UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Egypt

Monthly Operational Update

May 2026

1,057,958 individuals

were provided with registration appointments since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023.

Viola, a Sudanese refugee living in Egypt, meets with UNHCR's protection team to discuss her concerns. As a single mother, she works hard to support her children despite the challenges of displacement. ©UNHCR/Lamis Soliman

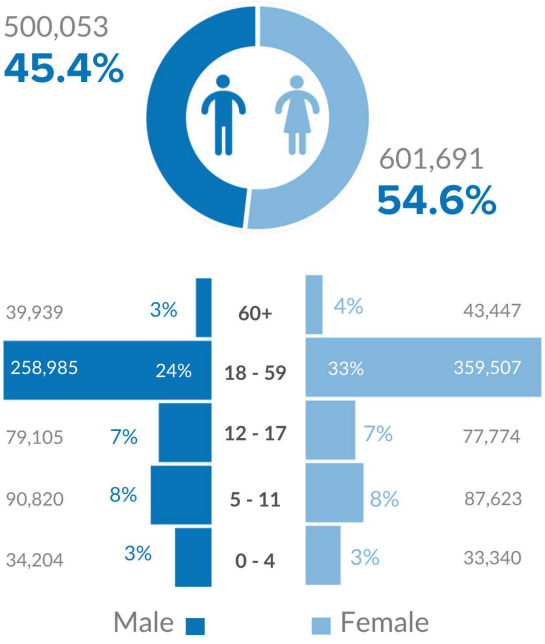
1,101,744
Registered population

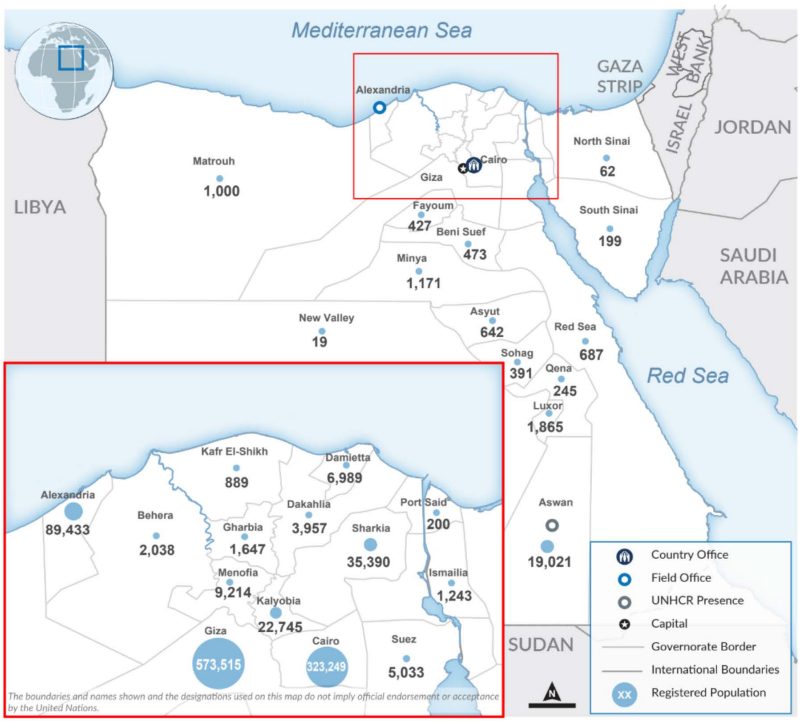
444,801
Registered households

73%
Women and children

19.8%
Persons with specific needs

Gender and age of registered population





LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- On 21 May, UNHCR and the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) held a high-level meeting led by the NCHR President and the UNHCR Egypt Representative. Discussions focused on **strengthening coordination** and **expanding areas of cooperation** between UNHCR and NCHR, including enhancing the Council's role in overseeing refugee-related issues. UNHCR provided an overview of the refugee situation in Egypt, highlighting recent trends and key protection considerations. Both sides agreed to advance collaboration through **technical cooperation, capacity-building initiatives and ongoing dialogue**.

- On 20 May, UNHCR welcomed a high-level visit from European Union (EU) delegation. The UNHCR Representative expressed gratitude for EU's continued support and underscored the need for **sustained funding** in the current context. The visit included a briefing on the refugee response in Egypt, followed by a tour of the Reception and Registration Centre in 6th October City. The delegation commended UNHCR's work and ongoing efforts to respond to the **increasing needs of refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt**.

- On 4 May 2026, UNHCR hosted a Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) North Africa monitoring mission. The delegation, including representatives from the European Union and the Italian Ministry of the Interior, was briefed on the refugee response and protection environment, with a focus on **RDPP-supported activities**, including **registration**, **refugee status determination**, **asylum capacity-building** and **livelihoods**. Following the brief, the delegation visited the Registration Centre, where they observed operations and engaged with refugees. This was followed by a field mission to Alexandria (6-7 May), where the delegation engaged with partners and beneficiaries to assess livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions.

