

Egypt

Sudan Emergency Response Update

29 January 2025

Heba, from Sudan, arrived at the UNHCR Reception Centre in Greater Cairo with her daughter to register as refugees. They fled the conflict in Khartoum, enduring a long and dangerous journey before finding safety in Egypt. Now, Heba is determined to rebuild their lives. She hopes to find a job and enrol her daughter in school to provide her with a stable future. ©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

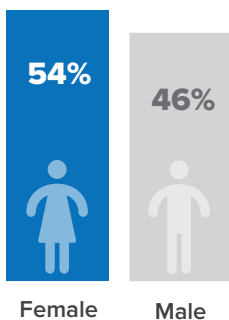
of the \$57.7 million required by UNHCR for the Sudan emergency response in Egypt in 2024.



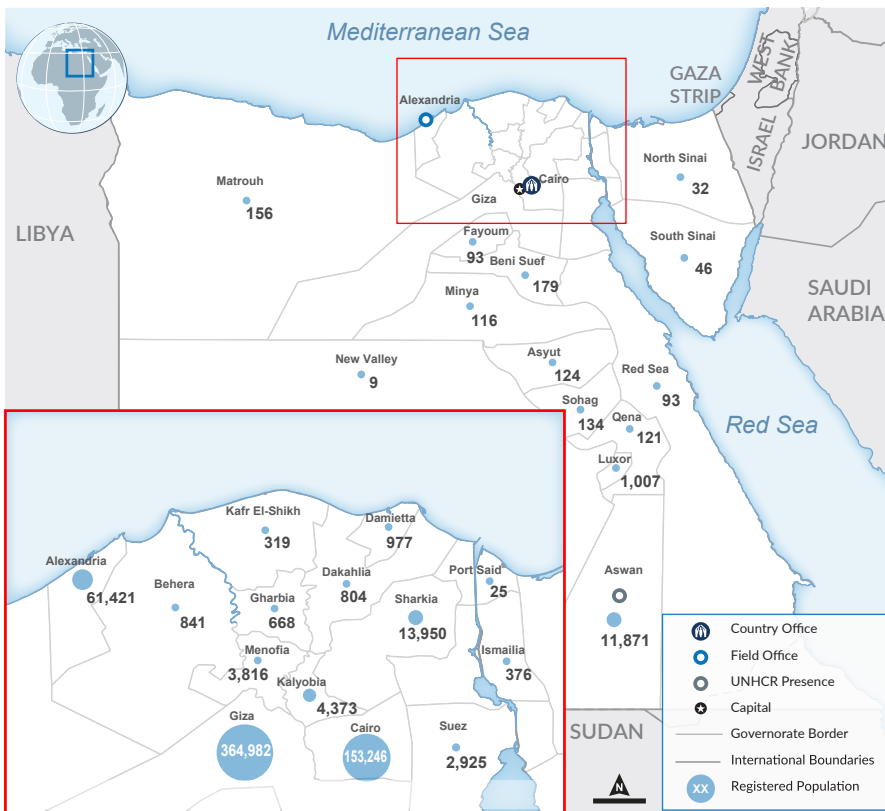
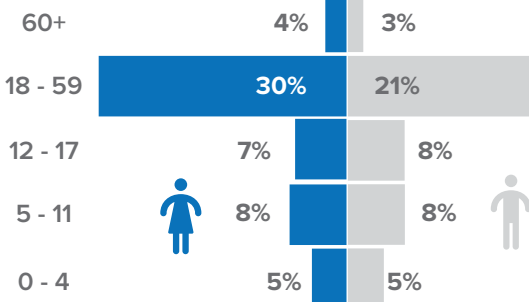
Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt

