costs of keeping refugees, they are understandably reluctant to offset the bill as an exchange for giving refuge and the cost of additional infrastructure that would accommodate many refugees (AlFayez, 2018).

The significance of the impact of refugees on a host country is influenced by two primary factors: the legal and institutional framework governing refugee integration into the host country's economy, and the demographic characteristics of the refugee population itself.

Refugees' influx affects both the demand and supply sides of the economy. It requires more goods and services to be produced to meet the demands of the expanded population, but the new arrivals themselves contribute to supplying that increased production through working or investing their money. Immigrants affect

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the demand side through household spending (for example, food), through housing requirements, through business-sector expansion (private investment), and through government-sector expansion (for example, health, education and so on). They affect the supply side through the labor, skills and funds they bring, which help the economy through the production of a range of goods and services (Williams, 1995).

The impact of refugees on the labour market mainly depends on the complementarity or substitutability between refugees' and native workers' skills. The influx of the refugees has other economic side-effects that tends to be featured in classical migration economics studies, change in production patterns, firms' adopting alternative production techniques, natives' outflow to other labor markets (Roman, 2019).

Thus, in terms of economic theory, an influx of refugees constitutes an expansive supply-side shock in a local labor market. Its impact on residents depends on the number of refugees, their characteristics compared with the host population, and the rules that govern their integration into the local economy, as for example: access to work permits. Initially, a labor supply shock tends to increase competition in the labor market and reduce residents' wages. Yet, both residents and refugees are far from homogenous; with whom refugees effectively compete depends on their skillset and legal status. In particular, if refugees cannot obtain work permits, they may be restricted to seeking jobs in the informal sector, forcing them all into the same narrow labor market segment. In this case, the impact on informal sector wages may be substantial and resident informal workers may incur sizable income losses and unemployment. Displacement effects on resident workers may become worse if some of the refugee populations are overqualified for most informal jobs and outperform most resident informal workers. While resident workers will suffer, firms and households that employ informal workers will benefit from lower labor costs. Hence, local firms may become more competitive and agricultural producers may earn higher profits.

Concerning the impact of refugees on price level, there are three different theories about this relationship. The first is that immigration generates a jump in the level of aggregate demand; therefore, the price of goods and services should increase as a consequence of immigrant inflow. On the other hand, the second theory assumes that labor market attachment levels of immigrants are lower than those of natives, immigrants will have less time constraints and, thus, they will search for lower prices more intensively. In other words, they are more elastic to the changes in prices in the

way that induces competition and thus lower the price levels. In the same context, the third theory argues that immigrants have lower reservation wages than native, this leads to labor cost advantage in these immigrant labor intensive sectors and thus leads to price reduction (Balkan, 2016).

To comprehensively explore the economic implications, both positive and negative, of hosting refugees in Egypt, we adopted a dual methodology. Initially, we conducted a qualitative analysis by examining the perceptions of Egyptian residents in governorates with significant refugee populations. Subsequently, we employed a Vector Autoregression (VAR) model to provide a quantitative perspective on the time-varying nature of these impacts.

2.1 Literature Review:

The impact of refugees on the host country's economy has gained considerable attention recently as the global refugees' flow increases in recent years due to political, economic and environmental conditions. These studies cover the economic impact of refugees in both macro and micro levels. Macro-level studies Primarily focused on impacts on labor market and on inflation or price levels. Thus, the literature reviews could be classified into three categories: the first reviewing studies of refugees' impact on labor market, the second is about the impact on price levels or inflation, while the third will give a review about studies concerning direct and indirect economic impacts on growth rates.

2.1.1 Refugees and Labor Market:

A growing body of literature examines the impact of refugees on host countries' labor markets, often referred to as "refugee supply shocks." These studies yield mixed results, explained by several key determinants of refugees' economic impact. These determinants include the legal framework governing refugee rights and their integration into the host economy, as well as the degree of similarity in skills between refugees and the existing workforce. To analyze the impact on the labor market, we can consider two categories: native and refugee labor. The higher the overlap in skills between these groups, the higher the competition. This skill overlap can lead to potentially lower wages and decreased employment in both formal and informal sectors.

Bach (2017) analyzed the fiscal and macroeconomic effects of investing in refugees' labor market integration in Germany. The paper employed a macroeconomic simulation model to investigate the hypothesis that public investment in integration

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and language courses could increase the proportion of economic benefits derived from refugees, compared to a baseline scenario reflecting prior to 2015 refugee integration patterns characterized by low investment levels.

Del Caprio (2015) and Ceritoglu (2017) argued that refugees act as a supply shock in the informal sector, and a demand shock in the formal sector. As they displace native workers and drive down wages. However, they have an insignificant impact on the formal sector's labor supply due to social or legislative restrictions that prevent them from substituting native workers. Binath (2017) used panel data from 2004 to 2016 for 26 regions in Turkey and found that Syrian refugees increased unemployment and decreased both informal and formal employment.

At the micro level, Akgunduz (2015) analyzed the impact of Syrian refugees on wages in southeastern Turkey using a difference-in-differences model with fixed effects. The study found that Syrian refugee inflows reduced internal migration to these regions but had no significant impact on employment. The insignificant employment effect was attributed to the combined effect of increased labor supply due to refugees and decreased supply due to reduced internal migration.

In the same context, Alix-Garcia (2017) studied the economic impact of refugees in Turkana, Kenya. It hosts refugees from different countries as Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and other African countries. The study found that: refugees have a net positive effect on the welfare of locals. But they have a negative effect on locals' or natives' labor market. Deepak Kumar (2023) indicated the positive impact of refugees on economic activities outside their camps.

Alix-Garcia (2007) studied the labor market consequences of forced migration to Tanzania. The study found that while refugee inflows initially had a negative impact on the labor market, the market exhibited a tendency to self-adjust in the medium and long term, as native workers shifted to other activities.

Borjas (2013) found that immigration's short-run wage effect can be negative across various scenarios. Even the long-run effect can be negative if the increase in workforce size from immigration outpaces the growth in the consumer base for domestic products. However, the analysis also shows that both short- and long-run effects can be positive if immigration significantly expands the consumer base for domestic products.

In Jordan, Fakih (2016) found no effect of refugees on the labor market, while Stave (2015) found a significant impact on the labor market especially for low skilled – low wage jobs in the informal sector. Wahba (2018) argued that refugees in Jordan most likely work in the informal sector and thus they have no impact on the locals' formal labor market. AlFayez (2018) analyzed the impact of refugees on the economy using Jordan as a case study. This research, however, is applicable to other countries or regions experiencing large refugee influxes, such as Europe. The study employs panel data analysis to explore the economic impact of refugees. Specifically, it examines the impact across different Jordanian governorates with varying Syrian refugee camp populations during the period 2010-2016. The findings suggest that an initial increase in the number of refugees positively affects the host country's economy, as evidenced by improvements in unemployment rates and employment numbers. However, the study also identifies a tipping point where further refugee influxes become detrimental. Therefore, host country governments should implement policies to manage refugee numbers and avoid reaching this tipping point.

To sum up, the impact of refugees on host country labor markets is complex and depends on various factors. While short-term challenges exist, long-term benefits are also possible. Effective policies promoting integration and managing refugee numbers can create a more positive outcome for both refugees and host communities.

2.1.2 Refugees and Inflation:

While refugee influxes may theoretically drive inflation through increased demand, the literature yields mixed results. (Bahcekapili, 2015), for example, analyzed the impact of Syrian refugees on Turkey's employment, inflation, and trade. The study found that refugees led to increased unemployment and a decrease in price levels.

Zachariadis (2012) examined the relationship between immigration and prices in 19 countries from 1990 to 2006. The study concludes that immigration has a deflationary effect on international relative price levels. A 10% increase in the share of immigrant workers can decrease the price of final products by up to 3%. This downward pressure on prices is likely exerted on non-tradable goods, which tend to be more labor-intensive and thus more susceptible to cost reductions from immigration. The effect is expected to be stronger in high-wage countries due to a larger influx of immigrants compared to low-wage locations. Additionally, immigrants may exert downward pressure on prices of goods they frequently consume due to their increased search activity and higher demand elasticity

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compared to natives in high-wage countries facing higher time constraints. This immigrant-driven search behavior in expensive locations could further contribute to price reductions relative to cheaper, lower-wage locations. These immigration-related mechanisms, combined with standard price arbitrage for internationally traded goods, could lead to narrower international price gaps for both tradable and non-tradable goods.

Lach (2008) examined price behavior following the unexpected arrival of a large number of immigrants from the former Soviet Union in Israel during the 1990s. The study found that the surge in aggregate demand caused by immigration significantly reduced prices throughout the decade. Lach argues that this unexpected disinflationary effect can be attributed to the new immigrants having higher price elasticity of demand and lower search costs compared to the native population. This suggests that immigration can have a moderating effect on inflation not only by increasing labor supply, but also through its direct impact on product markets.

Balkan (2016) also found a negative relationship between refugee inflows and price levels using data on Turkish regional price levels. The study found that the general consumer price level declined due to Syrian refugee immigration. The research identified the informal labor market as the channel through which these price declines occur. Syrian refugees, by supplying inexpensive labor in the informal sector, substitute for native informal workers, particularly in labor-intensive sectors. This situation creates labor cost advantages, leading to lower prices in these sectors. Cortes (2008) exploits variations in the long-term flow of low-skilled immigrants to several U.S. cities to estimate the impact of immigration on consumer prices. She finds that a 10% increase in the share of immigrants leads to a 2% reduction in the prices of immigrant-intensive services, such as housekeeping, gardening, babysitting, and dry cleaning. Her research suggests that an increase in the supply of low-skilled immigrants lowers wages in the low-skilled labor market, which translates to a cost advantage for immigrant-intensive sectors and ultimately leads to a reduction in prices.

Akgunduz (2015) aimed to estimate the impact of Syrian refugee inflows on various outcomes in Turkey, including labor market dynamics, food prices, and housing rents. They employed a difference-in-differences strategy and found that, using regional food price data, food prices moderately increased in regions receiving refugees compared to the rest of the country.

2.1.3 Refugees and Economic Growth:

Researchers argue that refugees can positively impact growth by different channels including providing a cost advantage through lower wages, increasing productivity, and enhancing consumption, investment (capital formation). However, they can also negatively affect growth through increased public spending, foreign aid dependency, and unemployment.

Ozyilmaz, et al. (2022) studied the effect of refugees on income inequality is analyzed by using quantile regression with fixed effects and Driscoll–Kraay Fixed Effect (FE)/Random Effect (RE) methods for the period of 1991 to 2020 in the 25 largest refugee-hosting developing countries. According to the findings of the study, the functional form of the relationship between refugees and income inequality in the countries is N-shaped. Accordingly, refugees first increase income inequality, decrease it after reaching a certain level, and then start increasing it, albeit at a low level.

Taylor (2016) employed the Local Economy Wide Impact Evaluation (LEWIE) approach to assess the economic impact of refugee settlements in Uganda. Data collected through extensive household and business surveys within and outside the settlements fed into this model. The model simulated the impacts of additional factors on the local economy, such as the presence of an additional refugee household and the injection of additional aid funds from the World Food Programme (WFP). The model specifically focused on the impact on real (inflation-adjusted) total income in the local economy, including breakdowns for both refugee and host-country households. Results revealed that the presence of additional refugee households resulted in a significant increase in local income for both settlements studied, and cash aid generated a stronger positive impact on local income compared to food aid. Furthermore, the analysis showed that income gains were greater in the settlement of Rwamwanja compared to Adjumani.

Building on this, another study by (Idris, 2020) also analyzed the economic impact of refugees in Uganda, focusing on situations where refugees are fully integrated. The study found that refugee integration creates spillover effects inside refugees' communities and within local communities, mainly due to the increase in local demand for goods and services. The study concluded that refugees could create significant economic benefits for their host countries when they receive assistance in the form of cash (increasing aggregate consumption) and have access to local markets. The study also mentioned that the size of the refugee population relative to the host country's population is another important determinant of the economic impact of refugees.

Brown, (2008) used household survey data from Fiji and Tonga to estimate the impact of migration and remittances on income distribution and measures of poverty.

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The estimated effects of remittances on poverty alleviation were found to be stronger when the more rigorous, counterfactual income estimates are used, but their effect on income inequality was found to be ambiguous. The extent to which migration and remittances alleviate poverty was also found to be more substantial in Tonga, the country with a much longer migration history and higher remittance dependence.

A study by Ruist (2019) estimated the lifetime fiscal burden of receiving refugees. The study used data from Sweden in 2015, with calculations accounting for refugees' age, years since immigration, and country of origin. The estimated average annual net fiscal contribution over a refugee's lifetime (58 years) ranged from -12% of GDP per capita for refugees from countries with a historically strong labor market performance, to -22% for those from countries with a weak performance. The study suggests that if the European Union received all refugees currently in Asia and Africa, the average annual fiscal cost over the same period would be at most 0.6% of GDP.

Zelter (2010) argued that in the short term, the increased demand from refugees can negatively impact host communities, leading to a decline in essential services like healthcare, education, or water supply. However, in the long term, refugees can contribute to economic growth through investment in infrastructure (e.g., medical centers, classrooms, road access to refugee camps) and housing. While the study methodology focuses on livelihood and micro-economic impacts, analyzing the macro-economic effects is equally important.

Bailey (2016) highlighted the role of international aid in enhancing the economy. He examined the economic impact of refugees on host countries. The study focused on three refugee camps in Rwanda, housing refugees from Congo. Two camps received cash aid from the UN World Food Programme, while the third received the same value of aid in donated food. Their findings revealed that cash aid had a significantly more positive impact on supporting refugees and stimulating the local economy compared to food aid.

Grisgraber and Hanson (2013) highlighted a lack of funding as a major obstacle to effective refugee assistance. Strapped for resources, the UNHCR and its implementing partners struggle to establish programs that meet the ever-growing need for aid.

Ozyilmaz, et al. (2022) analyzed the effect of refugees on income inequality in the 25 largest refugee-hosting developing countries (1991-2020). They employed quantile regression with fixed effects and Driscoll-Kraay FE/RE methods. Their

findings suggest an N-shaped relationship, where income inequality initially rises with refugees, then falls until reaching a certain level, and then starts to rise again at a slower rate.

In Egypt, few studies analyzed the impact of refugees on the Egyptian economy. Almost all of these studies are conducted on a micro level in which the analysis focuses on a certain refugee or immigrant community or region depending on personal interviews or conducting surveys.

Norman, (2017) argued that economic factors are not the sole determinants of refugee status in Egypt. Instead, political and diplomatic relations between the host (Egypt) and sending countries play a crucial role. This is evidenced by the comparison of Syrian, Ethiopian, and Sudanese refugees. Syrians, and to some extent Sudanese may receive preferable consideration. Jacobsen (2012) on the other hand, focused on the status of Sudanese Refugees in Egypt. The study explored the livelihoods of Sudanese refugees in Cairo, and the extent to which remittances supported them. It found that 89% of survey respondents were economically active, but their income seldom covered their rent plus subsistence. While a quarter of them received remittances, these are not a reliable source of income. **Thus**, the study classified Sudanese refugees in Egypt as vulnerable.

Norman (2021) argued that the informal sector is the main economic sector that secures refugees' engagement in the Egyptian Economy, especially in the service sector. The paper also mentioned that Syrian refugees and immigrants are the most integrated group in the Egyptian Economy.

In the same context, ILO study (2021) argued that refugees can be a valuable asset to the Egyptian labor market. It explored the international legal framework that guarantees refugees' right to work. The paper also examined successful integration models from the European Union, highlighting the important role that employer organizations can play. While there are challenges, such as a lack of recognized qualifications and cultural differences, the benefits of refugee integration outweigh the costs. The paper concluded by outlining the legal and social situation of refugees in Egypt, noting the lack of a clear national policy on refugee integration.

Ghobrial et al. (2023), in their study on refugee healthcare workers' accessibility to the formal sector in Egypt, reported several barriers including bureaucratic factors which impede the ability of Syrian refugee health care workers to obtain a full license to practice and leave to remain, and the absence of clearly defined policies. Economic factors, including the risk of economic exploitation (e.g., in the informal

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sector) and financial insecurity, were also noted to have a negative psychosocial impact.

2.2 The Economic Impacts of Refugees in Egypt:

Accurately measuring the economic effects of refugees in Egypt is hindered by several factors. Firstly, uncertainty surrounds the actual number of refugees and refugees alike in the country. As highlighted in chapter one, Egyptian government figures often conflate migrants and refugees, suggesting a total population of around 9 million. Secondly, Egypt's model of hosting refugees into existing cities alongside local citizens, compared to the use of refugee camps in some other host countries, makes it difficult to comprehensively quantify their economic impact. The Egyptian government's intention to conduct an audit to determine the exact number of refugees and the burdens on the government's strained budget underlines the challenges inherent in quantifying the financial implications of refugee hosting (Shehata, 2024).

An unpublished government report estimated the costs incurred by Egypt in hosting refugees, focusing on health and education sectors. This estimate is based on government data from 2022. Regarding education, according to the report the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) spent approximately 385 million EGP to enroll migrant and refugee students in public schools. This figure includes an estimated annual cost for educational services for all refugees. Of this amount, around 300 million EGP were spent on Syrian and Sudanese refugees alone, as detailed in Table (2-1) (MoPED, Unpublished data)

Table (2-1)
Estimated Educational Cost of Refugees in Egypt 2022

Nationality	No. of students	Average annual cost 2021/2022	Total cost (EGP)
Syria	30,697	7,907	242,735,012
Sudan	7,001		55,360,062
Others	10,985		86,863,345

Source: MoPED (Unpublished data)

It is crucial to note that the report's focus on education costs overlooks significant additional expenditures incurred by the ministry. For instance, it excluded the costs of school construction and renovation necessary to accommodate increased student enrollment due to the refugee influx. The government's investment of 885 million EGP in expanding educational capacity in refugee-heavy areas exemplifies this. By upgrading 1,500 classrooms across Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, and Damietta, the government aimed to improve learning conditions for both refugee and host community students through reduced class sizes and single-shift schooling (UN, 2022).

The report also estimated the cost of healthcare services provided to refugees. This estimation relied on data from the IOM's 2022 report identifying four primary displaced communities (totaling six million people), coupled with Ministry of Health (MoH) figures on average annual per capita spending for preventive care, consultations, nursing services, and vaccinations. This analysis resulted in an estimated average annual health cost of 1,301 million Egyptian pounds for refugees as presented in table (2-2).

Table (2-2)
Estimated Health Cost of Refugees in Egypt 2022

Health service	Total cost (EGP)
Preventive medicine	185,626,416
Health care	121,201,511
Vaccination	917,061,741

Source: MoPED (Unpublished data)

While examining the costs of direct services like education and healthcare offers a foundational understanding of the financial implications of hosting refugees, it presents several limitations. Firstly, this approach overlooks essential indirect costs such as housing, food assistance, and security, which collectively contribute to the government's overall expenditure. Secondly, by solely focusing on direct government spending, the analysis underestimates the total financial burden, as it excludes costs borne by non-governmental organizations and informal support networks utilized by refugees. Thirdly, assuming a standardized cost per refugee disregards the diverse needs arising from factors such as family size, health status, employment history, and cultural integration. Finally, the cost estimate is inflated by

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assuming that all individuals from these nationalities are refugees. This overlooks the fact that not all foreign nationals require the same level of support.

Baiomy (2023) attempted to estimate Egypt's cost of hosting displaced persons by adjusting the current international average refugee cost estimate to reflect differences in living standards across countries. His estimates ranged from a high of \$112,300 per refugee annually to a low of \$45 billion annually.⁴ While this also provides a valuable attempt, and it acknowledges the variation in refugee support costs due to living standards. However, to improve accuracy, more specific data on the actual costs of supporting refugees in Egypt is needed, along with a more nuanced understanding of the differences in needs between refugees and the broader foreign population.

Rashed (2023) contended that international aid for refugees can positively impact the Egyptian economy by alleviating government burdens. Nonetheless, this assertion is countered by the substantial funding shortfall faced by the UNHCR, as highlighted in chapter one.

Considering the impact of refugees on the labor market, A significant gap exists between the estimated working-age displaced population, as per the IOM's 2022 report, and the number of official work permits issued to refugees by the Egyptian Ministry of Labor (MoL). While the IOM estimates approximately 3.5 million potential refugee workers among Sudanese, Syrians, Libyans, and Yemenis, Ministry of Labor (MoL) figures from the same year indicate only 1,211 work permits issued to these nationalities (965 Syrian, 87 Sudanese, 76 Libyan, and 83 Yemeni) (MoL, Unpublished data). This substantial discrepancy implies widespread informal employment, with potential negative consequences for government revenue and accurate assessment of their economic contributions.

Regarding the contribution of refugees to investments in Egypt, Syrian refugees have demonstrated a higher level of economic integration into Egypt compared to other refugee groups, particularly through their contributions to foreign direct investment

⁴ He adjusted the current average refugee cost estimate of \$30,000 to reflect differences in living standards across countries. Using an adjusted cost of \$12,300 for Egypt, and considering that Egypt hosts approximately 9 million foreigners, the annual cost is estimated at around \$111.2 billion. He further considered cost pressure scenarios, assuming a real cost reduction in Egypt of more than 50%, resulting in a cost of \$5,000 per foreigner per year instead of \$12,300. The cost of hosting foreigners in Egypt would be around \$45 billion annually (9 million foreigners * \$5,000).

(FDI). Since their mass arrival in 2012, many Syrians have established small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in various sectors, including food, clothing, textiles, furniture, paper, and plastics. Some have even achieved success with larger-scale import/export companies, particularly in satellite cities around Cairo like 6th of October and 10th of Ramadan (Noureldin, 2019). However, Syrian FDI appears relatively modest in the national context. Estimates suggest Syrian FDI stock sits between \$800 million and \$1 billion USD (Daher, 2023), a tiny fraction (less than 0.7%) of Egypt's total FDI stock, which reached a staggering \$148.8 billion USD in 2022 (UNCTAD, 2023). For other refugee groups, such as Sudanese, Libyans, and Yemenis, Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) data (2023) indicates minimal FDI contributions.

These are just a few examples of the potential economic impacts of refugees and forcibly displaced persons. The overall impact will depend on various factors, including their accurate number, economic status, skill sets, and integration into the Egyptian economy. A comprehensive database on refugees in Egypt is crucial for accurately assessing these impacts.

2.3. Perceived Economic Impacts of Refugees in Egypt:

This section explores Egyptian citizens' perceptions of the economic implications of hosting refugees. It aims to identify and analyze both the potential benefits and drawbacks associated with refugee integration into the Egyptian economy.

2.3.1 Data Analysis Method

As identified earlier in the introduction, data was collected through an online survey administered in the three major governorates hosting refugees: Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria. These governorates host approximately 90% of the total refugees in Egypt.

The questionnaire was developed through a rigorous process. Informed by a comprehensive literature review, it underwent expert evaluation by a panel of five specialists before being piloted among ten Egyptian citizens from the target governorates. Based on the feedback, the questionnaire was refined.

To assess the perceived economic impacts of hosting refugees, the survey employed both multiple-choice and Likert scale questions. Multiple-choice items gauged the significance of various impacts, allowing for multiple selections where applicable.

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Likert scale questions measured the perceived likelihood of these impacts on a five-point scale (1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree).

Descriptive analysis, utilizing frequencies and percentages, was conducted to summarize the primary positive and negative economic impacts as perceived by respondents.

2.3.2 Results and Discussion:

The survey results reveal a mixed perception of the economic impact of hosting refugees in Egypt. Respondents identified both potential benefits and drawbacks, highlighting the complex and multifaceted nature of the issue.

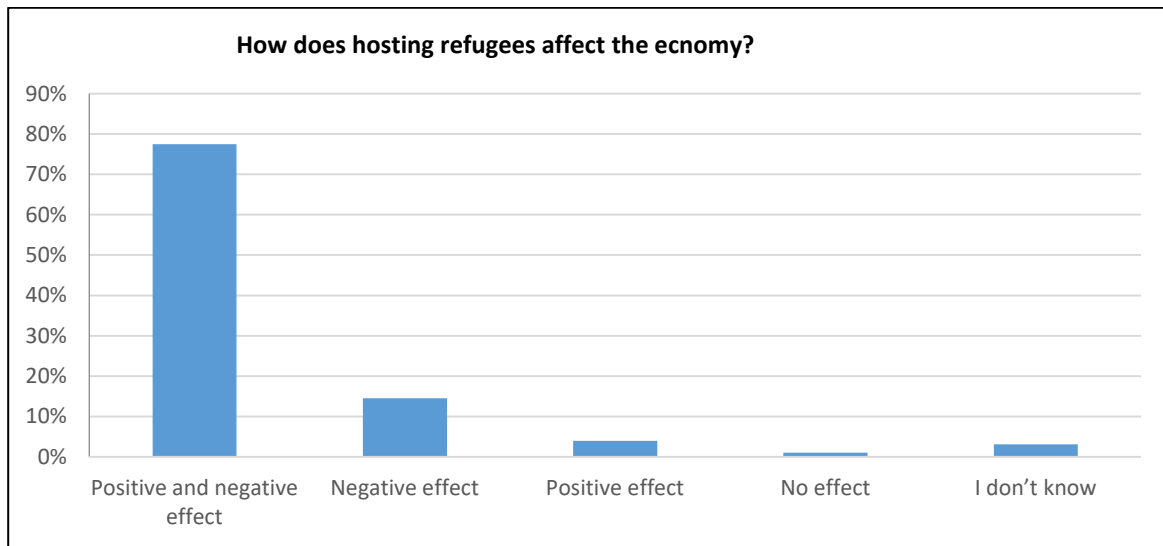


Figure (2-1)

Egyptian Perception of the Impacts of Hosting Refugees on the Local Economy

As illustrated in Figure (2-1), although 77% of the participants argue that hosting refugees has both negative and positive impacts, there is still a percentage of the participants that believes that they have negative impacts only (14.5%).

