



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Egypt

Sudan Emergency Response Update

23 January 2024

After escaping Sudan for their lives late last year, Hanina and her 2-year-old daughter Mariam have found safety in Egypt. Like thousands of others who have been forced to flee Sudan, she only wishes one thing, for the conflict to end, so that she can return home and raise her daughter in the land of birth. ©UNHCR/Jaime Giménez



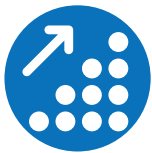
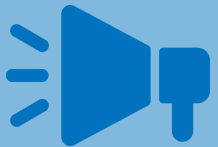
400,000

Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt

from 15 April 2023 on — latest figure from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

41% funded

of the \$28.2 million required by UNHCR for the Sudan [emergency response](#) in Egypt in 2023.



Refugee increase in Egypt in 2023

The number of **Sudanese refugees** registered with UNHCR Egypt **tripled** between the onset of the Sudan crisis (April 2023) and the end of the year.



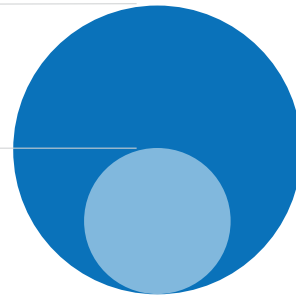
242%

Sudanese Increase



61%

Overall Increase



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS - HIGHLIGHTS

- Sudan's conflict shows no signs of resolution. The decision to engage in meaningful talks remains elusive, with the two generals holding fluctuated positions regarding Jeddah and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) peace initiatives. On 18 January, Sudan froze its IGAD membership, accusing it of undermining member states' sovereignty, sponsoring terrorism, and supporting the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).
- As outlined in the Government of Egypt's recent [statement](#), the Prime Minister met on 8 January with a broad range of ministries to determine the impact on Egypt from hosting '9 million' foreigners, including refugees. The Prime Minister instructed ministries to facilitate longer stay residency permits for refugees and migrants living in the country. The Ministry of the Interior is reportedly in the process of counting exactly how many 'refugees' are present in Egypt and counting the cost incurred by the state per capita in the areas of health, education, transport, and housing.
- UNHCR Egypt has so far fully registered 148,500 new arrivals from Sudan since mid-April, 91 per cent of whom are Sudanese.
- UNHCR observed an important increase in the number of Sudanese approaching its office in Alexandria seeking registration services.
- In 2023, UNHCR provided education cash grants to 10,919 refugee children newly arrived from Sudan to support their enrolment in Egyptian public schools and community learning centres.

Protection

During the three first weeks of January, 1,170 Sudanese new arrivals approached UNHCR Field Office Alexandria, marking a noteworthy surge compared to the same period in December (420 people), with most applicants arriving in buses from Cairo and Aswan. The influx resulted in a 35% increase in scheduled registration appointments compared to December, and a 119% increase compared to November. The surge in Sudanese new arrivals has also had an important impact on the Alexandria office Infoline, with its call volume increasing 218% compared to December. According to refugee outreach volunteers consulted by UNHCR, one of the reasons for this increase is the extended waiting period to obtain a registration appointment from UNHCR Cairo, and possibly linked to an increase in irregular entries to Egypt following an escalation in the conflict in Sudan. As a result, UNHCR Alexandria is further enhancing its capacity to respond to the demand in consultation with community leaders and local authorities to mitigate possible social tensions.

On the Egypt-Sudan border, UNHCR teams continued their regular monitoring visits to the official crossings to meet with the authorities and provide support to people in need arriving at the border. Officials have recently told UNHCR that they anticipate an increase in the number of people fleeing Sudan trying to enter Egypt. At the same time, UNHCR provided a training session on international protection to Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) volunteers at the border crossing on 17 January.



Hanina and her daughter were assisted by UNHCR with protection and registration services. They also learned about practical tips for daily life in Egypt during an information session for newly arrived refugees. ©UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Community-based protection

Over the last week, refugee outreach workers provided support to close to 4,270 newly arrived people from Sudan at UNHCR's 6 October Reception Centre in Cairo on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. Furthermore, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided basic counselling to 2,080 refugees and asylum-seekers.

UNHCR participated in three information sessions attended by 107 people who had recently arrived in Egypt after fleeing Sudan. During these meetings, organized by partner PSTIC in different areas of Cairo, refugees raised concerns about the bullying of Sudanese children in the streets, the lack of sufficient financial assistance to cover the increased prices of food and rent, and the long waiting time in obtaining residency appointments.

Registration

As of 19 January, UNHCR Egypt had provided pre-registration appointments to 271,457 newly arrived people from Sudan (119,206 households), of whom 148,566 (70,550 households), i.e., 55%, were already registered. Most of the registered population are Sudanese nationals (91%), while the other main nationalities registered are South Sudanese (4%), and Eritrean (3%).

Infoline

Last week, there was a 43% increase in the number of inquiries handled by UNHCR's Infoline. In total, 17,483 calls were answered, and registration appointments were given to 15,836 people who have fled Sudan. This brings the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the system

to 167,534. Following the merging of the Cairo and Alexandria lines and the hiring of additional agents, the average number of calls per day has almost quadrupled compared to pre-crisis levels.

Education

In 2023, UNHCR provided education cash grants to 10,919 refugee children newly arrived from Sudan to support their enrolment in Egyptian public schools and refugee community learning centres. In total, 73,053 children were supported throughout the year, including all nationalities, with these grants that enabled refugee children access to safe transportation to school and buy needed stationery.

UNHCR also supported the enrolment of refugees and asylum-seekers in Egyptian higher education institutions. In this regard, to address the increase in university fees, UNHCR signed a letter of understanding with October 6th University in Cairo. This will allow refugees to have access to all university courses without paying the 2,000 USD registration fees that are required from all foreign students. Furthermore, refugees will be able to access university courses for less than half of the regular tuition fees.

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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