630,000

Sudanese registered with UNHCR Egypt as of 29 January 2025, 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 20 January, during a meeting at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the New Administrative Capital, UNHCR presented the key elements of the Transition Plan for a Government-led asylum system based on the recently adopted national asylum law. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Refugees and Migration, H.E. Ambassador Wael Badawi, and attended by officials from seven other key ministries, including Defense, Interior, Justice, and Social Solidarity. The UNHCR Representative to Egypt, Hanan Hamdan, advocated to the Government to work together on executive regulations and defining the transition plan to enhance Egypt's prospects of securing required international resources.
- On 14 January, the UNHCR Regional Director for East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes (EHAGL), Mamadou Dian Balde, [attended](#) a Khartoum Process High-level Symposium in Cairo. Hosted by the Government of Egypt and the European Union, the event focused on enhancing humanitarian responses with the nexus to development, and regional coordination for the Sudan Situation through stronger responsibility-sharing. During his intervention, the Regional Director urged all parties involved in the Sudan crisis to facilitate unimpeded humanitarian access, called for continued access to territory and asylum and emphasised the need for coherent and coordinated funding. Representatives of the Governments of Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Chad, Eritrea, Djibouti, Germany, Netherlands and Sweden made interventions during the conference.
- On 15 January, the UNHCR Regional Director for EHAGL and the UNHCR Representative to Egypt [met](#) with Egypt's Minister of Local Development, Manal Awad, in Cairo. The meeting focused on the importance of localization as an integral part of the Sudan Response. UNHCR presented a concept for a pilot project to the Minister, which includes institutional capacity development and economic empowerment initiatives. The Minister suggested that the project should focus on a neighborhood in Greater Cairo with a high concentration of Sudanese refugees. The Minister envisions the project to focus on providing Sudanese with livelihood skills and training.
- On 23 January, UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy [met](#) with Sudanese refugees and heard directly their journeys and stories of displacement at UNHCR's partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) premises in Cairo. The visit consisted of two focus group discussions, one with Sudanese teachers, and the other with Sudanese parents. The Foreign Secretary then visited a children's room to hear from Sudanese children about their lives in Egypt.

Protection

Registration

As of 29 January 2025, UNHCR Egypt provided registration appointments to 876,800 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, UNHCR has now registered 567,000 individuals for assistance and protection (65%). 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%). Over half (55%) are female and 41% are children.

Furthermore, as of 29 January, the total number of people registered with UNHCR Egypt reached 900,000. Sudanese nationals make up the majority at 70%, followed by Syrians (16%), South Sudanese (5%), and Eritreans (4%).

Infoline

In the past fortnight, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled 24,000 inquiries and booked registration appointments for an average of 685 people daily fleeing the Sudan conflict. Since the crisis began, a total of 595,000 individuals have scheduled appointments through the system.



Sumaya was one of the six refugee students from Sudan, Somalia and Syria who graduated at the German Hotel School in El Gouna after receiving scholarships funded by the Sawiris Foundation. Watch the full video [here](#). ©UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Prevention of Gender-Based Violence

In 2024, UNHCR Egypt provided one-off cash assistance to 1,669 GBV survivors through its Safety Package programme. According to the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report, this assistance helped most recipients mitigate GBV-related risks and enhance their physical protection. However, feedback from the majority of the 147 GBV survivors interviewed for the PDM underscored the need for additional support to maintain their safety and achieve self-reliance. Notably, 21% of respondents specifically requested more livelihood opportunities. In response, UNHCR will continue implementing the Safety Package in 2025, integrating survivors' feedback to improve the programme and better address their needs.

Community-Based Protection

Over the last two weeks, some 9,400 refugees and asylum-seekers, including new arrivals from Sudan, attended information sessions on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints at the UNHCR Reception Centre in Greater Cairo. During the same period, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 9,500 individuals, out of whom 90 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 300 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance.

On 20 January, UNHCR met with the grassroots initiative 'Empowering Refugee Women Breadwinners' at a community center in Giza. Led by 13 women from Sudan, South Sudan, and Eritrea, the initiative supports around 500 women from various nationalities across Greater Cairo. The meeting, organized in collaboration with TdH, resulted in an agreement to feature the initiative in the partner's communication channels. This collaboration will enable women to access reliable information and receive psychological support. The agreement also strengthens UNHCR's efforts to empower women-led community organizations by connecting them with service providers.


Education

UNHCR continued to follow up with the General Authority of Educational Buildings (GAEB) on the construction of 28 classrooms and 5 water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in public schools in Greater Cairo and Aswan. The GAEB is currently finalizing the construction and refurbishment work in these schools and the process is expected to be completed in the next weeks.


Cash Assistance

In January 2025, UNHCR supported more than 48,000 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA). Additionally, 112,000 Sudanese individuals in highly vulnerable situations remain on the MPCA waiting list.

From 19 to 21 January, UNHCR conducted a training in Cairo for 28 staff members of its new partner, Mindset. The training covered key topics including international refugee protection, integrity, anti-fraud measures, registration, and cash assistance. Mindset, a development consultancy specializing in research and technical solutions with expertise in data collection and analysis, has collaborated with various UNHCR operations since 2016. Starting February 2025, Mindset will carry out vulnerability assessments to determine the eligibility of refugees and asylum-seekers for UNHCR cash assistance programmes in Greater Cairo, Alexandria, Damietta, and Aswan.

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.



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

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