

Egypt

Emergency Response Update

26 March 2025

Inas recently defended her Master's thesis in biotechnology at the American University in Cairo, after earning a full scholarship. A Syrian refugee, she fled to Egypt shortly after the conflict began in 2011. She was among the first recipients of a DAFI scholarship in Egypt, studying chemistry and molecular biology at Alexandria University. Now, she plans to pursue a PhD in biotechnology and hopes to use her voice to help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health in the MENA region. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes



1.5 million
Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt

since the start of the Sudan crisis in 2023, according to the Government of Egypt.

21% funded

of the \$137.7 million required by UNHCR for the refugee response in Egypt in 2025.



Overview of refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt

940,000

Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR Egypt as of 25 March 2025.

53%



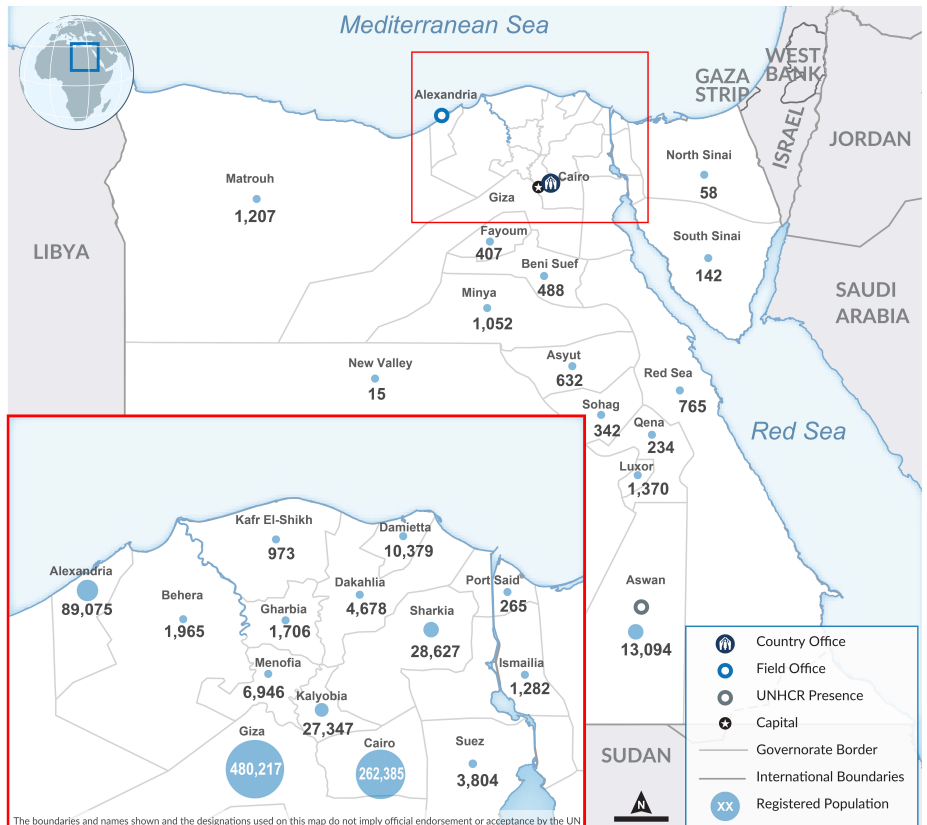
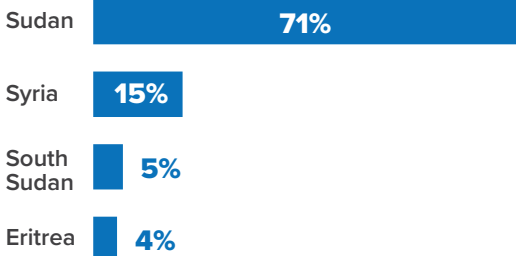
Female

