UNHCR EGYPT
SUDAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE
05 December 2023

Sudanese refugee women at an awareness-raising event organized by UNHCR and UNFPA to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Cairo. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

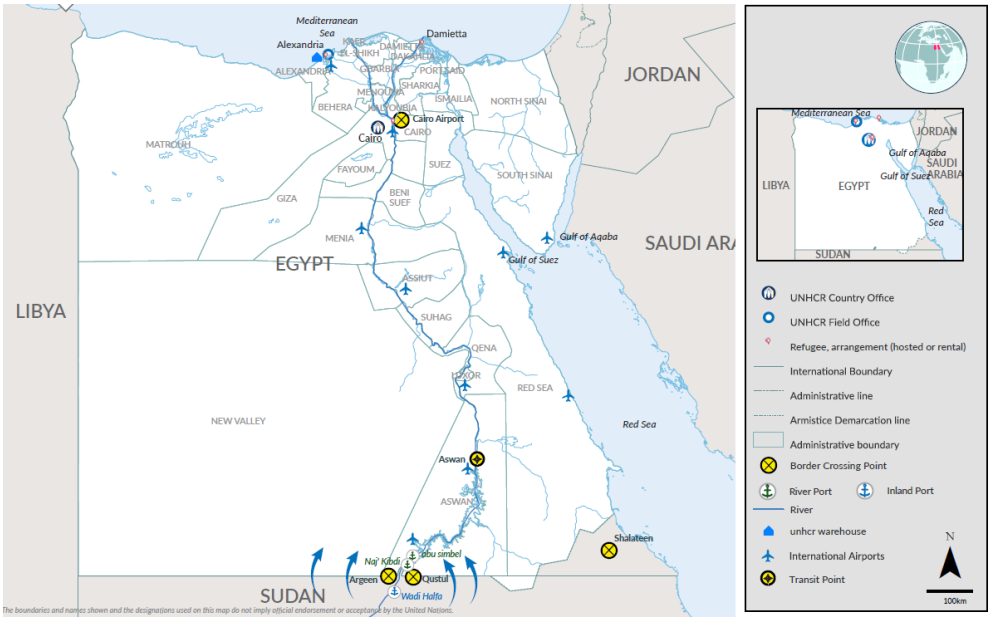
>370,000

Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt

Since 15 April according to the latest information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to UNHCR on 21 November

38% funded

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



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS - HIGHLIGHTS

- 370,000 Sudanese and 8,504 individuals of other nationalities, totaling some 378,504 people, have crossed into Egypt since the start of the Sudan crisis, according to the Government of Egypt. The total number of regular daily entries from Sudan for all nationalities increased at an average of 364 in November, compared to 338 in October. The daily number of Sudanese entries increased from 199 to 244 between October and November.
- UNHCR Egypt has so far registered 114,000 new arrivals from Sudan, 90 per cent of whom Sudanese.
- UNHCR commemorated the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence with different awareness-raising events across Egypt including one event attended by 200 refugee women, men and children in Cairo.
- UNHCR highlighted improvements to the digital inclusion of refugee children in Egypt through the Instant Network Schools (INS) joint programme with the Vodafone Foundation in London on 28 November.

Protection

Gender-based violence

To commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, UNHCR organized a community event attended by 200 refugee women, men and children in Cairo on 30 November. The activity, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and UNFPA, included GBV awareness-raising sessions, sports activities for children, yoga sessions for women, and a bazaar for refugee-women business owners to sell their products. In addition, a panel discussion with women who receive livelihood grants from UNHCR showcased the positive impact of investing in livelihood and other prevention activities. A similar event attended by 150 Sudanese refugees recently arrived in Egypt was organized in Aswan on 28 November. Meanwhile, UNHCR also participated in gender-based violence prevention events in Alexandria and Damietta.

Registration

November marked the highest number of monthly registration in 2023, with 35,714 refugees and asylum seekers registered, of which 81% are Sudanese. This is a 4% increase from October and a nearly 9-fold increase from the pre-Sudan Situation. Since the start of the conflict, UNHCR Egypt has provided pre-registration appointments to 167,301 new arrivals as of 1 December, of whom 113,890 individuals (68%), are fully registered.

Infoline

15,150 inquiries were handled by UNHCR's Infoline last week and registration appointments were given to 8,376 people who have fled Sudan. This brings the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the system to 86,947. Following the merging of the Cairo and Alexandria lines and the hiring of additional agents, the average number of calls per day has tripled compared to pre-crisis levels.

Community-based protection

UNHCR facilitated three full-day training sessions on disability inclusion and LGBTIQ+ awareness which was attended by 70 frontline UNHCR and partner staff. Among other topics, the training introduced UNHCR's rights-based approach to empowering people with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ terminology for Arabic speakers.

Cash assistance

UNHCR continues to deliver cash assistance to new arrivals from Sudan. In November, UNHCR Egypt provided emergency cash assistance to 2,566 people. Since the onset of the Sudan conflict, UNHCR has identified 45,984 people as eligible for one-off emergency cash assistance. 97% of them have already been assisted (44,325 individuals). UNHCR provides emergency cash assistance to newly arrived Sudanese who fled to Egypt after the conflict in Sudan. Cash assistance is provided once to families who have registered with UNHCR, and to those who are in Aswan and have not yet registered, to support with the most urgent needs. UNHCR conducts rapid needs assessments to inform the eligibility for emergency cash assistance for unregistered Sudanese individuals.

Education

Yousef, Sudanese, had fun drawing in the children's area at the UNHCR Reception Centre in Cairo while his mother waited to be assisted. ©UNHCR/Lamis Soliman

The UNHCR Representative to Egypt participated in a "Connected Education for All" event, jointly organized by UNHCR and the Vodafone Foundation in London on 28 November. The event focused on the growing education needs of refugees and the importance of innovative solutions and private sector support to address the challenges faced by forcibly displaced students in accessing quality education, especially in the digital era. The Representative highlighted improvements in digital inclusion for refugee children in Egypt, including Sudanese, achieved through the Instant Network Schools (INS) joint programme. Since 2021, INS has supported refugee and host community students and teachers in accessing quality digital education in 48 schools across three Egyptian governorates hosting high refugee populations in Cairo, Giza, and Damietta. Among the six countries where INS operates, Egypt is now the largest, with around 180,000 refugee and host community students. INS supports schools to have an enabling infrastructure, relevant content, digital competencies, and pedagogical support to ensure these tools can be fully utilized in the classroom. Additionally, with five of the schools being powered by solar energy, the UNHCR and the Vodafone Foundation are contributing to the fight against climate change in Egypt.

Livelihoods

UNHCR, through its implementing partners, has provided livelihood support to 4,973 forcibly displaced people in 2023 - 58% women - including 300 refugees and asylum-seekers newly arrived from Sudan. This support includes guidance on the Egyptian labour market and matching employers with potential employees while ensuring minimum standards are met. Moreover, UNHCR supports potential entrepreneurs with cash grants and mentoring to establish businesses. All these efforts help refugees to navigate a challenging labour market which is characterized by a significant informal sector and chronic unemployment.

In Alexandria, UNHCR and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina organized an entrepreneurship training facilitated by the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA) that was attended by 30 refugee and Egyptian women. Another training was also delivered to introduce women to digital marketing skills and photography.

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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