

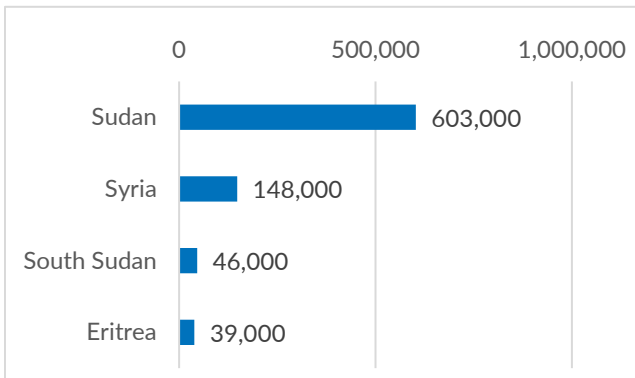
Egypt

December 2024

There are 877,000 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR Egypt. Sudanese are the largest group, followed by Syrians. Most refugees live in Greater Cairo and Alexandria. UNHCR has been in Egypt since 1954. Since then, UNHCR has provided protection, including registration, documentation, refugee status determination, and resettlement to people forced to flee. Egypt is the top recipient country of people fleeing the current conflict in Sudan. UNHCR is intensifying its protection and assistance efforts to meet the most urgent needs of newly arrived Sudanese refugees.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS REGISTERED WITH UNHCR EGYPT, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2024

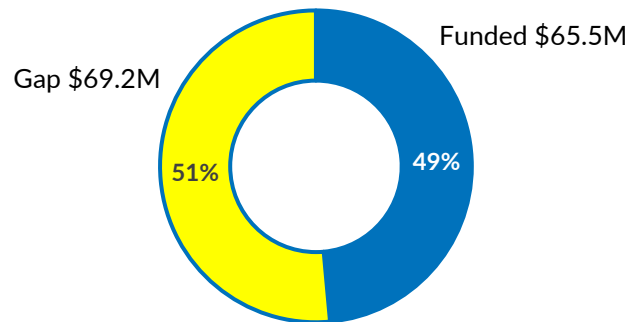
Top 4 Countries of Origin



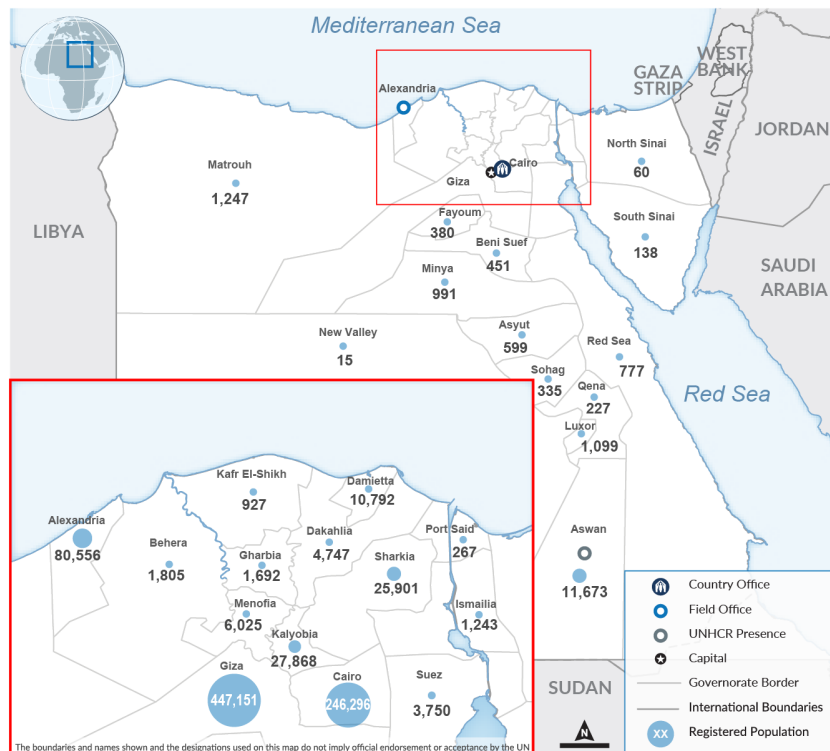
FUNDING (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2024)

USD 134.7 million

requested for the Egypt Operation



MAIN RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF REFUGEES IN EGYPT



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

66 International Staff
 365 National Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Cairo
 2 Reception Centres in Cairo and Giza
 1 RSD/RST Building in Giza
 1 Field Office in Alexandria