As represented in Figure (2-2), the existence of the positive impact is directly correlated to the nationality of refugees. The majority of respondents (88.3%) believe that Syrian refugees are the only ones that have a positive impact on the local economy.

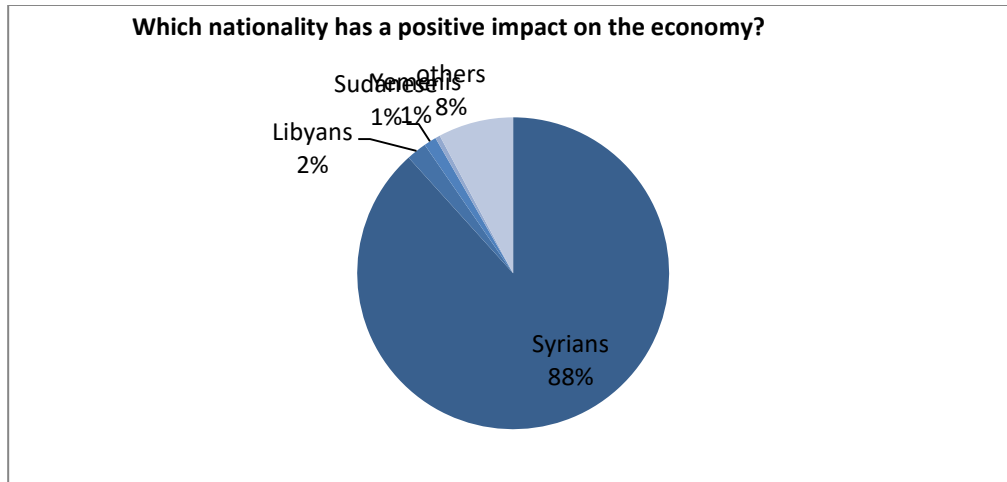


Figure (2-2)
Perceived Nationalities with Positive Economic Impacts

This economic impact, as mentioned in the literature review, depends mainly on the integration of refugees into the local economy. Our survey aims to capture the determinants of this integration. The results, as shown in Figure (2-3), suggest that cultural factors (language, religion, etc.) are the most important factor affecting economic integration (100%), followed by education and skill levels (66.4%), and then refugees' legal status (25.5%).

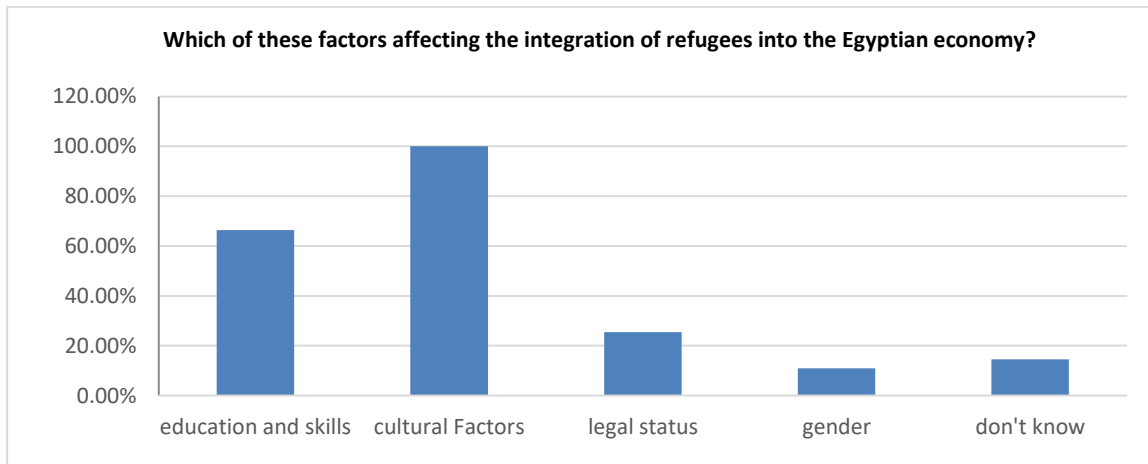


Figure (2-3)
Perceived Determinants of Refugees Economic Integration

When asked about the key economic indicators affected by the influx and presence of refugees, respondents indicate that price increases are the primary concern (90%), followed by rising unemployment rates (75%). A significant proportion also points

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to the suppression of economic growth due to strain on state resources (46.9%), and finally, investment (34.4%) as shown in figure (2-4). In the survey, Refugees' economic impacts are divided into three sub dimensions that capture the impacts on price levels, labor market (unemployment), and Economic Growth. According to

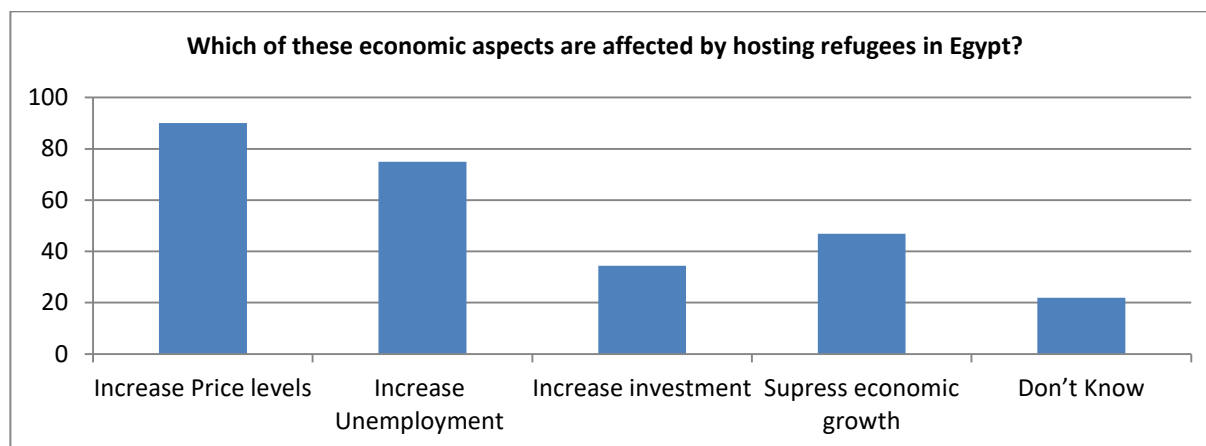


Figure (2-4)
Perceived Aspects of Economic Impacts of Hosting Refugees

The majority of survey respondents (86%) further confirm that the influx of refugees to Egypt leads to an increase in price levels, while only 2% of participants find no relation, as shown in Figure (2-5).

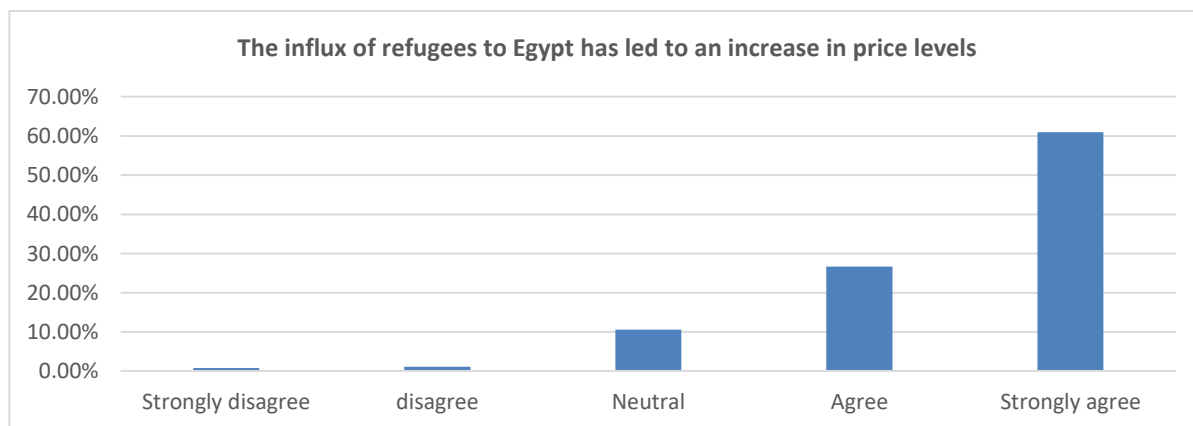


Figure (2-5)
Perceived Impact of Refugees Influx on Price Levels in Egypt

The housing sector (89.9%) is identified by the survey respondents as the most impacted by price increases, followed by the food market (57.7%) and water & electricity prices (23.4%), as shown in Figure 2-6.

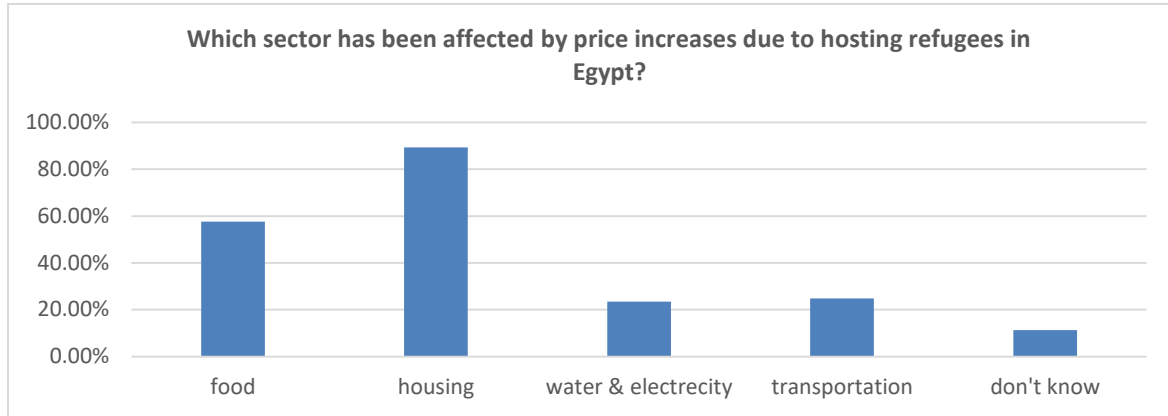


Figure (2-6)

Perceptions of Price Increases in Key Sectors Due to Hosting Refugees in Egypt

The impact of refugees on the labor market is measured in our survey through two channels: job creation and their impact on wages. In this context, 39% of the respondents indicate that refugees have no impact on job creation or labor market activity, while 21% believe they create more job opportunities in the local economy.

The impact of refugees on wage levels, particularly for low-skilled jobs, yields mixed results in our survey. While 28.8% of respondents believe refugees won't reduce wages, 36.5% hold the opposite view, expecting a decrease. The remaining 34.7% remain neutral on this issue. These findings are further illustrated in Figure (2-7).

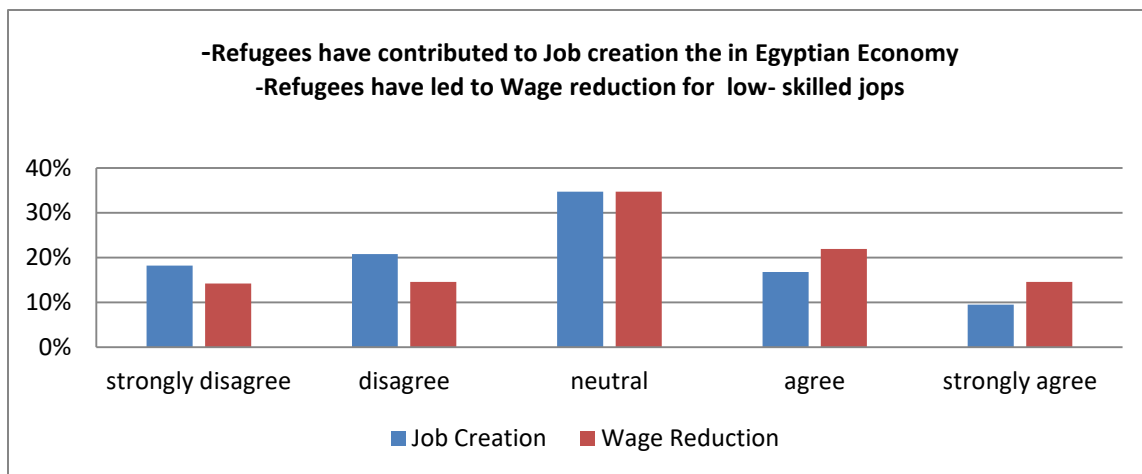


Figure (2-7)

Perceived Impact of Refugees on Labor Market

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The survey data also confirms a significant concern about increased competition for low-skilled jobs due to the presence of refugees. A high percentage of respondents (79%, with 58.5% strongly agreeing) agree with this statement. A smaller group (6.5%) disagree, as shown in Figure (2-8).

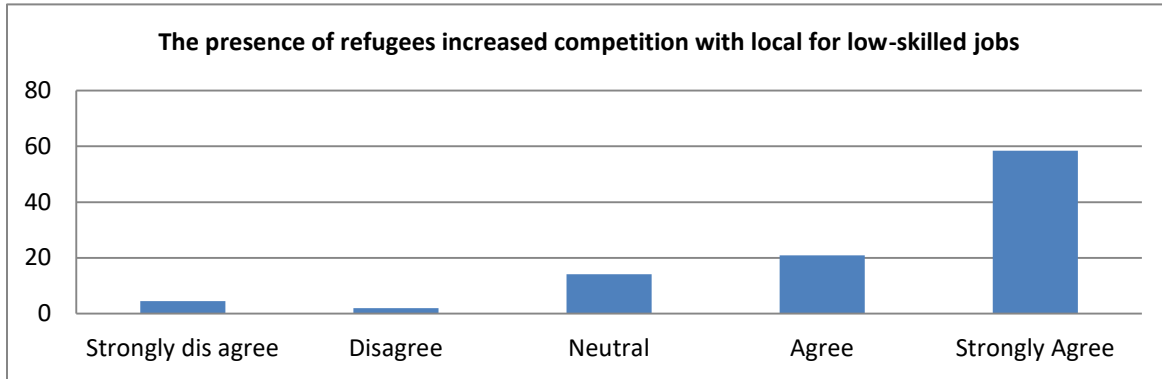


Figure (2-8)

Perceived Impact of Refugees on Competition for Low-Skilled Jobs

Refugees can also bring valuable skills and experience to the workforce, but the survey data suggests a mixed perception of their contributions. While 39% of respondents agree with the statement (16.8% strongly agreeing), indicating a significant portion recognizes their potential value, a substantial group (43%) remains neutral, as shown in figure (2-9)

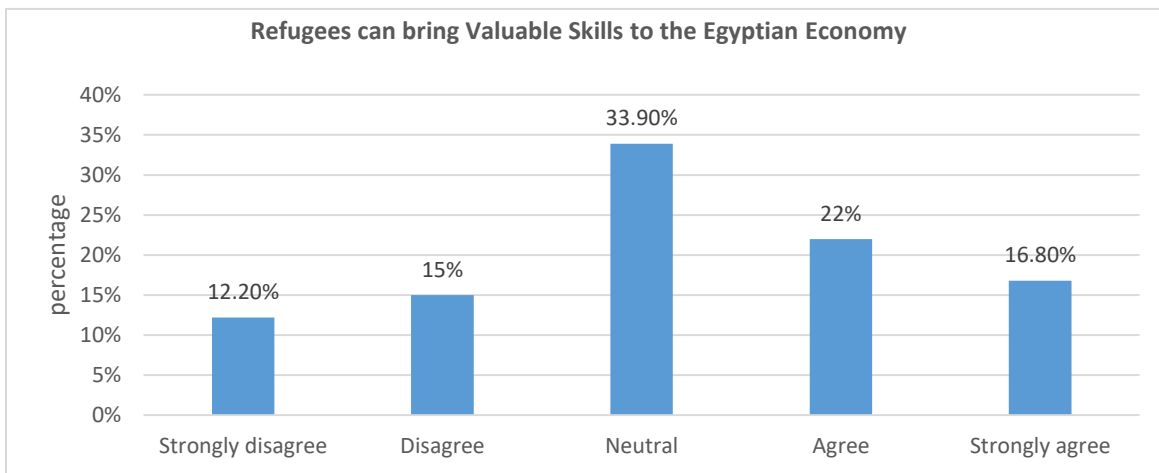


Figure (2-9)

Perceived Refugees Skills and Workforce Integration in Egypt

Investment or entrepreneurship can also be a channel for refugees to impact the local economy. The results reveal that about 44.53% of respondents disagree with this statement and 33.2% are neutral, as illustrated in figure (2-10).

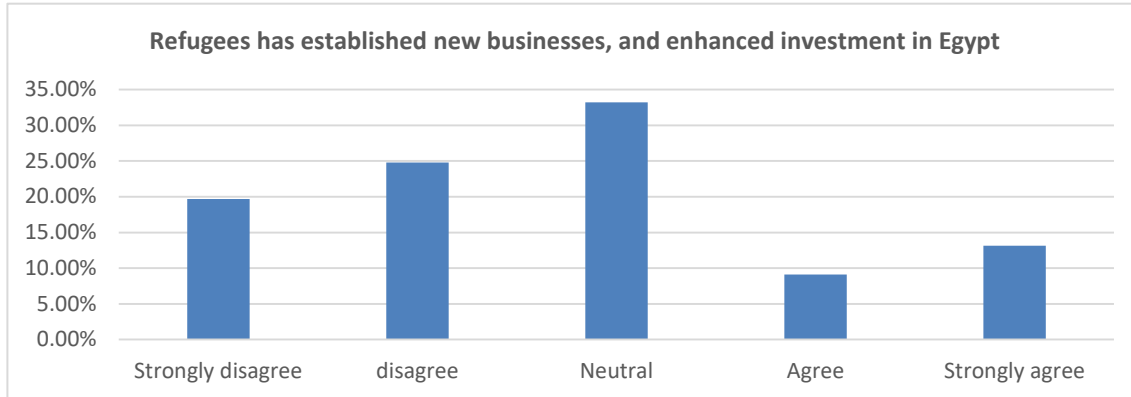


Figure (2-10)
Perceived Impact of Refugees on Entrepreneurship and Investment

Finally, according to the survey, respondents believe that refugees do not significantly contribute to the manufacturing or agriculture sectors in Egypt. Their contributions are mainly confined to the services sector, especially in restaurant and tourism activities (89.9%), as shown in Figure (2-11).

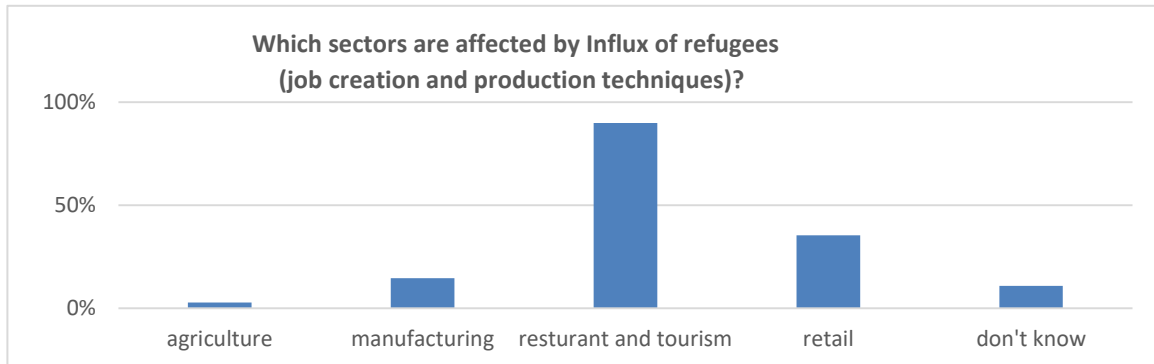


Figure (2-11)
Perceived Sectors Affected by Refugees Influx in Egypt

In conclusion, the survey results suggest that hosting refugees in Egypt can have both positive and negative economic impacts. The severity of these impacts depends primarily on the degree of refugees' integration into the local economy. Many factors influence this integration, but the most important one, according to the respondents, is cultural similarity with the Egyptian citizens, followed by the

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refugees' education and skill levels. This finding aligns with the literature review, which suggests that cultural homogeneity between refugees and the host society increases the likelihood of successful economic integration. Similarly, the educational and skill levels of refugees are also seen as crucial determinants of their economic integration and their impact on the labor market. This could explain why respondents perceive Syrians as the most integrated group in the Egyptian economy.

Inflation, primarily driven by rising prices, is perceived as the most significant economic consequence of hosting refugees in Egypt. Survey respondents overwhelmingly attributed price increases to the influx of refugees, with 90% identifying it as the most frequent consequence. Moreover, 87% of participants agreed that overall prices have increased due to the presence of refugees. Housing prices are perceived as the most impacted sector by the refugee influx, followed by food prices. This is likely due to a surge in demand within already densely populated areas with high refugee concentrations. While the sudden rise in demand is a key factor driving up housing costs, including both purchase prices and rents, broader economic factors such as global price fluctuations and the devaluation of the Egyptian currency have also significantly contributed to higher consumer costs, particularly for essential goods like food.

The survey results highlight a significant concern regarding competition in the low-skilled labor market. A high percentage of respondents (79%) expressed a fear that refugees might compete with local workers for these jobs. This concern aligns with the economic concept of the 'substitution effect.' Employers may be incentivized to substitute the cheaper option. This substitution could potentially lead to lower wages for local workers in the low-skilled sector. It's worth mentioning that due to legal restrictions, this competition in the informal sector could contribute to the overall growth of Egypt's informal economy.

On the positive side, Refugees can act as economic agents, creating new jobs, particularly in service sectors like restaurants, tourism, and retail. Their existing skills and experience can add value to the local workforce, fostering knowledge transfer and potentially boosting productivity. Furthermore, lower labor costs associated with refugee employment might improve the competitiveness of some Egyptian businesses.

While research suggests that refugees can become net contributors to the host economy over time through increased consumption and entrepreneurship, the initial costs of hosting them are undeniable. However, survey findings reveal a prevalent skepticism about their overall economic impact. This skepticism is primarily rooted in two concerns: the perceived strain on the Egyptian budget due to refugee needs, and the belief that their economic contributions are concentrated in service sectors, rather than in more impactful sectors like agriculture and industry.

2.4 Estimating the Impact of Refugee Influx on Macroeconomic Variables: VAR Model

2.4.1: Methodology:

Theoretically, Refugees inflow should create two types of shock

- a) a population shock with a sudden increase in population of the state
- b) an expenditure shock with the host government or international community providing for housing, education and social assistance to the forcibly displaced persons.

These two shocks translate into an impact on the inflation rate driven by the increase in aggregate demand, and an impact on economic growth driven by the increase in consumption and production. The influx of refugees also affects the labor market in host countries, with their impact depending mainly on their participation in the labor market.

We employed a vector autoregressive (VAR) model to examine how macroeconomic variables, including economic activity and labor market indicators, respond to variations in refugee inflows. As Sims (1980) highlighted, VAR models have the advantage of using the macroeconomic variables in order to characterize the joint dynamic behavior of the time series without imposing strong restrictions to identify the estimated parameters. Even when some applications of the VAR estimates, such as the impulse response functions (IRFs), require identification restrictions, this is done in a more systematic way. In simpler terms, the restrictions are imposed only on the dynamic relationships between a pair of variables that could be hidden in the standard econometric models.

In the current paper, the application of the VAR model aligns with the research examining the impact of immigration on macroeconomic indicators and economic

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conditions in the host country (Boubtane, 2013; Damette 2013). These studies highlighted the potential endogeneity between immigrant inflows and economic conditions in host countries. This means that migrants may have an impact on the economic conditions in the host country. Similarly, refugee inflows might be influenced by economic conditions in the host country, creating a two-way causal relationship. Thus, the VAR approach is an appropriate framework to address the potential endogeneity problem by considering the variables to be endogenous in the system. This helps to avoid making ad hoc assumptions about the variables of the system as in the case of instrumental variables.

