

# Egypt

May 2023

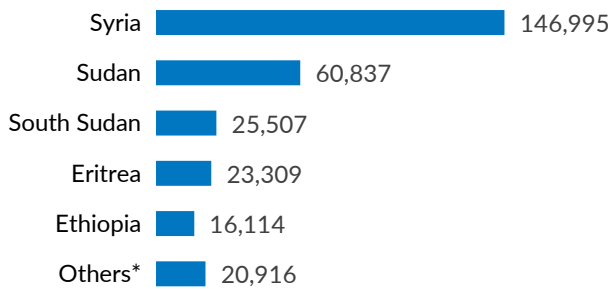
Egypt hosts 294,000 registered refugees and asylum-seekers. Most live in urban areas of Greater Cairo and the North Coast.

UNHCR registers, documents, and conducts RSD on behalf of the Egyptian Government and facilitates access to protection and essential services, such as health and education.

145,000 Sudanese refugees have entered Egypt since mid-April. UNHCR provides water, hygiene kits, and sanitary supplies at border crossings. Faster registration in Cairo ensures quicker access to services.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 30 APRIL)

### Breakdown by Country of Origin

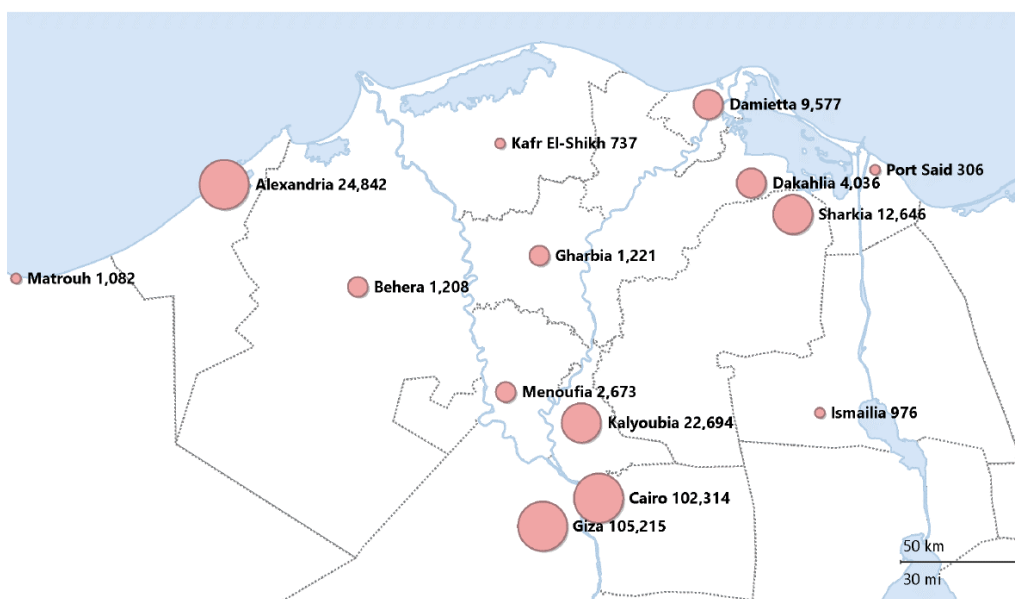
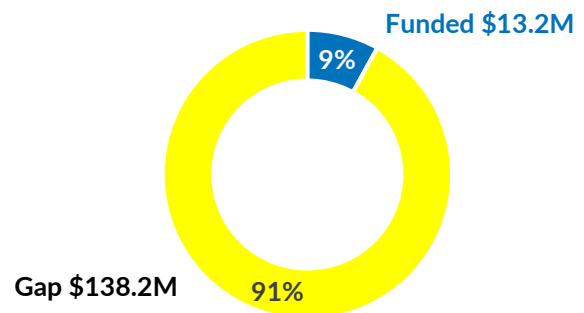


\* From 50 countries

## FUNDING (AS OF 10 MAY)

**USD 151.4 million**

requested for the Egypt Operation



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

43 International Staff  
239 National Staff

### Offices:

1 Country office in Cairo  
1 Registration centre in Giza  
1 Field office in Alexandria

## Context

UNHCR has been working in Egypt since 1954 after the Government of Egypt and UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). With the framework of this MOU, UNHCR provides protection services including all aspects of registration, documentation, refugee status determination and resettlement to those who are forcibly displaced.