Gender breakdown of refugees registered in Egypt:



Context

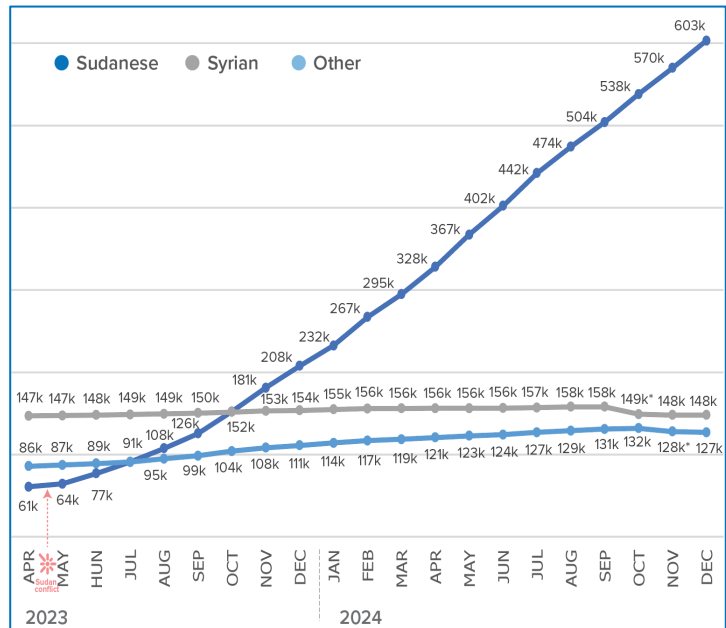
There are 877,000 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Egypt, nearly three times the number from a year and a half ago with major conflicts across its borders. Refugees in Egypt live in urban settings across the major cities, with most new arrivals coming from Sudan.

In December 2024, the Government of Egypt (GoE) enacted a new asylum law. UNHCR has submitted an initial transition plan to the GoE to support establishing an asylum management system in line with international and regional norms.

According to the GoE, 1.2 million Sudanese have arrived in the country since April 2023. UNHCR has observed nearly a tenfold increase in Sudanese individuals registering as refugees, mainly women and children.

In response to the Gaza crisis, UNHCR has delivered water, clothes, blankets, jerry cans, and sleeping mats to Gaza, and cash assistance to medical evacuees from Gaza in Egypt – both through the Egyptian Red Crescent. UNHCR also provides protection and assistance to some 148,000 Syrian refugees who have sought safety in Egypt.

A key goal of UNHCR Egypt is ensuring refugees are included in national systems, services, and strategies from the beginning of emergencies. This approach includes working closely with national and local public institutions, development organizations, the private sector, and other partners to strengthen policies, improve government capacity to deliver inclusive services and support refugees in becoming self-reliant. This long-term vision is implemented through multi-year programs aimed at refugee inclusion, such as the Dutch-funded Prospects program and the EU-funded Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees.



Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR Egypt (April 2023-November 2024)
 *Syrian and Other nationalities' refugee numbers dropped in November 2024 as UNHCR resumed inactivating cases of those who did not renew their documents.



Sudanese refugee women display their decorated hands after participating in a Henna livelihood workshop at the Rouh Initiative community centre in Alexandria. ©UNHCR/Christina Rizk

Main Activities

Protection

Reception, Counselling, and Legal Assistance

UNHCR Egypt receives more than three thousand refugees at its offices every working day. The first points of contact with UNHCR are the reception areas in Greater Cairo and Alexandria. There, protection staff counsel refugees and asylum-seekers entering the premises on a walk-in basis. Refugees have several other access avenues to UNHCR including its revamped helpline. Operators provide information-sharing and counselling and schedule registration appointments for asylum-seekers and refugees in Egypt in seven languages. Furthermore, refugees and asylum-seekers have access to legal remedies and representation through lawyers of NGO partners.



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/K. Hany

Community-Based Protection

UNHCR and partners provide targeted support to persons with specific needs through individual case management, psychosocial support, and emergency response. UNHCR also organizes community activities to promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities.

Communication with Communities

UNHCR provides refugees and asylum-seekers with information about UNHCR and partners' services through different communication channels, including social media and UNHCR Egypt's [Help website](#), which was the most viewed among all UNHCR operations globally in 2024. Moreover, UNHCR provided information on protection, assistance and procedures for reporting fraud to 223,000 individuals in 2024.

