UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Egypt

Sudan Emergency Response Update

27 November 2024

After fleeing Sudan in 2023, Khalda joined the Rouh Initiative community center in Alexandria, where she trained in canvas bag making. Now, she works as a trainer at the center, fueled by a renewed sense of purpose and determination to rebuild her life. The Rouh Initiative is led by Nada Fadol, a Sudanese refugee who won the 2024 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award for the MENA region. ©UNHCR/Christina Rizk

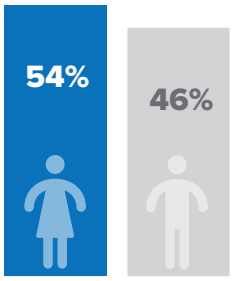
1.2 million
Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt
from 15 April 2023 to 25 September 2024, according to the Government of Egypt.

55% funded
of the $57.7 million required by UNHCR for the Sudan emergency response in Egypt in 2024.

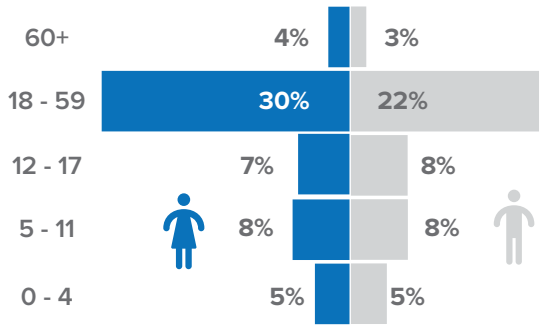
Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt

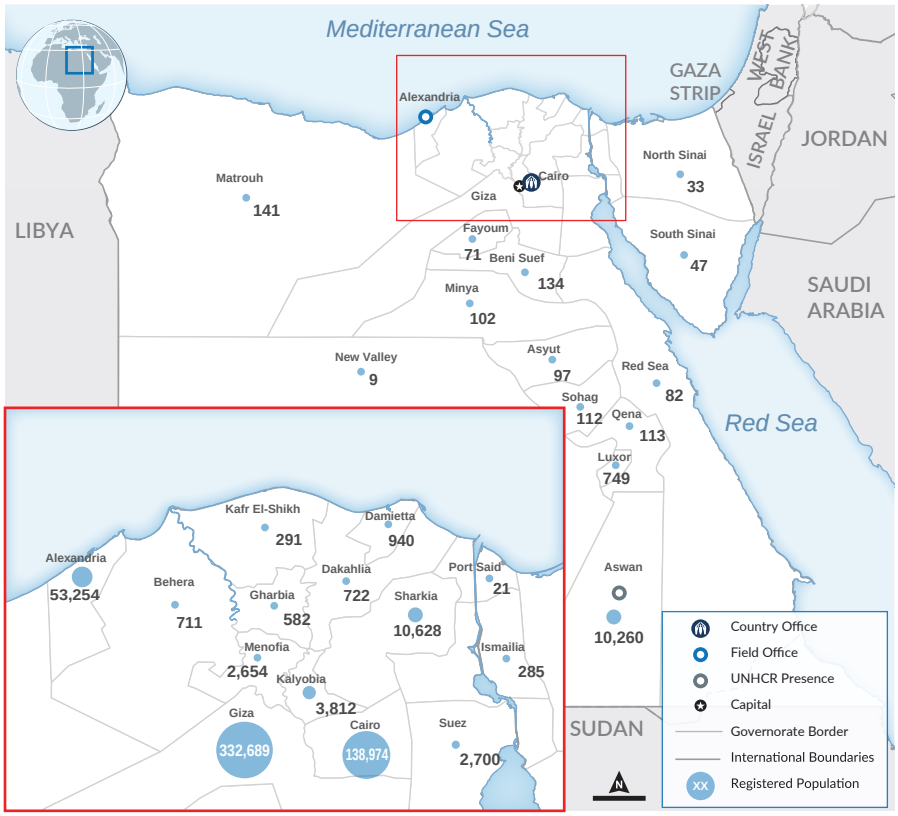
565,000

Sudanese registered with UNHCR Egypt as of 26 November 2024, including those who arrived before the onset of the crisis in April 2023.



Age and gender breakdown





Source: UNHCR registration data / Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the UN

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- On 19 November, the House of Representatives approved the National Asylum Law following three days of deliberations.

- From 17 to 21 November, UNHCR Egypt supported the Africa Chapter of the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges (IARMJ) conference held in Sharm El Sheikh. The conference brought together judges and legal experts from 22 African countries to enhance regional dialogue and promote international and regional refugee law standards, discussing topics on refugee protection, solutions, mixed movements, trafficking, and asylum systems among others. The Government of Egypt actively participated in the event, reflecting its commitment to advancing the legal and institutional framework for refugee protection. UNHCR presented in an expert panel discussion on asylum systems including protection mechanisms, temporary protection and prima facie/group recognition.

- On 20 November, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Uzra Zeya, visited UNHCR's Reception Centre in 6th of October City, Greater Cairo. Accompanied by the UNHCR Representative, she learned about the refugee registration process and UNHCR's protection services. Earlier, on 18 November, UNHCR welcomed Tim Vistarini, Director of the Humanitarian Division of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, to the Reception Centre. His visit followed the recent release of a new Australian humanitarian policy, including a focus on the Middle East and North Africa and on inclusive protection of forcibly displaced people.

