



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Egypt

Emergency Response Update

07 May 2025

With support from UNHCR, more than 60 Sudanese refugee children in Cairo shared moments of laughter and relief during a heartwarming clown performance by the NGO Red Noses International on 14 April 2025—bringing joy and emotional respite to children affected by displacement ©UNHCR/Jaime Giménez



958,000
refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Egypt

26% funded

of the \$137.7 million required by UNHCR for the refugee response in Egypt in 2025



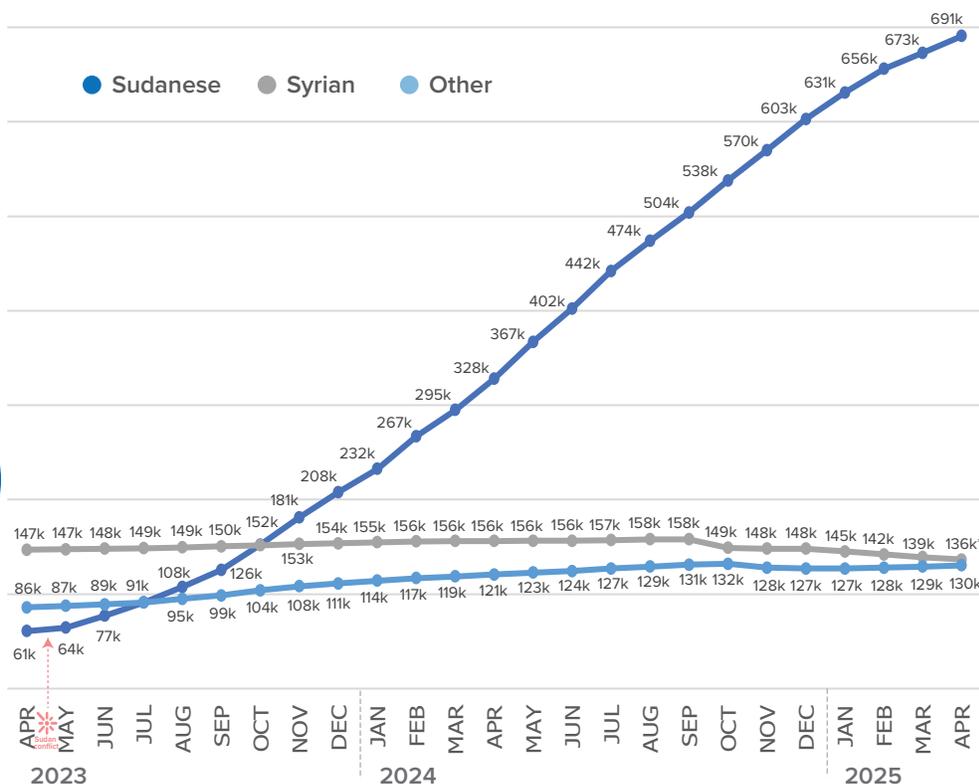
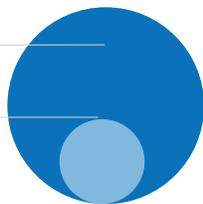
UNHCR Egypt registers 24,000 new Sudanese monthly in 2025

1.5 million Sudanese have fled to Egypt since the onset of the Sudan conflict, according to the Government of Egypt.

As of April 2025, UNHCR had registered **691,000** Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers.

1037%
Sudanese Increase

226%
Overall Increase



*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. Additionally, following political developments in Syria in December 2024, there has been a significant increase in asylum closure requests from Syrian refugees in Egypt.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- On 3 May, UNHCR Representative to Egypt and the League of Arab States, Hanan Hamdan, participated in the [Strategic Dialogue](#) between the United Nations and Egypt's Foreign Minister, Badr Abdelatty. The Foreign Minister reaffirmed Egypt's strong commitment to multilateralism, stressing that current global tensions demand renewed collective efforts to strengthen international cooperation. He emphasized Egypt's role as a regional hub for addressing key global challenges and highlighted the growing pressure on national systems and infrastructure due to the large number of refugees and migrants hosted in the country. Minister Abdelatty also expressed concern over funding shortfalls and their impact on the UN's operational capacity, while reiterating Egypt's willingness to serve as a regional hub for the UN. In her remarks, the UNHCR Representative outlined regional displacement trends, reaffirmed UNHCR's support for Egypt's transition to a nationally led asylum system, and underscored the human impact of funding cuts on millions of refugees across the MENA region.
- On 30 April, due to funding shortages, UNHCR Egypt closed its registration centre in Zamalek, Cairo, which had previously served Syrian asylum-seekers. As of 1 May, Syrian refugees seeking registration and protection services are required to approach the UNHCR Reception Centre in 6th of October City. The centre currently receives an average of 3,000 refugees and asylum-seekers per day, primarily from Sudan. Ongoing registration for Syrians will now be integrated with other nationalities, while maintaining their original appointment dates for registration services, with a prioritized approach for file closure requests related to returns to Syria. The transition was preceded by engagement with local authorities and through targeted messaging and multiple community meetings to inform refugees of the change and address concerns. Also, UNHCR [announced](#) the Zamalek centre's closure via social media.
- On 23 April, 12 refugee children took part in an Earth Day [event](#) in Alexandria that brought together students, academics, government officials, civil society actors, and volunteers—all united by a shared commitment to environmental sustainability. The program included interactive workshops and discussions on climate challenges facing Egypt's coastal and environmentally vulnerable cities. The event was organized by the Intellectual and Environmental Development Association in collaboration with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and UNHCR, under the national "Egypt Speaks Green" initiative, sponsored by the Ministry of Environment.
- On 17 April, UNHCR Egypt hosted a live Facebook [session](#) to explain recent [changes](#) to the residency permit process for refugees and asylum-seekers. The video has since garnered 175,000 views and has been shared 341 times across various Facebook groups and pages, helping refugees access critical information. It is now the most viewed live session since UNHCR Egypt began hosting live videos in 2021. The high level of engagement contributed to a significant boost in reach—UNHCR Egypt's Arabic Facebook [page](#) recorded 1.6 million views in April, marking a 341% increase compared to March. Additionally, UNHCR Egypt's Help [website](#) received 210,000 visits in April, ranking it as the third most-visited Help site globally.