Child Protection

UNHCR Child Protection (CP) programming focuses on children at risk of abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation. Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) remain one of the key vulnerable groups of refugee children. UNHCR conducts best-interest assessments and prioritizes protection and assistance to UASC and other children at risk across all programmes through prevention and response activities and specialized services.

Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

UNHCR focuses on prevention, risk mitigation, and response activities to ensure that survivors of GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and trafficking for sexual exploitation receive quality, timely, and survivor-centred support services. All survivors receiving case management are guaranteed access to safe and confidential multisectoral GBV referral pathways, which include emergency shelter, psychosocial support, legal assistance, emergency cash aid, and medical care.

Registration

Registration of the population in need of international protection is a central activity of UNHCR, as the Government of Egypt delegated this task with a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1954. The crisis in Sudan has prompted UNHCR to significantly expand its registration capabilities, aiming to protect as many individuals as possible. In addition to facilitating access to services, biometric registration allows refugees and asylum-seekers to regularize their stay in Egypt and obtain a renewable residence permit.

As of 31 December, some 850,000 people forced to flee Sudan have approached UNHCR for registration. Of them, 63% have been fully registered. In response to the increasing numbers, UNHCR has scaled up its overall registration processing since the start of the Sudan crisis by increasing staffing, improving infrastructure, and expanding the Infoline as well as communication channels. In August 2024, UNHCR Egypt launched its online registration appointment tool for Sudanese individuals to expedite their access to appointments and to reduce the pressures on UNHCR's main reception centre.



- **Refugee Status Determination**

UNHCR conducts Refugee Status Determination (RSD) on behalf of the Government and facilitates access to protection, basic needs, and essential services, such as health and education. UNHCR Egypt strategically utilizes RSD to maximize protection benefits for many asylum-seekers while maintaining the integrity of the asylum system. Before and after the Sudan crisis, UNHCR Egypt has been the largest and most productive RSD mandate operation globally. In 2024, UNHCR finalized more than 12,600 RSD decisions.

- **Durable Solutions**

Due to its location, Egypt is part of the Syrian and Central Mediterranean resettlement initiatives. In 2024, some 5,250 refugees were submitted for resettlement consideration to the USA, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Australia, Portugal and the UK. Moreover, more than 3,000 refugees departed for resettlement countries. UNHCR Egypt continues to prioritize Complementary Pathways as a means of a long-lasting solution for refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt. In 2024, 2,060 refugees and asylum-seekers departed the country after accessing such pathways, including family reunification, labour mobility, education, and private sponsorship programs.

- **Education**

UNHCR advocates for enrolling refugees and asylum-seekers in public schools on the same footing as Egyptians. In 2024, UNHCR provided education cash grants to 82,000 refugee children. Furthermore, based on the needs identified by the Ministry of Education, UNHCR provides bridging classes, and teacher training, supports the refurbishment of schools, and supplies equipment, and other necessities to assist the Egyptian facilities in absorbing the refugee children. UNHCR Egypt also facilitated the enrolment of some 350 refugee students in universities through the DAFI Tertiary Scholarship Programme in 2024.

Health

UNHCR supports national efforts to improve the quality of health services to refugees and asylum-seekers and the host population in areas with high concentrations of refugees. Through its partners, UNHCR provides treatments for chronic and mental disorders and supports secondary and tertiary health care interventions in hospitals. In recent years, a series of memoranda of understanding (MoU) have been signed with the Ministry of Health and Population to grant refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities access to public healthcare. New challenges regarding access to public healthcare for refugees have arisen in areas where the new Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) has been rolled out, including Aswan, Ismailia, Luxor and Port Said. In 2024, UNHCR Egypt provided more than 85,000 primary care consultations to refugees and asylum-seekers through its health partners' clinics. In addition, UNHCR referred more than 4,900 refugees for hospital care.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

UNHCR helps refugees and asylum-seekers become self-sufficient by providing training and helping them find markets for their skills and products. It also promotes their economic inclusion by advocating for their right to work and developing their livelihoods through market-based programmes. Support includes guidance on the Egyptian labour market and matching employers with potential employees while ensuring minimum standards are met. Moreover, UNHCR supports entrepreneurs with cash grants and mentoring to establish businesses. UNHCR Egypt also helps refugees who craft handmade products within the [MADE51](#) initiative, which aims to highlight their skills, [bring them hope](#), and promote the sale of their creations in global markets. All these efforts helped refugees to navigate a challenging labour market.

