Hassan (7) attended a workshop in Cairo where her mother, Zahra, and 20 other Sudanese refugee women crafted beaded stars. The activity was organized by UNHCR and the local social enterprise Yadawee in April. These handmade products are part of the MADE51 initiative, which seeks to highlight the skills of people forced to flee around the world. ©UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Egypt

Sudan Emergency Response Update
12 June 2024

593,000 people forced to flee Sudan to Egypt have approached UNHCR for registration between 15 April 2023 and 10 June 2024.

26% funded of the $134.7 million required by UNHCR to support refugees of all nationalities in Egypt in 2024.

Sudanese refugee numbers continue to rise

The number of Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers fully registered with UNHCR Egypt increased sixfold between the onset of the Sudan conflict and the end of May 2024.

504% Sudanese Increase

120% Overall Increase

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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

• Between June 6 and 9, high temperatures led to the confirmed deaths of at least 80 individuals who had crossed from Sudan to Egypt, according to information shared with UNHCR by two local hospitals. Heatstroke and dehydration have proved fatal for many fleeing violence in Sudan through the desert. Additionally, Sudanese community leaders in Aswan confirmed four more deaths of individuals on the way to the hospital in Aswan. UNHCR’s partner, Save the Children, is facilitating medical assistance for new arrivals suffering heat-related emergencies at hospitals in Aswan. Furthermore, the UNHCR teams in Aswan and Wadi Halfa are raising awareness about the heightened risks of crossing the border during the unexpected high temperatures. Aswan reached a record high temperature of 49.6°C on 6 June.

• UNHCR’s Representative to Egypt met the Governor of Damietta, in northern Egypt, on 4 June to discuss enhancing support for refugees including Sudanese. The meeting focused on the development of joint projects targeting local and refugee women, emphasizing a collaborative approach involving various institutions to achieve community development objectives. Moreover, on 5 June, the Governor of Damietta, the UNHCR Representative, and the Caritas Director inaugurated a workshop aimed at providing training in counseling and humanitarian work to civil society organizations and government officials in Damietta. With more than 10,400 individuals registered with UNHCR, Damietta is the sixth governorate in Egypt that hosts more refugees and asylum-seekers.

• In May, UNHCR Egypt recorded its highest-ever monthly registration rate. UNHCR newly registered 41,794 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 38,091 Sudanese new arrivals which marks the highest registration figure in a single month since the beginning of the Sudan crisis and in the history of the operation. Scaled-up processing capacity, revised internal processes to enhance efficiency, and a significant increase in average family size have all contributed to this record number.

Protection

As of 6 June 2024, UNHCR Egypt had provided pre-registration appointments to 585,145 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, 301,076 individuals are fully registered (51%). Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (94%), followed by South Sudanese (2%), and Eritrean (2%). Over half - 54% - are female and the great majority originate from Khartoum (87%). A fifth of those registered have one or more specific needs, including lack of legal documentation, children at risk, people with disabilities, or serious medical conditions. UNHCR remains concerned at the continued rise of reported irregular crossings into Egypt.

Registration

Over the past two weeks, UNHCR Egypt’s Infoline handled some 21,700 inquiries, of which 9,100 new registration appointments were allocated to 26,100 individuals who had fled Sudan. The proportion of callers from Greater Cairo was 83%; 6% for Alexandria; 3% for Aswan and 8% for other cities. Since the start of the conflict to date, 398,100 new arrivals from Sudan, comprising 148,500 households, have received appointments via Infoline.

Community-based protection

With four refugee outreach workers undertaking information sessions on a daily basis at UNHCR’s Reception Center in Greater Cairo, over the past two weeks some 7,700 refugees and asylum seekers were provided with details on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. At the same time, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 3,800 new arrivals, from which 42 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment.
Last week, UNHCR and partner TdH provided a seven-day capacity-building training for ten Egyptian Community Development Associations (CDAs) in Aswan. The training was attended by 28 representatives and volunteers from CDAs residing in Aswan and surrounding towns like Edfu, Karkar, and Daraw. The training provided information on UNHCR work in southern Egypt, and discussed the main challenges faced by Sudanese new arrivals and proposed solutions. The technical training sessions encompassed topics such as information-sharing, safeguarding, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, international refugee protection, and facilitation skills, among others. After this training, CDAs' representatives and volunteers will deliver information sessions to newly arrived asylum-seekers living in their communities.

**Gender-based violence**

UNHCR delivered a training session to the medical staff managing the Safe Women Clinic at Helwan University on 5 June. The clinic will be offering specialized medical response for women and girls survivors of gender-based violence. Services will include psychological first aid, medical care, information, case filing, and referral both within the hospital and to the Women's Complaints Office, managed by the NCW, if legal and social services are needed. A total of 19 medical staff have been trained under this activity, which was coordinated with the National Council for Women (NCW) and UNFPA.

**Core relief items**

UNHCR dispatched 10,000 hygiene kits and 4,950 sanitary kits to the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) on 27 May and 2 June. ERC will deliver these items to newly arrived people from Sudan at the Qustol and Argeen border crossings. This brings the total to 157,500 hygiene kits and 86,150 sanitary kits delivered to the ERC in the context of the Sudan emergency response.
Cash assistance

As of 8 June, the total number of newly arrived Sudanese households assessed by UNHCR to receive Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) since the beginning of the crisis is 30,238. Of them, 4,290 families (19,926 individuals) have received the MPCA.

During the last two weeks, 66 households, 190 individuals, were assessed for emergency cash assistance (ECA) in Aswan. Since the start of the crisis, a total of 20,820 registered and unregistered households (56,696 individuals) have been identified as eligible for one-off ECA, out of whom 16,938 families (48,839 individuals) have successfully received their assistance.

Funding 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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