Another advantage of the VAR model is the isolation of the effects of macroeconomic variables on the inflow of immigrants (Fakih, 2016). The VAR model provides a multivariate framework in which all variables are treated symmetrically. A VAR system contains a set of n time series variables: $X_t = (X_{1t}, X_{2t}, \dots, X_{nt})$, where each is expressed as a linear function of p lags of itself and of all of the other $n - 1$ variables as follows:

$$X_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 X_{t-1} + \dots + \alpha_p X_{t-p} + \xi; t=1, \dots, T \quad (1)$$

The VAR model used here focuses on four variables, where $X_t = (Ref_t, INF_t, ECON_t, L_t)$ is the vector of stationary variables of Refugees, Inflation, economic activities, and labor market variables. These variables are modeled together as endogenous variables. α_0 is the intercept vector of the VAR, α_i ($n \times n$) are the coefficient matrices, and $\xi_t = (\xi_{1t}, \xi_{2t}, \dots, \xi_{nt})$ denotes the independent and identically distributed disturbance terms of the VAR system. We can then represent Equation (1) as a VAR system of equations through which refugees, economic activity, Inflation and labor market are considered endogenously:

$$Ref_t = \alpha_{01} + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_{i1} Ref_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_{i1} Econ_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_{i2} Inf_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{i1} L_{t-i} + \varepsilon_{1t} \quad (2)$$

$$Inf_t = \alpha_{02} + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_{i2} Ref_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_{i2} Inf_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_{i2} Econ_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{i2} L_{t-i} + \varepsilon_{2t} \quad (3)$$

$$Econ_t = \alpha_{02} + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_{i2} Ref_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_{i2} Inf_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_{i2} Econ_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{i2} L_{t-i} + \varepsilon_{2t} \quad (4)$$

$$L_t = \alpha_{03} + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_{i3} Ref_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_{i2} Inf_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_{i3} Econ_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{i3} L_{t-i} + \varepsilon_{3t} \quad (5)$$

Where α , γ , and δ are the parameters to be estimated; i is the lag length; and t represents time. And the optimal lag length of the model is chosen according to Akaike Information Criterion (AIC).

2.4.2: Data Sources:

Following Fakih (2016) and based on our survey results, we constructed the model. We collected Egyptian macroeconomic data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) and the World Bank's online database for the period 2012-2023⁵. To increase the sample size and facilitate the application of the VAR model, we transformed the annual data into quarterly observations. Drawing on prior research on refugee economics (Fakih, 2016) and our survey analysis, we selected dependent variables capturing the three main impacts of refugees: economic growth (GDP real growth rate), labor market (unemployment rate), and price levels (Consumer Price Index for housing, water, electricity, and energy).

Growth rate is measured on macro level, Consumer Price index for housing, water, electricity and energy is used to measure the impact on inflation as the survey results suggests that the housing prices are the most affected prices by refugees⁶, while unemployment rates are calculated from CAPMAS database for only three governorates that host the majority of refugees: Cairo, Giza, and

⁵ We started our econometric analysis from 2012 to exclude the data biases caused by 2011 political disruptions.

⁶ Due to limitations in obtaining disaggregated GDP data at the governorate level, this study employs the real GDP growth rate at the national level (macro-level) as an approximate proxy for the real GDP growth rate at the governorate level. This approach leverages the significant contribution (approximately 70%) of these governorates to Egypt's national GDP, suggesting a strong correlation between national and regional economic performance. However, acknowledging potential inaccuracies arising from economic heterogeneity within the remaining 30% of GDP and the possibility of policy variations across governorates is crucial.

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Alexandria. The size of refugees is measured as percentage of the three governorates' population rather than their absolute value to capture the significance of their size relative to the population. The official UNHCR data of refugee size is used in this analysis as it is the only time series data available for refugees in Egypt, other estimates are only available in media statements and in one point of time and thus could not be used in an econometric analysis. Table (2-3) identify the variables used in the model.

Table (2-3)
Variables Used in The Model

Variable	Symbol	Source
Economic activity: GDP real growth rate	GDP	World Bank Online data bank
Unemployment rate: calculated for three governorates: Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria	UNEMP_G	Calculated form CAPMAS
Inflation Rate: Consumer Price index for housing, water, electricity and energy	INFL	CAPMAS
Refugees number as a percentage of the population of Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria	REF	Calculated from: Refugees: UNHCR Population: CAPMAS

The descriptive statistics of the data as illustrated in table (2-4) suggest that data are normally distributed. Quarterly data that are used in the Analysis are shown in figure (2-12).

Table (2-4)
Descriptive Statistics of the Model Data

	GDP	INFH	REF	UNEMP_G
Mean	3.867204	121.1460	0.010753	15.43143
Median	4.015475	115.3000	0.010728	16.72105
Maximum	5.751775	158.7617	0.012478	18.84629
Minimum	2.170228	95.42662	0.009294	10.93984
Std. Dev.	1.015731	15.51576	0.000848	3.031193
*Coefficient of variation C.V	26.265%	12.8%	0.8%	19.645%

Source: Results of data analysis using EViews 13 software program *calculated as $C.V = \sigma/\mu$

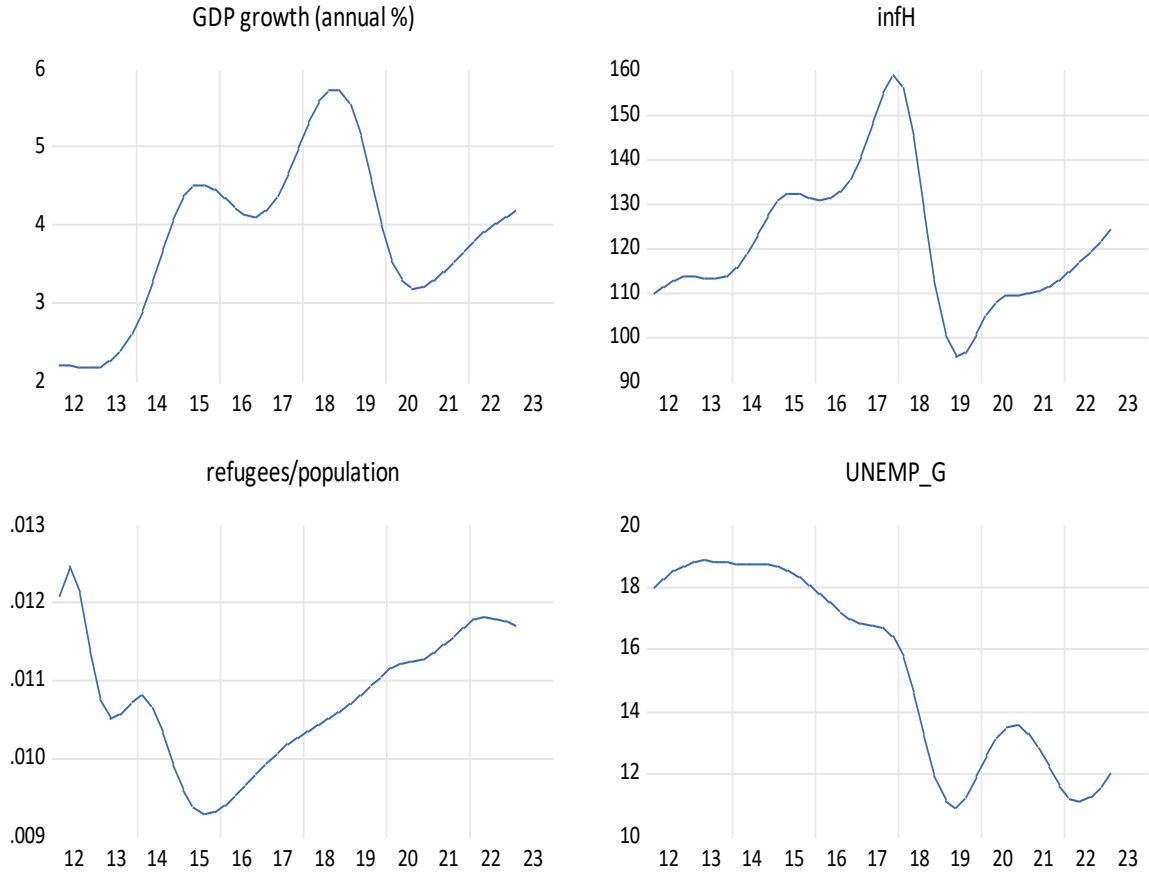


Figure (2-12)
Quarterly Data Used in the Analysis

2.4.3 Model Estimation:

To estimate the model, first we need to investigate the stationarity properties of the time series data using Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF). The results show that the null hypothesis of the test, which indicates the existence of unit root, is rejected for all variables at 10% significance level. ADF test results are reported in Appendix C.

Granger causality between variables can be investigated through a joint Wald χ^2 test applied to the coefficients associated with the lagged variables in one equation. The test results as shown in table (2-5) suggest the existence of causality relationship from Refugees to other model variables.

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Table (2-5)
Granger Causality Test Results

VAR Granger Causality/Block Exogeneity Wald Tests
Date: 04/28/24 Time: 19:38
Sample: 2012Q1 2023Q4
Included observations: 42

Dependent variable: REF			
Excluded	Chi-sq	df	Prob.
GDP	105.1919	3	0.0000
INFH	93.97592	3	0.0000
UNEMP_G	92.66736	3	0.0000
All	283.6851	9	0.0000
Dependent variable: GDP			
Excluded	Chi-sq	df	Prob.
REF	15.24482	3	0.0016
INFH	28.15532	3	0.0000
UNEMP_G	8.162299	3	0.0428
All	67.98680	9	0.0000
Dependent variable: INFH			
Excluded	Chi-sq	df	Prob.
REF	66.16119	3	0.0000
GDP	77.16337	3	0.0000
UNEMP_G	60.69091	3	0.0000
All	103.9043	9	0.0000
Dependent variable: UNEMP_G			
Excluded	Chi-sq	df	Prob.
REF	15.76867	3	0.0013
GDP	24.47827	3	0.0000
INFH	26.25796	3	0.0000
All	86.30344	9	0.0000

2.4.4 Result and Discussion:

The estimation result of the model suggests the existence of a significant relationship between number of refugees as a percentage of population (population of three governorates) from one side and unemployment, and inflation (Housing CPI) from the other side.

Table (2-6)
Vector Autoregression Estimates

. Vector Autoregression Estimates
Date: 04/29/24 Time: 10:41
Sample (adjusted): 2012Q4 2023Q1
Included observations: 42 after adjustments
Standard errors in () & t-statistics in []

	LOGREF	LOGGDP	LOGINFH	LOGUNEMP_G
LOGREF(-1)	2.058288 (0.07533) [27.3247]	0.354101 (0.19284) [1.83621]	-0.384219 (0.20591) [-1.72252]	-0.605509 (0.16494) [-3.67104]
LOGREF(-2)	-1.731160 (0.09587) [-18.0569]	-0.53907 (0.24544) [-2.21757]	1.684140 (0.26207) [6.42632]	0.756298 (0.20993) [3.60262]
LOGREF(-3)	0.634464 (0.05368) [11.8197]	-0.156836 (0.13742) [-1.14127]	0.958606 (0.14673) [6.53307]	0.405261 (0.11754) [3.44789]
LOGGDP(-1)	-0.027989 (0.03060) [-0.91458]	2.502007 (0.07835) [31.9355]	0.049502 (0.08365) [0.59175]	0.114231 (0.06701) [1.70467]
LOGGDP(-2)	-0.034599 (0.05711) [-0.60587]	-2.244795 (0.14620) [-15.3544]	-0.140176 (0.15610) [-0.89797]	-0.255296 (0.12505) [-2.04161]
LOGGDP(-3)	0.046646 (0.03331) [1.40043]	0.728975 (0.08527) [8.54878]	-0.065250 (0.09105) [-0.71664]	0.091174 (0.07293) [1.25007]
LOGINFH(-1)	0.234360 (0.03953) [5.92825]	-0.084010 (0.10121) [-0.83008]	2.297152 (0.10806) [21.2575]	-0.376381 (0.08656) [-4.34802]
LOGINFH(-2)	-0.414547 (0.07896) [-5.25037]	0.330395 (0.20213) [1.63454]	-1.983197 (0.21583) [-9.18882]	0.680002 (0.17289) [3.93320]

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LOGINFH(-3)	0.241434 (0.04768) [5.06326]	-0.243253 (0.12207) [-1.99267]	0.726021 (0.13034) [5.57006]	-0.348310 (0.10441) [-3.33594]
LOGUNEMP_G(-1)	-0.254059 (0.04151) [-6.11982]	0.190347 (0.10628) [1.79100]	0.046520 (0.11348) [0.40994]	2.848349 (0.09090) [31.3340]
LOGUNEMP_G(-2)	0.410384 (0.08630) [4.75538]	-0.414790 (0.22093) [-1.87745]	-0.358543 (0.23590) [-1.51990]	-3.156845 (0.18897) [-16.7058]
LOGUNEMP_G(-3)	-0.196954 (0.05385) [-3.65736]	0.264729 (0.13786) [1.92022]	0.062528 (0.14720) [0.42477]	1.232527 (0.11792) [10.4525]
C	-0.335244 (0.13406) [-2.50072]	0.190974 (0.34320) [0.55645]	-2.300153 (0.36645) [-6.27681]	-0.673959 (0.29355) [-2.29592]
R-squared	0.919594	0.879778	0.928984	0.899751
Adj. R-squared	0.919426	0.879685	0.928564	0.899648

As shown in table (2-6) the regression results suggest that there is a significant impact of refugees' influx on two variables (INF and UNEMP_G) but the nature of these impacts changes over time. For economic growth (GDP) the impact is positive only in the first lag but insignificant.

The impact on inflation (INF) is a little bit confusing but can be understood. The impact of refugee influx on inflation is initially insignificant in the first lag, however, a positive and significant effect emerges after one lag (six months). This aligns with the idea that refugees might require time to settle and influence prices, and as they integrate into the economy, their demand contributes to price increases.

The impact on unemployment (UNEMP_G) is negative and significant in the first Lag, then in the following two lags turns out to be positive and significant. This could be interpreted as a potential short-term increase in job opportunities due to the demand shock mentioned earlier. However, the positive and significant effect in the following two lags suggests a possible substitution effect, where refugee labor participation might lead to increased competition in the job market over time, potentially pushing up unemployment rates.

To examine the response of macroeconomic variables to positive or negative shocks in the influx of refugees, we run the Impulses Response Function (IRFs). The middle lines in the figures represent the IRFs, whereas the bands represent the 95% confidence intervals for the IRFs. Thus, when the horizontal line falls within the confidence interval, then the null hypothesis indicating that there is no effect of refugees on variables cannot be rejected. Including the horizontal line for the particular time period is interpreted as evidence of the absence of statistical significance.

The time-varying nature of the impact of refugee influx on economic indicators, as observed in the IRFs figure (2-13), aligns with the results from the previous estimation.

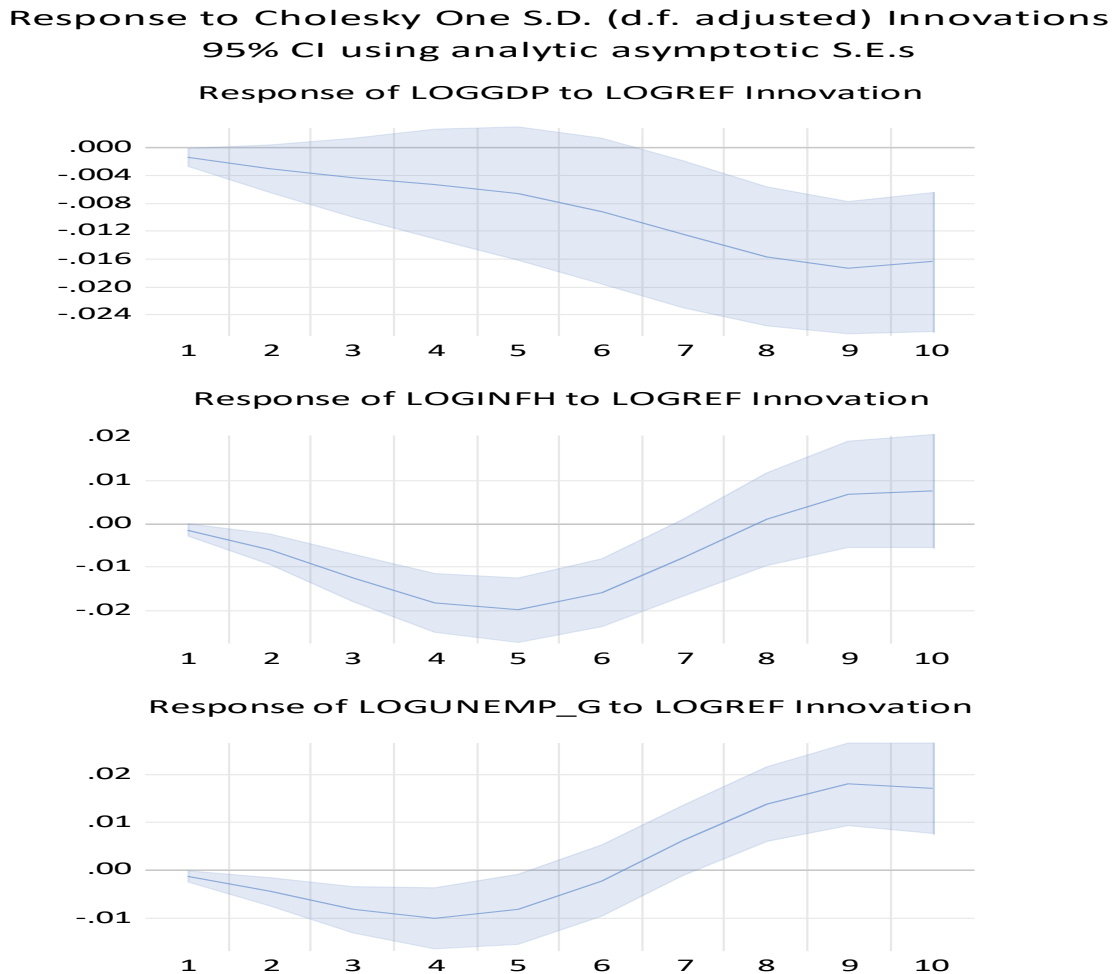


Figure (2-13)
Impulses Response Function (IRF) Figures

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A variance decomposition test was conducted to assess the contribution of refugee shocks to the variation in forecast errors. The results, presented in the variance decomposition table (2.7), offer interesting insights into the long-term impact of refugees on inflation (INFL) and unemployment.

From variance composition table data reveal that the refugees' impact on inflation (INFL) is increasing but after 7 lags this impact starts to diminish. In contrast, the positive impact of refugee shocks on unemployment (UNEMP_G) appears to be increasing over time. This finding aligns with the concept of refugee settlement and integration. As refugees spend more time settling in the host country, the initial demand shock caused by their influx lessens. However, their participation in the labor market intensifies, potentially leading to a rise in the competition for jobs (substitution effect), which is reflected in the increasing positive impact on unemployment.

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Table (2-7)
Variance Decomposition Results

Period	S.E.	Variance Decomposition of INFH:			
		REF	GDP	INFH	UNEMP_G
1	0.541594	14.95090 (9.31213)	0.271497 (2.66649)	84.77760 (9.79929)	0.000000 (0.00000)
2	1.537045	23.77507 (10.7847)	0.084972 (2.24622)	76.01276 (11.1164)	0.127191 (0.09700)
3	2.766804	33.39220 (11.7764)	0.026322 (2.06788)	66.05473 (11.9838)	0.526743 (0.38573)
4	3.867939	43.42779 (12.2914)	0.066261 (2.27590)	55.35298 (12.3414)	1.152970 (0.84577)
5	4.559947	52.60667 (12.2596)	0.285020 (3.08715)	45.36861 (12.0521)	1.739702 (1.34956)
6	4.864748	57.26772 (11.7233)	0.921187 (4.41949)	39.98107 (11.0732)	1.830026 (1.61473)
7	5.165018	52.34046 (11.6065)	2.167619 (5.73353)	43.73945 (10.4598)	1.752475 (1.52211)
8	5.816999	41.83704 (11.8174)	3.506582 (6.47382)	51.38599 (10.3878)	3.270384 (2.22375)
9	6.652562	35.07262 (11.6813)	4.325946 (6.75678)	54.30066 (10.4304)	6.300764 (3.74625)
10	7.234496	32.63490 (11.6673)	4.640510 (6.88649)	53.85913 (10.7159)	8.865452 (4.78505)

Period	S.E.	Variance Decomposition of UNEMP_G:			
		REF	GDP	INFH	UNEMP_G
1	0.044657	12.62024 (8.24617)	0.381523 (2.95627)	71.91855 (8.85306)	15.07969 (4.07003)
2	0.125144	17.09757 (9.33793)	0.326441 (2.93385)	64.41890 (9.87760)	18.15709 (4.76919)
3	0.223293	20.68742 (10.1747)	0.296095 (3.11419)	56.49518 (10.7708)	22.52131 (5.85853)
4	0.310059	22.74638 (10.7500)	0.294118 (3.54829)	48.51575 (11.4784)	28.44375 (7.26640)
5	0.363194	22.56804 (10.8738)	0.332607 (4.21651)	41.39308 (11.7127)	35.70628 (8.65384)
6	0.384235	20.62551 (10.1808)	0.425122 (4.87332)	37.03747 (10.9210)	41.91191 (9.11212)
7	0.403459	21.32107 (9.45005)	0.546021 (5.05297)	36.96722 (9.65947)	41.16568 (8.34625)
8	0.450197	28.72350 (10.6249)	0.605733 (4.65318)	37.57905 (9.43997)	33.09172 (7.59788)
9	0.512407	38.08552 (11.8392)	0.571208 (4.22021)	35.11634 (9.84692)	26.22693 (6.80727)
10	0.556932	44.98913 (12.1431)	0.491815 (4.21264)	31.46464 (9.76408)	23.05442 (6.46493)

Cholesky One S.D. (d.f. adjusted) Innovations
Cholesky ordering: REF GDP INFH UNEMP_G
Standard errors: Monte Carlo (100 repetitions) standard deviations in
Parentheses

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To confirm model reliability and validity, tests for autocorrelation (LM test) and heteroskedasticity were conducted. The results in table (2-8) and table (2-9) confirm the absence of both autocorrelation and heteroskedasticity in the model's residuals.

Table (2-8)
Results of VAR Residual Serial Correlation LM Tests

VAR Residual Serial Correlation LM Tests
Sample: 2012Q1 2023Q4
Included observations: 41

Null hypothesis: No serial correlation at lag h						
Lag	LRE* stat	df	Prob.	Rao F-stat	df	Prob.
1	22.58677	16	0.1252	1.497222	(16, 64.8)	0.1283
2	12.71042	16	0.6938	0.784327	(16, 64.8)	0.6970
3	19.56931	16	0.2402	1.268922	(16, 64.8)	0.2443
4	21.70871	16	0.1187	1.312511	(16, 64.8)	0.1235

Table (2-9)
Results of VAR Residual Heteroskedasticity Tests

VAR Residual Heteroskedasticity Tests (Levels and Squares)
Date: 04/29/24 Time: 10:33
Sample: 2012Q1 2023Q4
Included observations: 40

Joint test:		
Chi-sq	df	Prob.
346.4673	320	0.1480

Conclusion:

This chapter explores the economic impacts of refugee influx in Egypt. We employed a two-pronged approach: investigating the perceptions of Egyptian citizens in refugee-hosting governorates and utilizing a Vector Autoregression (VAR) model with Impulse Response Functions (IRFs) to capture the time-varying nature of this relationship.

Egyptian survey respondents perceived both positive and negative consequences of hosting refugees. While opinions on potential benefits were more nuanced, there was a stronger consensus on the negative impacts. These included rising prices, particularly in the housing sector, identified by most as the most significant challenge. Respondents also expressed concerns about increased competition for jobs, especially low-skilled positions, leading to lower wages and potentially higher unemployment rates. Furthermore, a notable proportion of respondents believed that refugee inflows could strain public finances and hinder economic growth.

Regarding the positive impacts, respondents point to the role of refugees in creating new jobs and bringing skills to the labor market. However, the majority perceive refugees' contribution to investment and entrepreneurship as limited, mainly confined to the service sector (restaurants and tourism). The majority agree that Syrians are the most integrated nationality into the Egyptian economy, and that integration is not primarily related to cultural proximity through language, but also to the level of skills and education.

Vector Autoregression (VAR) model and Impulse Response Functions (IRFs) allow us to capture the time-varying nature of the relationship between refugees' influx and macroeconomic variables. The analysis reveals several key findings: An initial positive impact on economic growth is observed. The impact of refugee influx on inflation (housing and utilities) exhibits a lagged effect, while initially insignificant, it becomes positive and significant in the later stages, indicating refugees' settlement increasing demand. The impact on unemployment presents an intriguing story. A short-term decrease in unemployment suggests potential job creation opportunities related to increase in consumption and demand shock. However, a subsequent increase aligns with a possible substitution effect as refugee labor participation intensifies competition in the job market over time and their integration in the economy increases.

Further insights are revealed through the variance decomposition analysis. While the initial demand shock on inflation diminishes in the long run, the long-term impact on unemployment appears to be increasing, suggesting a growing influence on the labor market.

Finally, it's important to note that these results capture the impact of registered refugees only, and limitations in our research design could affect the generalizability of our findings

Chapter3

Social, Cultural, and Environmental Impacts of Refugees in Egypt

3- Introduction:

The plight of refugees and displaced persons is a complex issue involving a multitude of stakeholders. Accepting displaced populations burdens the hosting countries, already grappling with the responsibility of ensuring a decent life for their own citizens.

