

# Egypt

## Sudan Emergency Response Update

15 January 2025

After fleeing Sudan and finding safety in Egypt, Shadia enrolled her children in school with the support of a UNHCR education grant. She and her family are among the 613,000 Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers registered in Egypt as of 14 January 2025. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa



**1.2 million**  
Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt

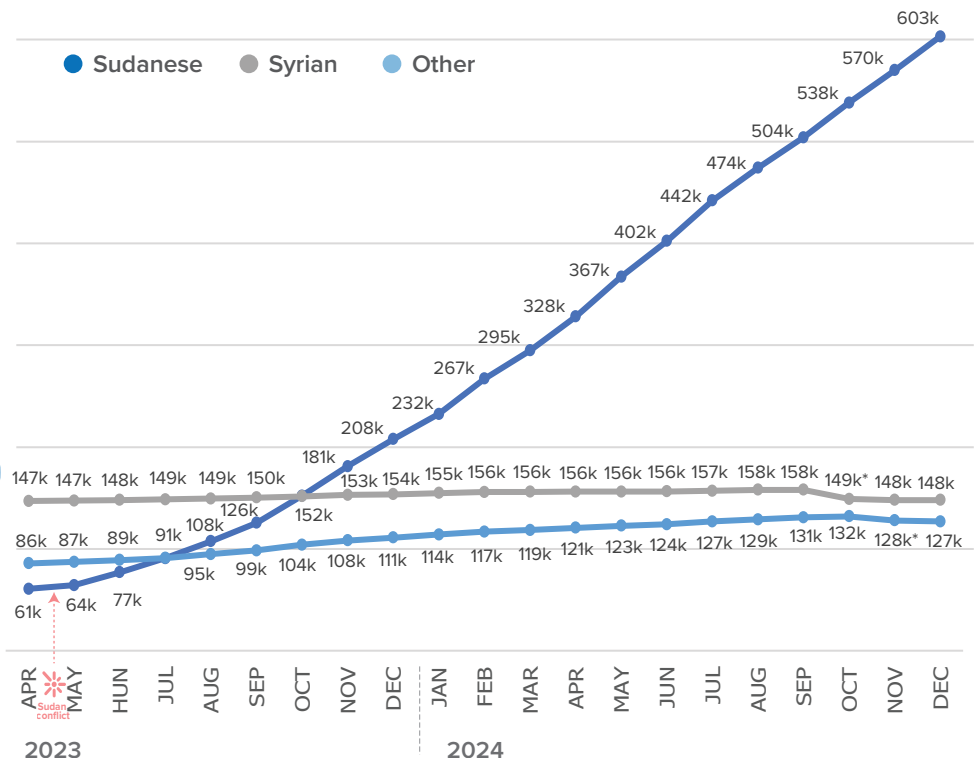
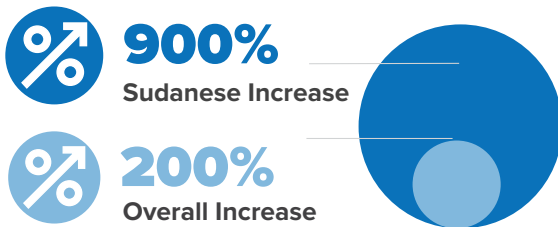
from 15 April 2023 to 25 September 2024, according to the Government of Egypt

**55% funded**  
of the \$57.7 million required by UNHCR for the Sudan emergency response in Egypt in 2024



## Egypt is the largest host country for Sudanese fleeing conflict

The number of Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers fully registered with UNHCR Egypt **increased tenfold** between the onset of the Sudan conflict and 14 January 2025.



\*Syrian and Other nationalities refugee numbers dropped in October and November 2024 as UNHCR resumed inactivating cases of those who did not renew their documents. This process had been paused earlier due to the registration upscaling measures due to the Sudan response.

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- Amid harsh economic challenges and the onset of winter, UNHCR is delivering critical support to over 228,000 vulnerable refugees through one-time winter cash assistance to meet essential needs such as electricity, clothing, blankets, and heaters. This initiative prioritizes families classified as extremely poor or poor, including 43% Sudanese new arrivals and 63% female-headed households.
- On 16 December 2024, Egypt's new Asylum Law was published in the Official Gazette, introducing a Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs (PCRA) to oversee refugee-related matters and regulate access to key services, including healthcare, education, and employment, and to streamline asylum processes. Discussions on the bylaws to detail the law's implementation are expected to follow, and UNHCR, building on years of engagement, will provide technical expertise to support the transition to a government-led asylum framework aligning with international and regional standards.
- In 2024, UNHCR supported 48 public schools in Giza, Alexandria, and Damietta through maintenance and training initiatives. These schools, which are part of the Instant Network Schools (INS) programme led by UNHCR and the Vodafone Foundation, serve 63,100 students, including about 10% refugees. Each INS school is equipped with internet connectivity, a local content server, and an INS classroom featuring a projector, laptop, speaker system, and tablets for students. UNHCR is also working with the General Authority for Educational Buildings (GAEB) and International Computer and Communication Consultation Cairo (ICCC) to refurbish 22 additional INS classrooms in Sharqia (Greater Cairo) as a part of the INS project expansion in 2024. Additionally, solar panels are being installed to provide sufficient energy to power the INS classrooms, contributing to the schools' environmental sustainability.
- On 22 December 2024, UNHCR and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina [organized](#) the closing ceremony of the "Sanctuary" project, which supported 145 refugees from Sudan and other nationalities, as well as Egyptians, to enhance their vocational and technical business skills. Participants were trained in line with the demands of the local labour market, which contributed to improving their living conditions, increasing their chances of establishing and managing small businesses and promoting social integration. They also received a tool kit to start their own business. Additionally, the three best business projects were awarded with financial support.

