Egypt
Sudan Emergency Response Update
06 March 2024

450,000 Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt from 15 April 2023 on — latest figure from the Government of Egypt.

41% funded of the $28.2 million required by UNHCR for the Sudan emergency response in Egypt in 2023.

Refugee increase in Egypt driven by the Sudan crisis

The number of Sudanese refugees registered with UNHCR more than quadrupled between the onset of the Sudan conflict and the end of February 2024.

340% Sudanese Increase

84% Overall Increase
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- In February, UNHCR Egypt newly registered 39,353 refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities, the highest monthly number since the start of the Sudan crisis and a nearly 10-fold increase compared to pre-crisis levels.
- Last week, UNHCR Egypt registered 9,100 new asylum-seekers from Sudan, bringing the total to more than 193,000 since the start of the crisis. Additionally, 15,694 individuals received registration appointments last week, surpassing the 400,000 registration appointments issued since April 2023.
- On 28 February, the UNHCR Representative travelled to Aswan with the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Herro Mustafa Garg. The delegation included the UN Resident Coordinator to Egypt and the Deputy Minister of Social Solidarity (MoSS). The purpose of the visit was to familiarize the ambassador with the operating environment related to the response to the Sudan emergency, gain a first-hand insight into the challenges, and advocate with national and local authorities on possible solutions.

Protection

Registration

As of 29 February, UNHCR Egypt had provided pre-registration appointments to 401,410 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, 193,422 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 are Sudanese nationals (92%), followed by South Sudanese (3%), and Eritrean (3%). In terms of new arrival registration trends, females remain at 53%. The great majority of new arrivals registered still originate from Khartoum (89%), and 21% of those registered have one or more specific needs. Of the new arrivals registered, concerns remain due to the continued rise of those who report crossing irregularly into Egypt.

Infoline

Last week, UNHCR Egypt’s Infoline handled 12,200 calls and provided registration appointments to 11,900 people who have fled Sudan. This brought the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the Infoline system to 267,220. Nine out of ten people who approached UNHCR through the Infoline in the past week, were in Greater Cairo, while 5% were in Alexandria and 2% in Aswan.

Community-based protection

Over the last week, refugee outreach workers provided information to some 3,500 refugees and asylum-seekers from Sudan at UNHCR’s Reception Centre in Greater Cairo on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. Furthermore, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided basic counselling to 2,000 new arrivals and referred 23 cases for in-depth psycho-social assessment.

Gender-based violence

Over the past two weeks, UNHCR counselled 80 survivors of Gender-Based Violence at UNHCR’s Reception Centre in Greater Cairo.
On 28 February, UNHCR and partners conducted the first community engagement session of the year, ahead of the Faisal Safe Space in Greater Cairo. Faisal is a part of Greater Cairo with a sizeable Sudanese refugee population. The session was attended by 32 Sudanese women, all of them new arrivals. The engagement sessions are an initiative undertaken by the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Working Group (SWG) co-chaired by UNFPA and UNHCR. As part of this session, UNHCR's partner, the Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR), provided an overview of different legal procedures, including for different types of documentation, including police reports, birth registration, marriage certificate issuance, divorce, custody procedures and what to do in case of arrest for lack of documentation, residency, and whether registration appointments provide legal protection against arrest or detention. The awareness session was followed by a legal clinic which provided consultation sessions for 38 individual cases.

Livelihoods

From 24 February to 7 March, UNHCR is participating in the Diarna exhibition, Egypt's biggest handicraft market which is held once a year in Cairo. The UNHCR booth shows the work of 29 refugee individual artisans and three local social enterprises composed of 15 refugees working with MADE51. During the event, 13 refugees will provide workshops and training activities, while four refugee volunteers will support the booth and sales management. Participating refugees are from Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Eritrea, and South Sudan.
Cash assistance

During the reporting period, UNHCR’s partners conducted vulnerability assessments for 44 newly arrived Sudanese households in Cairo, bringing the total to 26,869 households assessed, since the start of the crisis in April 2023. In addition, UNHCR partners conducted rapid needs assessments for 32 households (62 individuals) in Aswan, reaching a total of 4,085 households (11,712 individuals) assessed since the beginning of the crisis. Of them, 2,743 households (8,459 individuals) have been found eligible for one-off Emergency Cash Assistance. To date, some 20,525 registered and unregistered new arrivals households (55,900 individuals) have been identified as eligible for the one-off emergency cash assistance, out of whom 16,445 households (47,359 individuals) have successfully been assisted.

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.