The Government of Egypt announced in 2019 its commitment to create a domestic asylum legal framework and UNHCR is providing capacity building to support advancement of a draft asylum law.

UNHCR Egypt works through eight partners: CARE, Caritas, Catholic Relief Service, the Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights, All Saints/ Refuge Egypt, Save the Children International, Terre des Hommes and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).



## Main Activities

### Protection

- **Reception and counselling**

UNHCR Egypt receives more than 1,000 refugees and asylum-seekers at its offices every working day. One of the first points of contact with UNHCR are the reception areas in Greater Cairo and Alexandria. There, protection staff counsel refugees and asylum-seekers entering the premises on a walk-in basis.

Apart from the reception areas in UNHCR offices, refugees have several other access avenues to UNHCR. This includes our in-house telephone InfoLine in Cairo and Alexandria. UNHCR InfoLine operators provide information sharing and counselling and schedule registration appointments to asylum-seekers and refugees in Egypt from Sunday to Thursday in seven languages (Arabic, Tigrinya, Amharic, French, Oromo, English and Somali). Two-way communication also takes place through home visits, refugee outreach volunteers, focus group discussions, and our social media platforms.

- **Legal assistance**

Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to legal remedies and representation through lawyers of NGO partners. UNHCR advocates with local authorities for the release of those under administrative detention for residency-related offences and for access to persons in detention who may need international protection.

- **Community-based protection (CBP)**

UNHCR and partners provide targeted support to persons with specific needs through individual case management, community-based psychosocial support, and emergency response. UNHCR also organizes outreach meetings with refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as community dialogue, focus group discussions, and awareness-raising on the services provided by UNHCR and our partners.

- **CBP – Communication with communities**

UNHCR maintains an **active outreach programme** for Communication with Communities (CwC). The Office provides refugees and asylum-seekers with information about services UNHCR and its partners provide.

UNHCR uses different communication channels to reach its persons of concern and capture their feedback. This is guided in part by the context in which the agency operates in Egypt, whose main features include a largely urban population of refugees and asylum-seekers who come from over 50 countries and are spread throughout Egyptian governorates. It is also shaped by the information needs of refugees and asylum-seekers and their preferred communication channels.

A confidential complaint and feedback mechanism is in place for refugees and asylum-seekers to report misconduct, including corruption and sexual exploitation and abuse by staff and NGO partners, as a key component of UNHCR's accountability to affected communities. Confidential reporting channels include email, physical complaint boxes and the UNHCR hotline.

- **Child protection**

UNHCR Child Protection (CP) programming focuses on children at risk of abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation. Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) remain one of the key vulnerable groups of refugee children. UNHCR conducts best-interest assessments and prioritizes protection and assistance to UASC and other children at-risk across all programmes through prevention and response activities and specialized services.

In addition to direct CP service provision, UNHCR engages with national counterparts to advocate for inclusion of refugee children into national CP services. UNHCR is working with the Ministry of Social Solidarity to ensure that refugee children are considered in the draft national Alternative Care Law. Furthermore, UNHCR works with UNICEF and IOM to support Government counterparts with the roll-out of the Children on the Move SOPs on protection-sensitive entry procedures.

- **Gender-based violence**

In Egypt, UNHCR prevention activities encompass innovative multi-sectoral approaches including community-based activities, legal awareness sessions, women empowerment initiatives, and art therapy. UNHCR and partners provide tailored assistance and psychosocial support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and those who have experienced or witnessed conflict, violence or trauma.

## Registration

In Egypt, the registration process has been delegated by the Government of Egypt to UNHCR based on the MOU signed in 1954. Over the years, registration has now included collection of biometric data such as iris scanning and finger printing. In addition to facilitating access to services, registration allows refugees and asylum-seekers to regularize their stay in Egypt and obtain a renewable residence permit which grants them freedom of movement across the country.



