



## FOR REFUGEES, BY REFUGEES

Egypt is home to hundreds of thousands of refugees, with more arriving each day. Most have fled from unrest and conflicts in countries including Syria, Yemen, Sudan and Eritrea. A growing number of these new arrivals are children who are alone, without their families.

Through our partner St. Andrew's Refugee Services--known as StARS--CWS provides a range of support for refugees in Cairo and their communities. We focus on helping them address both immediate and longer-term needs. Programs include educational, legal, medical, vocational and counseling services. For people with emergency needs, we provide help such as rent assistance and food boxes. This work reaches tens of thousands of people annually, with many more waiting.

The staff and leadership at StARS are unique among refugee service organizations because most are refugees. When a client sits down with a counselor, case manager, legal advisor or teacher, they are most likely talking to a fellow refugee. The staff can understand their client's needs and perspectives better than almost anyone else.

We are proud to stand with our refugee neighbors in Cairo as they start the next chapter in their lives.



The COVID-19 pandemic took an especially high toll on Cairo's refugee communities. With CWS support, StARS adapted to respond. For example, the mental health team expanded to meet a surge of mental health emergencies. The psychosocial team scaled up the distribution of food and hygiene boxes; tens of thousands went out in 2020. Many clients received cash grants that they could use to pay rent or meet basic needs. Across programs, StARS also focused on ensuring that refugee communities had critical information about preventing the pandemic's spread.