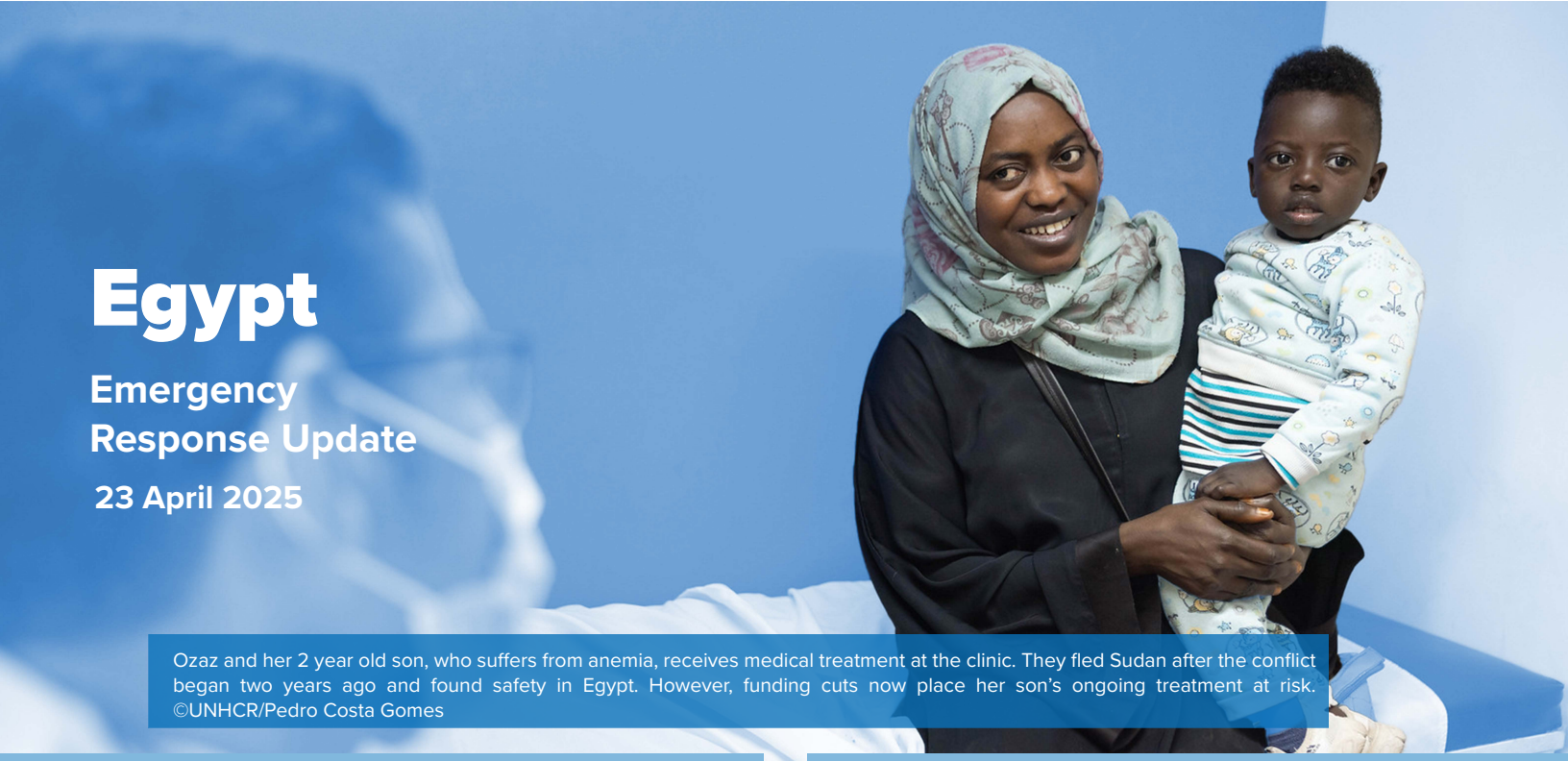
Egypt

Emergency Response Update

23 April 2025



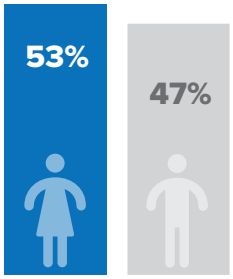
Ozaz and her 2 year old son, who suffers from anemia, receives medical treatment at the clinic. They fled Sudan after the conflict began two years ago and found safety in Egypt. However, funding cuts now place her son's ongoing treatment at risk. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

1.5 million
Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt
since the start of the Sudan crisis in 2023, according to the Government of Egypt.

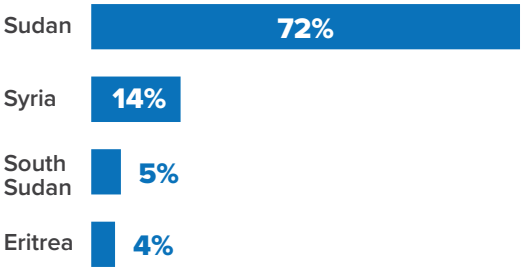
22% funded
of the $137.7 million required by UNHCR for the refugee response in Egypt in 2025.