Refugee registration in Cairo  
 ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

## Refugee Status Determination

UNHCR Egypt strategically utilizes Refugee Status Determination (RSD) to maximize protection benefits for a large number of asylum-seekers while maintaining the integrity of the asylum system. In 2022, UNHCR Egypt finalized more than 11,000 RSD decisions extending the operation's status as the most productive RSD mandate operation globally. In 2023, priority processing will be given to applications deemed manifestly unfounded or clearly abusive, preserving the protection space in Egypt for genuine international protection applicants. UNHCR strives to finalize decisions on refugee status promptly, enabling individuals to make informed choices about their future, whether as refugees or through alternative avenues like the International Organization for Migration's Assisted Voluntary Return and Repatriation program.

## Education

UNHCR advocates for enrolling refugees and asylum-seekers in public schools. Currently, Syrian, Sudanese, South Sudanese and Yemeni nationals have access to the public system on par with Egyptians. In parallel and based on the needs identified by the GoE, UNHCR provides teacher training, supports the refurbishment of schools and supplies equipment, furniture, and other necessities to assist the Egyptian facilities in absorbing the refugee population. Moreover, UNHCR provides education grants to contribute to school fees, school uniforms, books, stationery and transportation.

For the 2022/2023 academic year, UNHCR has provided education grants to more than 56,000 refugees and asylum-seeker students (50% female) in public, community and private schools. Additionally, enhanced education grants are provided to around 1,800 unaccompanied and separated children and some 600 children with disability.



Instant Network Schools, a joint project of UNHCR and Vodafone that aims to give quality education to refugee and host country students. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

## Durable solutions



Due to its location, Egypt is part of the Syrian and Central Mediterranean resettlement initiatives. In 2022, 2,834 refugees were submitted for resettlement consideration to Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and US, while 4,101 refugee departed for resettlement countries.

As of April 2023, UNHCR Egypt successfully identified, processed, and submitted 865 refugees for resettlement to Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, UK, and USA; representing 37% of progress against this year's quota of 2,355. Additionally, as of April 2023, a total of 1,470 individuals departed for resettlement including also 322 individuals to the US.

UNHCR Egypt prioritizes solutions through legal admission to third countries, including Complementary Pathways. In 2022, 891 refugees and asylum seekers accessed such pathways, including humanitarian visas, family reunification, and private sponsorship. Partnership with Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) was established to explore labor mobility opportunities to third countries. UNHCR organized an information session on labor mobility pathways with the Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Working Group. Advocacy efforts are made to include refugee-led community-based organizations in the MENA Contact Group on Complementary Pathways (MCGCP).

In August 2022, in line with the Global Cessation Declaration, UNHCR Egypt voluntarily repatriated 8 cases of 22 individuals to Cote d'Ivoire. On 7 November 2022, UNHCR Egypt also facilitated the voluntary repatriation of two Ethiopian nationals who departed to Ethiopia.

### Health

UNHCR supports national efforts to improve the quality of health services to refugees and asylum-seekers and the host population in areas with high concentrations of refugees. Refugees and asylum-seekers continue to have access to public primary, secondary and emergency health care equal to Egyptian citizens. The Office supports the delivery of healthcare assistance to patients with chronic diseases, as well as psychosocial and mental health support.



*Fathy, a refugee from Sudan, seen at his Sudanese products shop - a project funded by a CRS grant. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes*

### Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

UNHCR helps refugees and asylum-seekers to support themselves and their families by offering them training and assisting them in finding a market for their skills and goods. Work

in this area is guided by several core principles, mainly protection, diversity, equity, access and sustainability.

UNHCR also works to promote economic inclusion of those forced to flee their homes by advocating for their right to work and building their livelihoods through market-oriented programs.

### Cash-based Interventions

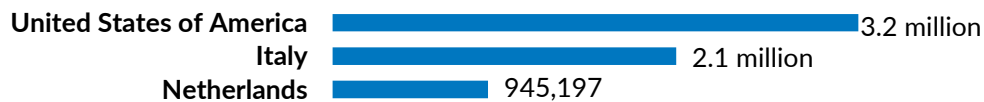
UNHCR delivers monthly unconditional cash grants to extremely vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers to provide protection and assistance and prevent refugees from resorting to harmful coping mechanisms. In 2023, UNHCR Egypt decided to increase the number of families (over 13,200 families in 2022) assisted with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance by 29% in order to mitigate the negative effects of the rising inflation on beneficiaries. This decision is in line with the findings of the year-end 2022 post-distribution monitoring exercise, which shows that the cash assistance enabled almost all beneficiaries (97%) to afford items/services that they had been unable to afford before receiving the cash.

## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Egypt Operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **\$ 7million**.



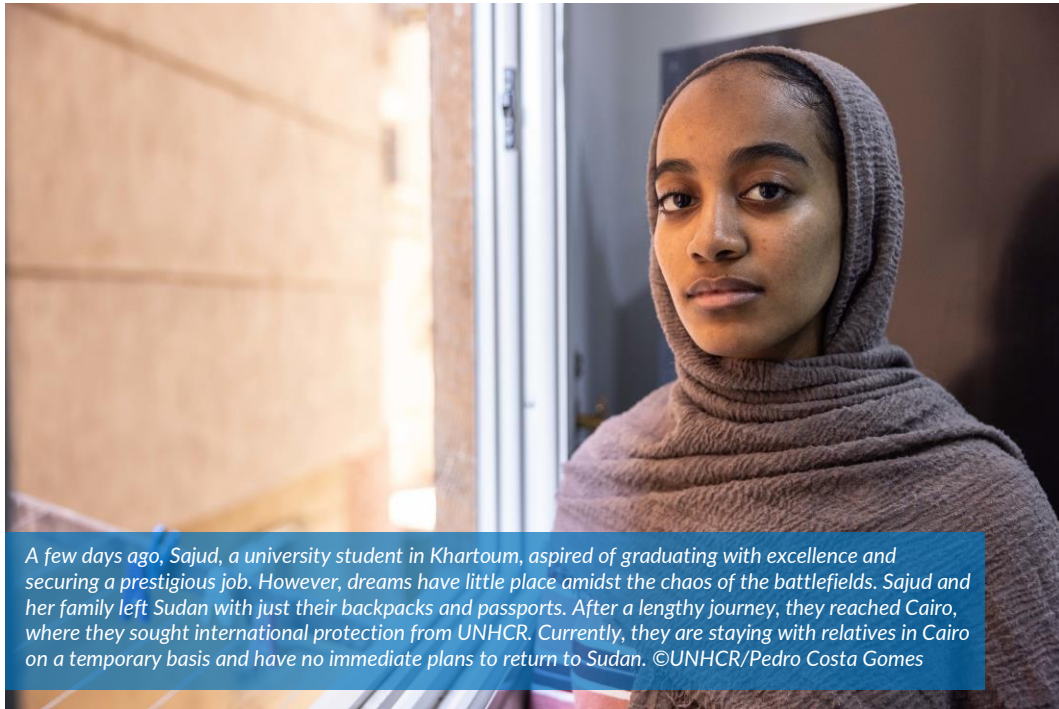
### OTHER SOFLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

**Finland** 5.2 million | **Private donors Germany** 3.5 million | **Private donors Australia** 3.1 million  
**France** | **Iceland** | **United States of America** | **Private donors**

**UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD**

**Sweden** 69 million | **Norway** 63.1 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Netherlands** 34.1 million |  
**France** 26.7 million | **Private donors Spain** 24.1 million | **Germany** 23.1 million |  
**Switzerland** 18.9 million | **Private donors Japan** 13.3 million |  
**Private donors Republic of Korea** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.9 million

Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta |  
Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia |  
Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors



*A few days ago, Sajud, a university student in Khartoum, aspired of graduating with excellence and securing a prestigious job. However, dreams have little place amidst the chaos of the battlefields. Sajud and her family left Sudan with just their backpacks and passports. After a lengthy journey, they reached Cairo, where they sought international protection from UNHCR. Currently, they are staying with relatives in Cairo on a temporary basis and have no immediate plans to return to Sudan. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes*

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**LINKS:** UNHCR Global Focus | UNHCR Egypt Website | UNHCR Sudan Emergency Website | UNHCR Egypt Twitter (@UNHCREgypt)