47%



Male

Top Countries of Origin



Source: UNHCR registration data

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- On 25 March, UNHCR published a global [press release](#) highlighting the suspension of key life-saving support for refugees in Egypt, leaving tens of thousands without access to vital medical treatment, child protection services, and other essential aid. “The consequences for people who will no longer get our support are hard to measure, [but] many of them will not be able to find the means to pay for health care themselves and they will get sicker, weaker, and many will die,” said UNHCR Egypt Public Health Officer. UNHCR is urging donors to provide immediate support for refugees worldwide, who are already suffering from the severe impact of funding cuts.
- Since its launch in August 2024, some 50,000 Sudanese individuals have successfully scheduled new registration appointments online with UNHCR Egypt using the ‘[Digital Gateway](#)’. This innovative platform allows asylum-seekers to request appointments online, providing a much-needed alternative to in-person visits and calls to the overburdened Infoline. It has eased congestion at UNHCR reception centres, leaving room for other protection concerns to be addressed. Furthermore, it has improved access to registration, enhanced operational efficiency, and offered valuable insights for future digital transformation efforts in Egypt and beyond.
- Last week, UNHCR Egypt continued its donor engagement efforts. On 20 March, a multi-donor delegation comprising EU-ECHO, the Italian Agency for Development (AICS), the Spanish Agency for International Development (AECID), and the Swiss Agency for Development (SDC) [visited](#) UNHCR’s Reception Centre in Greater Cairo. The delegation learned about the registration process and UNHCR’s protection response and participated in a focus group discussion with five refugee women. On 16 March, the Hungarian Ambassador visited UNHCR Centre and was briefed on the critical challenges faced by newly arrived Sudanese asylum-seekers.
- On 22 March, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador [Alfonso Herrera](#) met with eight refugee community leaders from Sudan, South Sudan, and Syria during a one-day visit to Cairo. Refugees shared the main challenges they face in Egypt and highlighted the need for support to fund humanitarian programmes in the country. Additionally, Egyptian Ferrari driver Mohamed Hamdy filmed a [fundraising video](#) at UNHCR’s main Reception Centre as part of UNHCR’s Ramadan campaign.

Protection

Registration

As of 25 March 2025, UNHCR Egypt provided registration appointments to 907,600 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, UNHCR has now registered 613,700 individuals for assistance and protection (68%). Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (96%), followed by Eritrean (1.7%), and South Sudanese (1.6%). The great majority originate from Khartoum (83%). Over half (55%) are female and 42% are children.

Since the regime change in Syria in December 2024, the number of Syrians approaching UNHCR in Cairo and Alexandria to request the closure of their asylum cases has risen significantly. As of 25 March, more than 14,245 Syrians have submitted such requests, signaling their intention to return to Syria. However, UNHCR observed a slowdown in February and March compared to the peak in January, suggesting a possible stabilization of the trend. The decline in the last month may also be influenced by the start of Ramadan. According to the findings of the [Flash Regional Survey](#) conducted in January, UNHCR anticipated an increase in returns from Egypt after Ramadan and the end of the academic school year. Meanwhile, the number of new asylum applications from Syrians in Egypt has dropped to one-third of the levels recorded before the new regime took power in Syria.

Infoline

In the past two weeks, UNHCR Egypt’s Infoline handled 21,300 inquiries and booked registration appointments for an average of 430 people daily fleeing the Sudan conflict. Since the Sudan crisis began, a total of 608,100 individuals have scheduled appointments through the system.

Community-Based Protection

Over the last two weeks, 10,900 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly new arrivals from Sudan, attended information sessions on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints at the UNHCR Reception Centre in Greater Cairo. Additionally, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 3,800 individuals, out of whom 90 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 260 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance. Additionally, UNHCR provided CBP case management for 190 refugees.

UNHCR organized two community meetings in Greater Cairo on 19 and 12 March, bringing together 74 refugees, including community leaders, from Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen, and Syria. The discussion focused on key concerns such as cash assistance, resettlement, family reunification, legal protection, and the current funding situation. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions, share their concerns, and engage directly with relevant UNHCR staff.

On 18 March, UNHCR organized a joint reception at TDH's Multi-Purpose Community Center in Giza. During the event, UNHCR and partner staff provided counselling and support to 50 refugees and asylum-seekers, including individuals from Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Eritrea, and Ethiopia.