The complexities of the refugee crisis are particularly acute when the hosting nation is a developing country. These countries often face economic challenges that constrain their ability to provide basic services such as education, healthcare, and sustenance for both their original citizens and the incoming displaced population.

UNHCR reports highlight that a significant number of host countries, primarily located in the developing world, struggle with limited resources that are inadequate for accommodating the influx of displaced individuals. According to the most recent UNHCR data (2024), the majority of refugees, totaling around 75%, find refuge in low- and middle-income countries.

The influx of refugees can have a significant impact on hosting countries, affecting various social, cultural, and environmental aspects. Socially, it can strain resources like housing, education, and healthcare. Culturally, the presence of refugees can lead to both enrichment through exposure to new traditions and potential tensions due to differences in customs and beliefs. Environmentally, increased competition for resources like water and energy may arise, alongside potential strain on waste management systems.

This chapter explores social, cultural, and environmental impacts of refugees in Egypt by investigating the perception of a sample of Egyptian citizens residing in the three governorates hosting the largest refugee populations according to UNHCR data: Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria. This approach offers a unique perspective by focusing on the Egyptian citizens' viewpoint. It complements existing research that has primarily focused on the experiences of refugees themselves or national-level analyses (Codjoe et al., 2013). By delving deeper into

the Egyptian community's nuanced perception, this research aims to contribute valuable insights to understanding the dynamics of hosting displaced populations. These findings are expected to benefit official concerned entities in Egypt

Before delving into the empirical research, it is crucial to explore the documented positive and negative impacts experienced by other countries with a long history of hosting refugees. This exploration will provide valuable context for understanding the potential impacts on the Egyptian community and environment.

3-1 Literature Review

Researchers have highlighted the multifaceted nature of refugee impacts on host communities, with outcomes mixed between positive to negative (Verme, 2023; Fajth et al., 2019; Codjoe et al., 2013; Bakewell, 2000; Bascom, 1998). Prior research suggests that the perception of hosting communities of the impacts of refugees is influenced by specific aspects like the economy, culture, society or settlement model employed (Arlt & Wolling, 2016, Codjoe et al., 2013, Fajth et al., 2019). This section presents a selection of results from previous research conducted in various developing countries that hosted refugees.

Miller (2018) conducted a comprehensive review of research on the impacts of refugees on host countries across various dimensions. Environmentally, refugees attract international aid for environmental protection projects. However, they can also contribute to environmental issues such as deforestation, erosion, and pollution. In addition, Miller argued that assessing the social impacts of refugees on host countries presents significant challenges. These impacts can vary between positive and negative, depending on the policy framework in place.

Gomez and Christensen (2011) highlighted the sociocultural impact of refugees on host societies, noting distortions in ethnic balances and increased social competition over resources. They illustrated conflicts within refugee communities and with host populations, citing examples like the Kosovo-Albanian refugee conflict in Macedonia. Additionally, the study addressed environmental consequences, including deforestation and water contamination resulting from settlement construction and resource use. They note variations in environmental impact based on settlement style, with camp setups in Kenya causing land degradation. The research also identified gender-based conflicts within refugee households, exemplified by Somali refugees in Yemen, where limited job opportunities for men led to female primary earners, fostering dependency and

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social disorder. This underscores the complex sociocultural and gender-related challenges of hosting refugees.

Schneiderheinze and Lücke (2020) reviewed the socio-economic impact of refugees on host communities in developing countries, particularly in Africa. They noted that refugee influxes can exacerbate pre-existing tensions or introduce new ones, impacting social cohesion and resource competition. Developing countries face significant challenges in accommodating refugees due to limited resources, requiring immediate attention to refugees' basic needs like housing, healthcare, and education. Over time, refugees integrate into the economy, both formal and informal, with international support covering their basic needs. They highlighted the role of socio-cultural perceptions in shaping residents' attitudes towards refugees, emphasizing the importance of addressing both economic and sociocultural impacts to foster social cohesion in host communities.

Dadush and Niebuhr (2016) asserted that refugees often trigger social tensions in host communities due to overcrowding, strain on basic services, and competition for jobs. They highlighted that the economic impact of a sudden refugee influx extends beyond immediate economic effects, influencing the social and political fabric, which can, in turn, have economic consequences. While concerns about economic impacts contribute to social tensions, other factors such as political balance, preservation of local customs, national security, and underlying xenophobia and racism also shape these dynamics. Additionally, the arrival of displaced populations can reignite pre existing tensions among different ethnic groups over resources, territory, or influence.

Brown (1996) further emphasized the interconnected nature of social, economic, and environmental issues and highlighted how demographic changes from refugee crises can impact socio-political dynamics, necessitating a comprehensive approach to address multifaceted challenges.

Dev's (2003) analysis underscored the challenges confronting traditional African hospitality amid UNHCR-promoted durable solutions. These solutions may fall short in addressing Africa's burgeoning asylum crisis. Host states must weigh the impact on local economies and environments before integrating refugee populations. Initially, self-settled refugees heavily rely on natural resources, potentially leading to environmental degradation and conflicts with locals over resource control. The influx's scale can threaten the host nation's cultural values

and norms. Refugees' socio-cultural impact is multifaceted, altering the ethnic balance and social dynamics within the host community. Balancing refugees' needs with those of the host community, economically and environmentally, demands nuanced and sustainable approaches.

Brees (2010) argued that in Western societies, refugees are often perceived as potential threats, especially in the post-9/11 era marked by increased securitization of migration and concerns about the "other". The study of refugees in the Congo reports that issues of crime, violence, and militarization within camps can spill over into surrounding host communities, affecting them politically, economically, and environmentally.

Despite these challenges, Brees (2010) noted that refugees can also contribute positively to host countries, particularly economically. However, she argued that this positive impact is often overlooked by both host country leaders and researchers. To address this gap, Brees provided a balanced analysis of the consequences of mass refugee influxes on host countries, focusing on a specific case—Burmese refugees in Thailand—to examine their impact on Thai security and politics. While refugees may indeed cause environmental damage, such as through deforestation and poorly organized aid agencies, Brees' research found no tensions between self-settled refugees and local residents in rural areas.

Salehyan (2008) reported that host communities may perceive refugees as a threat to their culture, leading to extreme antagonism. The influx of refugees with diverse cultural backgrounds can raise concerns among the host population regarding the potential impact on their cultural identity. Salehyan added that ethnic strain can emerge due to the accumulation of ethnic network ties among minorities in the host community. The increased presence of refugees with distinct ethnic identities may foster the formation of ethnic networks within the host community, thereby contributing to tensions and conflicts.

Salehyan and Gleditsch (2006) posited that demographic changes induced by refugees significantly impact host communities, increasing vulnerability to conflict. They argued that refugees alter the ethnic composition of host states, potentially leading to strife. Moreover, they highlighted concerns from nativists about changes in local population structure due to refugees, which may fuel conflict. The researchers also discussed how alliances between nationals and refugees of the same ethnicity can trigger internal conflicts within the state. This

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underscores the intricate relationship between demographic shifts and ethnic dynamics, shaping tensions and conflicts in host communities.

Ogude et al. (2018) noted that when assessing the social impact refugees may have on hosting communities, there is a persistent concern about preserving local customs and traditions, as well as national security.

Employing qualitative and quantitative methods to evaluate the national security risks associated with refugee integration in Tanzania, Laurent and Ndumbaro (2023) uncovered that integrated refugees engaged in criminal activities, posing significant national security risks to both Tanzania and their country of origin. The findings suggest potential diplomatic tensions and increased costs in countering armed crime and extreme violence in the host country. Consequently, the study recommended re-evaluating the refugee integration strategy, enhancing security models and resettlement plans, and implementing cultural integration strategies.

Bolfrass et al. (2015) conducted a study on the perceived threat refugees pose to national security. They found that refugees living with their families in self-selected locations may have more favorable social outcomes than those in isolated camps. Surprisingly, they found no positive link between refugee populations and outbreaks of civil violence, challenging the idea that refugees inherently fuel such conflicts.

Kerwin (2016) proposed a paradigm shift in understanding refugee protection and national security as complementary rather than conflicting state objectives. He argued that refugees and forcibly displaced persons can enrich a state's vitality, economic prosperity, diversity, core values, and military strength, thus enhancing both human and state security.

Jacobsen (2002) explored how long-term refugees pursue livelihoods, using both formal and informal strategies. Formal approaches involve participating in relief agency programs or government-sanctioned activities, while informal strategies often involve illegal means due to insecurity. These pursuits have mixed outcomes, contributing to both social and economic interdependence but also posing challenges to host countries, especially concerning restrictive asylum policies. Jacobsen stressed the importance of addressing both refugee and host community needs and highlights the potential social benefits refugees can bring

with effective policies. However, she also noted environmental effects such as deforestation and heightened water consumption. Jacobsen further discusses various settlement types, each with its environmental impacts, including increased population density, deforestation, and resource depletion. Refugees' daily activities and movement can exacerbate conflicts, leading to tensions between refugees and host communities.

Martin (2005) explored the relationship between the environment and conflict, focusing on how local variables influence resource competition and its outcomes, including potential conflicts, in areas hosting refugees. He highlighted the role of resource management regimes, particularly participatory and inclusive models, in mitigating conflicts. Using an Ethiopian refugee camp as a case study, Martin showed that inclusive governance can help prevent unproductive conflicts over resource use, especially where state institutions are limited. He also discusses how the rapid increase in population due to refugee influxes strains local resources, exacerbating poverty among refugees and locals. Martin underscored the interconnectedness of environmental conflicts, resource competition, and socio-economic challenges in hosting refugees, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. He noted instances like the Bonga camp in Ethiopia, where refugees engaging in activities like illegal cultivation and hunting heightened competition for scarce resources, leading to conflicts with host communities. Martin concluded that environmental strain caused by refugee influxes indirectly contributed to conflict by intensifying social and environmental tensions.

Sumadi et al. (2023) investigated Jordanians' perceptions and attitudes toward the impact of Syrian refugees on socio-economic sectors in Jordan. Using quantitative survey data collected from 1462 respondents in the governorates hosting the largest number of Syrian refugees, the study found a predominantly negative perception among Jordanians regarding this impact. Unemployment rates were perceived as the most significant concern, followed by effects on education and health. The study also provided valuable insights into Jordanian sentiments regarding the socio-economic impact of hosting Syrian refugees. The findings highlighted the need for targeted interventions and policies to address concerns and mitigate perceived negative impacts across various sectors.

Khawaldah and Alzboun (2022) conducted research to assess the impact of Syrian refugees on Jordanians, focusing on economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Drawing from data provided by entities such as the Department of Statistics, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and UNHCR, as

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well as 1080 questionnaires distributed to Jordanians, the study revealed significant effects of refugee influx. Socially, respondents noted rising crime rates, drug abuse among youth, and strain on health and educational services, while expressing concerns about cultural impacts. Environmental concerns encompassed pollution and strain on water resources. The research also highlighted Jordan's international recognition for hosting refugees and recommended comprehensive strategies to address challenges, including directing aid to affected areas and environmental solutions like sewage networks. This underscores the importance of policies that mitigate negative impacts while leveraging refugees' potential contributions to the host country's economy and society.

Alshoubaki (2017) provided insights into the impact of Syrian refugees on Jordan, focusing on public expenditure, particularly in healthcare and education. Employing a comprehensive analytical framework. By considering political, economic, sociocultural, and environmental dimensions, the research informed policymakers on critical areas requiring attention. It underscored social tensions arising from barriers like racism and language difficulties and acknowledges environmental challenges due to increased demand on resources.

Kudrat-E-Khuda (Babu) (2020) studied the impact of Rohingya refugees on the Bangladeshi community and reported that Rohingya refugees have created challenges across various domains such as social, environmental, legal, and financial, including pressure on resources such as food, jobs, and health services.

Codjoe et al. (2013) conducted an analysis on the impact of Liberian refugees in Ghana, focusing on various socio-economic and environmental factors. Combining perceptions from hosts and refugees, the study found mixed effects of refugee presence. While refugees were associated with increased costs of goods, pressure on facilities, social vices, and environmental degradation, they also contributed to income generation, market expansion, and infrastructural development. The study underscored the complexity of assessing refugee impacts, emphasizing the need for nuanced approaches to address social integration challenges and mitigate tensions in hosting communities, particularly in refugee camp settings.

Mahmud's (2022) study on the Rohingya issue in Bangladesh highlighted environmental and social consequences associated with the presence of Rohingya refugees. Environmental impacts include groundwater depletion due to high water

demand in camps, changes in water hydrology from camp activities, and deforestation. Social impacts encompass criminal activities and unethical practices harmful to the host nation's societal norms and legal regulations.

Aregai and Bedemariam (2020) investigated socio-environmental conflicts between Eritrean refugees and host communities in Northwestern Tigray, Ethiopia. Using semi-structured questionnaires and random sampling, the study found that 96% of respondents noted changes in tree species and forest coverage on community farms during the study period, strongly associated with the presence of refugees. These changes led to a decline in natural resources, impacting host communities negatively. The study underscored the need for holistic interventions to mitigate the socio-environmental impact of unplanned refugee influxes, emphasizing sustainable natural resource management.

Tatah et al. (2016) examined the influence of refugees on local health systems in Cameroon, focusing on Mother and Child Health (MCH) services. Using data from Cameroon's 2004 and 2011 Demographic and Health Surveys, they analyzed changes in MCH indicators in the refugee hosting community. Contrary to expectations, none of the evaluated MCH service indicators deteriorated; in fact, delivery in health facilities and completing DPT3 vaccine improved. The study suggests that refugees may have contributed to enhancing health systems in Cameroon, challenging the assumption of their purely negative impact. This research underscores the importance of context-specific assessments in understanding the relationship between refugee presence and local health services.

Berry's (2008) study on the impact of Burundi and Rwanda refugees in Tanzania highlighted several environmental problems associated with their presence. These included increased water usage, depletion of natural resources such as forests and vegetation, and illegal land clearing and harvesting. These activities contributed to environmental degradation. It's crucial to note that while refugees were identified as contributors to these challenges, the study acknowledged the role of population growth among Tanzanians in exacerbating these issues. This underscored the importance of a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing environmental conditions in regions hosting refugee populations.

Martin et al. (2018) advocated for a comprehensive approach to responsibility-sharing that prioritizes the protection of refugees while addressing the needs of host communities. Their paper explored various facets of responsibility-sharing, including efforts to address root causes of displacement, resettlement initiatives,

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enhanced protection measures, financial support for refugees, internally displaced persons, and host communities, as well as technical assistance and training for host countries and local organizations. The authors examined these issues from multiple perspectives, including host country governments, stakeholders, donor governments, service providers, and refugees themselves. They provided a case study focused on attitudes toward responsibility-sharing in the Middle East and North Africa, regions heavily affected by displacement. The paper concluded with recommendations to improve responsibility-sharing and proposed mechanisms to mitigate costs for host communities while maximizing benefits for both refugees and hosts.

Furthermore, Martin et al. (2018) emphasized the environmental challenges faced by refugees, particularly those living in arid locations with limited vegetation and water access. They highlighted how refugees may deplete natural resources due to limited options, leading to issues such as soil erosion, habitat loss, air pollution, and water contamination in large refugee camps. The authors also noted the heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence in remote camps, especially for women who must travel long distances to collect firewood.

Bahadur and Tanner (2014) drew attention to the challenges faced by refugees, particularly those in camps, related to water shortage, sanitation issues, bathing difficulties, and a lack of fuel for cooking. These conditions contribute to the overall hardships experienced by refugees in their living environments and further exacerbate the spread of infectious diseases in the hosting community.

Cintra et al. (2017) argued that refugees face significant challenges upon arrival in host countries, including language barriers, unfamiliarity with local customs, and limited social connections, hindering their integration. These obstacles are compounded when large families migrate together, and cultural beliefs may further restrict social interaction. Adapting to a new life involves learning a new language, adjusting to new environments, and adopting new traditions, making the process complex. These challenges, along with negative perceptions and prejudices among native populations, can lead to xenophobia and violence against refugees. Addressing these issues requires government support in employment, housing, and language learning, along with efforts to improve communication between refugees and host communities, dispel negative stereotypes, and foster cultural understanding. Proactive measures are essential to promote the integration and acceptance of refugees while building inclusive and tolerant communities.

Kreibaum's (2016) study on the impact of Congolese refugees on the Ugandan population suggests that contrary to expectations, the presence of refugees provided advantages to Ugandans, particularly those living near refugee settlements. This positive outcome for Ugandans was attributed to Uganda's integration policies, allowing refugees to work and move without significant restrictions. A coordinated effort between the public and private sectors helped alleviate pressure on public services, including access to education and healthcare.

In conclusion, the presence of refugees in host countries, particularly developing nations, presents a multifaceted challenge with both positive and negative social, cultural, and environmental impacts. These impacts are not uniform across contexts. Variations depend on the host society's characteristics, the strength of its cultural fabric, the length of stay, and most importantly, the approach adopted by the host country in settling and integrating refugees. Effective policies that foster integration, address resource concerns, and promote cultural understanding can maximize the positive contributions of refugees while mitigating potential negative consequences.

3-2 Perceived Social, Cultural, and Environmental Impacts of Refugees in Egypt:

Egypt has become a primary destination for refugees, particularly from Arab nations, due to its strategic geographic location and shared cultural affinities. The country experienced a significant influx of individuals from Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Iraq, and other regions following the Arab Spring in 2011. This influx has presented both opportunities and challenges for the Egyptian government and its population.

As mentioned before, Egypt adopts an inclusive approach, allowing displaced persons and refugees to seamlessly integrate into the Egyptian community and lead their lives as integral members. This approach has both advantages and drawbacks, shaping the experiences of both refugees and host communities.

This section investigates Egyptian citizens' perceptions of the social, cultural, and environmental benefits and challenges associated with hosting refugees and displaced persons in Egypt. Data was collected through an online survey conducted in Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria, which collectively host approximately 90% of Egypt's refugee and displaced population.

3-2-1 Data Analysis Method

This current chapter builds on existing research that measures hosting countries' people's pro – and anti – refugees' perception in terms of perceived social, cultural and environmental benefits and challenges. Hence, the questionnaire has been developed based on a comprehensive literature review and has been tested empirically using the judgment of a panel of five experts before its final use. In addition, it has been empirically tested by asking 10 Egyptian citizens from the three concerned governorates to complete it and give any feedback. The judgment of the experts' panel and the feedback received from the questionnaire's pilot testing have led to removing some statements and revising others. The final used questionnaire has been divided into two parts:

A- Perceived social and cultural benefits and challenges of refugees in Egypt (measured using a 5-point Likert scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree).

B- Perceived environmental benefits and challenges of refugees in Egypt (measured using a 5-point Likert scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree).

In line with this chapter's objective, a quantitative approach is used to analyze a sample of Egyptian people's perceptions of positive and negative social, cultural, and environmental impacts of refugees' presence in Egypt. This includes calculating percentages (distribution of responses) to show how many respondents chose each answer option. Additionally, mean and standard deviation are calculated. The scores are then categorized using a scale developed by Sozen and Guven (2019), as follows: mean score between 1 and 1.80 refers to “strongly disagree”, range between 1.81 and 2.60 refers to “disagree”, range between 2.61 and 3.40 refers to “neutral”, range between 3.41 and 4.20 refers to “agree” and range between 4.21 and 5.00 refers to “strongly agree”.

A comparative analysis using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) is conducted to investigate if demographic characteristics (gender, marital status, governorate, work sector) influence perceptions. This test compares mean scores across different demographic groups. A statistically significant F-value (typically $p < 0.05$) would indicate that mean scores for a particular statement differ significantly between at least two demographic groups. Post-hoc analysis using

Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD) is used to compute the pooled standard deviation from demographic groups, chi-square test and cross tab analysis are used to pinpoint these differences. This multi-pronged approach is expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of the surveyed Egyptian people's perception of the social, cultural, and environmental benefits and challenges associated with the refugees' presence in Egypt.

3-2-2 Results:

3-2-2-1 Perceived Social and Cultural Impacts:

The data indicates a mixed perception of the social and cultural impacts of refugees. While some aspects garnered stronger agreement than others, the overall picture is nuanced. Figures (3-1 and 3-2) visually represent these findings, while Table (3-1) provides detailed statistical analysis, including mean, standard deviation, and score levels.

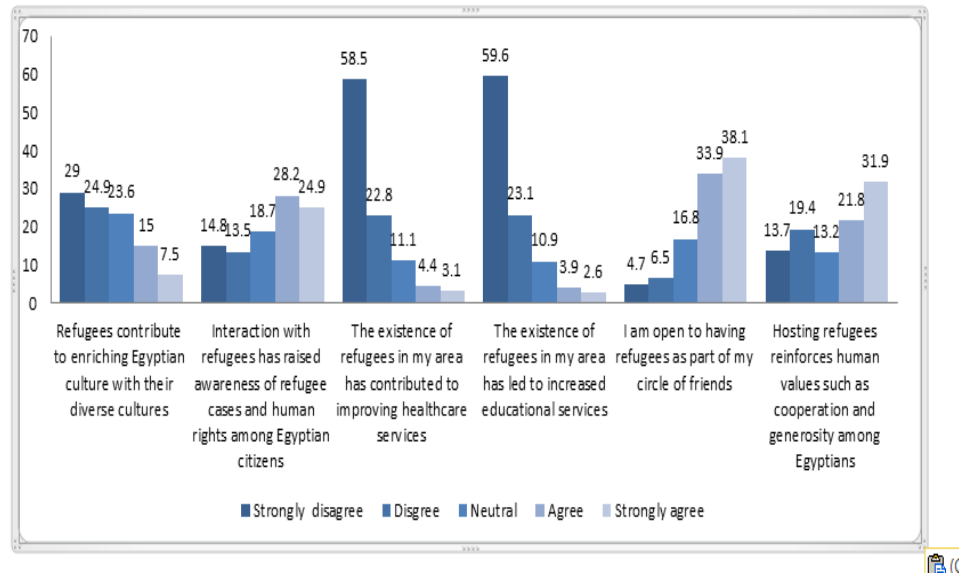


Figure (3-1)
Perceived Social and Cultural Benefits

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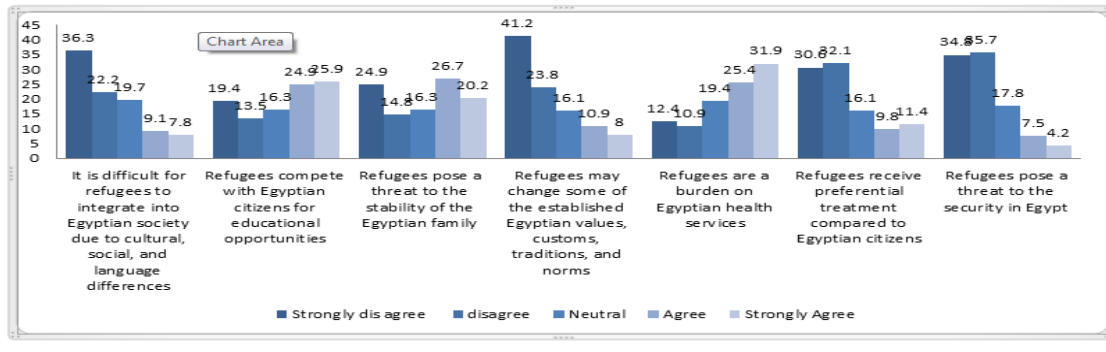


Figure (3-2)

Perceived Social and Cultural Challenges

Table (3-1)
Social and Cultural Impacts Mean and Standard Deviation

		Mean	Std. Deviation	Evaluation
Social and Cultural Impacts				
1	Refugees contribute to enriching Egyptian culture with their diverse cultures	2.45	1.266	
2	Interaction with refugees has raised awareness of refugee cases and human rights among Egyptian citizens	3.35	1.373	
3	The existence of refugees in my area has contributed to improving healthcare services	1.71	1.034	
4	The existence of refugees in my area has led to increased educational services	1.67	.993	
5	I am open to having refugees as part of my circle of friends	3.94	1.108	
6	Hosting refugees reinforces human values such as cooperation and generosity among Egyptians	3.39	1.446	
7	It is difficult for refugees to integrate into Egyptian society due to cultural, social, and language differences	2.25	1.251	
8	Refugees compete with Egyptian citizens for educational opportunities	3.24	1.464	
9	Refugees pose a threat to the stability of the Egyptian family	3.03	1.491	
10	Refugees may change some of the established Egyptian values, customs, traditions, and norms	2.21	1.301	
11	Refugees are a burden on Egyptian health services	3.53	1.362	
12	Refugees receive preferential treatment compared to Egyptian citizens	2.39	1.317	
13	Refugees pose a threat to the security in Egypt	2.22	1.107	

Very weak	Weak	Neutral	Strong	Very strong
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● **Perceived Social and Cultural Benefits:**

Analyzing the surveyed sample's responses to the social and cultural benefits associated with hosting refugees in Egypt reveals that the surveyed sample has agreed to the perceived social and cultural benefits as follows:

- a) The highest perceived benefit is "I am open to having refugees as part of my circle of friends" (mean: 3.94). 72% agree (with 38.1% strongly agree), while nearly 11% disagree.
- b) Then "Hosting refugees reinforces human values such as cooperation and generosity among Egyptians" (mean: 3.39). A significant portion (54%) agree (with 32% strongly agree), while 33% disagree.
- c) Then comes "Interaction with refugees has raised awareness of refugee cases and human rights among Egyptian citizens" (mean: 3.35). Over half (53%) agree (with 42.9% strongly agree), while 28% disagree.
- d) "Refugees contribute to enriching Egyptian culture with their diverse cultures" Has a weak agreement level (mean: 2.45) as 22.5% of the surveyed sample agree, while about 54% disagree (with: 29% disagree).
- e) "The existence of refugees in my area has contributed to improving healthcare services" ranked as very weak (mean: 1.71), as only 7.5% of the surveyed sample agree, while 81% disagree.
- f) The least perceived social and cultural benefit is "The existence of refugees in my area has led to increased educational services", with a very weak agreement level (m: 1.67), as 6.5% of the surveyed sample agree, while nearly 83% disagree.

