UNHCR EGYPT
SUDAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE
19 December 2023

Marwa, a Sudanese single mother, had to flee her country together with her two children after her daughter was injured. They arrived in Egypt and approached UNHCR for registration. ©UNHCR/Lamis Soliman

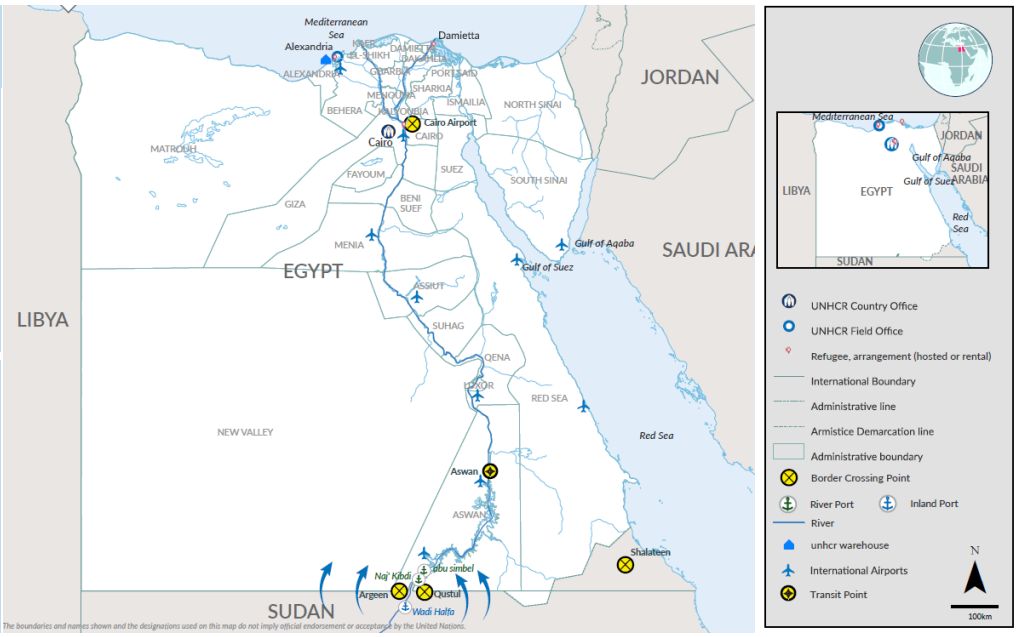
>370,000

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.
- UNHCR Egypt has so far fully registered 125,000 new arrivals from Sudan, 90 per cent of whom are Sudanese.
- Egypt participated in a high-level panel on the Sudan crisis and made pledges on health, education, conflict resolution, and climate change during the second Global Refugee Forum held in Geneva from 13-15 December.
- Some 60 Sudanese refugees, mostly women, participated in a theatre play and a music performance organized by UNHCR and its partner CARE in Aswan to raise awareness about gender-based violence.

Protection

The Government of Egypt participated in the second Global Refugee Forum that took place from 13-15 December and closed with over $2.2 billion in pledges to improve the lives of refugees and host countries. Egypt made pledges on health, education, conflict resolution, and climate during the forum. In addition, Dr Ahmed Ihab Gamaleldin, Ambassador of Egypt to the United Nations in Geneva, engaged in several events, including a high-level panel on Sudan. He emphasized Egypt's efforts since the onset of the crisis to facilitate the entry of Sudanese people into Egypt, ensuring they receive essential humanitarian, health, and livelihood services on an equitable basis with Egyptian citizens. He also highlighted the need to focus on resolving the underlying causes of the conflict and investing in fulfilling the developmental requirements of local communities, aiming to bolster resilience.

Registration

As of 15 December, UNHCR Egypt had provided pre-registration appointments to 192,158 newly arrived people from Sudan (89,778 households), of whom 125,663 (60,551 households), i.e., 65%, were already registered. Most of the registered population are Sudanese nationals (90%), while the other main nationalities registered are South Sudanese (4%), and Eritrean (3%).

Infoline

11,071 inquiries were handled by UNHCR's Infoline last week and registration appointments were given to 9,343 people who have fled Sudan. This brings the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the system to 105,784. 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

During the last week, refugee outreach workers provided support to some 5,480 new arrivals from Sudan at UNHCR's Reception Centre in Cairo on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. Furthermore, UNHCR partner PSTIC (Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo) provided counselling to 3,200 refugees and asylum-seekers and referred 24 cases for in-depth assessment.

Sudanese women starred in a participatory theatre performance to raise awareness about gender-based violence at an event organized by UNHCR and its partner CARE on 12 November. ©UNHCR/Fatima Nosseir

Gender-based violence

Last week, UNHCR supported cultural activities in Aswan attended by some 60 Sudanese refugees, mostly women. One of the activities involved participatory theatre training, during which refugees prepared a scene focused on gender-based violence prevention. Additionally, participants practiced singing popular Sudanese songs, modifying the lyrics of one of the songs to raise awareness about violence against women. Following the training, a musical and theatre performance occurred on 12 December, attended by the Sudanese community in Aswan. Other activities included a henna drawing workshop, where participants shared ideas on the use of this traditional Sudanese art and created their designs, and a film screening.

Livelihoods

UNHCR, through its implementing partners (Refuge Egypt, CRS, Caritas Alexandria and Don Bosco), has provided livelihood support to 5,842 people in 2023 - 73% women - including some 360 refugees and asylum-seekers newly arrived from Sudan. This support included guidance on the Egyptian labour market and matching employers with potential employees while ensuring minimum standards are met. In this sense, 477 individuals found a job after taking part in UNHCR programmes in 2023. Moreover, UNHCR supported 407 entrepreneurs with cash grants and mentoring to establish businesses. All these efforts helped refugees to navigate a challenging labour market which is characterized by a significant informal sector and chronic unemployment.

In Alexandria, UNHCR partner Caritas organized a job fair that was attended by some 500 refugees (some 90% Sudanese) on 10 December. The fair focused on three main sectors: technology, sewing, and humanitarian work. During the event, 15 companies offered job opportunities for people forced to flee.

Water

Since the start of the Sudan crisis, UNHCR has played an integral role in bolstering the infrastructure and amenities at the Argeen crossing point in the Egypt-Sudan border. In November 2023, UNHCR contributed essential items to enhancing the border facilities, including a 10,000-liter water tank, a water pump for the well, and two sewage pumps. Notably, while the water supplied is non-potable and designated for washing and toilet use, it's crucial to highlight that now people forced to flee have access to these essential facilities at the border. Additionally, office equipment and materials were provided to the Argeen migration authorities, including printers, fans, and chairs.

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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