



Egypt

Sudan Emergency Response Update

03 April 2024

Ahmed, a 22-year-old Sudanese refugee in Cairo, studies online courses in web development and graphic design with UNHCR's support. He aims to use these skills to find work and contribute to the well-being of his family and his host country. ©UNHCR/Jaime Giménez



500,000
Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt

from 15 April 2023 on — latest figure from the Government of Egypt.

6% funded

of the \$54.7 million required by UNHCR for the Sudan emergency response in Egypt in 2024.



Increase in refugees to Egypt amid Sudan crisis

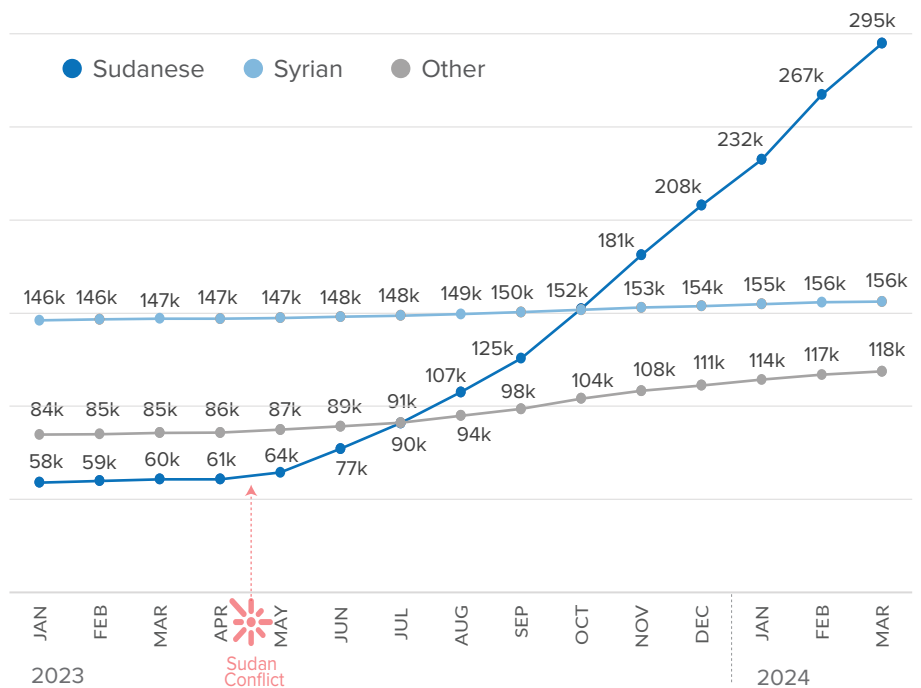
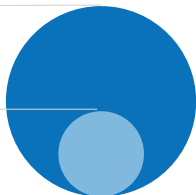
The number of **Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers** registered with UNHCR Egypt almost **quintupled** between the onset of the Sudan conflict and the end of March 2024.



385%
Sudanese Increase



94%
Overall Increase



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of Sudanese registered with UNHCR in Egypt increased by 2% over the past week in a stark indication of the rising numbers. Although UNHCR Egypt continues to register at decreased capacity during the holy month of Ramadan, a total of 6,598 refugees and asylum-seekers (a 4% increase compared to the previous week) were registered. Of them, some 5,800 were new arrivals from Sudan. It is worth noting that in previous years, the no-show rate during Ramadan was around 45%, but this year, the no-show rate during Ramadan is at around 17% for all registration services – showcasing the pivotal importance of UNHCR registration in the current context and the increased demand due to the Sudan crisis. Additionally, 12,600 individuals received registration appointments last week, totaling 460,000 since April 2023.
- In the context of the [UN Secretary-General's visit to Egypt](#), UNHCR in Egypt facilitated a meeting on 23 March with 15 Sudanese refugees to allow them to share their challenges and hopes in forced displacement. António Guterres, who called for a ceasefire in Sudan during Ramadan, heard first-hand from refugees of residency permit concerns and the ability to regularize their stay in Egypt; the impact of the current economic crisis on their ability to sustain themselves and meet basic needs; the few resettlement opportunities, and the lack of hope in the conflict resolving itself soon. The refugees also expressed gratitude to Egypt for providing them safety from war.