● **Perceived Social and Cultural Challenges:**

On the other hand, the surveyed sample's responses to the social and cultural challenges associated with hosting refugees in Egypt reveal that the surveyed sample has agreed to the perceived social and cultural challenges as follows:

- a) The highest perceived social challenge is "Refugees are a burden on Egyptian health services" (mean: 3.53). Over half (57%) agree (with 32% strongly agreeing), while 23% disagree
- b) Then comes "Refugees compete with Egyptian citizens for educational opportunities" (mean: 3.20). A significant portion (51%) agrees (with 26% strongly agree), while 33% disagree

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- c) Then “Refugees pose a threat to the stability of the Egyptian family “(mean: 3.03). Nearly half (47%) view refugees as a threat to family structures (with 20.2% strongly agreeing). while 40% disagree.
- d) “Refugees receive preferential treatment compared to Egyptian citizens” has a low agreement level (mean: 2.39), as 21% of the surveyed sample agree, while 63% disagree.
- e) Also “Refugees may change some of the established Egyptian values, habits, traditions and customs” has a low agreement level (mean: 2.25) as 19% of the surveyed sample agree, while 65% disagree.
- f) “It is difficult for refugees to integrate into Egyptian society due to cultural, social, and language differences” has also a low agreement level (mean: 2.21), as 17% of the surveyed sample agree, while 63% disagree.
- g) The least perceived social and cultural challenges is “Refugees pose a threat to the security in Egypt” (mean: 2.13) only 12% of the surveyed sample agree, while 70% disagree.

● **Differences in Respondents' Perception According to Demographic**

Characteristics:

Further analysis explored potential disparities in perceptions of social and cultural impacts based on respondent demographics (gender, marital status, governorate, occupation). ANOVA results indicated significant differences in perceptions based on marital status ($p < 0.001$), suggesting varying viewpoints among single, married, and other marital groups regarding social and cultural impacts. These findings are detailed in Table D1 (Appendix D). Subsequent LSD post-hoc tests identified significant differences in responses among married women (Table D2, Appendix D).

Chi-square tests revealed significant differences in responses to two statements: "The existence of refugees in my area has led to increased educational services" and "The existence of refugees in my area has contributed to improving healthcare services" (Tables D3 and D4, Appendix D). Cross-tabulation analysis (Tables D5 and D6, Appendix D) further indicated that married women were more likely to disagree or strongly disagree with both statements, suggesting a lack of perceived positive contribution of refugees to education and healthcare services within their communities.

3-2-2-2 Perceived Environmental Impacts:

The data also reveals a mix of positive and negative views towards the environmental benefits and challenges associated with refugees. Some aspects receive stronger agreement than others, as shown in Figures (3-3 & 3-4). Table (3-8) illustrates the mean, standard deviation, and score level of the responses.

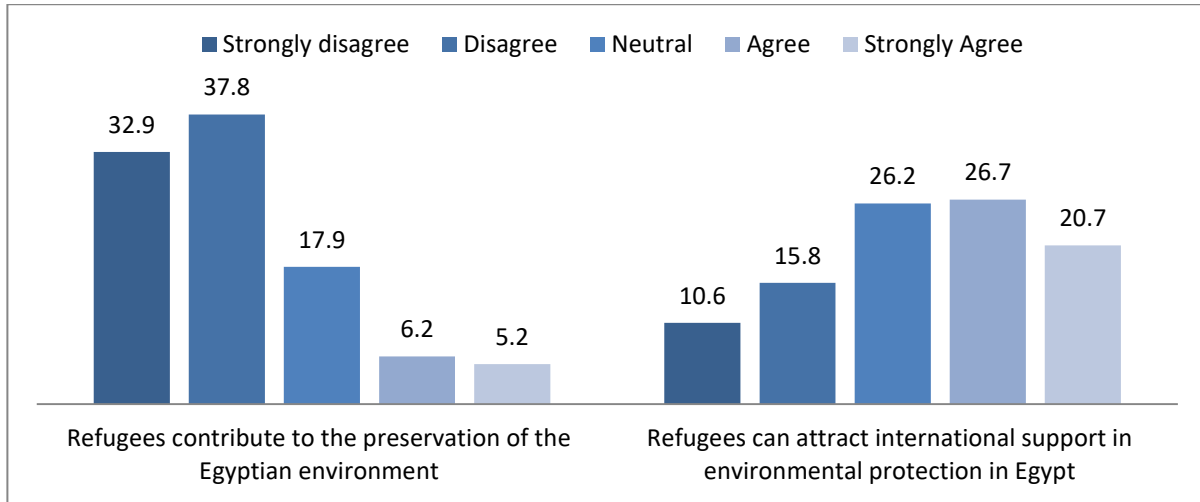


Figure (3-3)
Perceived Environmental Benefits

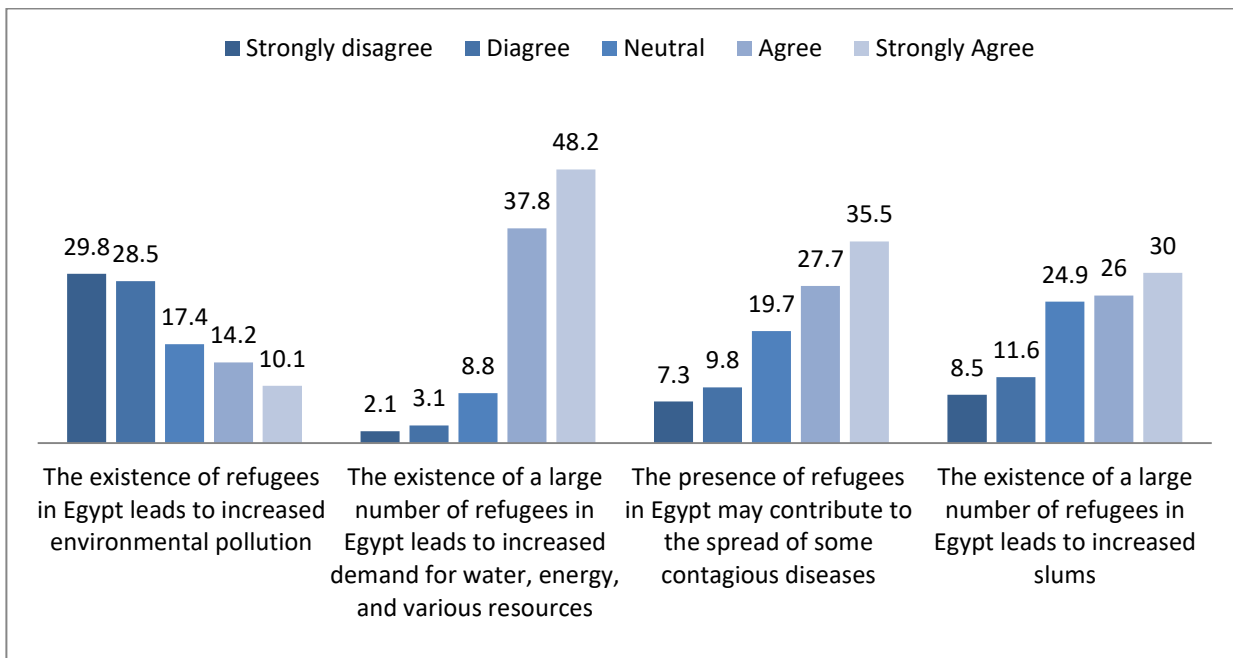


Figure (3-4)
Perceived Environmental Challenges

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Table (3-2)
Environmental Impacts Mean and Standard Deviation

		Mean	Std. Deviation	Evaluation	
B. Environmental Impacts					
1	Refugees can attract international support in environmental protection in Egypt	3.31	1.259		
2	Refugees contribute to the preservation of the Egyptian environment	2.13	1.100		
3	The existence of refugees in Egypt leads to increased environmental pollution	2.46	1.319		
4	The existence of a large number of refugees in Egypt leads to increased demand for water, energy, and various resources	4.27	.900		
5	The existence of a large number of refugees in Egypt leads to increased slums	3.61	1.28		
6	The presence of refugees in Egypt may contribute to the spread of some contagious diseases	3.74	1.240		
Very weak		Weak	Neutral	Strong	Very strong

● **Perceived Environmental Benefits:**

The survey results on the environmental benefits of hosting refugees in Egypt reveal a mixed picture. Here's a breakdown of the key points:

- “Refugees can attract international support in environmental protection in Egypt has a moderate rank as an environmental benefit (Mean: 3.31) as (47%) agreed, while 26% disagree.
- While “Refugees contribute to the preservation of the Egyptian environment“has a weak agreement level (mean: 2.13), as 11% of the surveyed sample agree, while 71% disagree.

● **Perceived Environmental Challenges:**

On the other hand, survey respondents identified the following perceived environmental challenges associated with hosting refugees in Egypt:

- The highest perceived challenge “The existence of a large number of refugees in Egypt leads to increased demand for water, energy, and various resources: and the only (very high) impact according to the surveyed sample (Mean: 4.27). A large majority (86%) agree (with 48% strongly agree), while only 5% disagree.

- b) Then comes “The presence of refugees in Egypt may contribute to the spread of some contagious diseases”. It is perceived as a high challenge too (Mean: 3.74). 63% agree (35.5% strongly agree). While 17% disagree.
- c) Also, “The existence of refugees in Egypt leads to increased environmental slums” has a high agreement level (Mean: 3.61). Over half (56%) agree (with 30% strongly agreeing), while 19% disagree.
- d) And finally, the least perceived challenge is “The existence of refugees in Egypt leads to increased environmental pollution” (mean: 2.46) as 24% of the surveyed sample agree, while 58% disagree.

● **Differences in Respondents' Perception According to Demographic Characteristics:**

The analysis of surveyed Egyptian citizens' perceptions of the environmental impacts of refugees, considering demographic factors, revealed no significant differences, as detailed in Appendix E. These findings indicate a consistent view among Egyptians regarding the environmental benefits and challenges associated with refugees' presence in the country.

3-3 Discussion and Conclusion:

Consistent with broader global trends, our findings resonate with previous research, especially in developing countries, highlighting both potential benefits and challenges of refugee hosting. Citizens' perceptions of these impacts are likely shaped by the cumulative effects of regional crises, such as the Arab Spring, COVID-19 pandemic, and Gaza conflict. These events exerted economic pressure, altering lifestyles and potentially contributing to negative views of refugees as a burden.

According to the perception of the surveyed sample, the influx of refugees places additional strain on Egypt's already limited resources. Educational and healthcare services, stretched thin for the existing population, may struggle to meet the needs of a larger one.

The short-term influx of refugees can provoke anxiety and distress among residents. However, the potential for more significant challenges, including conflict, looms large if these issues are not effectively managed. Egypt's current refugee policy, while ostensibly humanitarian, is placing unsustainable pressure

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on both refugees and local communities. A more balanced approach is necessary to address the needs of both groups.

Prolonged refugee presence and concentrated settlement patterns increase the risk of forming ethnic enclaves, hindering integration and potentially fueling ethnic tensions.

Findings reveal significant concerns about the potential impact of refugees on family stability in Egypt. This perception is rooted in the Egyptian social context. Unmarried refugee women without residency permits are viewed as a threat to family cohesion due to the possibility of marrying Egyptian men primarily to obtain legal status. Economic pressures, including rising costs of living and marriage, have exacerbated these concerns, as some young Egyptian men perceive refugee women as more accessible partners.

On the positive side, Egypt's renowned hospitality, as evidenced by its openness to hosting refugees, contributes to a generally positive perception of them among the population. Daily interactions have the potential to foster empathy and understanding, as Egyptians witness the challenges faced by refugees. This increased awareness could lead to greater support for refugee rights and humanitarian causes.

Egypt's rich historical and cultural tapestry has instilled a sense of resilience and adaptability among its people. Consequently, there is a prevailing belief that Egyptian traditions and norms are robust enough to withstand external influences.

The perceived strength of the country's security apparatus and the fear of deportation for refugees who commit crimes may be behind the Egyptians' perception of refugees as posing weak security risks.

The Egyptian survey respondents, particularly those who are married and more engaged with local education and healthcare services, exhibit a limited awareness of the potential benefits refugees bring to their communities in these sectors. This finding underscores the insufficient role of international institutions in promoting refugee integration and the shortcomings of their support efforts, as detailed in Chapter One.

Considering the perceived environmental impacts, the most significant short-term challenge is the increased demand for natural resources, such as energy and water. This is exacerbated by the current settlement model and urban overcrowding. While Egyptian respondents view refugees as potential contributors to disease spread and slum formation, these concerns may stem from the ongoing aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the growing refugee population, their overall vulnerability, and their living conditions.

While respondents generally do not perceive refugees as contributing positively to environmental conservation or sustainable practices, a percentage believes that refugees could serve as a catalyst for attracting international support for environmental protection through their existing connections to international organizations.

In conclusion, the social, cultural, and environmental impacts of refugees in Egypt are complex and interconnected, requiring an integrated understanding of economic, social, and environmental factors, as highlighted in the literature review. While the generosity of the Egyptian people, their positive attitudes, and the resilience of Egyptian culture help mitigate social challenges, the current settlement model creates significant short-term and long-term difficulties. Environmental concerns are particularly prominent among the surveyed Egyptian population. These challenges underscore the need to reassess Egypt's refugee integration model and align it with international best practices.

Finally, it is crucial to acknowledge the complexity and sensitivity of this topic, especially given the current volatile global landscape.

Chapter 4

Integrating Refugees: Global Experiences

4- Introduction:

The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol form the cornerstone of international refugee law, providing a legal framework for responding to global displacement crises. States party to these conventions are obligated to protect refugees and ensure their rights. UNHCR, as the UN Refugee Agency, is mandated to provide protection, assistance, and solutions to refugees worldwide. This includes safeguarding individuals forced to flee their homes due to war, persecution, or human rights violations, such as those affecting the rights to movement, work, or freedom of expression. UNHCR's goal is to alleviate the suffering of refugees and find durable solutions to their plight (Al Qaralleh, 2022).

Resettlement and integration of refugees into new societies present significant challenges. These include the lack of national legal frameworks for organizing and executing planned relocation, the absence of a comprehensive long-term vision, inadequate and unsustainable funding sources and fragile institutional structures. These shortcomings exacerbate the vulnerability of displaced communities, who already face the trauma of displacement. Additionally, studies show that host communities sometimes perceive displaced populations as threats or burdens to themselves, the state, and neighboring countries (Hamza, 2021).

The surge in global displacement has compelled policymakers to reassess the efficacy of resettlement programs, underscoring the imperative for well-structured refugee policies. While a universal solution remains elusive, comparative analysis of diverse approaches can identify adaptable best practices. It is equally crucial to recognize and avoid policies that impede successful refugee management.

This chapter explores the integration practices of three countries frequently cited in refugee management literature as success stories: Uganda, Turkey, and Germany. These diverse experiences offer valuable lessons and insights to help formulate policy recommendations for Egyptian policymakers.

This section relies on secondary data, including research studies and formal reports. A consistent format will be used to examine each country. We will begin

with background information and statistics on refugees in the host country. We will then delve into key policy areas, acknowledging the ongoing challenges these countries face in refugee management. concluding with key lessons learned that can inform Egyptian policy development.

4-1 Uganda: A Haven for Refugees in Africa

Uganda, with over 1.5 million refugees according to the latest data released by UNHCR in December 2023 (UNHCR, Uganda). is the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. It has garnered international recognition for its progressive refugee policies, which stand in contrast to the scaling back of support seen in many other countries. “Uganda Model” of refugee protection has attracted a significant level of attention in the scholarship, with authors elaborating on its practical outcomes (See, for instance: Betts et al., 2019 & Frank. & Milena, 2020)

Uganda has a long history of welcoming refugees, signing all relevant agreements on displaced people's rights. It has been a favorable destination for refugees and asylum seekers from neighboring conflict-affected areas such as Burundi, Rwanda, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe (Winnie et al., 2017).

South Sudan accounts for the majority of refugees in Uganda, constituting roughly 57% of the total population. Ongoing armed conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has severely disrupted regional peace and stability. Armed attacks on civilians have caused mass population displacement, both internally and across borders. This instability has resulted in Uganda continuously receiving influxes of more than 150,000 asylum seekers.

Congolese refugees are the second-largest population in Uganda, making up approximately 32% of the total. Somalia and Burundi also contribute to the refugee population, with each country accounting for around 3%.

From January to September 2023, Uganda saw more than 73,460 new arrivals, including 20,693 from South Sudan, 19,522 from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and 33,245 urban arrivals from Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia and other countries

These refugees predominantly reside in settlements spread across twelve districts, coexisting with local communities. Additionally, about 8% of refugees live in

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Kampala. 51% of registered refugees are women and girls. Children constitute 57% of all refugees, 40% of whom are under the age of 12 years. The elderly (60+) constitute 3% of the population (UNHCR, Uganda, 2023).

4-1-1 Uganda's Refugee Policy Insights:

Uganda has garnered international recognition for its progressive refugee policies, making it a leading example in Africa. The country is generally described as being friendly towards refugees (Grześkowiak, 2024; UNHCR Uganda, 2021; UNHCR Uganda 2018). The Ugandan Government is responsible for the actual registration process and data collection, and it uses UNHCR support to improve its accuracy. The main features of its progressive policies are highlighted as follows:

- **Developing a legal Framework:**

Uganda has established itself as a leader in refugee management through its progressive legislation. In 2006, the country enacted the Refugees Act, followed by the accompanying Refugee Regulations in 2010. These frameworks provide clear regulations and define the rights of refugees in Uganda. Notably, Uganda maintains an open policy towards asylum seekers, regardless of their nationality or ethnicity.

Furthermore, Uganda continues to apply the principle of prima facie refugee recognition. This approach is considered one of the most progressive reception policies for asylum seekers globally, especially when dealing with mass influxes. Uganda's commitment to refugee rights and its innovative legislative framework have garnered international recognition for their noteworthy features.

- **Uganda's Leadership in Refugee Response**

Uganda has emerged as a global leader in implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). Its national CRRF plan reflects the terminology used by the UNHCR and outlines ambitious goals, ranging from humanitarian admission and securing basic needs to promoting self-reliance and pursuing durable solutions.

The Ugandan CRRF 2018 Roadmap defines the "Uganda Model" through five key pillars:

- Admission and Rights
- Emergency Response and Ongoing Needs
- Resilience and Self-Reliance

- Expanded Solutions
- Voluntary Repatriation

These pillars represent a comprehensive approach to refugee management.

The operationalization of the CRRF in Uganda involves a complex administrative structure. At the top level, a multi-stakeholder body – the CRRF Steering Group – provides strategic guidance and support. This group includes representatives from the government, UN agencies, humanitarian and development organizations, donors, and even refugees themselves. The CRRF Secretariat within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) serves as the technical arm, providing administrative and technical support for the entire operation (Grześkowiak, 2024).

Uganda's commitment is further solidified by the launch of the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (UCRP) 2022-2025 appeal. This collaborative effort, involving the Ugandan government, UNHCR, and 68 humanitarian partners, provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the humanitarian needs of refugees in Uganda. Spanning from 2022 to 2025, the UCRP outlines strategies to support Uganda in maintaining designated asylum areas, providing life-saving assistance to refugees, and promoting peaceful coexistence and self-reliance for both refugees and host communities (UNHCR Uganda, 2022).

- **Enhancing Social Integration: A Distinctive Approach**

Several key elements distinguish Uganda's refugee management model from most other host countries. One critical aspect is the settlement policy, whereby refugees are settled, by default, in one of 13 recognized settlements located predominantly in the far north-west and south-west of the country. It is in the settlements that refugees are provided with plots of land and are expected to engage in subsistence agriculture. Furthermore, the vast majority of humanitarian and development assistance is also provided in and around the settlements. Uganda facilitates freedom of movement within designated settlements, providing greater autonomy for refugees (Betts et al., 2019).

Additionally, Uganda promotes peaceful coexistence by integrating social service provision for both refugees and host communities. This allows for shared access to essential services like education and healthcare. Notably, during his visit to West Nile refugee settlements in June 2017, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres remarked on the unique approach: "It is important to underline that

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Uganda...allows them to farm the land, go to the same schools, the same health centers, to have jobs, to live normal lives, to live in dignity (Winnie et al., 2017).

- **Promoting Self-Reliance: A Cornerstone of Uganda's Approach**

Uganda's commitment to self-reliance is enshrined in the Refugees Act of 2006, a groundbreaking piece of legislation that promotes the inclusion of refugees in the country's economic life. This unique approach grants refugees the right to work in both the formal and informal sectors. In the formal sector, refugees can find employment with established companies and organizations. The informal sector offers opportunities for refugees to engage in small businesses and individual entrepreneurship.

Just like Ugandan citizens, refugees are empowered to start their own businesses, fostering a sense of self-sufficiency and contributing to the local economy. Notably, Uganda has sustained this approach since independence, even as it currently hosts the largest refugee population in Africa. The success of this model is demonstrably evident in the improved lives of many refugees, who have achieved economic empowerment and integrated into Ugandan communities (Frank & Milena, 2020)

- **Progressive Education Policy: Investing in the Future**

Uganda's progressive refugee policy grants refugee children equal access to primary and secondary education as Ugandan citizens. This has led to significant improvements in recent years.

Throughout the last years, the Ugandan Ministry for Education devised various approaches to tackle the refugee crisis while simultaneously integrating local communities. One of its strategies is the so-called Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities, which aims to improve the state of education for refugees as well as Ugandan children. The plan is drawing upon the fundamental principles of international law, including the right to education as among the basic human rights, but also of the rights of children according to Art. 28, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Ugandan's education plan further derives its objectives from the 4th Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations, which envisages "education for all" (Global Compact Refugees, 2018).

In the second quarter of 2023, The General Enrollment (GER) witnessed an increase from 53% in the third term of 2022 to 55% in the first term of 2023. The Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) for Pre-primary and Secondary education was maintained at 44% and 10%, respectively. Notably, there was a notable increase in Primary education, with GER escalating from 94% to 95%. Language support: Mother tongue and multilingual education programs cater to diverse refugee backgrounds, facilitating easier learning.

4-1-2 Challenges to Refugee Management in Uganda:

Despite global recognition for Uganda's progressive refugee integration policy, challenges still persist. These challenges include (Grześkowiak, 2024).:

- Increased refugee numbers and protracted situations: Uganda's open-door policy and instability in neighboring countries have led to a refugee population exceeding initial expectations. Porous borders further complicate the situation.
- Limited resources and insufficient international support: UNHCR reports, and empirical evidence highlight a critical lack of international support, hindering efforts to meet the scale of displacement and basic needs (Pillar II of the CRRF). This, in turn, affects achieving self-reliance and durable solutions (Pillars III and IV). As of March 31, 2024, the UNHCR's financial requirements for Uganda's refugee response plan stood at \$343.4 million, with only 16% funded.
- Resource scarcity and environmental burdens: The growing refugee population strains resources and contributes to environmental degradation. This fuels tensions between refugees and host communities, despite development projects and dialogue efforts. The "70/30" principle seems inadequate in its current form.
- Limited self-reliance and de facto integration: Scarce and infertile land makes achieving self-reliance through subsistence farming difficult. Widespread de facto integration hasn't occurred due to factors like inter-communal violence, food insecurity, and perceived bias. Legal integration (de jure) alone wouldn't significantly improve the situation.

Additionally, a lack of economic opportunities means more than half of refugees rely mainly on emergency food and cash distributions to meet their basic needs. Empirical evidence shows worse employment outcomes for refugees compared to nationals. Considering age, gender, and education, only 29% of refugees in

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Uganda are actively working, compared to 64% among host communities. This translates to a refugee unemployment rate of 31%, which is 24 % points higher than the 7% rate for the host community. Even after accounting for age, gender, and educational differences, the significant gap persists, with a 19 %-point difference in unemployment rates between refugees and host communities. Over 90% of refugees are considered economically vulnerable, with over a third experiencing food insecurity (Global Bihari, 2023).

