UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Egypt

Sudan Emergency Response Update

15 May 2024

Asila stiches a scarf at Threads of Hope, a local social enterprise in Cairo, on 28 April. She is one of 70 Sudanese refugees in Egypt who craft handmade products within the MADE51 initiative, launched by UNHCR in 2018 to highlight the skills of people forced to flee and promote the sale of their creations in global markets. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa

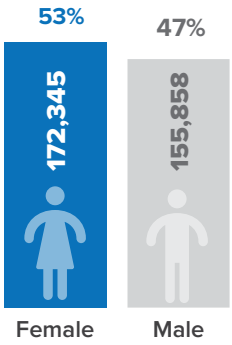
506,000
people forced to flee from Sudan to Egypt
from 15 April 2023 on — latest figure from the Government of Egypt.

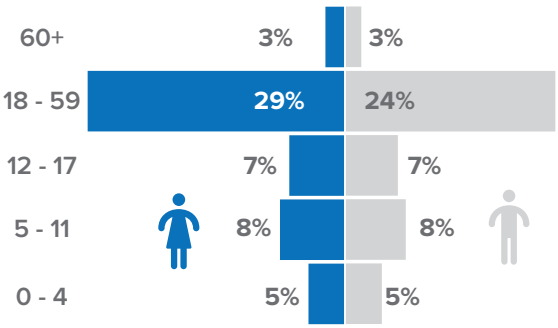
6% funded
of the $54.7 million required by UNHCR for the Sudan emergency response in Egypt in 2024.

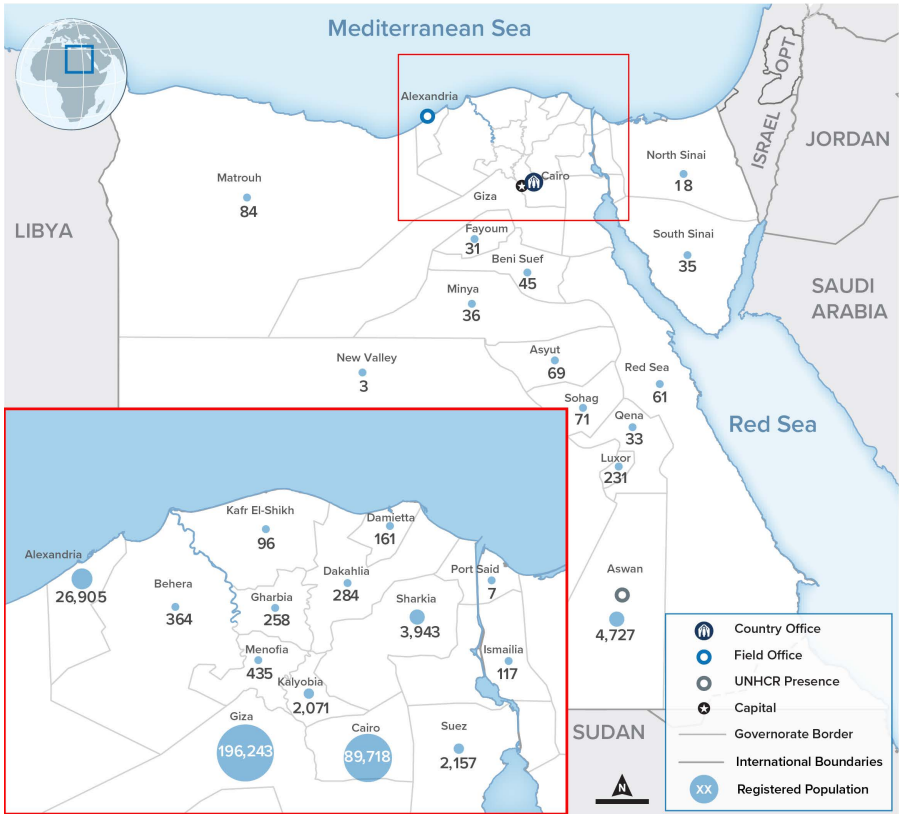
Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt

328,203

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







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

- Some 94% of refugees and asylum seekers registered by UNHCR Egypt last week were new arrivals from Sudan. Between 7 and 10 May, UNHCR Egypt renewed 1,060 UNHCR documents and newly registered a total of 6,400 refugees and asylum-seekers. Of them, some 6,000 were new arrivals from Sudan. Additionally, 8,800 individuals forced to flee Sudan received registration appointments.

