

Egypt

Sudan Emergency Response Update

20 February 2024

Ghazal, from Sudan, was one of the some 100 refugee children that participated in a science event in Cairo organized by UNHCR and the Al Alfi Foundation on 6 February. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

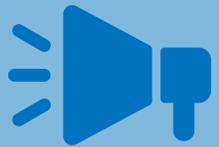


450,000
Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt

from 15 April 2023 on — latest figure from the Government of Egypt.

41% funded

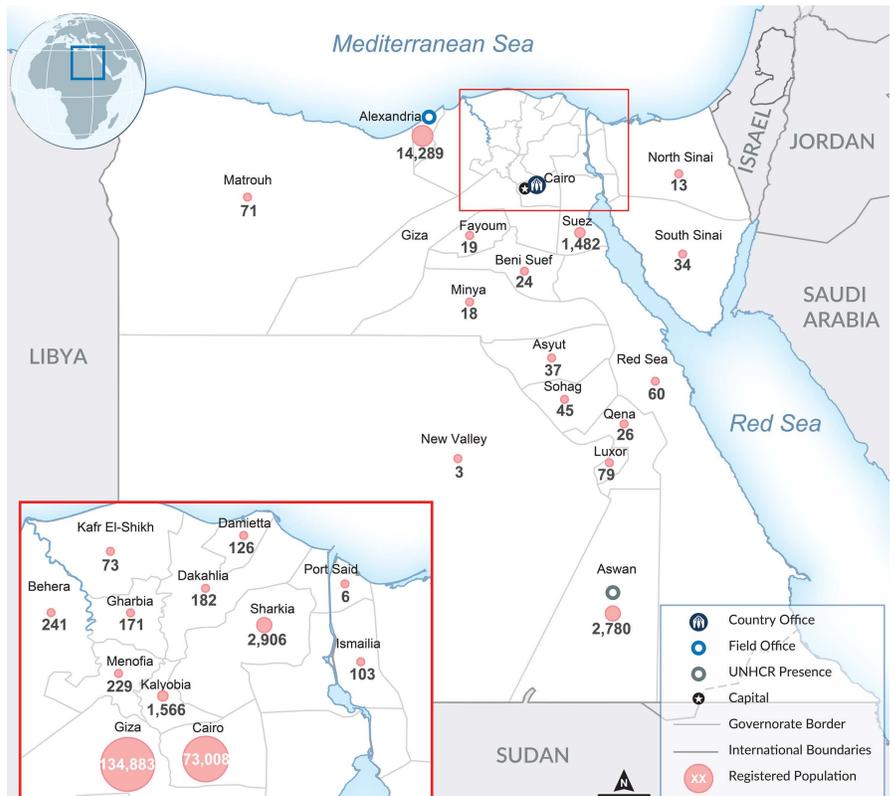
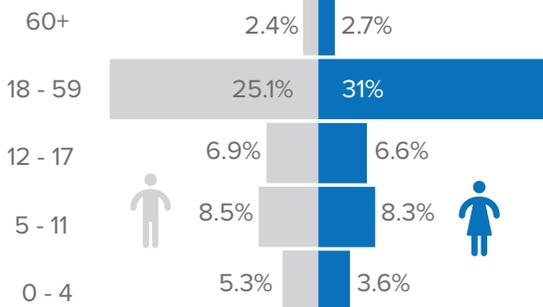
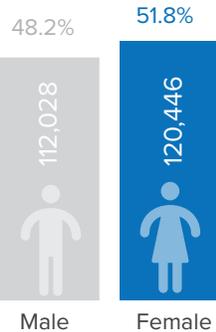
of the \$28.2 million required by UNHCR for the Sudan [emergency response](#) in Egypt in 2023.



Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt

232,474

Sudanese registered with UNHCR Egypt as of 31 January 2024, including those who arrived before April 2023.



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

- On 14 February, UNHCR [signed an agreement](#) with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to promote social cohesion, ensure refugees' effective access to all youth centres across Egypt, and enhance their digital literacy. The community centres will also intertwine the value of sports, with a plan to introduce a training programme targeting Egyptian and refugee youth - including Sudanese -, entailing leadership and sportsmanship activities aimed at promoting social cohesion between refugees and the hosting population.
- Last week, UNHCR Egypt registered 7,300 new asylum-seekers from Sudan, bringing the total to 168,250 since the start of the Sudan crisis in mid-April 2023. Additionally, 17,950 individuals received registration appointments last week, making the total 367,000 since April 2023.
- UNHCR has agreed with the Ministry of Education to build an additional 28 classrooms in areas with a high density of refugee school-age children, particularly Sudanese newly arrived children.