Protection

Registration

As of 31 May 2026, the active population of refugees and asylum-seekers registered in Egypt is now 1,101,744 individuals, including those who arrived in Egypt before the conflict, with the following breakdown: 851,590 Sudanese (77%), 152,065 of other nationalities (14%), and Syrians 98,089 (9%). Women and girls make up 55% of the registered population.

In May 2026, UNHCR Egypt registered around 9,200 new refugees and asylum-seekers, 79% of whom were Sudanese nationals. Smaller numbers include other nationalities (20%) and Syrians (1%).

A Syrian refugee girl joins a drawing activity for children at a UNHCR-supported community center. UNHCR/Christine Beshay

Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, UNHCR Egypt has provided registration appointments to more than 1,058,000 individuals who fled the country. Of these, approximately 848,800 people (80%) have been fully registered to receive protection and assistance. Since the fall of the former Government of Syria, Syrians have approached UNHCR to request the closure of their asylum cases which is a prerequisite before leaving Egypt to return to Syria. Between 8 December 2024 and 31 May 2026, 17,839 closure requests involving around 43,451 individuals were submitted, including on-the-spot closures.

Community-Based Protection

In May, 9,173 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 2,868 individuals, out of whom 65 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 110 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance. Additionally, UNHCR provided counselling to 379 refugees, including 112 who received in-person counselling, while the rest were assisted through remote sessions.

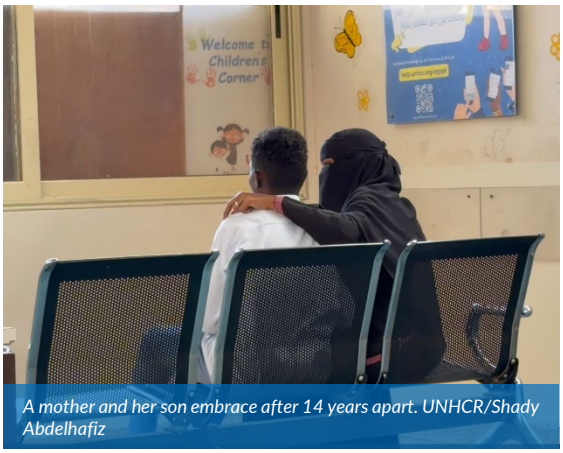
UNHCR, in collaboration with specialized partners, organized and implemented a series of psychosocial and recreational activities across multiple locations, including UNHCR facilities, Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs), Community Development Associations (CDAs), Multi-Purpose Community Centres (MPCCs), and partner sites. The activities featured interactive clown performances alongside painting and recreational sessions, all designed to provide psychosocial support, foster positive engagement, and offer moments of relief for children, adults, community members, and frontline staff. Overall, the initiative reached more than 400 participants in recorded sessions, with additional individuals engaged through other performances, contributing to enhanced inclusion, social cohesion, and psychosocial well-being among refugee and host community members of diverse nationalities.

Legal and Physical Protection (LPP)

Some 603 individuals received legal aid assistance through UNHCR and partners, concerning early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation. Additionally, 1,074 individuals received counselling on their legal needs and referred to services as appropriate. Moreover, UNHCR provided LPP case management for 85 refugees.

Child Protection

On 10-11 May, UNHCR participated in a workshop hosted by UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports at the Shabab Balad Academy in Cairo. The workshop brought together government, UN, private sector, training, and youth stakeholders to contribute to discussions on a new digital initiative aimed at enhancing young people's access to learning, skills development, and employment pathways.



A mother and her son embrace after 14 years apart. UNHCR/Shady Abdelhafiz

Two family reunification cases shared on UNHCR social media highlight the impact of protection interventions in restoring family unity. In one case, a child who had recently arrived in Egypt was reunited with their mother after 14 years of separation—having been an infant at the time of separation—due to family conflict. In another, a mother was reunited with her daughter after nine years apart following a complex, multi-country displacement journey; the child was supported to reach Egypt and was later reunited with her mother in Finland through coordinated efforts with national authorities. These cases underscore the importance of sustained investment in family reunification pathways, which remain critical for restoring safety, dignity, and psychosocial well-being, particularly for unaccompanied children and women at risk.

Infoline

In May, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline responded to over 11,425 inquiries. Additionally, approximately 5010 individuals fleeing the conflict in Sudan secured registration appointments through the Infoline.

Since the crisis began, 619,761 people have successfully been given appointments using this system. It enables refugees to access service information, receive counselling, and book registration appointments in seven languages.

Education

UNHCR and its partners continued to strengthen refugee access to education and inclusion through community outreach and mentoring activities.

In May, mentoring support reached approximately 100 DAFI scholarship students from diverse nationalities, with a focus on academic follow-up, well-being, and tailored support to promote retention and success in higher education. At the same time, vocational training continued through the Coil Winding course, benefiting over 20 out-of-school refugee youth and equipping them with technical skills to enhance livelihood opportunities and facilitate labour market integration. In addition, two community awareness sessions were conducted in Alexandria, reaching over 50 parents and secondary school students, and providing information on available education services, university application procedures in Egypt, and eligibility criteria for the DAFI scholarship programme.

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 Australia, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Spain, and Sweden.

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