

Egypt

Sudan Emergency Response Update

07 February 2024

Doa's university studies in Khartoum were abruptly halted by the start of the Sudanese conflict. After months displaced within her country, she had no choice but to flee to Egypt for safety in late 2023. "I love helping others," she says, expressing her wish to volunteer as a teacher in Cairo, just as she did in Sudan. ©UNHCR/Jaime Giménez



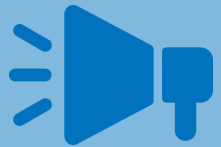
450,000

Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt

from 15 April 2023 on — latest figure from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

41% funded

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



Refugee increase in Egypt driven by the Sudan crisis

The number of [Sudanese refugees](#) registered with UNHCR almost **quadrupled** between the onset of the Sudan conflict and the end of January 2024.



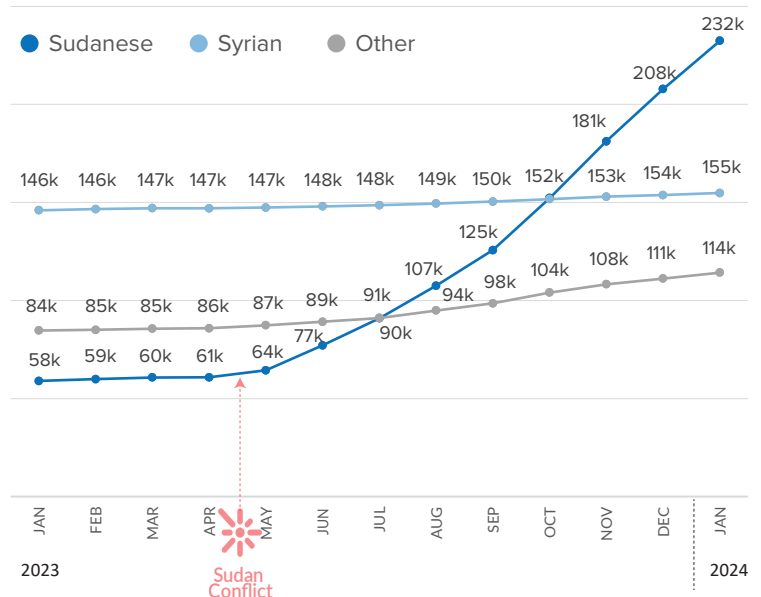
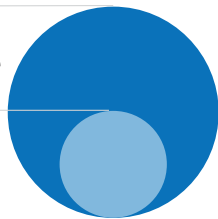
282%

Sudanese Increase



71%

Overall Increase



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS - HIGHLIGHTS

- 450,000 Sudanese and 8,827 individuals of other nationalities - 458,827 people - have crossed into Egypt between the start of the Sudan crisis in April 2023 and 31 January 2024, according to the latest figures received by UNHCR from the Government of Egypt.
- UNHCR [launched](#) the 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan ([RRP](#)) for the Sudan Emergency globally on 7 February. The financial requirements for Egypt amount to USD 175.1 million, to be implemented by 27 partners targeting 363,000 Sudanese forced to flee.
- The average number of regular daily entries by all nationalities from Sudan to Egypt for all nationalities slightly decreased in January to 353, compared to 363 in December. For Sudanese, however, the daily average increased from 238 to 252 between December and January.
- UNHCR in Egypt has so far registered half of the 325,000 people forced to flee Sudan since mid-April who have sought to register with UNHCR for protection and assistance.

Protection

Almost half of the 500,000 refugees and asylum-seekers that are now registered with UNHCR Egypt are Sudanese. Driven by the increasing number of new arrivals from Sudan, the total number of individuals fully registered with UNHCR surpassed half a million [on 31 January](#). Out of these, 232,000 are Sudanese, and some 161,000 of them arrived in Egypt after the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Syrians are the second largest population with 154,000. Other significant nationalities include South Sudanese (39,000), Eritreans (33,000), and Ethiopians (18,000). In total, refugees from 62 different nationalities are registered with UNHCR in Egypt.

In January, there was a noticeable increase in Sudanese irregular entry and stay across Egypt, in particular in the south. UNHCR continues its collaboration with the Government of Egypt, as well as advocacy, to ensure that those fleeing Sudan in need of international protection have access to asylum.

Registration

As of 02 February, UNHCR Egypt had provided pre-registration appointments to 325,102 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of them, 161,351 individuals have already been fully registered (50%). UNHCR is working to increase its capacity to meet the demand. Most of the registered population are Sudanese nationals (91%), while the other main nationalities registered are South Sudanese (4%), and Eritrean (3%). 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 22% of those registered have one or more specific needs.

Infoline

Last week, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled 13,573 calls and provided registration appointments to 18,836 people who have fled Sudan. This brings the overall number of people who received registration appointments through the system to 209,323. Following the merging of the Cairo and Alexandria lines and the hiring of additional agents, the average number of calls per day has increased a 173% compared to pre-crisis levels (before April 2023).



Ola, Hala and Ali are three Sudanese siblings who arrived in Egypt late last year with their family, forced to flee their country and leaving behind their school and friends. ©UNHCR/Lamis Soliman

Gender-based violence

In Cairo, UNHCR and UNFPA hosted a donor advocacy roundtable [event](#) on prevention and responses to gender-based violence in emergencies on 1 February. The event brought together representatives from women refugee-led organizations, NGOs, embassies, and UN agencies to improve the effectiveness of funding and increase awareness of specific complexities facing refugees in Egypt. Highlights included presentations from members of the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sub-working group for the Sudan response and a panel discussion with women managing GBV response programmes in refugee communities. Key challenges highlighted for Sudanese women include financial dependence on perpetrators and the inability to work, a legal framework that makes divorce difficult for them, and the fact that medical staff are obligated to report GBV cases to the police for further investigation. This can put GBV survivors at high risk of exposure and retaliation, among other concerns.

Community-based protection

Over the last week, refugee outreach workers provided support to close to 3,044 newly arrived people from Sudan at UNHCR's Reception Centre in Greater Cairo on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. Furthermore, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided basic counselling to 1,580 refugees and asylum-seekers.

As part of its community engagement activities, on 1 February UNHCR organized a meeting with 30 refugee men and women, mostly Sudanese, to explain the functioning of its cash assistance programme. During the session, refugees expressed a keen interest in understanding more about the criteria used to prioritize the most vulnerable families receiving cash support. This was the second community meeting of this kind conducted by UNHCR in Cairo in 2024.


Health

In 2023, UNHCR's partner Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) provided medical services to more than 31,900 persons newly arrived from Sudan at the Qustol and Argeen border crossings. Besides the services provided at the borders, UNHCR Egypt delivered primary health care consultations to more than 2,300 recently arrived Sudanese through its partners. In addition, 985 Sudanese forced to flee were referred for secondary and tertiary care.


Livelihoods

Eighteen refugees who participated in a UNHCR co-organized art exhibition in Cairo in late 2023, have obtained access to showcase and sell their work on [Artsy](#), a leading online platform for the world's emerging and established artists. Among them, there are six Sudanese who arrived in the country after the start of the conflict in April 2023.

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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