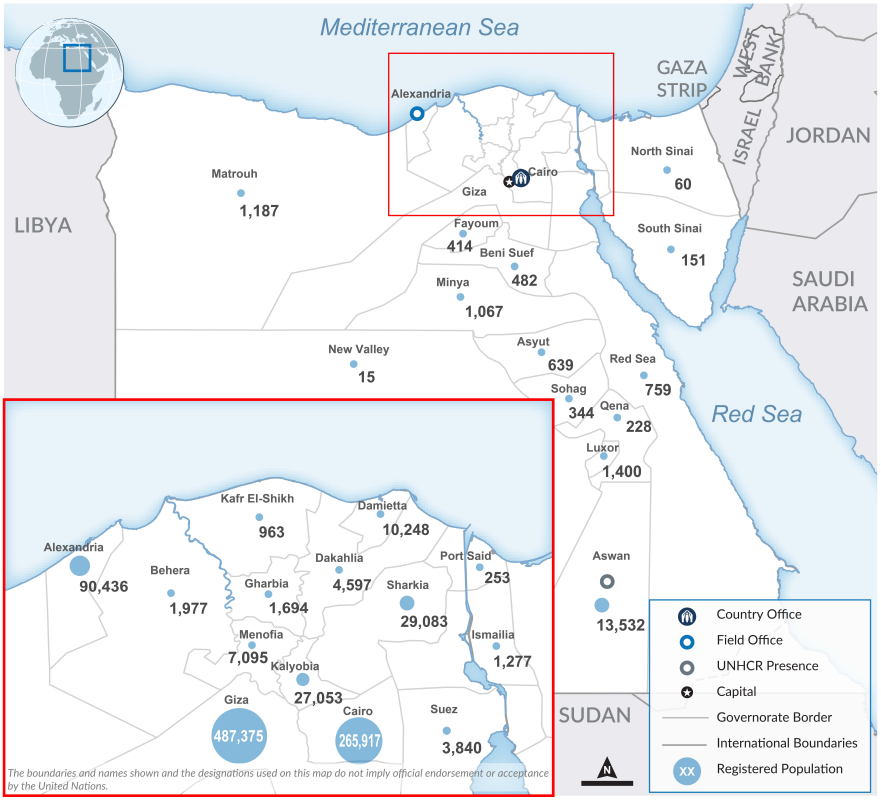
Overview of refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt

952,000
Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR Egypt as of 22 April 2025.



Top Countries of Origin





Source: UNHCR registration data

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- Egypt hosted the second ministerial meeting of the Khartoum Process (KP) in Cairo on 9 April after a three-year pause, bringing together officials from over 50 countries across Europe and the Horn of Africa to coordinate efforts against irregular migration and human trafficking. During her intervention, UNHCR Representative highlighted the need to work with the KP member states, IOM and other key partners on advancing the route-based approach through joint programs that foster effective coordination among the countries of origin, asylum, transit, and final destination enhancing protection. The meeting culminated in the adoption of the Cairo Ministerial Declaration, which focuses on shared responsibility, protection of migrants, and the promotion of legal and safe migration pathways. The Cairo Plan of Action, which outlines the strategic direction for the initiative's future under the newly appointed French presidency, was also adopted.

- On the two-year mark of the Sudan crisis, UNHCR Egypt provided interviews to several international media outlets, including Deutsche Welle (Germany), RTS (Switzerland) The New Arab (UK), El Periodico (Spain), RTVE (Spain), and La Croix (France). UNHCR emphasized the devastating scale of displacement from Sudan – now at record levels – with Egypt currently hosting the largest number of refugees, all amid the most severe humanitarian funding crisis in decades. In parallel, UNHCR Egypt supported a fundraising campaign led by the UNHCR Foundation in Switzerland to mark this milestone. The campaign included a press release, two pieces to camera, a voice-streamed advertisement, and two radio interviews, and it specifically highlighted the consequences of funding cuts, particularly for Sudanese refugees in Egypt.

- On 8 and 9 April, UNHCR Egypt engaged in high-level meetings and field visits with key European partners on the margins of the Khartoum Process conference. On 8 April, UNHCR welcomed senior officials from Germany, Norway, and Denmark to its Reception Centre in Greater Cairo, where they received an overview of the refugee response and participated in a focus group discussion with five Sudanese asylum-seekers who shared their challenges. The following day, the UNHCR Representative to Egypt met with Marjolein Faber, the Dutch Minister of Asylum and Migration, to brief on the Dutch-funded Prospects programme – of which UNHCR is the largest recipient in Egypt – as well as the asylum transition plan, its financial needs, and the importance of broader support for the transition to State-led responsibility.