Cash-Based Interventions

UNHCR delivers monthly unconditional cash grants to extremely vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers to provide protection and assistance and prevent refugees from resorting to harmful coping mechanisms. Furthermore, the influx of refugees and asylum-seekers after the onset of the Sudan conflict in mid-April led UNHCR to a reorientation of its cash assistance program to also include recently arrived individuals if they meet the eligibility criteria. Adapting to the new emergency context, UNHCR began delivering assistance in Aswan, the capital of the border region with Sudan. Since the onset of the conflict in the neighbouring country, UNHCR has assisted some 82,000 newly arrived people from Sudan with emergency cash. Meanwhile, 81,000 refugees of different nationalities were assisted with the bimonthly Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in December 2024, out of whom 32,000 were new arrivals. Cash is deemed the most efficient and dignified way to enable vulnerable refugees to cover their basic needs, while at the same time supporting and boosting local markets.

Inter-Agency Coordination

Following the onset of the crisis, in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR led the development of a Regional Sudan Situation Refugee Response Plan (RRP), to coordinate the interagency response as well as associated advocacy and resource mobilization in the seven countries most affected by the potential outflows of refugees from Sudan, including Egypt. As of the end of 2024, the Egypt chapter of the 2024 Regional Sudan RRP was 34 per cent funded. UNHCR and UNDP co-lead the 2025 Refugee and Resilience Response Plan in Egypt.



Refugee women participate in a handbag-making workshop led by Sudanese refugee Khalda in Alexandria. © UNHCR/Christina Rizk

Working with Partners

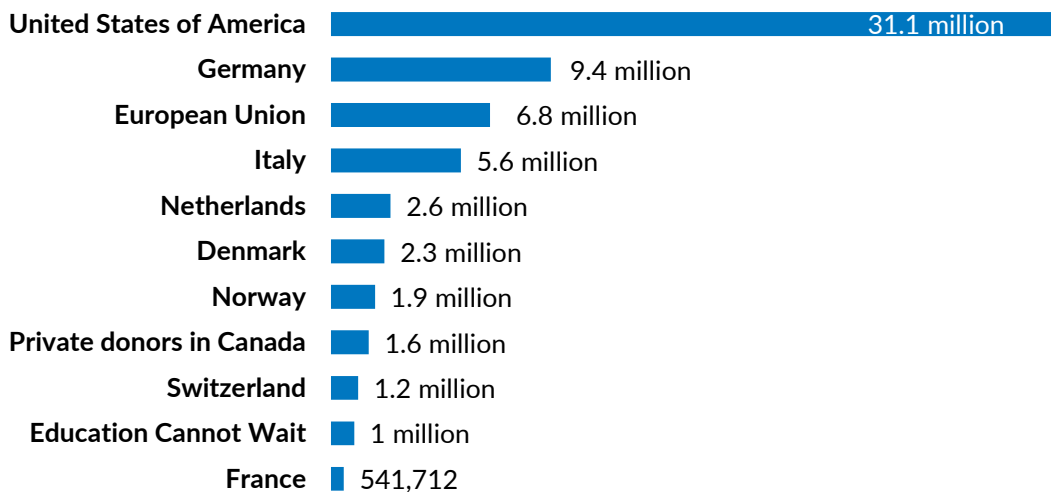
UNHCR works through nine partners in Greater Cairo, North Coast, Aswan and North Sinai: All Saints/ Refugee Egypt, Catholic Relief Services, CARE Egypt, Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights, Egyptian Red Crescent, Mersal Foundation, Plan International, Save the Children, and Terre des Hommes.

To bridge the nexus to development, UNHCR works to advance the Global Refugee Forum pledges, aiming to improve refugees' socio-economic inclusion and support long-term solutions. Egypt's pledges focus on integrating refugees into national health and education systems, peacebuilding, and climate action.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Egypt Operation in 2024, including the Sudan and Syria Situations, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2024 | USD



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

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LINKS: [UNHCR Global Focus](#) | [UNHCR Egypt Website](#) | [UNHCR Egypt Twitter](#) | [UNHCR Data Portal](#)