Finally, The Employment Act, which governs formal employment, excludes refugees as workers. This creates an uneven playing field compared to Ugandan citizens and hinders refugees' ability to access the job market. Proposed amendments like the Employment Amendment Bill 2022, passed in May 2022, also fail to recognize refugees as workers, further complicating their path to formal employment (Lindiro, 2023).

- **Challenges to Uganda's Progressive Refugee Education Policy:** Despite Uganda's progressive refugee education policy, several challenges hinder its effectiveness. Mainly, the funding and enrollment gap as insufficient funding and a significant drop-off in enrollment rates between primary and secondary school pose a major obstacle.
- **Strained government resources and potential policy shifts:** Ugandan officials acknowledge the open-door policy's limitations and the need for potential restrictions due to resource constraints. They believe the international community hasn't provided adequate support, jeopardizing the model's sustainability. Calls for addressing root causes in source countries suggest a potential shift towards repatriation.
- **Growing tensions and need for a revised approach:** Insufficient resources, high refugee numbers, and limited policy adjustments raise concerns about the model's breaking point. Growing tensions between refugees and locals necessitate a substantial reevaluation of the model's core principles. Expressions of doubt regarding the model's sustainability are rising, both domestically and internationally. Vice President Alupo's recent emphasis on repatriation at the UNGA suggests a potential shift in national policy (Winnie et al., 2017; Frank & Milena, 2020).

4-2 Turkey: Navigating a Complex Reality

Turkey is considered the world's leading host nation for refugees, sheltering 3.6 million registered refugees as global displacement due to conflict and persecution reaches unprecedented highs. Syrians form the vast majority, constituting roughly 90% of the total. More specifically, as per February 2024 Turkey currently hosts approximately 3.3 million registered Syrian refugees, alongside nearly 300,000 persons of concern from other nationalities, notably nationals of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq. As 76 % of migrating refugees either go to developing or neighboring countries per UNHCR data, Turkey is both a destination safe country and a transit country for many asylum seekers and refugees coming from the Middle East, Asia and Africa. (UNHCR Turkey, 2024). This status has been both a source of pride for the country and a crucial geopolitical tool, as Ankara has weighed its humanitarian responsibilities with other obligations. Turkey's hosting of the current refugee population represents the latest development in a long and rich migration history, which in the modern era has helped shape the nation since the foundation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923 (Kaya, 2023)

Its geographical location has made Turkey a crucial way station on irregular migration routes towards Europe, especially for migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan since the 1990s. At the same time, Turkey has been a country of destination for immigrants mainly from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, who see the country as a gateway to a new life and a stepping-stone to employment in the West (Kaya, 2023).

Turkey is a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol but maintains a geographical limitation to the Convention. Due to this geographical limitation to the definition of a refugee, Europeans and ethnic Turks can potentially gain refugee status, Syrians are considered as temporary protection status holders and other non-European nationalities as international protection status holders.

Besides providing temporary protection status to Syrians, Turkey thus retains resettlement to a third country as the most preferred solution for refugees arriving due to events occurring outside of Europe.

Before 1994, the UNHCR handled asylum applications. Since then, Turkey has taken over this responsibility, but initially lacked experience, leading to some

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criticism about rejections. The UNHCR used to play a larger role in assisting refugees in Turkey, but relations became strained after the Gulf War. Turkey's security concerns due to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) also impacted their approach to refugees (Kaya, 2023).

The Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), established in 2014, is the sole authority responsible for the registration, asylum adjudication and migration management in Turkey. Turkey has been undertaking legislative and institutional reforms to build an effective national asylum system in compliance with the international standards.

4-2-1 Turkey's Refugee Policy Insights:

Given the already very high numbers of Syrians under temporary protection Turkey is hosting, the population in Turkey, Turkish integration policies have primarily focused on their needs. Turkey has implemented various approaches in hosting Syrian refugees, these policies are highlighted as follows:

- **Open-door policy:**

A significant practice of Turkey's approach is its open-door policy. Since the Syrian civil war broke out in 2011, Turkey has provided Syrians with temporary protection, no forced returns to Syria (although it has faced some allegations of reneging on this promise), and unlimited duration of stay. Initially, Turkey rejected international assistance for its humanitarian efforts, as it wanted to prove that it could deal with the situation on its own. Internationally, accommodating the refugee flow was supposed to be a sign of Turkey's strength and its status as a model country in the Middle East.

Turkey has provided essential support to Syrian refugees, encompassing shelter, food, healthcare, and education. The government has established refugee camps nationwide and collaborated with international organizations to aid refugees in urban areas.

The Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise (CVME), conducted in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) in Turkey, plays a key role in assessing the socioeconomic vulnerability of the refugee population, estimating their needs, and analyzing trends over time (WFP, 2020).

- **Developing a Legal Framework:**

Before the Syrian crisis, Turkey had limited experience in handling hosting immigrants, resulting in the absence of well-established immigration regulations. This lack hindered Turkey's immediate response to the crisis, requiring the country to create everything from scratch,

The main legal framework for refugees in Turkey is the **Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP)**, enacted in April 2013. This law established a comprehensive system for handling asylum seekers and refugees in the country. The key aspects of the LFIP include (UNHCR Turkey, 2018):

- *Application process:* It outlines the procedure for applying for international protection status in Turkey, which is handled by the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) which also offer free access to services like education and health for registered refugees
- *Rights and obligations:* The law defines the rights and obligations of refugees with international protection status in Turkey. While it doesn't grant a direct path to citizenship, it allows refugees to stay in Turkey indefinitely under this status
- *Access to justice:* The LFIP includes provisions for legal aid for asylum seekers and refugees during the application process and appeals

Among other things, the law seeks to better integrate foreign-born workers, such as by making it easier for foreign students and refugees with legal status to obtain work permits. And it clarifies that long-term residents including refugees can obtain permanent residence.

In 2014, Turkey issued a regulation on Temporary Protection for Syrian nationals, stateless persons, granting them similar social and civil rights to those of refugees in Western countries (Kaya,2023). It requires refugees to register with local authorities in the city where the government relocated them. However, within this framework, access to services and rights have become limited only within their registered cities, and they must obtain permits for traveling between cities.

- **Establishing a Temporary Accommodation Centers:**

When the Syrian refugee crisis initially emerged, the Turkish government established **Temporary Accommodation Centers** to the border expecting that it would only be a temporary situation and the refugees would eventually go back to their homes, that's why the Turkish government has stressed on the term

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harmonization rather than integration. However, as the conflict escalated, a shift to an "out-of-camp" approach occurred, leading refugees to move within Turkey based on economic incentives and preferences (Batalla & Tolay, 2018).

About 80% of Syrian refugees now- according to a study conducted by the World Bank in April 2023- live outside camps, seeking work and receiving cash vouchers. While they technically have access to healthcare, education, and work permits, these opportunities are concentrated in expensive large cities. The southeastern Kurdish region is more economically and culturally suitable for refugees, but its smaller towns struggle to accommodate the influx (Tumen, 2023).

- **The "Promoting Integration of Syrian Kids into the Turkish Education System" (PIKTES) Project:**

Initially, education services were predominantly provided at temporary **accommodation centers**, which were not well-organized and lacked coordination with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE). These services adhered to the Syrian curriculum, were delivered in Arabic with an additional intensive Turkish language instruction.

Subsequently, there was a shift towards full integration of refugees into Turkey's public education system. The "Promoting Integration of Syrian Kids into the Turkish Education System" (PIKTES) project, initiated in October 2016 and funded by EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRIT) partnered with the EU, implemented in 26 provinces that have a large number of refugees. The project aimed to enhance refugee children's access to education by assisting MONE in integrating Syrian children into the Turkish education system (Tuğrul, 2020).

Syrian children face acute problems that require urgent support to mitigate the impact of war on their prospects. Overcoming language barriers, psychological counseling, academic remediation, and interventions to enhance educational quality are among these challenges. Additionally, considering that Syrian parents were, on average, less skilled than Turkish parents, the PIKTES project addressed the potential disparity in parental investment in human capital between Syrian and Turkish children. Failure to address these issues could perpetuate educational gaps across generations, posing a significant socioeconomic threat. The PIKTES project provided various services, including language training, academic support,

transportation, stationery, clothing aid, early childhood education, awareness activities, teacher training, and monitoring and evaluation.

In January 2022, the Turkish government announced that there were 1.1 million school-aged Syrian children in Turkey, of whom some 730,000 were registered in schools. It indicated that four hundred thousand, or 35%, are outside of the education system. These labor and education challenges stem from a lack of infrastructure and coherent government policy on how to deal with refugees (Tahiroğlu M., 2022)

- **Balancing Integration and Control: Turkey's Work Permit Policy for Syrian Refugees**

A new work permit law came into effect in April 2016. To obtain a work permit, refugees must meet several conditions (Tumen, 2023):

- Registration and Residency: Hold a valid refugee ID card (registered refugee) and have resided in Turkey for at least six months before applying.
- Occupation and Sector: The work must be in a sector deemed suitable by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, such as education, healthcare, or tourism. Additionally, the job title must fall within approved categories like engineering, architecture, or artistry.
- Employer Sponsorship: The work permit can be requested by the employer or, in specific circumstances, by the refugee independently.
- Refugee-to-Turkish Worker Ratio: The workplace must maintain a refugee-worker ratio below 10% of the total Turkish workforce.
- Companies with fewer than ten Turkish workers can employ a maximum of one refugee worker.
- Provincial Restriction: The job location must be within the province where the refugee holds a residency permit.
- Employment Status: The refugee cannot be formally employed elsewhere.
- Work Permit Duration: Work permits are initially valid for one year with the possibility of renewal.

As an emerging economy, Turkey poses a substantial informal labor market, with over 30 percent of nonagricultural employment being informal. This informality had helped the Syrian refugees' entry into jobs, with around 95 percent of working-age adult Syrian males engaging in informal employment. While the majority of females are housewives, and only 5% are informally employed.

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The substantial informal labor market has led to several outcomes. Firstly, it facilitates immediate access to labor income, indirectly aiding their integration into the labor market. The economic overlap between northern Syria and southeastern Turkey increased the transferability of human capital for refugees, enabling them to find informal employment in various sectors such as textiles, food manufacturing, construction, chemical material manufacturing, craftsmanship, and some service jobs. Secondly, despite the drawbacks associated with informal employment, it gives the Turkish government a chance to apply a wait-and-see approach before implementing refugee integration. Thirdly, local firms benefited from the availability of low-cost refugee labor, particularly for jobs with low skill requirements. Lastly, high mobility across firms, jobs, and regions.

- **Balancing National Efforts and International Support**

Funding for integration programs is obtained from two main sources: government resources and funds provided by the European Commission (EC) through the European Union (EU) Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRIT). Resources provided by international organizations and NGOs have also been used for refugee integration, but compared to the government budget and FRIT funds, they constitute a fairly small portion of the total funds spent on integration programmers.

Based on several accounts as well as public statements by government officials, the total cost of hosting refugees in Turkey between 2011 and 2022 is estimated at approximately US\$50 billion. This is a rough estimate of direct government spending on refugees, excluding any indirect costs and opportunity costs, other estimates pointed out that Ankara has spent \$100 billion on housing, medical care, and schooling for Syrian refugees (Tahiroğlu, 2022)

The FRIT is a €6 billion program established in response to calls from EU member states for increased support for Syrian refugees in Turkey. Launched in two tranches The first tranche serves to fund projects that ran until mid-2021. The second tranche serves to fund projects which run until mid-2025). The full operational budget of the Facility €6 billion has been allocated and contracted, and more than €5.3 billion has been disbursed. Support under the Facility focuses on humanitarian assistance, education, migration management, health, municipal infrastructure, and socio-economic support.

FRIT offers more targeted support compared to general spending, utilizing well-defined programs implemented by specialized partners. A significant program representing balanced collaboration to support Syrian refugee integration in Turkey is the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN). Funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Federation of Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent, ESSN stands out as the largest humanitarian project ever financed by the EU. Launched in November 2016, it targets vulnerable refugees living outside camps by providing them with debit cards for monthly financial aid. The program offers additional quarterly top-ups based on household size and disability, ensuring a more tailored safety net for those in greater need. As of June 2019, ESSN was supporting over 1.64 million people, highlighting its significant impact on refugee well-being.

The EU continues to support refugees in Turkey also beyond the Facility. It mobilized supplementary humanitarian support in 2020 and ensures the continuation of key Facility interventions under an additional allocation of €3 billion for the period of 2021-23 (EU, 2024).

4-2-2 Challenges to Refugee Management in Turkey

Turkey's approach to refugees remains novel compared to worldwide norms for refugee treatment and its past responses to similar refugee movements, which often involve a securitization lens and demands for burden-sharing. However, their effectiveness has been hampered by several factors:

- **Critique of the Open-Door Policy:** Turkish leaders initially miscalculated, assuming the Syrian conflict would end quickly, and refugees would return soon. During the early stages of the open-door policy, Turkish officials estimated a maximum influx of 100,000 Syrians. With the conflict escalating and dragging on for years, the government now faces a new reality: Syrian refugees are a permanent fixture.

According to the non-profit Refugees and Asylum Seekers Assistance and Solidarity Association, the vast majority (98%) live in cities, many in Turkish border provinces. Approximately 201,000 have secured Turkish citizenship. The large refugee population strains Turkey's resources, highlighting the need for greater efforts towards societal integration. Concerns have also been raised about conditions in certain refugee camps, prompting discussions about refugee human rights in Turkey (Kaya, 2023).

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- **Limited Capacities:** Local municipalities lack the administrative capacity and adequate resources to integrate newcomers, leaving them with few legal tools for policy formulation and implementation. Municipal authorities do little to challenge national immigration regimes that increasingly marginalized Syrians and irregular migrants. Additionally, city and local district sanctuary policies are limited by jurisdictional mismatches between governments and neoliberal competition for services (Kaya, 2023).

Insufficient Funding: Limited general budget and international funding significantly hinder proper support for refugees. According to UNHCR budget reports, only 11% of the \$498.5 million requirement was met (UNHCR Turkey, 2023).

- **Conditional Funding:** Restrictions on the use of Funds Received for Integration into Third Countries (FRIT) and **the structure** of funded projects may not align with refugees' most pressing needs (Tahiroğlu, 2022).
- **Bureaucratic Hurdles:** Complex procedures can create delays and difficulties in accessing resources (Tahiroğlu, 2022).

4-3 Germany: Economic Pragmatism and Integration

Germany is the largest host country for refugees in Europe, and it has become the third largest refugee-hosting country in the world. According to recent UNHCR data from mid-2023, Germany hosts about 2.5 million refugees, 349,000 asylum seekers, and an additional 29,500 stateless people (UNHCR Germany, 2024). Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, over 900,000 refugees have received temporary protection in Germany (UNHCR Germany, 2023)

Germany's commitment extends beyond hosting refugees. It is the second-largest financial supporter of the UNHCR (after the US), providing flexible funding through the Federal Foreign Office (FFO). This allows the UNHCR to respond effectively to global emergencies, including major crises in Syria, Ukraine, and Afghanistan, as well as less-publicized situations in various regions (UNHCR, Germany, 2023). Notably, over 80% of Germany's funding in 2021 and 2022 was "softly earmarked," making it the UNHCR's most flexible donor. This enables the UNHCR to allocate resources efficiently based on evolving needs. Additionally, Germany demonstrates its proactive approach by providing extra funding for new emergencies like the Ukraine crisis (UNHCR Germany, 2023).

Previously, Syrians were the largest refugee population in Germany. However, the influx of refugees from Ukraine has shifted this dynamic. As of mid-2023, Ukrainians exceed Syrians in number, with over 1 million Ukrainian refugees and 67,000 asylum seekers compared to approximately 693,000 Syrian refugees and 60,000 asylum seekers. Afghans make up the third-largest refugee population in Germany, with roughly 240,000 refugees and 59,000 asylum seekers (UNHCR Germany, 2024).

In addition to hosting a large refugee population, Germany admits significant numbers of refugees through resettlement programs such as the "New Start in Team (NesT)" community sponsorship initiative and an unallocated quota pilot scheme.

The surge in refugees and asylum seekers in late 2015 and early 2016 marked a defining moment for Germany. Initially, the country embraced a welcoming "Willkommenskultur" approach. However, overwhelmed authorities and resource limitations presented challenges. Despite these difficulties, the government allowed entry due to humanitarian principles and a spirit of openness. Public sentiment initially rallied behind then-Chancellor Angela Merkel's "Wir schaffen das" ("We can do this") mantra. This period highlighted Germany's image as an open and welcoming nation (Koch et al., 2023).

The initial approach faced challenges as strained resources and communication gaps led to public frustration and a sense of lost control. Incidents like the New Year's Eve attacks in Cologne in 2015 further fueled anxieties and bolstered far-right movements. As a result, the government shifted its policy to emphasize a balance between "order" and "humanity." The 2017 election reflected these growing concerns, with the rise of the AFD party. By 2022, with the outbreak of the Ukraine war, migration policy returned to the forefront as Germany again accepted a large number of refugees (Koch et al., 2023).

The UNHCR closely cooperates with Germany's Federal Authority for Migrants and Refugees (BAMF). Their Berlin office acts as a liaison with German parliaments and governments at both the federal and state levels.

4-3-1 Germany's Refugee Policy Insights:

- **Germany's Frequent Reforms to Asylum Law**

In response to the influx of refugees since 2015, German asylum and residence law has undergone frequent revisions. The federal government has enacted over 35 changes, making the legislation more complex (Koch et al., 2023). These reforms encompass both restrictive and opening measures, aiming to achieve a balance between control, monitoring the effects of positive integration, and filling labor market gaps.

- Restrictive Measures: Reforms have included designating certain countries, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia, as "safe countries of origin" to expedite application processing. Additionally, mandatory residence requirements have been implemented, and the list of "safe countries" has been expanded. Limitations on family reunification have also been introduced (Koch et al., 2023).
- Opening Measures: Despite the stricter measures, these reforms also aim to facilitate integration. For example, some measures have improved access to the labor market for asylum seekers with "Duldung" status, a temporary suspension of deportation (Koch et al., 2023).

- **Germany's Accommodation and Distribution System for Asylum Seekers: A Balancing Act**

The German accommodation and distribution system for asylum seekers reflects a balancing act between managing influxes, promoting integration, and addressing the needs of the labor market.

Germany's federal system divides responsibility for housing asylum seekers. Initially, states (Länder) manage reception facilities, with local districts handling further distribution into various housing options (exceptions apply to some city-states). This system faced significant challenges during the large refugee influx in 2015, leading to the creation of emergency shelters.

In response to the 2015 influx, Germany enacted several laws aimed at managing the situation. The Asylum Procedure Acceleration Law (October 20, 2015) extended the maximum stay in initial reception facilities from 3 to 6 months. This aimed to expedite processing applications and free up space for new arrivals.

Additionally, the Law for Better Enforcement of the Obligation to Leave the Country (July 20, 2017) allowed states to impose a stay of up to 2 years in reception facilities for applicants from designated safe countries undergoing accelerated procedures. This policy, however, proved successful in a secondary way, as it allowed asylum seekers with relevant skills to enter the labor market more quickly, helping to address labor shortages in Germany.

Since 2016, beneficiaries of protection status generally reside within the state where their asylum process occurred for up to three years. Some states further restrict residence to specific municipalities for a similar period. These restrictions aim to prevent the formation of isolated communities ("parallel societies") where integration might be more difficult. However, critics argue that these limitations hinder labor market integration by restricting asylum seekers' ability to move to areas with better job prospects...

- **Early intervention: Integration through Accessibility to Labor Market**

Since 2014, Germany has implemented a series of policy and legislative measures aimed at facilitating the integration of newcomers into the labor market. These efforts prioritize early intervention, ideally during the asylum process itself.

Germany's approach to labor market access for asylum seekers is tiered. The **Asylum Package I of October 2015** allowed asylum seekers with a high likelihood of receiving asylum to access the labor market and integration programs, such as German language courses and job-related support, often while their application was still being processed. Conversely, access has been restricted for groups with historically low recognition rates. This two-pronged approach aims to both incentivize integration for those likely to stay and manage potential strains on the labor market.

The German system offers a mix of incentives and sanctions to encourage participation in integration measures. Integration incentives include earlier access to the labor market for those who participate in programs. Conversely, there are possibilities for sanctions against those who refuse to participate in these programs, such as reduced benefits if individuals refuse work or integration courses. This approach aims to strike a balance between encouraging participation and ensuring a fair system.

Several key legislative measures have been implemented to facilitate integration through labor market access. The Integration Act (2016) further eased access for

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asylum seekers and tolerated persons (those with a temporary suspension of deportation) to the labor market, excluding those from "safe countries of origin." It introduced a "vocational training toleration," granting a secure residence status for qualified vocational training programs. Additionally, it encourages participation in light or supportive work during the asylum process.

The "Flüchtlinge Integrationsmaßnahmen" Program (2016) provided €300 million for 100,000 non-profit work opportunities for asylum seekers. It also allows for reduced benefits if individuals refuse work or integration courses.

The Act on "Duldung" in Vocational Training and Employment (2019) simplified access to vocational training and employment for tolerated persons. It allows for shorter training courses in high-demand fields and provides a 30-month employment toleration period for well-integrated individuals and their families. However, some groups remain excluded, such as those who haven't cooperated in establishing their identity or have criminal convictions.

Finally, the Foreigner Employment Promotion Act (2019), part of a larger Migration Package, further simplified access to the labor market for asylum seekers with good prospects of staying.

- **Germany Prioritizes Language Acquisition as A Cornerstone of Integration.**

Initiatives like the Integration Courses offer asylum seekers from countries with high recognition rates 600 hours of language training and 100 hours of civic orientation. This extensive training addresses the critical need for German language proficiency to access vocational training, employment opportunities, and social life (Hindy, 2018). Additionally, Germany has streamlined processes for recognizing foreign qualifications, allowing skilled refugees to leverage their expertise in the German labor market.

- **Education for Facilitating Long-term Integration:**

When it comes to education, there is an early intervention, at which Germany's quick start on language courses and school enrollment for children proved crucial in preventing educational gaps and facilitating long-term integration and also equipping teachers with cultural awareness and language teaching skills specifically for refugees led to more effective instruction and engagement.

- **Vocational Training System and Sector-Specific Training:**

Germany has a strong but complex system of career guidance institutions, providing educational and professional counseling to migrants and refugees of all age classes. Migrants and refugees of all ages have access to Germany's comprehensive career guidance system, receiving educational and professional counseling. Germany complements these general services with targeted programs specifically for migrants, including:

- Youth Migration Services (JMD): Supports young migrants (12-27) with vocational guidance, social, and cultural integration.
- Migration Counselling for Adults (MBE): Provides similar services to JMD, but for migrants over 27.
- Coordination Agencies for Education and Migration (KAUSA): Offers information and support to self-employed migrants and young migrants interested in vocational training (VET).
- Integration through Qualification (IQ) Network: Improves employment opportunities through counseling, peer learning, and sharing best practices.
- Career Guidance for Refugees (BOF): This intensive program prepares refugees for apprenticeships with vocational counseling and language training.
- My Skills Test: This test uses pictures and videos to assess foreign job seekers' skills, aiding in recommending next steps like training programs.

Germany also offers targeted training programs aligned with specific labor market needs. These programs equip refugees with valuable skills for in-demand jobs, facilitating their integration into the workforce.

- **Public-Private Partnerships for Refugee Employment**

Collaboration between public and private sectors is crucial for facilitating refugee employment in Germany. By fostering partnerships with businesses, industries, and NGOs, Germany creates employment opportunities and equips refugees with the necessary skills for the labor market. This approach has led to innovative initiatives in refugee labor market integration and policy advocacy (Torfa et al., 2023).

4-3-2 Challenges to Refugee Management in Germany:

Germany has established itself as a leader in refugee integration through its comprehensive policies. However, there's still space for improvements:

- **Funding and resource allocation:** Ensuring sustained funding for integration programs and addressing teacher shortages remain ongoing challenges.
- **Bureaucracy:** Streamlining administrative procedures and providing more accessible information can reduce hurdles faced by refugees.
- **Combating discrimination:** Addressing prejudice and fostering intercultural understanding within broader society is crucial for successful integration.
- **Tailor-made approaches** are needed, especially high diversity in qualification levels among recent arrivals.
- **Integration based on cultural pluralism** instead of assimilation explores the benefits of multicultural education.

4-4 Key Lessons Learned from Case Studies

By examining the case studies of Uganda, Turkey, and Germany, we can identify several key lessons for successful refugee management practices:

1. Global Responsibility Sharing:

Effective refugee management necessitates collaboration on both local and international levels. Sharing best practices, resources, and expertise fosters a more comprehensive and impactful response to the refugee crisis.

2. Leadership and Political Will:

Strong leadership and political commitment are crucial to effectively handle refugee crises. Germany, under former Chancellor Angela Merkel, exemplified this by demonstrating decisive leadership in welcoming refugees. This highlights the vital role of political leaders in shaping humanitarian responses.

