UNHCR EGYPT
SUDAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE
10 October 2023

Ameera, an Egyptian trainer, carries out sewing training for 26 Sudanese refugees and host community members at the Wadi Karkar Community Centre in Aswan. She teaches them how to use sewing machines and create clothes to be sold in the local market. UNHCR provided local organizations in southern Egypt with sewing machines with the aim of strengthening livelihood opportunities for refugees and locals. ©UNHCR/Sebastian Herwig

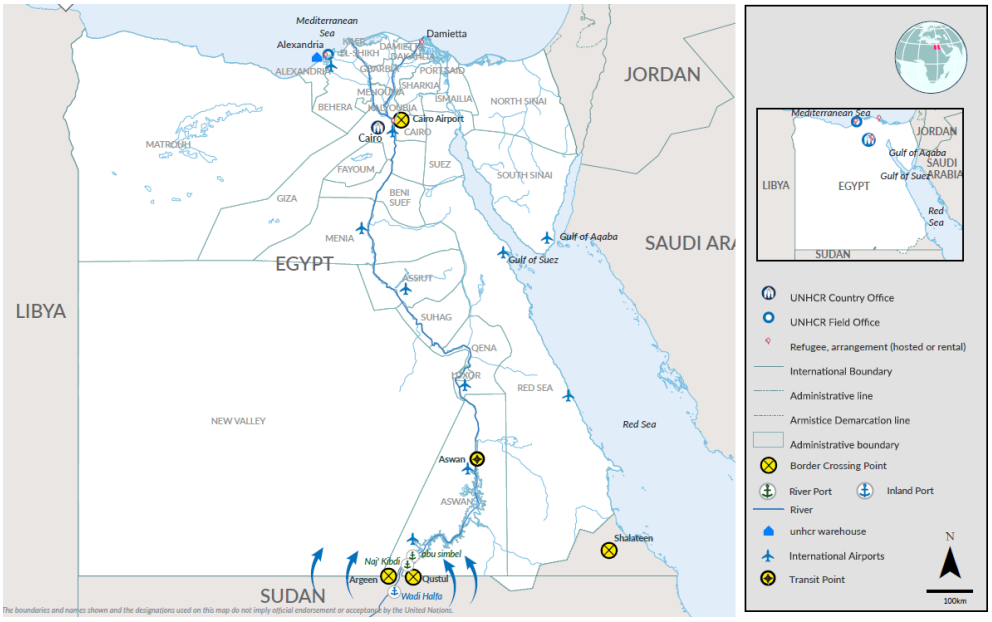
>310,000

Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt

Since 15 April according to the latest information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to UNHCR on 11 September

31% funded

of the $28.2 million required by UNHCR for the Sudan emergency response in Egypt.



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS - HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR Egypt continues to enhance staffing capacity and infrastructure to respond to critical protection needs. On 1 October, a cohort of 14 new registration staff members were onboarded. In tandem with their arrival, comprehensive capacity-building sessions were conducted to ensure they are well equipped to carry out their roles, including integrity, and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Moreover, eight additional interview rooms were finalized at the 6th of October Registration Centre. Construction has also begun on a new permanent shaded area, an additional Rubb hall to act as a waiting area, and an interview space. This is an important step towards enhancing accessibility and comfort for refugees and asylum-seekers.

- UNHCR in Egypt received a mission from the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), with staff from Washington and Amman joining their colleagues from Cairo in the first week of October. The delegation visited the UNHCR registration centre on the outskirts of Cairo and traveled to Aswan to observe on-the-ground work in the southern part of the country. In Aswan, the PRM delegation participated in a focus group where several refugees explained their main needs and challenges, with a particular emphasis on education, housing, and livelihoods. The mission also met with local leaders and implementing partners like the Egyptian Red Crescent and Caritas.

Protection

UNHCR Egypt continued its efforts to strengthen the Alternative Care Programme to accommodate the influx of newly arrived children at risk, including unaccompanied children. As part of this effort, UNHCR facilitated a training session for 14 caregivers and host families at Caritas premises on 5 October. The session aimed to educate the families on child protection principles, the roles, and responsibilities of caregivers towards children at risk under their care, and positive parenting techniques.

Registration

As of 6 October, UNHCR Egypt had provided pre-registration appointments to 100,175 newly arrived people from Sudan (48,511 households), of whom 66,997 individuals (32,639 households) have already been registered. The majority are Sudanese nationals (89%), while the other main nationalities registered are South Sudanese (5%), and Eritrean (4%). Most Sudanese (88%) originate from Khartoum, while more than 4% are from the Darfur region. In terms of documentation, 51% of registered heads of household are in possession of a passport. Just in September, UNHCR Egypt newly registered 23,859 refugees and asylum seekers – a 500 % increase compared to pre-crises and a 10% increase compared to the month of August. Of this number, 19,869 persons were new arrivals from Sudan.

Cash assistance

UNHCR is accelerating the cash assistance delivery to new arrivals from Sudan. Since the onset of the Sudan conflict, UNHCR has identified 50,237 people as eligible for one-off emergency cash assistance. 84% of them have already been assisted (41,759 individuals).

UNHCR provides emergency cash assistance to newly arrived Sudanese who fled to Egypt after the conflict in Sudan. The assistance is provided once off to families who have registered with UNHCR, and to those who have not registered to support them with their most pressing needs. UNHCR conducts rapid needs assessments to inform the eligibility for emergency assistance for unregistered Sudanese individuals.

Mustafa, a 32-year-old Sudanese with a disability in one of his legs, sought safety in Egypt after fleeing violence in his country. UNHCR provided him with protection and registration services in Cairo. ©UNHCR/Jaime Gimenez

Education

The UNHCR Representative in Egypt met Vodafone's Chief External & Corporate Affairs Officer, following a two-day visit to an Instant Network School (INS) in Cairo. The Representative used the opportunity to discuss further cooperation with Vodafone and to advocate for more support to refugees in Egypt. For the past 3 years, UNHCR has been working with the Egypt Ministry of Education and the Vodafone Foundation to deliver high quality education to all learners in public schools. One of UNHCR's key projects to address the gap in digital education improvement in schools is the INS project. It targets 48 public schools hosting refugee children, mainly in the North Coast cities of Alexandria and Damietta.

Furthermore, as part of the strategy to facilitate the inclusion into education of newly arrived refugee students from Sudan, UNHCR, through its partner Save the Children, delivered 300 backpacks and other educational supplies to Sudanese students in three community schools located in the governorate of Aswan. In the coming days, an additional 100 backpacks and more items will be distributed to students attending other schools in the region.

Core relief items

Items distributed to newly arrived individuals:

680,200
Bottles of water

150,000
hygiene kits

80,000
Sanitary items

UNHCR has installed three Rubb halls at the border crossings between Egypt and Sudan, and a fourth in the registration centre in Cairo. The Rubb halls have facilitated the scale-up of the response and provided shaded rest areas for asylum-seekers. In addition, UNHCR has delivered 1,000 blankets, 50 mattresses, 1,000 floor mats, nine commercial fridges, 15 family tents, 10 tablets, four freezers, four logistic trolleys, 10 laptops, 20 smartphones, 30 fire extinguishers, 250 waiting benches, one sound system, one multi-function printer, one office fridge, 40 fans, 50 office chairs, and 20 tables to UNHCR's partner, the Egyptian Red Crescent.

Financial information

UNHCR is grateful for the crucial and generous contributions from its donors, who have provided both earmarked and unearmarked funding to support its operations in Egypt, including in response to the Sudan situation.

UNHCR Egypt is also grateful for the crucial support of private donors, including those from Australia, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

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