### Protection

### Registration

As of 14 January 2025, UNHCR Egypt provided registration appointments to 865,000 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, UNHCR has now registered 550,000 individuals for assistance and protection (64%). Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (96%), followed by Eritrean (2%), and South Sudanese (2%). The great majority originate from Khartoum (84%).

### Legal and Physical Protection

Over the last two weeks, some 366 individuals received legal counselling through UNHCR and legal partners for legal aid, related to early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation. Of them, 310 were Sudanese.

### Community-Based Protection

So far in 2025, some 6,400 refugees and asylum-seekers attended information sessions at the UNHCR registration centre in Greater Cairo and were provided with details on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. During the same period, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 6,500 new arrivals, from which 31 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 268 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance.



Omar is one of the 228,000 Sudanese refugee school-age children who fled to Egypt and registered with UNHCR since the start of the conflict in 2023. ©UNHCR/Karim Hany

## Child Protection

On 29 and 30 December 2024, UNHCR held a workshop in Cairo on refugee protection and services. The event brought together 30 staff members from the national hotlines of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) and the National Council for Women (NCW). In 2025, follow-up workshops will focus on case studies, referral pathways, and enhancing coordination among UNHCR, NCCM, NCW, and other stakeholders. These sessions will also review service criteria provided by NCCM and NCW to identify and address gaps in coordination and service delivery.

## Infoline

Last week, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline responded to 8,000 inquiries. Additionally, an average of 760 individuals per day fleeing the conflict in Sudan secured registration appointments through the Infoline. Since the crisis began, 587,000 people have scheduled appointments using this system.

## Education

On 17 December, UNHCR and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) hosted a ceremony in Cairo to celebrate the graduation of 135 scholars under the [DAFI Tertiary Scholarship Programme](#), and to welcome a new cohort of students. The event featured speeches by representatives from the German Embassy, UNHCR Egypt, and CRS, who highlighted the achievements of high-performing graduates and underscored the impact on empowering refugee youth through education. With DAFI Egypt recognized as one of the top-performing programmes globally, the ceremony celebrated the students' contributions to their communities and reaffirmed the importance of higher education in fostering resilience and opportunities for displaced populations.



 **Cash Assistance**

UNHCR Egypt's cash assistance programme significantly improved the lives of vulnerable refugee households in 2024, according to UNHCR's midyear monitoring survey. Through its targeted Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), UNHCR enabled 99% of the 433 surveyed households to enhance their living conditions and 98% to reduce their stress levels. The programme empowered 98% of participants to afford essential goods and services previously out of reach, such as housing (61%), food (57%), and medical care (14%). Additionally, 12% of respondents reported that the cash assistance allowed them to cover all or most of their priority needs. These achievements highlight UNHCR's pivotal role in providing lifesaving support, fostering financial resilience, and addressing critical needs among vulnerable communities in Egypt.

As of 11 January 2025, UNHCR has conducted vulnerability assessments for 128,900 newly arrived Sudanese individuals since the start of the crisis. In Aswan, UNHCR Egypt has so far assessed 14,500 individuals for Emergency Cash Assistance (ECA), with 73% found eligible. Nationwide, 99,200 newly arrived individuals have been identified as eligible for one-time ECA.

 **Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion**

In the second half of December 2024, UNHCR supported Sudanese refugees in showcasing and selling their products at various livelihoods events. From 12 to 21 December, UNHCR participated in the "TURATHNA Exhibition for Handicrafts and Heritage" in Cairo, which featured items created by 21 refugees and asylum-seekers. These were presented in collaboration with three local social enterprises—Yadawee, Threads of Hope, and Samar Hakeem—operating under the MADE51 initiative. On 19 December, UNHCR and its partners organized a refugee celebration event in Cairo to promote social cohesion. The event showcased the exceptional talents and creativity of refugees through music, art, and craftsmanship, along with displays of handmade goods and other products. These initiatives highlighted the resilience of refugees and their valuable contributions to the community.



A Sudanese refugee showcases her handcrafted products at a livelihoods fair hosted by UNHCR in Cairo on 19 December 2024. ©UNHCR/Omnia Magdi


**Health**

Between 5 and 9 January 2025, UNHCR conducted four training sessions for Mersal’s newly recruited staff on refugee protection and UNHCR’s work in Egypt. Mersal’s call center number has been widely shared within the refugee community, and its operators are now scheduling appointments for refugee patients in Cairo. Additionally, UNHCR participated in community meetings to explain the recent changes and their impact on primary healthcare support for refugees. Mersal, UNHCR’s new partner, will oversee primary healthcare services in Greater Cairo in 2025, including the provision of medications for chronic conditions.

### 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, including the response to the Sudan situation.



UNHCR Egypt is also grateful for the crucial support of private donors, including those from Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Spain, and Sweden.

**DONATE NOW**

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