3. Robust Legal Frameworks and Administration:

A well-defined legal framework and a capable administrative authority are essential for refugee management. Flexibility within the legal system is also important to adapt to changing situations. For example, Germany's

Beschäftigungs Duldung program provided refugees a clear pathway to permanent residency and integration.

4. Societal Willingness and Integration Efforts:

Successful refugee management goes beyond government policies. Active participation and support from the local population are crucial. Viewing refugees as assets rather than burdens is essential for a welcoming society.

5. Economic Pragmatism and Skilled Migration:

Humanitarian considerations play a significant role, but pragmatic policies are needed to balance humanitarian goals with economic realities. Early intervention policies that connect newcomers with labor market needs and provide job placements are beneficial. Additionally, skills recognition and training programs can empower refugees to leverage their existing skills and qualifications.

6. Diversity in Approaches:

The importance of recognizing diverse approaches to refugee management is emphasized. Uganda, Turkey, and Germany, have each implemented distinct strategies, reflecting their unique geopolitical, economic, and social contexts.

7. Humanitarian Values and Cosmopolitanism:

This chapter highlights the role of humanitarian values and cosmopolitanism in shaping refugee management practices. While economic considerations hold weight, a commitment to humanitarian principles remains crucial for creating inclusive and compassionate policies.

8. Long-Term Planning and Sustainable Solutions:

Planning for the long term and pursuing sustainable solutions are vital for a successful management strategy.

9. Decentralized Structures for Adaptability:

Decentralized structures can be more adaptable in crises. Germany's federal states, for example, tailored integration programs to their specific strengths and industries

Conclusion:

This chapter explores successful experiences in refugee management from contrasting contexts: Uganda, Turkey, and Germany. Each case study offers valuable lessons for crafting effective integration policies.

Uganda's progressive approach, with its open-door policy, self-reliance focus, and legal framework, serves as a model for refugee integration in Africa. However, challenges like resource limitations, environmental concerns, and educational disparities threaten its sustainability.

Turkey's experience highlights the complexities of large-scale refugee influxes. While its initial efforts toward integration and humanitarian contributions are undeniable, the protracted Syrian crisis has exposed limitations. Strained resources, limited integration, funding shortfalls, and shifting public opinion pose significant challenges for Turkey's long-term approach.

Germany presents a compelling case study in pragmatic policymaking. The country's initial "Willkommenskultur" reflected a strong humanitarian commitment, while subsequent adjustments acknowledged the need to balance compassion with national interests. Germany's noteworthy integration efforts, including early access to language courses, labor market opportunities, and education programs, pave the way for long-term success. However, funding limitations, bureaucratic hurdles, societal resistance, and the need for a more tailored approach to diverse skill levels remain significant challenges.

In conclusion, this analysis underscores the interconnectedness of effective refugee management strategies. Political leadership, societal attitudes, economic considerations, and global collaboration are all crucial for creating humane and sustainable solutions to the challenges posed by refugee influxes. By learning from diverse experiences like those of Uganda, Turkey, and Germany, we can develop more effective approaches to refugee management in Egypt.

5- Conclusion and Policy Recommendations:

Throughout history, Egypt has maintained an open-door policy, welcoming displaced persons and migrants to integrate with citizens and access public services on an equal footing. This policy reflects a strong humanitarian commitment to hosting refugees. However, while commendable, successful

refugee integration necessitates a formalized policy, a robust legal framework, and a dedicated administrative authority, as evidenced by the highlighted case studies.

Presently, Egypt lacks a formal, comprehensive integration framework for displaced persons, including refugees and asylum seekers. Moreover, the 1954 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UNHCR solely entrusts the agency with managing all aspects of asylum seeker care, including registration and assistance. This arrangement limits Egypt's capacity to independently identify and enumerate refugees within its borders.

The UNHCR's limited resources, with only three offices in Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria, struggle to manage the large influx of refugees to Egypt. This strain manifests in significant challenges with refugee registration, file management, and distribution across governorates. The situation is further compounded by a lack of sufficient international aid and the current economic constraints in Egypt.

Drawing on our analysis and the perspectives of Egyptian citizens about hosting refugees in Egypt, table (4-1) highlights the potential challenges and benefits associated with hosting refugees in Egypt.

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Table (5-1)
Challenges and Benefits of Hosting Refugees in Egypt

Category	Challenges	Level	Benefits	Level
Economic	Rising prices (mainly housing)		Bring valuable skills to the Egyptian economy	
	Competition for low-skilled jobs		Job creation in service sectors	
	Wage reduction in low-skilled jobs		Enhance investment and entrepreneurship	
	Suppress growth			
Social & cultural	Pressure on health sector		Improve healthcare services	
	Competition for educational services		Enhance educational resources	
	Threat to family stability		Expanding social networks	
	Social cohesion risk: Resentment and social tension		Strengthening social Cohesion and fostering positive values	
	Formation of ethnic enclaves and social integration risk		Enriching Egyptian culture	
	Changing cultural identity			
	Pressure on resources (water and energy resources)		Attract support for environmental protection initiatives	
Environmental	Spread diseases		Development of sustainable practices	
	Increasing in slums			
	Increase in pollution			

Very weak	Weak	Neutral	Strong	Very strong
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Given the inherent complexities and interconnected challenges associated with refugee hosting, it is critical to recognize the human dimension of the situation. It is recommended that the Egyptian government consider transitioning to a more sustainable model. This model is expected to ensure the provision of basic needs to its citizens while establishing the necessary mechanisms to do so in a way that does not jeopardise refugees' ability to obtain basic needs while fostering refugee integration into Egyptian society.

Recommendations:

In light of the current situation of hosting refugees in Egypt, the complex challenges associated with hosting refugees in Egypt, and drawing on global successful refugee hosting practices, we can propose a series of policy recommendations aimed at establishing a more sustainable model for refugee hosting in Egypt. This model prioritizes a balance between the humanitarian imperative of supporting refugees and the well-being of Egyptian citizens.

Short-Term:

Reviewing Refugee Registration Process: The Egyptian government is strongly recommended to collaborate with the UNHCR to establish a national asylum registration system. This system should be accessible and efficient, facilitating refugee registration across Egypt and providing offices in governorates with lower population densities

Enhancing Legal Frameworks: Expediting the completion of regulations for the Asylum Seekers Law in Egypt is crucial. These regulations should clearly define the rights and obligations of displaced persons seeking asylum in Egypt. Additionally, a review of visa regulations and renewal processes, focusing on nationalities with high refugee populations, can streamline procedures and improve management.

Border Management: Implement stricter measures to control illegal immigration, focusing on increasing border patrol presence and strengthening enforcement mechanisms.

Residence Permits: Review the ministerial act on legalizing the status of illegal residents, impose stricter penalties and focus on long term economic benefits rather than short term foreign currency benefits.

Implement Rent Control Measures: Consider temporary rent control measures to provide immediate relief for refugees by limiting excessive rent increases in areas with high refugee concentration, considering unintended consequences on housing supply in the long term.

Collaborate with the Private Sector: Partner with the private sector to expand healthcare services in areas with high refugee concentration, this collaboration can

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also focus on improving sanitation and hygiene practices in refugee settlements and host communities.

Strengthen Public Health Surveillance: Enhance public health surveillance systems in refugee settlements and surrounding host communities. This allows for early detection, rapid containment, and appropriate treatment of infectious diseases to minimize the risk of outbreaks.

Decentralization and Support for High-Refugee Concentration Areas: Egypt should prioritize decentralization and support for high-refugee concentration areas through a two-pronged approach. First, decentralize resources and decision-making to empower governorates with a high refugee population. This allows them to tailor solutions and allocate resources more efficiently. Second, pass legislation that prioritizes qualified Egyptians for jobs in these fields, while also promoting local economic development through fundraising campaigns, public-private partnerships, and initiatives to create new jobs, expand essential services, and improve infrastructure.

Review Resource Management: Conduct a comprehensive review of the financial costs associated with hosting refugees. Explore alternative funding mechanisms alongside continued international aid to ensure sustainable support for refugees.

Social Cohesion and Livelihoods: Improve social support programmes to foster cultural understanding and social cohesion among refugees and host communities. Developing official awareness campaigns is crucial. These campaigns should educate Egyptians about their country's role as a regional leader and the potential economic and social benefits of refugee integration. By fostering national awareness and promoting social interaction, such measures can help alleviate tensions and ensure a more positive environment for both refugees and Egyptian citizens.

- Medium-term:

-Resettlement and Integration: Collaborate with international organizations including UNHCR to explore resettlement opportunities for refugees in less densely populated countries. In parallel, develop national plans for the redistribution and reallocation of displaced persons within Egypt, focusing on

regions with lower population densities. These plans should incorporate initiatives to promote integration into agricultural and industrial activities in these regions.

- **Foster Economic Integration and Self-reliance for Refugees:** Egypt should prioritize resettling refugees with skills aligned with national needs while offering targeted training programs in areas like vocational skills, computer literacy, and language. Collaboration with international organizations can further expand these programs and make them accessible to both refugees and citizens. Furthermore, providing incentives and facilitating access to microfinance and business development resources for refugees, with a focus on agriculture and industry, can empower them to become entrepreneurs and positively impact the local economy.

-**Education Accessibility:** Cooperate with the private sector and international institutions to enhance educational accessibility for refugees. This can involve expanding existing educational infrastructure, exploring double-shift systems in areas with high refugee concentration.

- **Promoting Integration in the Formal Sector:** Review the law on foreign employment and simplify work permit procedures for refugees.

Long-term:

National refugee Hosting Strategy: Develop a comprehensive national strategy addressing all aspects of refugee integration, including economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions. This strategy should include monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Political Advocacy: Egypt should continue its efforts to find political solutions to regional conflicts, enabling refugees to return home voluntarily and with dignity.

International Cooperation: Strengthen collaboration with international organizations (UNHCR, World Bank, IMF), and actively engage donor countries to secure essential funding and technical expertise for refugee programs

Sustainable Infrastructure Development: Invest in infrastructure projects (water, energy, sanitation) to meet the needs of both refugees and citizens, promoting environmental sustainability.

By implementing these recommendations, it is expected that Egypt can transit towards a more sustainable refugee hosting model. This model should be built on a foundation of collaboration with international partners, efficient resource

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management, and a commitment to the well-being of both refugees and Egyptian citizens.

Finally, this study represents an initial attempt to explore the impacts associated with hosting refugees in Egypt. While it highlights key areas for policy consideration, further research is crucial for a more comprehensive understanding. Future research efforts should include quantitative data analysis to accurately assess their economic impact on wages, prices, and overall growth. Additionally, moving beyond analyzing refugees as a single group, future studies should employ disaggregated data analysis by nationality, gender, age, and skillset. This nuanced approach will reveal the varying economic and social impacts of different refugee populations. By incorporating these considerations, Egyptian policymakers and stakeholders can gain a deeper understanding of various groups of refugees' impact. This knowledge is crucial for developing evidence-based integration policies and programs that are both effective and inclusive, ultimately maximizing the benefits for all stakeholders.

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Extensions

Appendix (A)

Social, Cultural, Environmental, and Economic Impacts of Refugees in Egypt Questionnaire.

استبيان حول التأثيرات الاجتماعية والثقافية والبيئية والاقتصادية للاجئين في مصر

مقدمة:

نرحب بمشاركتك في هذه الدراسة المهمة حول التأثيرات الاجتماعية والثقافية والبيئية والاقتصادية للاجئين في مصر. ستساعد إجاباتك في فهم خبرات وتوقعات المصريين المقيمين في البلاد. سوف يتم التعامل مع جميع الإجابات بسرية، ولن تستخدم إلا لأغراض البحث.

الجزء الأول: معلومات ديموغرافية

- النوع: ☐ ذكر ☐ أنثى
- الحالة الاجتماعية: ☐ أعزب ☐ متزوج ☐ أخرى
- مجال العمل: حكومي ☐ خاص ☐ عمل حر ☐ بدون عمل ☐ أخرى
- المحافظة التي تقيم فيها: القاهرة ☐ الجيزة ☐ الإسكندرية ☐
- عدد سنوات الإقامة: أقل من سنة ☐ سنة فأكثر ☐

الجزء الثاني: التأثيرات الاجتماعية والثقافية والبيئية

أ- التأثيرات الاجتماعية والثقافية

يرجى تقييم العبارات التالية:

5 موافق بشدة	4 موافق	3 محايد	2 غير موافق	1 غير موافق إطلاقاً	
					يسهم اللاجئون في إثراء الثقافة المصرية بثقافتهم المختلفة.
					أدى التعامل مع اللاجئين الى زيادة الوعي بقضايا اللاجئين وحقوق الانسان
					أسهم وجود اللاجئين في تحسين الخدمات الصحية في المجتمع.
					أدى وجود اللاجئين إلى زيادة خدمات التعليم في المجتمع.
					أقبل أن يكون اللاجئون جزءاً من دائرة أصدقائي
					تعكس استضافة اللاجئين القيم الإنسانية مثل التعاون والكرم لدى المصريين.
التأثيرات السلبية					
					يصعب اندماج اللاجئين في المجتمع المصري بسبب الفروق الثقافية والاجتماعية واللغوية
					يتنافس اللاجئون مع المواطنين المصريين على الفرص التعليمية
					يشكل اللاجئون تهديداً على استقرار الأسرة المصرية
					يشكل اللاجئون قلقاً بشأن الحفاظ على القيم والعادات والتقاليد في المجتمع المصري.
					يمثل اللاجئون عبئاً على الخدمات الصحية المصرية
					يحصل اللاجئون على مزايا غير عادلة أو معاملة تفضيلية مقارنة بالمواطنين المصريين.
					يزيد وجود اللاجئين من مخاوف الأمن ومعدلات الجريمة في مجتمعي.

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ب- التأثيرات البيئية

يرجى تقييم العبارات التالية:

5 موافق بشدة	4 موافق	3 محايد	2 موافق	1 غير موافق إطلاقاً	
التأثيرات الإيجابية					
					يستطيع اللاجئون جذب الدعم الدولي في مجال حماية البيئة في مصر.
					يسهم اللاجئون في الحفاظ على البيئة من خلال تبنيهم أساليب الحياة المستدامة.
التأثيرات السلبية					
					يؤدي وجود اللاجئين إلى زيادة النفايات أو التلوث البيئي.
					يؤدي وجود عدد كبير من اللاجئين في مصر إلى زيادة الطلب على المياه والطاقة والموارد المختلفة
					يؤدي وجود عدد كبير من اللاجئين في مصر إلى زيادة العشوائيات
					قد يسهم وجود اللاجئين في مصر في انتشار بعض الأمراض المعدية

الجزء الثالث: التأثيرات الاقتصادية للاجئين في مصر

(1) يرجى تقييم العبارات التالية:

5 موافق بشدة	4 موافق	3 محايد	2 موافق	1 غير موافق إطلاقاً	
التأثيرات الإيجابية					
					• يسهم اللاجئون في خلق فرص عمل في مصر
					• أدخل اللاجئون مهارات وخبرات جديدة ساعدت في تطوير الاقتصاد المصري
					• يسهم اللاجئون في الاستثمار وزيادة ريادة الأعمال في مصر
التأثيرات السلبية					
					• أثر توافد اللاجئين على زيادة مستويات الأسعار
					• ينافس اللاجئون المواطنين المصريين في فرص العمل، خاصة في القطاعات غير الرسمية
					• وجود اللاجئين أثر بالسلب على مستويات الأجور خاصة في المهن الدنيا أو منخفضة المهارات

برجاء الاختيار مما يلي وفقاً لرأيكم:

1- تأثير اللاجئين على الاقتصاد المصري.

- إيجابي
- سلبي
- سلبي وإيجابي
- ليس له تأثير
- لا أعرف

2- ما هي الجنسيات التي ترى لوجودها تأثيرات اقتصادية إيجابية؟ (يمكن اختيارات متعددة)

- سوريا
- السودان
- اليمن
- ليبيا

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- أخرى (تذكر)

3- ما هي أهم العوامل التي تمكن اللاجئين من الاندماج في الأنشطة الاقتصادية؟ (يمكن اختيارات متعددة)

- التعليم والمهارات
- التقارب الثقافي مع المجتمع المصري
- الوضع القانوني لهم (الحصول على الإقامة/ تصاريح العمل)
- النوع (ذكر/ أنثى)
- لا أعرف

4- ما هي أكثر المؤشرات الاقتصادية تأثراً بتدفق اللاجئين لمصر؟ (يمكن اختيارات متعددة)

- زيادة مستويات الأسعار
- زيادة معدلات البطالة
- عرقلة النمو الاقتصادي (زيادة الأعباء الاقتصادية)
- زيادة الاستثمار
- لا أعرف

5- ما هي السلع أو الخدمات التي تأثرت أسعارها نتيجة تدفق اللاجئين؟ (يمكن اختيارات متعددة)

- المساكن
- الطعام
- المياه والكهرباء
- النقل
- لا أعرف

6- ما هي أهم القطاعات الاقتصادية التي استفادت من وجود اللاجئين في مصر (فرص العمل/ وطرق

الإنتاج)؟ (يمكن اختيارات متعددة)

- الصناعة
- الزراعة
- السياحة والمطاعم

- التجارة
- لا أعرف

نشكرك على مشاركتك القيمة!

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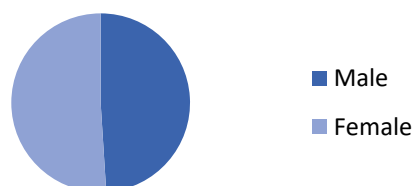
Appendix (B)

Demographic Characteristics of the Surveyed Sample of Egyptian citizens

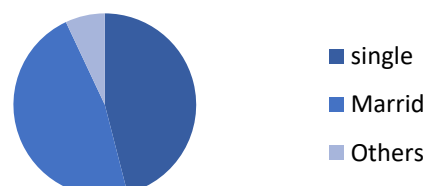
Surveyed Sample Demographic Characteristics

Demographic Characteristics	Gender		Marital Status			Governorate			Job Nature				
Distribution	M	F	Single	Married	Others	Cairo	Giza	Alex.	PS	VS	FL	Un	O
	756	788	708	732	104	560	504	480	292	540	448	70	194
Total	1544		1544			1544			1544				

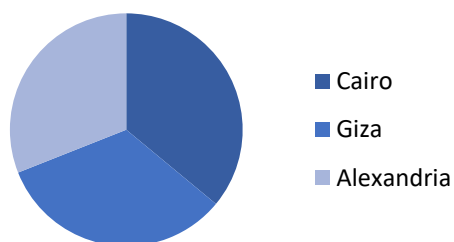
Gender



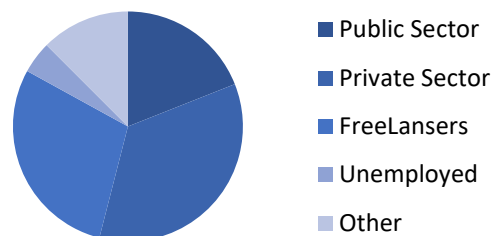
Marital Status



Governorate



Job



Appendix (C)

Stationarity Test Results

Null Hypothesis: GDP has a unit root
Exogenous: Constant
Lag Length: 3 (Automatic - based on SIC, maxlag=9)

	t-Statistic	Prob.*
Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic	-2.693496	0.0838
Test critical values: 1% level	-3.600987	
5% level	-2.935001	
10% level	-2.605836	

*MacKinnon (1996) one-sided p-values.

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test Equation
Dependent Variable: D(GDP)
Method: Least Squares
Date: 04/28/24 Time: 15:39
Sample (adjusted): 2013Q1 2023Q1
Included observations: 41 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
GDP(-1)	-0.010939	0.004061	-2.693496	0.0107
D(GDP(-1))	2.377225	0.112254	21.17713	0.0000
D(GDP(-2))	-2.097300	0.198584	-10.56128	0.0000
D(GDP(-3))	0.674519	0.105291	6.406236	0.0000
C	0.045926	0.016604	2.765924	0.0089

R-squared	0.994661	Mean dependent var	0.049507
Adjusted R-squared	0.994068	S.D. dependent var	0.242782
S.E. of regression	0.018699	Akaike info criterion	-5.006849
Sum squared resid	0.012587	Schwarz criterion	-4.797877
Log likelihood	107.6404	Hannan-Quinn criter.	-4.930753
F-statistic	1676.776	Durbin-Watson stat	1.622000
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000		

Null Hypothesis: INFH has a unit root
Exogenous: Constant
Lag Length: 7 (Automatic - based on SIC, maxlag=9)

	t-Statistic	Prob.*
--	-------------	--------

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	Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic	-3.226863	0.0263
Test critical values:	1% level	-3.621023	
	5% level	-2.943427	
	10% level	-2.610263	

*MacKinnon (1996) one-sided p-values.

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test Equation
 Dependent Variable: D(INFH)
 Method: Least Squares
 Date: 04/28/24 Time: 15:40
 Sample (adjusted): 2014Q1 2023Q1
 Included observations: 37 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
INFH(-1)	-0.026935	0.008347	-3.226863	0.0032
D(INFH(-1))	2.504283	0.128437	19.49810	0.0000
D(INFH(-2))	-2.458706	0.327492	-7.507683	0.0000
D(INFH(-3))	1.156765	0.424760	2.723337	0.0110
D(INFH(-4))	-1.007150	0.435970	-2.310134	0.0285
D(INFH(-5))	2.026584	0.424034	4.779297	0.0001
D(INFH(-6))	-1.893282	0.324063	-5.842323	0.0000
D(INFH(-7))	0.712955	0.128519	5.547453	0.0000
C	3.312420	1.026566	3.226699	0.0032

R-squared	0.993951	Mean dependent var	0.291089
Adjusted R-squared	0.992222	S.D. dependent var	5.585615
S.E. of regression	0.492606	Akaike info criterion	1.629558
Sum squared resid	6.794489	Schwarz criterion	2.021402
Log likelihood	-21.14681	Hannan-Quinn criter.	1.767701
F-statistic	575.0697	Durbin-Watson stat	1.876056
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000		

Null Hypothesis: REF has a unit root
 Exogenous: Constant, Linear Trend
 Lag Length: 7 (Automatic - based on SIC, maxlag=9)

		t-Statistic	Prob.*
	Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic	-4.545739	0.0044
Test critical values:	1% level	-4.226815	
	5% level	-3.536601	
	10% level	-3.200320	

*MacKinnon (1996) one-sided p-values.

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Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test Equation
 Dependent Variable: D(REF)
 Method: Least Squares
 Date: 04/28/24 Time: 15:40
 Sample (adjusted): 2014Q1 2023Q1
 Included observations: 37 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
REF(-1)	-0.024329	0.005352	-4.545739	0.0001
D(REF(-1))	2.355102	0.106577	22.09770	0.0000
D(REF(-2))	-2.126724	0.199333	-10.66920	0.0000
D(REF(-3))	0.775360	0.151225	5.127177	0.0000
D(REF(-4))	-0.510318	0.090904	-5.613785	0.0000
D(REF(-5))	1.141466	0.087855	12.99256	0.0000
D(REF(-6))	-1.028090	0.098011	-10.48950	0.0000
D(REF(-7))	0.353971	0.045049	7.857424	0.0000
C	0.000220	4.73E-05	4.654264	0.0001
@TREND("2012Q1")	1.50E-06	3.91E-07	3.848426	0.0007
R-squared0.998927 Adjusted R-squared0.998569 S.E. of regression5.30E-06 Sum squared resid7.58E-10 Log likelihood402.8086 F-statistic2791.733 Prob(F-statistic)0.000000 Mean dependent var2.65E-05 S.D. dependent var0.000140 Akaike info criterion-21.23290 Schwarz criterion-20.79751 Hannan-Quinn criter.-21.07940 Durbin-Watson stat1.678022				

Null Hypothesis: UNEMP_G has a unit root
 Exogenous: None
 Lag Length: 7 (Automatic - based on SIC, maxlag=9)

	t-Statistic	Prob.*
Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic	-1.845234	0.0867
Test critical values: 1% level	-2.628961	
5% level	-1.950117	
10% level	-1.611339	

*MacKinnon (1996) one-sided p-values.

