Refugee Youth Staff: learning from unaccompanied and separated refugee children

Chris Eades, Executive Director
St Andrew’s Refugee Services, Cairo
• More than 4,000 unaccompanied and separated refugee children in Egypt, facing severe protection concerns

• StARS employs over 70 refugee youth staff, providing extensive support and development opportunities
Youth staff member

- Graduate of StARS programs
- Case management when required
- Access to psychologist
- Dedicated English and IT classes
- Access to professional development courses
- Medical consultations and advice
- Legal consultations and advice
- Group and recreational activities
- Youth Development Officer
- Structured supervision
- Career progression

Support adjusts as youth staff member progresses within StARS
Youth Advisory Board
Child Safeguarding Board
Naimo Center
CP trainings and workshops run by youth
Direct assistance project
Young mother's project
Creche
Outreach network for newly arrived UASC
Skilled staff in education, psychosocial, outreach and legal programs
Presence in communities
Community of hope
Youth staff
Youth employment as a long-term strategy for child protection

- Supportive working environment
- Development of professional skills
- Secure income
Why employ refugee youth?

• Meaningful employment builds self-reliance and enables integration
• Through employment, refugee youth build skills they may have missed through disrupted education
• Enabling young people to work gives them purpose and security
• Employment can prevent lost generations of refugee youth
• Refugee youth know the risks faced, and have ideas on how best to respond
• Linguistic and culturally sensitive information networks
• Responses created, staffed, and led by refugee youth