Legal and Physical Protection (LPP)

Last week, 530 individuals received legal assistance and counselling through UNHCR and partners, concerning early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation. Additionally, UNHCR provided LPP case management for 59 refugees.

On 13 March, UNHCR and partners conducted a legal clinic in Cairo, allowing 58 refugees and asylum-seekers to receive direct legal support.



On 19 March, UNHCR organized a Ramadan *iftar* in Alexandria, bringing together 160 participants, including 90 refugees. Sudanese, Syrian, and Egyptian artists performed, enriching the evening with diverse cultural expressions. The event aimed to provide refugees forced to spend Ramadan away from home with a sense of community and belonging. ©Rotary Egypt

 **Durable Solutions**

UNHCR and TdH conducted a comprehensive field assessment in late January to evaluate awareness of available services and monitor misinformation among Syrian refugees. Findings revealed that 81% of inquiries focused on file closure procedures, with additional concerns about file reopening (9%), new registrations (8%), and card renewals (2%). The assessment also uncovered widespread misinformation about deportations, repatriation flights, and policy changes, emphasizing the need for a targeted communication strategy. In response, UNHCR held a two-day information-sharing session with 176 Syrians in February, ensuring clearer guidance on key issues such as file closures, registrations, and reopening requests. To further strengthen communication efforts, TdH is now conducting regular information sessions, specifically focused on return procedures for Syrians in UNHCR's Zamalek Reception Centre.

 **Education**

During the reporting period, 400 refugee [DAFI](#) scholars participated in mentorship interviews to review their academic progress, address challenges, and develop personalized support plans as needed. Additionally, five parents of refugee students with disabilities participated in UNHCR-sponsored mentorship sessions in Cairo. These sessions are designed to help parents better understand their children's specific needs and provide personalized guidance to support their education while addressing any challenges they may face.

 **Health**

In Alexandria, refugee community leaders raised concerns about the limited access to medical services. In response to this situation, several community-led initiatives have stepped in to provide temporary healthcare support for refugees. These initiatives have organized medical convoys, facilitated surgeries—either free of charge or at minimal cost—through Egyptian volunteer doctors, and secured financial aid for essential medications. Additionally, they have helped connect patients with pharmacy owners and charitable donors to reduce financial burdens. Medical convoys, supported by the Egyptian Red Crescent, have also played a crucial role in delivering essential healthcare services.



Fatma and her two-year-old son, who has hearing problems, visited UNHCR's partner clinic in Cairo on 19 March for medical care. After fleeing Sudan in 2024, they found safety in Egypt, but funding cuts now threaten her son's treatment. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes


Cash Assistance

Between 9 and 22 March, UNHCR partner Mindset conducted vulnerability assessments for 315 Sudanese individuals in Cairo. Since the Sudan crisis began, UNHCR has assessed the vulnerability of 181,100 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers, including both new arrivals and those already in Egypt before the crisis. In March, some 80,800 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 48,300 Sudanese, were supported with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA). Due to funding shortages, more than 106,000 Sudanese refugees with high poverty levels remained on the MPCA waiting list. This means they met the eligibility criteria for cash assistance as they struggle to survive but remain unassisted due to the scarcity of funds.

Between 10 and 18 March 2025, the Joint Hub conducted a mission to support UNHCR and WFP in Egypt in finalizing a joint targeting strategy and eligibility criteria for relevant programs. Since April 2023, the Joint Hub had been working with both agencies to improve data collection, targeting strategies, accountability mechanisms, long-term planning, and best practice documentation. A household survey (September – December 2024) and qualitative Focus Group Discussions (February 2025) had provided key insights into needs, vulnerabilities, and access to services. The mission successfully reviewed data findings, finalized the targeting methodology, developed appeals and communication strategies, and presented key recommendations to senior management. The final Egypt Vulnerability Assessment for Refugees (EVAR) report is expected to be published in July 2025.

Funding information

UNHCR is grateful for the crucial and generous contributions from its donors, who provide both earmarked and unearmarked funding to support its operations in Egypt in 2025, including for the Sudan and Syria responses.



UNHCR Egypt is also grateful for the crucial support of private donors from Canada.

DONATE NOW

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