Operational Context

Due to the escalating violence in Sudan in recent months and the limited prospects for a near-term ceasefire, the civilian population continues to be forced to flee a country [on the brink of famine](#). Since the conflict erupted in April last year, the number of Sudanese seeking protection in Egypt has dramatically increased in nine months to 450,000 at the end of January, according to official figures. Although the influx appeared to slow down between July and October 2023 following restrictive measures on the entry of Sudanese - with 80,000 new arrivals in those four months - the upward trend intensified from November onwards, with 120,000 arrivals between late November 2023 and January 2024. Moreover, an increase in irregular border crossings, particularly since December, has coincided with the advance of the Rapid Support Forces in Wad Madani and other regions of Sudan.

A challenging situation, combined with the reduction in funding to humanitarian organizations, has led to increased hardship for those forced to flee Sudan. UNHCR has assisted as many people as possible with protection and assistance services: 140,000 refugees and asylum-seekers newly arrived from Sudan in Egypt in 2023. However, the needs of an increasingly vulnerable population keep growing. Since the start of 2024, there has been a reduced level of humanitarian assistance at the border points. With

healthcare no longer provided at the border to new arrivals in 2024, they have to travel 170 kilometres from the border to Abu Simbel to seek medical treatment. Currently, at border crossings, the delivery of drinking water, sanitary pads and hygiene kits is maintained through UNHCR's partner, the Egyptian Red Crescent.

Additionally, UNHCR estimates that several tens of thousands of Sudanese forced to flee, mostly women and children, are currently in southern Egypt with very limited access to basic services and with high protection risks. UNHCR conducts vulnerability assessments to identify those in greater need in the Aswan region, providing them with emergency cash assistance to cover their most immediate needs. Furthermore, to ensure protection and other forms of humanitarian assistance, UNHCR continues to advocate for permission to start registering individuals in need of international protection in Aswan (currently, people must travel to Cairo or Alexandria to register) while coordinating the response of humanitarian organizations to ensure that no one is left behind.

UNHCR supports the forcibly displaced population and host communities to enable them to generate their livelihoods and contribute to the Egyptian economy.

 **Protection** **Registration**

As of 16 February, UNHCR Egypt had provided pre-registration appointments to 367,059 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of them, 175,584 individuals have already been fully registered (48%). UNHCR is working to increase its capacity to meet the demand. Most of the registered population are Sudanese nationals (92%), while the other main nationalities registered are South Sudanese (4%), and Eritrean (3%).



UNHCR staff provides information to Sudanese refugee women from Khartoum, after a community meeting held in Cairo on 1 February. ©UNHCR/Jaime Gimenez

In terms of new arrival registration trends, both female new arrivals and female heads of household remain slightly disproportionate at 53% and 52%, respectively. The great majority of new arrivals registered still originate from Khartoum (89%), and 21% of those registered have one or more specific needs.

 **Infoline**

Last week, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled 12,100 calls and provided registration appointments to 14,150 people who have fled Sudan. This has brought the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the system to 241,600. Nine out of ten people who approached UNHCR through Infoline last week were in Greater Cairo, while 3.3% were in Alexandria and 2.7% in Aswan.

 **Community-based protection**

Over the last week, refugee outreach workers provided information to close to 4,100 refugees and asylum-seekers from Sudan at UNHCR's 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 2,100 new arrivals and referred 15 cases for in-depth psycho-social assessment.

On 15 February, 35 community leaders, refugees, and asylum-seekers attended a community meeting in El Obour (Greater Cairo) organized by UNHCR. Participants raised their concerns and shared their main needs. UNHCR staff addressed the refugees' questions and provided information on access to services and protection in Egypt.

 **Education**

UNHCR has agreed with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to construct an additional 28 classrooms in areas with a high density of refugee school-age children, particularly Sudanese newly arrived children. The proposed joint project between MoE and UNHCR also includes the establishment of 22 Digital Instant Network School classrooms in 22 lower secondary schools to benefit all refugee children and their Egyptian peers in 10th of Ramadan City of Sharkeyya (Greater Cairo). Additionally, to encourage sports activities and build better relations between refugee and host community children, UNHCR will establish four

playgrounds in schools in Cairo and areas hosting large numbers of refugee families with school-age children. These activities are part of UNHCR's efforts to broaden refugee children's access to Egyptian public schools.

Approximately 100 refugee children attended four Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) camps organized by UNHCR and Al Alfi Foundation in Cairo from 5 to 8 February. Participants in 'STEM for Refugees' included some 40 Sudanese and 60 South Sudanese aged between 10 and 13 years old. These camps allowed refugee children to spark their interest and curiosity in science and technology, boost their morals, and enhance their skills in addition to providing them with a recreational space during the mid-year break. Camps were hosted by Nutty Scientists, an organization that seeks to educate children using innovative and interactive methodologies.



Livelihoods

UNHCR and the National Council for Women organized a training on baking in a community kitchen in Haram (Cairo) for 15 refugee women, including Sudanese. The training is being facilitated by a private sector company and includes a business management component aiming at enhancing refugees' skills to start and expand their businesses. The training started on 4 February and will last until 22 February.

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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