Protection

On 17 November, the UNHCR-led Protection Working Group (PWG) conducted a workshop on the strategic use of human rights mechanisms, co-facilitated by a representative from UNHCR's Department of International Protection, the Special Rapporteurs on Trafficking in Persons and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. Twenty-five PWG members attended the workshop. The session provided an in-depth introduction to key mechanisms, including the Special Procedures mandate, the Universal Periodic Review and the UN Treaty Bodies. It provided examples to help participants understand how these mechanisms operate, how to engage with them strategically and how to use them to address pressing protection challenges in Egypt.

Registration

As of 25 November, UNHCR Egypt provided registration appointments to 812,400 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. UNHCR has now fully registered 61% of them (495,600 individuals) for assistance and protection. Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (96%), followed by Eritrean (2%), and South Sudanese (2%). The great majority originate from Khartoum (84%). As of 21 November 2024, over 22,700 Sudanese individuals have scheduled registration appointments using the online tool – 84% in Cairo and 16% in Alexandria.

Child Protection

On 21 November, UNHCR marked World Children's Day with an event at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. It brought together 100 refugee, migrant, and Egyptian children for a day of inclusivity and cultural exchange. Co-organized with IOM, the event featured creative and educational activities. UNHCR's involvement emphasized the importance of collaboration to create inclusive opportunities. Alexandria currently hosts over 50,000 refugees and asylum-seekers who fled the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

On 13 November, UNHCR, in partnership with UNICEF and Plan International Egypt, held a workshop on addressing the needs of unaccompanied and separated children. The session brought together members of the Child Protection Sub-Working Group from Alexandria and the North Coast. Key topics included strategies for preventing and responding to family separation and improving inter-agency coordination.

On 12 November, the German and French Ambassadors to Egypt visited UNHCR's Reception Centre in Greater Cairo, which provides daily assistance to over 3,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly Sudanese. During their visit, the Ambassadors observed the refugee registration process and gained insight into UNHCR's protection activities. ©UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Community-based protection

Over the last two weeks, some 8,500 refugees and asylum-seekers attended information sessions at the UNHCR registration centre in Greater Cairo and were provided with details on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. During the same period, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 6,500 new arrivals, from which 53 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment.

On 13 November, UNHCR held a community meeting with 27 Sudanese women at the TdH Multi-Purpose Community Centre in Maadi, Cairo. The meeting focused on addressing concerns related to gender-based violence, child protection, legal and physical protection, and cash assistance. On the same day, UNHCR conducted a training session on preventing fraud and sexual exploitation and abuse for staff members of the Somali Association for Women and Children (SAFWAC). The training aimed to strengthen the skills of eight staff members from this refugee-led organization based in Cairo.

On 14 November, UNHCR introduced a communication tool for people with disabilities to its front-line staff at the 6th of October Reception Centre. Developed in collaboration with a group of refugees with communication disabilities, the tool aims to improve access to UNHCR's protection and assistance services. The tool is currently in its pilot phase, with a full rollout expected in the coming weeks.

Capacity-building

From 12 to 14 November, UNHCR held a workshop on international refugee law for 24 officers of the Egyptian Navy in Alexandria. The session also included an overview of the various services provided to refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt. During the event, the UNHCR team met with the Navy officer overseeing the training section, who noted positive feedback from attendees of UNHCR workshops in 2024 and expressed interest in expanding activities in 2025. So far in 2024, UNHCR has trained 300 officers through 13 sessions conducted across different sections of the Egyptian Ministry of Defence.

Legal and physical protection

During the reporting period, some 580 individuals received legal counselling through UNHCR and legal partners, including 280 Sudanese. Additionally, 210 cases were referred to UNHCR partner, the Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights, for legal aid, related to early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation. Of them, 145 were Sudanese.

Infoline

Last week, an average of 1,500 individuals per day fleeing the conflict in Sudan secured registration appointments through UNHCR Egypt's Infoline. Since the start of the crisis, a total of 551,500 individuals have scheduled appointments via the Infoline.

Education

So far in 2024, UNHCR partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has registered more than 78,700 refugee and asylum-seeker children for education cash grants in Egypt, including 49,700 Sudanese.

Cash assistance

As of 23 November, UNHCR has conducted vulnerability assessments for 122,600 newly arrived Sudanese individuals since the start of the crisis. In November, 32,200 of them were supported with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), while 72,400 individuals in highly vulnerable situations remain on the MPCA waiting list.

In Aswan, UNHCR Egypt has so far assessed 14,430 individuals for Emergency Cash Assistance (ECA), with 68% found eligible. Nationwide, 99,200 newly arrived individuals have been identified as eligible for one-time ECA, and 83% of them have successfully received assistance since the start of the crisis.

Funding information

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

Australian Aid
With funding from Austrian Development Cooperation
Belgium partner in development
In partnership with Canada
Education Cannot Wait – The global fund for education in emergencies
European Union
german humanitarian assistance – Deutsche Humanitäre Hilfe
Irish Aid – An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha – Department of Foreign Affairs
RDPP North Africa
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft – Confédération suisse – Confederazione Svizzera – Confederaziun svizra – Swiss Confederation
UKaid from the British people

UNHCR Egypt is also grateful for the crucial support of private donors, including those from Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Spain, and Sweden.

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