Protection

On 19 March, Egypt extended the grace period for 'unlawful foreign residents' to legitimize their residency by six months. The deadline, originally set to expire on 15 March, has been extended to 15 September to ease the pressures on asylum-seekers and refugees in particular who are unable to regularize their stay without UNHCR registration. In August 2023, Egypt had issued a decree requiring 'foreigners' to legitimize their residency, either for tourism or other purposes, with fee payment in hard currency. UNHCR has long advocated for leniency to allow asylum-seekers and refugees time to register with UNHCR, considering the significant registration backlogs resulting from increased pressures from rising figures of Sudanese arrivals.

Registration

As of 28 March, UNHCR Egypt had provided pre-registration appointments to 460,231 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, 219,172 individuals have already been registered (48%). UNHCR is working to increase its capacity to meet the increasing demand for registration. Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (93%), followed by South Sudanese (3%), and Eritrean (3%). Most are women (53%), children, and the elderly older persons manifesting conflict trauma, included families separated by displacement and high numbers of unaccompanied and separated children.

Infoline

Over the past week, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled a total of 8,176 inquiries, of which 3,516 new registration appointments (50.8%) were allocated to 9,173 individuals who had fled Sudan. The proportion of callers from Greater Cairo this week was 85%; 5.5% for Alexandria; 3.5% for Aswan; and 6% for other cities. Since the start of the conflict to date, 310,190 new arrivals from Sudan, comprising 116,637 cases, have received appointments via Infoline since the commencement of the crisis.



UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, and UNHCR Representative to Egypt, Hanan Hamdan, broke the Ramadan fast sharing an Iftar meal with 15 Sudanese refugees in Cairo on 23 March. ©UNHCR/Sebastian Herwig

Community-based protection

On 30 March, UNHCR joined community leaders from Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, and Syria as part of a community engagement ‘Iftar’ series during Ramadan. Many of the concerns raised by the refugees who attended the event related to the long wait times to access residency and regularization of stay.

Over the last week, refugee outreach workers provided information to some 3,103 refugees and asylum-seekers at UNHCR’s Reception Centre in Greater Cairo on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. 1,450 individuals were also provided with basic psychosocial support.

Key trends identified among the people approaching UNHCR Egypt include difficulty accessing medical care, safety concerns due to bullying, unmet basic needs including food and shelter insecurity and language barriers to accessing services.

Gender-based violence

Over the past week, UNHCR assisted 45 individuals at UNHCR’s Reception Centre in Greater Cairo. 19 cases were recognized as emergency cases and handled on the spot, while 36 were considered of normal priority and added to the screening list for further needs assessment.

Legal protection

During the reporting week, 89 cases were referred to legal partners for legal assistance. In addition, 244 cases received legal counseling through UNHCR and legal partners.


Cash assistance

The total number of Sudanese families assessed by UNHCR since the beginning of the crisis is now 27,227. Currently, 20,244 assessed newly arrived families, or 56,371 individuals, are on the waiting list, categorized as poor or extremely poor. The number of newly arrived Sudanese households who have received assistance is 3,602, or 15,774 individuals.

A total of 20,649 registered and unregistered households (56,202 individuals) have been identified as eligible for the one-off emergency cash assistance, out of whom 16,445 families (47,359 individuals) have successfully received their assistance.

On 21 March, UNHCR published its “Post-Distribution Monitoring Report of UNHCR’s Emergency Cash Assistance (ECA) to Sudanese New Arrivals in Egypt in 2023” report. Over a third of the respondents (37%) reported that ECA enabled them to cover all or most of their priority needs, while (36%) reported that it covered half of their needs. Most of the interviewed people (91%) reported that the cash assistance reduced the financial burden on their households, reduced their feelings of stress and improved their living conditions (91%). The five most cited spending categories were food (82%), rent (52%), utilities and bills (20%), health (19%) and transportation (10%).

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 Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

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