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test Equation
 Dependent Variable: D(UNEMP_G)
 Method: Least Squares
 Date: 04/28/24 Time: 15:41
 Sample (adjusted): 2014Q1 2023Q1
 Included observations: 37 after adjustments

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Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
UNEMP_G(-1)	-0.000946	0.000637	-1.485234	0.1483
D(UNEMP_G(-1))	2.561238	0.146783	17.44910	0.0000
D(UNEMP_G(-2))	-2.639554	0.388107	-6.801108	0.0000
D(UNEMP_G(-3))	1.343009	0.526578	2.550445	0.0163
D(UNEMP_G(-4))	-1.128431	0.558201	-2.021551	0.0525
D(UNEMP_G(-5))	1.933729	0.544733	3.549867	0.0013
D(UNEMP_G(-6))	-1.762597	0.400505	-4.400941	0.0001
D(UNEMP_G(-7))	0.629673	0.148455	4.241505	0.0002
R-squared	0.992591		Mean dependent var	-0.181607
Adjusted R-squared	0.990803		S.D. dependent var	0.482193
S.E. of regression	0.046243		Akaike info criterion	-3.120997
Sum squared resid	0.062014		Schwarz criterion	-2.772690
Log likelihood	65.73844		Hannan-Quinn criter.	-2.998202
Durbin-Watson stat	1.731638			

Appendix (D)
Differences in Social and Cultural Impact Perceptions Based on Respondent
Demographics: Tests Results

Table (D-1): ANOVA Test Difference for Social and Cultural Impacts
According to Demographic Variables

Variables		Mean	Df	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F	Sig
Gender	Male	35.43	1			2.370	.124
	Female	36.84					
Marital status	Single	37.05	2	2.692 312.823	1.346 .203	6.626	.001
	Married	35.09					
	Others	37.54					
Occupation	Government sector	36.53	4	.451 323.19	.113 .210	.537	.709
	Private sector	35.92					
	Self-Employed	35.90					
	Unemployed	36.92					
	Others	30.00					
Governorate	Cairo	36.72	2	1.102 318.987	.551 .207	2.662	.071
	Giza	34.36					
	Alex	37.37					

Table (D-2): LSD for Marital Status Group

Multiple Comparisons

Dependent Variable: Social and Cultural Impacts

LSD

(I) Marital status	(J) Marital status	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Single	Married	1.96*	.624	.002	.73	3.19
	Others	-.49	1.244	.692	-2.94	1.95
Married	Single	-1.96*	.624	.002	-3.19	-.73
	Others	-2.45*	1.241	.049	-4.89	-.01
Others	Single	.49	1.244	.692	-1.95	2.94
	Married	2.45*	1.241	.049	.01	4.89

Based on observed means.

The error term is Mean Square (Error) = 35.057.

*. The mean difference is significant at the .05 level.

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Table (D-3): “The existence of refugees in my area has led to increased educational services in your area” Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	28.658 ^a	8	.000
Likelihood Ratio	32.498	8	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	14.317	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	1544		

a. 5 cells (33.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .67.

Table (D-4): “The existence of refugees in my area has contributed to improving healthcare services in Egypt’ Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	27.301 ^a	8	.001
Likelihood Ratio	26.270	8	.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	8.048	1	.005
N of Valid Cases	1544		

a. 3 cells (20.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .81.

Table (D-5): “The existence of refugees in my area has led to increased educational services” Crosstab Analysis

			Marital status			Total
			Single	Married	Others	
The existence of refugees in my area has led to increased educational services	Strongly disagree	% within Marital status	50.8%	67.2%	65.4%	59.6%
	Disagree	% within Marital status	22.0%	23.5%	26.9%	23.1%
	Neutral	% within Marital status	16.4%	7.1%	0.0%	10.9%
	Agree	% within Marital status	6.8%	1.6%	0.0%	3.9%
	Strongly agree	% within Marital status	4.0%	0.5%	7.7%	2.6%
	Total	% within Marital status	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table (D-6): “The existence of refugees in my area has contributed to improving healthcare services” Crosstab Analysis

			Marital status			Total
			Single	Married	Others	
The existence of refugees in my area has contributed to improving healthcare services	Strongly disagree	% within Marital status	49.2%	67.2%	61.5%	58.5%
	Disagree	% within Marital status	23.7%	22.4%	19.2%	22.8%
	Neutral	% within Marital status	16.4%	6.6%	7.7%	11.1%
	Agree	% within Marital status	7.3%	2.2%	0.0%	4.4%
	Strongly agree	% within Marital status	3.4%	1.6%	11.5%	3.1%
	Total	% within Marital status	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Appendix E

Table (3-9) ANOVA Test Difference for Environmental Impacts According to Demographic variables

Variables		Mean	df	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F	Sig
Gender	Male	35.43	1			4.562	.351
	Female	36.84					
Marital status	Single	16	2 1541	.433 400.66	.217 .260	.834	.436
	Married	15.77					
	Others	16.38					
Occupation	Government sector	15.34	4 1539	1.909 397.062	.477 .258	1.853	.118
	Private sector	16.12					
	Self-Employed	16.15					
	Unemployed	15.62					
	others	13.00					
Governorate	Cairo	16.06	2 1541	1.293 397.578	.646 .258	2.504	.083
	Giza	16.17					
	Alex	15.49					

Abstract

This study investigates the complex impacts of hosting refugees in Egypt across economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions. A mixed-methods approach is employed. In addition to secondary data, primary data is collected through an online survey of Egyptian citizens and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders. A Vector Autoregression (VAR) model is employed to analyze the dynamic relationship between refugee influx and key macroeconomic indicators: growth rate, inflation, and unemployment.

Findings reveal both challenges and benefits associated with hosting refugees. Economic challenges, according to the surveyed sample, include increased prices, mainly housing costs, and competition in the low-skilled labor market. However, refugees can also contribute to job creation. The VAR model reveals a dynamic relationship between refugee influx and macroeconomic variables. The impact of refugee influx on inflation (housing and utilities) exhibits a lagged effect. Initially insignificant, it becomes positive and significant in the later lags, suggesting that refugee settlement leads to increased demand over time. A short-term decrease in unemployment is observed, followed by a potential increase. This suggests a possible substitution effect as refugee labor participation intensifies competition in the job market as their integration in the economy progresses.

Socially and culturally, respondents perceived increased pressure on public services but also recognized potential benefits in terms of expanded social networks. Environmentally, resource strains were identified, though opportunities for attracting environmental aid emerged.

The study concludes by synthesizing findings, proposing policy recommendations, and outlining directions for future research.

Key Words: Refugees –Egypt-Impacts- Forced displacement-Sustainable integration

الملخص

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف التأثيرات المترتبة على استضافة اللاجئين في مصر، بما يشمل التأثيرات الاقتصادية، والاجتماعية، والثقافية، والبيئية. وصياغة توصيات لمساعدة صانعي السياسات لتعزيز الممارسات الحالية لدمج اللاجئين في مصر. تم استخدام منهج مختلط في هذه الدراسة، بالإضافة إلى البيانات الثانوية، تم جمع البيانات الأولية من خلال استبيان للمواطنين المصريين ومقابلات شبه منظمة مع أصحاب المصلحة الرئيسيين. وتم استخدام نموذج الانحدار الذاتي المتجه (VAR) لتحليل العلاقة الديناميكية بين تدفق اللاجئين والمؤشرات الاقتصادية الكلية الرئيسية: معدل النمو، والتضخم، ومعدل البطالة.

أظهرت النتائج وجود تأثيرات إيجابية وسلبية لاستضافة اللاجئين في مصر. من الناحية الاقتصادية، فوفقاً لرأي الباحثين، أدى تدفق اللاجئين إلى ارتفاع الأسعار وزيادة التضخم، خاصة في قطاع الإسكان، كما أدى للمنافسة مع العمالة المحلية خاصة في الوظائف منخفضة المهارات. من ناحية أخرى، ساهم اللاجئين، خاصة السوريون، في خلق فرص عمل جديدة من خلال اندماجهم واستثماراتهم في مصر. وأظهر نموذج VAR علاقة ديناميكية بين تدفق اللاجئين والمتغيرات الاقتصادية الكلية. وبالنسبة للتضخم يظهر تأثير تدفق اللاجئين على التضخم (الإسكان والمرافق) تأثيراً متأخراً، حيث يبدو غير معنوي في الفترة الأولى، إلا أنه يصبح إيجابياً ومعنوياً في الفترات اللاحقة، مما يشير إلى أن استقرار اللاجئين يؤدي إلى زيادة الطلب على الإسكان والمرافق. وفيما يتعلق بالبطالة أوضحت النتائج أن زيادة تدفق اللاجئين يؤدي إلى انخفاض البطالة في الفترة الأولى، يليه ارتفاع معدل البطالة في الفترات اللاحقة مما يشير إلى تأثير إحلال محلهم بين العمالة المحلية والأجنبية حيث تزيد مشاركة اللاجئين في سوق العمل من المنافسة مع العمالة المحلية مع زيادة اندماجهم في الاقتصاد.

أما من الجانب الاجتماعي والثقافي، فوفقاً لرأي الباحثين، يؤدي زيادة تدفق اللاجئين إلى زيادة الضغط على الخدمات العامة، بينما على الجانب الإيجابي يساهم اللاجئون في زيادة الشبكات الاجتماعية في المجتمع المصري. ومن الجانب البيئي، يتسبب تدفق اللاجئين في الضغط على الموارد الطبيعية وزيادة انتشار الأمراض، بينما يمكن أن يساهم اللاجئون في جذب الاستثمارات والمساعدات الدولية لمشاريع بيئية.

جاءت الخاتمة بنتائج الدراسة وتقديم توصيات لمساعدة صانعي السياسات لمعالجة التأثيرات السلبية وتعزيز الاندماج الإيجابي للاجئين في مصر، وأخيراً توصيات لأبحاث مستقبلية.

الكلمات الدالة: اللاجئون - مصر - التأثيرات - النازحون - الاندماج المستدام

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م	عنوان السلسلة	التاريخ	الباحث الرئيسي	الباحثون المشاركون
1	دراسة الهيكل الإقليمي للعمالة في القطاع العام في جمهورية مصر العربية	ديسمبر 1977	د. محمد حسن فحج النور	
2				
3	الدراسات التفصيلية لمقومات التنمية الإقليمية بمنطقة جنوب مصر	أبريل 1978		
4	دراسة تحليلية لمقومات التنمية الإقليمية بمنطقة جنوب مصر	يوليو 1978		
5	دراسة اقتصادية فنية لأفاق صناعة الأسمدة والتنمية الزراعية في جمهورية مصر العربية حتى عام 1985	أبريل 1978		
6	التغذية والتنمية الزراعية في البلاد العربية	أكتوبر 1978		
7	تطوير التجارة وميزان المدفوعات ومشكلة تفاقم العجز الخارجي وسلبات مواجهته (1970/69 - 1975)	أكتوبر 1978	د. الفونس عزيز	د. مزي ذكي، د. عبد القادر حمزة وآخرون
8	Improving the position of third world countries in the international cotton economy,	يونيو 1979		
9	دراسة تحليلية لتفسير التضخم في مصر (1970-1976)	أغسطس 1979	د. مزي ذكي	.....
10	حوار حول مصر في مواجهة القرن الحادي والعشرون	فبراير 1980	د. على نصار	.....
11	تطوير أساليب وضع الخطط الخمسية باستخدام نماذج البرمجة الرياضية في جمهورية مصر العربية	مارس 1980	د. محرم الحداد	.....
12	دراسة تحليلية للنظام الضريبي في مصر (1970-1978)	مارس 1980	أ. عبد اللطيف حافظ،	د. أحمد الشرقاوي وآخرون
13	تقييم سياسات التجارة الخارجية والنقد الأجنبي وسبل ترشيدها	يوليو 1980	د. فونس عزيز	د. صقر أحمد صقر وآخرون

14	التنمية الزراعية في مصر ماضيها وحاضرها (ثلاثة أجزاء)	يوليو 1980	د. مورييس مكرم الله	د. سعد علام وآخرون
15	A study on Development of Egyptian National fleet/	June 1985	.....	.....
16	الإنفاق العام والاستقرار الاقتصادي في مصر 1970 - 1979	ابريل 1981	د. رمزي ذكي	.....
17	الأبعاد الرئيسية لتطوير وتنمية القرى المصرية	يونيو 1981	أ. لبيب زمزم	د. سليمان حزين وآخرون
18	الصناعات الصغيرة والتنمية الصناعية التطبيق على صناعة الغزل والنسيج في مصر	يوليو 1981	د. ممدوح فهمي الشرقاوي	د. رأفت شفيق، د. ثروت محمد علي وآخرون
19	ترشيد الإدارة الاقتصادية للتجارة الخارجية والنقدية الأجنبية	ديسمبر 1981	د. فونس عزيز	د. سيد دحية وآخرون
20	الصناعات التحويلية في المصري. (ثلاثة أجزاء)	أبريل 1982	د. محمد عبد الفتاح منجي	د. ثروت محمد علي، د. راجية عابدين خير الله وآخرون
21	التنمية الزراعية في مصر (جزئين)	سبتمبر 1982	د. مورييس مكرم الله	د. عبد القادر دياب، د. أحمد عبد الوهاب برانية وآخرون
22	مشاكل إنتاج اللحوم والسياسات المقترحة للتغلب عليها	أكتوبر 1983	د. محمد عبد الفتاح منجي	د. سعد علام، د. عبد القادر دياب وآخرين
23	دور القطاع الخاص في التنمية	نوفمبر 1983	د. محمد عبد الفتاح منجي	د. فوزي رياض، د. ممدوح فهمي الشرقاوي واخرين
24	تطوير معدلات الاستهلاك من السلع الغذائية وأثارها على السياسات الزراعية في مصر	مارس 1985	د. سعد طه علام	د. عبد القادر دياب، د. عبد العزيز إبراهيم
25	البحيرات الشمالية بين الاستغلال النباتي والاستغلال السمكي	أكتوبر 1985	أ.د. احمد عبد الوهاب برانيه	أ.د. بركات أحمد الفراء، أ.د. عبد العزيز إبراهيم
26	تقييم الاتفاقية التوسع التجاري والتعاون الاقتصادي بين مصر والهند ويوغوسلافيا	أكتوبر 1985	د. أحمد عبد العزيز الشرقاوي	د. محمود عبد الحي صلاح، د. محمد قاسم عبد الحي وآخرون

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27	سياسات وإمكانيات تخطيط الصادرات من السلع الزراعية	نوفمبر 1985	د. سعد طه علام	د. عبد القادر دياب، د. محمد نصر فريد وآخرون
28	الإنفاق المستقبلية في صناعة الغزل والنسيج في مصر	نوفمبر 1985	د. فوزى رياض فهمى	د. محمد عبد المجيد الخلو، د. مصطفى أحمد مصطفى وآخرون
29	دراسة تمهيدية لاستكشاف آفاق الاستثمار الصناعي في إطار التكامل بين مصر والسودان	نوفمبر 1985	د. محمد عبد الفتاح منجي	د. فتحي الحسيني خليل، د. رأفت شفيق وآخرون
30	دراسة تحليلية عن تطوير الاستثمار في ج.م.ع مع الإشارة للطاقة الاستيعابية للاقتصاد القومي	ديسمبر 1985	د. السيد عبد العزیز دحية	.....
31	دور المؤسسات الوطنية في تنمية الأساليب الفنية للإنتاج في مصر (جزئين)	ديسمبر 1985	د. الفونس عزيز قدیس	.....
32	حدود وإمكانات مساهمة ضريبية على الدخل الزراعي في مواجهة مشكلة العجز في الموازنة العامة للدولة وإصلاح هيكل توزيع الدخل القومي	يوليو 1986	د. رجاء عبد الرسول حسن	.....
33	التفاوتات الإقليمية للنمو الاقتصادي والاجتماعي وطرق قياسها في جمهورية مصر العربية	يوليو 1986	د. علا سليمان الحكيم	.....
34	مدى إمكانية تحقيق اكتفاء ذاتي من القمح	يوليو 1986	د. رجاء عبد الرسول حسن	.....
35	Integrated Methodology for Energy planning in Egypt.	سبتمبر 1986	د. عماد الشرقاوي امین	د. راجيه عابدين
36	الملامح الرئيسية للطلب على تملك الأراضي الزراعية الجديدة والسياسات المتصلة باستصلاحها واستزراعها	نوفمبر 1986		.....
37	دراسة بعنوان مشكلات صناعة الألبان في مصر	مارس 1988	د. هدى محمد صالح	.....
38	دراسة بعنوان آفاق الاستثمارات العربية ودورها في خطط التنمية المصرية	مارس 1988	د. مصطفى أحمد مصطفى	د. مجدي محمد خليفة، د. حامد إبراهيم وآخرون
39	تقدير الإيجار الاقتصادي للأراضي الزراعية لزراعة المحاصيل الزراعية الحقلية على المستوى	مارس 1988	د. احمد حسن ابراهيم	.....

			الإقليمي لجمهورية مصر العربية عامي 1985/80	
40	السياسات التسويقية لبعض السلع الزراعية وآثارها الاقتصادية	يونيو 1988	د. سعد طه علام	د. بركات الفراء، د. هدى محمد صالح وآخرون
41	بحث الاستزراع السمكي في مصر ومحددات تنميته	أكتوبر 1988	د. على ابراهيم عرايبي	
42	نظم توزيع الغذاء في مصر بين الترشيح والإلغاء	أكتوبر 1988	د. محمد سمير مصطفى	
43	دور الصناعات الصغيرة في التنمية دراسة استطلاعية لدورها الاستيعاب العمالي	أكتوبر 1988	د. حسام محمد مندور	د. محمد عبد المجيد الخلوي، د. حسين طه الخبير وآخرون
44	دراسة تحليلية لبعض المؤشرات المالية للقطاع العام الصناعي التابع لوزارة الصناعة	أكتوبر 1988	د. ثروت محمد على	
45	الجوانب التكاملية وتحليل القطاع الزراعي في خطط التنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية	فبراير 1989	د. سيد حسين احمد	
46	إمكانيات تطوير الضرائب العقارية لزيادة مساهمتها في الإيرادات العامة للدولة في مصر	فبراير 1989	د. احمد حسن ابراهيم	
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138	تقويم التعليم الصحي الفني في مصر	يناير 2001	د. نادرة وهدان	د. وفيق أشرف حسونة، د. عزة الفندري وآخرون
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150	المشاركة الشعبية ودورها في تعاضم أهداف خطط التنمية المعاصرة المحلية الريفية والحضرية	ابريل 2002	د. وفاء احمد عبد الله	د. نادرة عبد الحليم وهدان، د. عزة الفندري وآخرون
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157	موقف مصر في التجمعات الإقليمية	يوليو 2002	د. سلوى مرسي محمد فهمي	د. مجدي محمد خليفة وآخرون
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160	تطبيق الشبكات العصبية في قطاع الزراعة	يوليو 2002	د. محمد محمد الكفراوي	د. امانى عمر زكي، د. عبد القادر حمزة وآخرون
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169	تقييم وتحسين جودة أداء بعض الخدمات العامة لقطاعي التعليم والصحة باستخدام شبكات الأعمال	يوليو 2003	د. عبد القادر حمزه د. أماني عمر، د. ماجدة إبراهيم وآخرون
170	دراسة الأسواق الخارجية وسبل النفاذ إليها	يوليو 2003	د. فادية عبد السلام د. مصطفى أحمد مصطفى، د. اجلال راتب وآخرون
171	أولويات الاستثمار في قطاع الزراعة	يوليو 2003	د. هدي صالح النمر أحمد عبد الوهاب برانية، د. سيد حسين
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173	قضية التشغيل والبطالة على المستوى العالمي والقومي والمحلي	يوليو 2003	د. عزيزة على عبد الرازق د. اجلال راتب، د. محرم الحداد وآخرون

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175	بناء قواعد التقدم التكنولوجي في الصناعة المصرية من منظور مداخل التنافسية والتشغيل والتركيب القطاعي	يوليو 2004	د. محرم الحداد	د. فتحية زغلول، د. إيمان الشربيني وآخرون
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177	تحسين الجودة الشاملة لبعض مجالات القطاع الصحي	يوليو 2004	د. عبد القادر حمزه	د. أماني عمر، د. محمد الكفراوي وآخرون
178	مخاطر الأسواق الدولية للسلع الغذائية للسلع الغذائية الاستراتيجية وإمكانيات وسياسات وأدوات مواجهتها	يوليو 2004	د. عبد القادر دياب	د. ممدوح الشرقاوي، د. سيد حسين وآخرون
179	إمكانيات وأثار قيام منطقة حرة بين مصر والولايات المتحدة الأمريكية والمناطق الصناعية المؤهلة (ودروس مستفادة للاقتصاد المصري)	يوليو 2004	د. فادية عبد السلام	د. اجلال راتب العقيلي، د. سلوى محمد مرسي وآخرون
180	نحو هواء نظيف لمدينة عملاقة	يوليو 2004	د. محمد سمير مصطفى	د. السيد محمد الكيلاني، د. عبد الحميد القصاص وآخرون
181	تحديد الاحتياجات بقاعات الصرف - التعليم ما قبل الجامعي - التعليم العالي (عدد خاص)	يوليو 2004	د. زينات محمد طبالة	د. لطف الله إمام صالح، د. عزة عمر الفندري
182	تحديد الاحتياجات بقطاعي الصرف الصحي والطرق والكباري لمواجهة العشوائيات (عدد خاص)	يوليو 2004	د. محرم الحداد	د. نفيسة أبو السعود، د. نعيمة رمضان وآخرون
183	خصائص ومتغيرات السوق المصري _ دراسة تحليلية لبعض الأسواق المصرية الجزء الأول " الإطار النظري والتحليلي "	يناير 2005	د. محرم الحداد	د. حسام مندور د. فادية عبد السلام وآخرون
184	خصائص ومتغيرات السوق المصري (دراسة تحليلية لبعض الأسواق المصرية) الجزء الثاني: الإطار التطبيقي " سوق الخدمات التعليمية - سوق الخدمات السياحة - سوق البرمجيات"	يناير 2005	د. محرم الحداد	د. حسام المندور د. فادية عبد السلام وآخرون

185	خصائص ومتغيرات السوق المصري (دراسة تحليلية لبعض الأسواق المصرية الجزء الثالث: الإطار التطبيقي " يوق الأدوية – سوق السلع الغذائية والزراعية – سوق حديد التسليح والأسمنت"	يناير 2005	د. محرم الحداد	.....
186	الملكية الفكرية والتنمية في مصر	أغسطس 2005	د. لطف الله امام صالح	.....
187	تقدير الطلب على العمالة – قوة العمل – البطالة في ظل سيناريوهات بديلة	يونية 2006	د. عبد الحميد سامي القصاص	د. ماجدة إبراهيم سيد د. زينات طبالة وآخرون
188	الحاسبات الإقليمية كمدخل للامركزية المالية	يونية 2006	د. علا سليمان الحكيم	د. السيد محمد الكيلاني د. فريد أحمد عبد العال وآخرون
189	المعاشات والتأمينات في جمهورية مصر العربية (الواقع وإمكانات التطوير)	يونيه 2006	د. محمود عبد الحى	د. زينات طبالة د. سمير رمضان وآخرون
190	بعض القضايا المتصلة بالصادرات (دراسة حالة الصناعات الكيماوية)	يونيه 2006	د. فاديه محمد عبد السلام	د. اجلال راتب العقيلي د. مصطفى أحمد مصطفى وآخرون
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193	نحو تطبيق نظام الإدارة البيئية (الأيزو 14000) " على معهد التخطيط القومي" كنموذج لمؤسسة بحثية حكومية	يونية 2006	د. نفيسة ابو السعود	د. أحمد حسام الدين نجاتي، د. زينب محمد نبيل
194	تكاليف تحقيق أهداف الألفية الثالثة بمصر	يونية 2006	د. محرم الحداد	د. حسام مندور د. حنان رجائي وآخرون
195	السوق المصرية للغزل	يونية 2006	د. عبد القادر دياب	د. عبد القادر حمزة د. محمد الكفراوي وآخرون
196	المعايير البيئية والقدرة التنافسية للصادرات المصرية	أغسطس 2007	د. سلوى مرسي محمد فهمي	د. سمير مصطفى د. فادية عبد السلام وآخرون

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198	تقييم موقف مصر في بعض الاتفاقيات الثنائية	أغسطس 2007	د. اجلال راتب	د. نجلاء علام د. نبيل الشيمي وآخرون
199	التضخم في مصر بحث في أسباب التضخم، وتقييم مؤشرات، وجدوى استهدافه مع أسلوب مقترح باتجاهاته	أغسطس 2007	د. إبراهيم العيسوي	د. سيد عبد العزيز دحية د. سهير أبو العنين وآخرون
200	سبل تنمية مصادر الإنتاج الحيواني في ضوء الآثار الناجمة عن مرض أنفلونزا الطيور في مصر	أغسطس 2007	د. صادق رياض ابو العطا	د. هدي النمر د. محمد مرعي وآخرون
201	مستقبل التنمية في محافظات الحدود (مع التطبيق على سيناء)	أغسطس 2007	د. فريد احمد عبد العال	د. السيد محمد الكيلاني د. علا سليمان الحكيم وآخرون
202	سياسات إدارة الطاقة في مصر في ظل المتغيرات المحلية والإقليمية والعالمية	أغسطس 2007	د. راجيه عابدين خير الله	د. فتحية زغلول د. نجوان سعد الدين وآخرون
203	جدوى إعادة هيكلة قطاع التأمين دراسة تحليلية ميدانية	أكتوبر 2007	د. محرم الحداد	د. حسام مندور د. إيمان أحمد الشربيني وآخرون
204	حول تقدير الاحتياجات لأهم خدمات رعاية المسنين (بالتركيز على محافظة القاهرة)	أكتوبر 2007	د. عزة عمر الفندري	د. وفاء أحمد عبد الله د. نادرة وهدان وآخرون
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