- For the first time UNHCR distributes digital payment cards in Aswan to help vulnerable refugees receive cash support. Between 7 and 9 May, UNHCR delivered Fawry prepaid cards in Aswan to 14 families who fled Sudan in a first distribution since UNHCR signed a contract last month with Fawry, a local provider of digital payments and finance solutions. The Fawry partnership will now allow unregistered refugees without a valid passport, thus unable to open a local bank account, to collect emergency cash assistance in Aswan.

- In April, UNHCR assessed ten Sudanese community learning centres in Egypt under the Safe Schools standards, bringing the total number to 17 since the start of the year. School managers and staff signed the code of conduct agreement to adhere to best practices in protecting children in learning institutes.

Protection

Registration

As of 10 May 2024, UNHCR Egypt had provided pre-registration appointments to 518,282 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, 263,316 individuals are registered (51%). Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (94%), followed by South Sudanese (3%), and Eritrean (2%). Females remain at 54%. The great majority of new arrivals registered originate from Khartoum (88%), and 20% of those registered have one or more specific needs, such as lack of legal documentation, children at risk, people with disabilities, or serious medical conditions. Concerns remain due to the continued rise of reported irregular crossings into Egypt.

Infoline

Over the past two weeks, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled some 12,300 inquiries, of which 4,700 new registration appointments were allocated to 13,000 individuals who had fled Sudan. The proportion of callers from Greater Cairo was 87%; 4% for Aswan; 4% for Alexandria; and 5% for other cities. Since the start of the conflict to date, 352,600 new arrivals from Sudan, comprising 132,600 cases, have received appointments via Infoline.

Community-based protection

With four refugee outreach workers undertaking information sessions daily at UNHCR's Reception Center in Greater Cairo, over the last week some 2,200 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with details on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. On the other hand, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 780 new arrivals, from which 30 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment.

Legal and physical protection

Over the last week, 33 cases were referred to UNHCR legal partners Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR) and United Lawyers (UL) for legal aid. The assistance was related to early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation. In addition, 248 individuals received legal counselling through UNHCR and partners, while 359 queries were answered through the legal partners' hotline, and 38 birth certificates were issued.

Salma and her daughter attended a gender-based violence awareness session delivered by a UNHCR partner in Cairo on 23 April. Additionally, Salma's four teenage daughters were among the 450 refugee girls who have received UNHCR's menstrual care kits in April and May. ©UNHCR/Lamis Soliman

Capacity-building

UNHCR Egypt facilitated two sessions on refugee protection within mixed movements in a four-week training for border guards from 21 different African countries co-organized by the Egyptian Police Academy and the Italian Ministry of Interior in Cairo. The sessions were extremely well received by participants with particular interest in UNHCR's registration and refugee status determination processes.

Last week, UNHCR conducted a workshop on international protection principles and refugee protection in mixed movements for 30 officers at the Naval Forces Headquarters in Alexandria. The workshop covered various topics, including the non-refoulment, right to access asylum, child protection and programming in emergencies. This session marked the third training under an agreement between UNHCR and the Egyptian Ministry of Defence (MoD) to deliver a total of 17 training activities in 2024. UNHCR has been providing capacity-building activities to the MoD since 2010.

Education

Sudanese school-age children and their parents continue to face serious challenges accessing suitable education opportunities in Egypt. These challenges are related to documentation and residency requirements, as well as socio-economic difficulties that affect their ability to pay enrolment fees. As of the end of April 2024, more than 109,000 newly arrived school-age children (3-17 years old) were registered with UNHCR a year into the emergency. The figure, which is increasing by approximately 9,000 children every month, is placing an important burden on both the Ministry of Education and community learning centres. According to a recent assessment conducted by UNICEF and the World Bank, it is estimated that 54% of newly arrived children are currently out of school.

Cash assistance

As of 11 May, the total number of newly arrived Sudanese households assessed by UNHCR since the beginning of the crisis is 28,258. Of them, 4,290 families (19,926 individuals) have received the Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA).

During the last two weeks, 60 households, 154 individuals, were assessed for emergency cash assistance (ECA) in Aswan. Since the start of the crisis, a total of 20,732 registered and unregistered households (56,433 individuals) have been identified as eligible for one-off ECA, out of whom 16,868 families (48,647 individuals) have successfully received their assistance.

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.

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