 **Protection** **Registration**

As of 4 May 2025, UNHCR Egypt has provided registration appointments to 922,300 people who fled Sudan following the outbreak of conflict in April 2023. Of these, 638,800 individuals (69%) have been registered by UNHCR for protection and assistance. The vast majority of the newly registered population from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (96%), followed by Eritreans (1.7%) and South Sudanese (1.6%). Women make up 55% of the population, 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 5 May, more than 19,700 Syrians have submitted such requests, signaling their intention to return to Syria. In addition, 12,520 individuals have been closed as spontaneous departures, reflecting a growing perception among many Syrians that return may now be viable.

Community-Based Protection

Over the last two weeks, 6,900 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly new arrivals from Sudan, attended information sessions on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints at the UNHCR Reception Centre in Greater Cairo. Additionally, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 3,700 individuals, out of whom 53 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 175 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance. Additionally, UNHCR's CBP team provided counseling to 151 refugees.

On 28 April, UNHCR Egypt conducted an intensive training session for Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs), hosted at the TdH Community Centre in Alexandria. This initiative reflected UNHCR's broader strategy to localize protection by building the operational capacity of RLOs – empowering them to lead, respond, and advocate effectively within their communities. The training brought together 48 active refugee community members who play vital roles in supporting and mobilizing their communities. The purpose is to encourage RLOs to take greater ownership of the response and assume increased responsibilities within their communities, particularly in the context of the ongoing funding crisis. This includes building their capacity in resource mobilization, intersectoral coordination, and service mapping to avoid duplication, enabling them to more effectively identify and address critical gaps.

On 27 April, 86 refugee leaders from various nationalities participated in a community meeting hosted by UNHCR and TdH in Greater Cairo. The session aimed to update community representatives on recent developments in services, including health care, cash assistance, and residency permit procedures.

On 23 April, UNHCR held a community meeting with Syrian community leaders living across Greater Cairo. The discussion focused on the upcoming closure of UNHCR's registration center in Zamalek, as well as key issues related to legal and physical protection, and support for returns to Syria.



Sudanese refugee children enjoy a clown performance in Cairo, 14 April 2025. ©UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Legal and Physical Protection (LPP)

On 25 April, a bus accident in central Egypt affected 19 refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR and its legal partner responded promptly, coordinating with local authorities to ensure the injured received emergency medical care. Three individuals with serious injuries were transferred to a nearby hospital for specialized treatment. UNHCR's legal partner supported the response by liaising with hospitals, assisting with family tracing, especially for a separated child, and following up on each case to ensure appropriate medical care and protection support.

Over the past two weeks, 942 individuals received legal assistance and counselling through UNHCR and partners, concerning early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation. 18 birth certificates were issued during the period. Additionally, UNHCR, in coordination with its partner CARE, held a legal clinic on 29 April in Cairo, providing legal support to 26 individuals.

Infoline

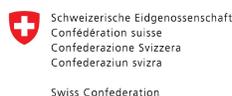
In the past two weeks, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled 19,000 inquiries and booked registration appointments for an average of 206 people daily fleeing the Sudan conflict. Since the Sudan crisis began, a total of 612,800 individuals have scheduled appointments through the system.

Capacity-Building

Last week in Cairo, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Defense, held a three-day training for 23 Border Control Officers. The training focused on key refugee protection principles, services provided by UNHCR and its partners, and care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). Participants showed particular interest in issues related to birth registration, family reunification, and child separation.

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.

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