- On 15 April, UNHCR Egypt officially launched its new WhatsApp Channel, aimed at providing refugees and asylum seekers with timely, accurate, and accessible information in Arabic. This one-way communication tool complements UNHCR's existing digital platforms, such as its Facebook pages and Help website, by delivering real-time updates, including service announcements, health advisories, and operational changes, directly to users in a secure and anonymous format. The channel supports multimedia content such as images, videos, and voice notes, making it especially useful for individuals with varying literacy levels. Given the widespread use of WhatsApp among refugee communities, the platform ensures broad reach and trust, while also enhancing cost-efficiency by reducing the need for printed materials.

Protection

Registration

As of 22 April 2025, UNHCR Egypt provided registration appointments to 916,730 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, UNHCR has now registered 629,778 individuals for assistance and protection (69%). Adding to the pre-April 2023 population, there is now a total registered of 950,916 refugees and asylum-seekers from 61 nationalities in Egypt. Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (96%), followed by Eritrean (1.7%), and South Sudanese (1.6%). Over half (55%) are female and 41% 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 21 April, more than 17,000 Syrians have submitted such requests, signaling their intention to return to Syria, averaging 91 requests per day – compared to just seven per day in November 2024. In addition, around 11,000 individuals have been closed as spontaneous departures, reflecting a growing perception among many Syrians that return may now be viable.

Infoline

Over the past two weeks, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline responded to 29,646 inquiries. Additionally, an average of some 2,548 individuals per day fleeing the conflict in Sudan secured registration appointments through the Infoline. Since the crisis began, a total of 610,842 people have successfully been scheduled with appointments using this system.

Legal and Physical Protection (LPP)

Over the past two weeks, 797 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 240 refugees, including 154 Sudanese.

Community-Based Protection (CBP)

Over the past two weeks, 12,028 refugees and asylum-seekers, including new arrivals from Sudan, received information on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints from outreach community workers at UNHCR's Reception Centre in 6th of October City, Greater Cairo. In addition, over the same period, UNHCR's partner Terre des Hommes (TdH) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 7,300 individuals, out of whom 35 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 249 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance. Additionally, UNHCR provided CBP case management for 253 refugees, including 226 who received in-person counseling, while the rest were assisted through remote sessions.

From 8 to 16 April, UNHCR, in collaboration with Red Noses International, organized eight therapeutic clown shows reaching 220 refugees across multiple multi-purpose community centers (MPCC) in Cairo and three Refugee-Led Organizations (New Vision, Damas, and Amal El Mostakbal). The participants included 145 children, 30 children with physical disabilities, 30 elderly individuals, and 15 adults with physical disabilities, representing diverse nationalities (Syrian, South Sudanese, Yemeni, Eritrean, and Sudanese). As one of the world's leading healthcare clown organizations, Red Noses International brings trained

healthcare clowns to crisis settings through its Emergency Smile programme to promote emotional well-being and social inclusion for vulnerable communities.

On 15 April, UNHCR organized a joint reception at TdH's MPCC in Giza. During the event, UNHCR and partner staff provided support to 55 refugees and asylum-seekers, including individuals from Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Eritrea, and Ethiopia.

Durable Solutions

UNHCR Egypt actively monitors major social media pages and community groups to better understand refugees' priorities and interests regarding available services provided by UNHCR and its partners. Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in online discussions among Sudanese refugees in Egypt about returning to Sudan. These conversations focus on practical concerns such as the best routes to take, procedures, and logistics involving return. The surge in such posts provides valuable insight into the information needs and intentions of the Sudanese community.

Syrian refugee Gayath and his baby request assistance from UNHCR in Cairo. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

Child Protection

On 17 April, UNHCR met with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) to review the ongoing referral pathways and discuss the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

On 10 April, UNHCR participated in a roundtable on protection of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) at the Public Policy hub at the American University of Cairo. The roundtable was aimed at understanding the challenges, and possible policy solutions to address the protection concerns of UASC, both refugees and migrants.

Education

UNHCR participated in a roundtable discussion organized by the American University in Cairo to explore ways to enhance refugee access to education in Egypt and identify opportunities for improving learning outcomes. The discussion brought together professionals from across the education sector, including representatives from UN agencies, community educators, and youth focal points from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Planning, and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM).

UNHCR education partners delivered a capacity building session to 10 community leaders to share information on the available services and the relevant application procedures. The primary objective of these sessions is to empower and encourage local leaders to actively raise awareness on the education and integration of refugee children and youth within the host community, and to extend outreach to refugee groups. Furthermore, 19 refugee youth continued to benefit from the UNHCR TVET education program focusing on topics of mobile maintenance and car mechanics. Additionally, 20 parents of children with disabilities attended one-on-one mentorship sessions to provide tailored guidance on how to best support their children's education while addressing any challenges they may encounter.

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, Germany, and Spain.

DONATE NOW

CONTACT: UNHCR External Relations and Public Information Unit – arecapi@unhcr.org

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