

Egypt

Emergency Response Update

12 March 2025

Ashul fled Sudan to Egypt with her family as a child. Now 20 years old, she studies English and Arabic and dreams of a bright future. She embodies the resilience of thousands of refugee women in Egypt who overcome challenges with determination and strength. ©UNHCR/Basma Fathy



933,000
refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Egypt

16% funded

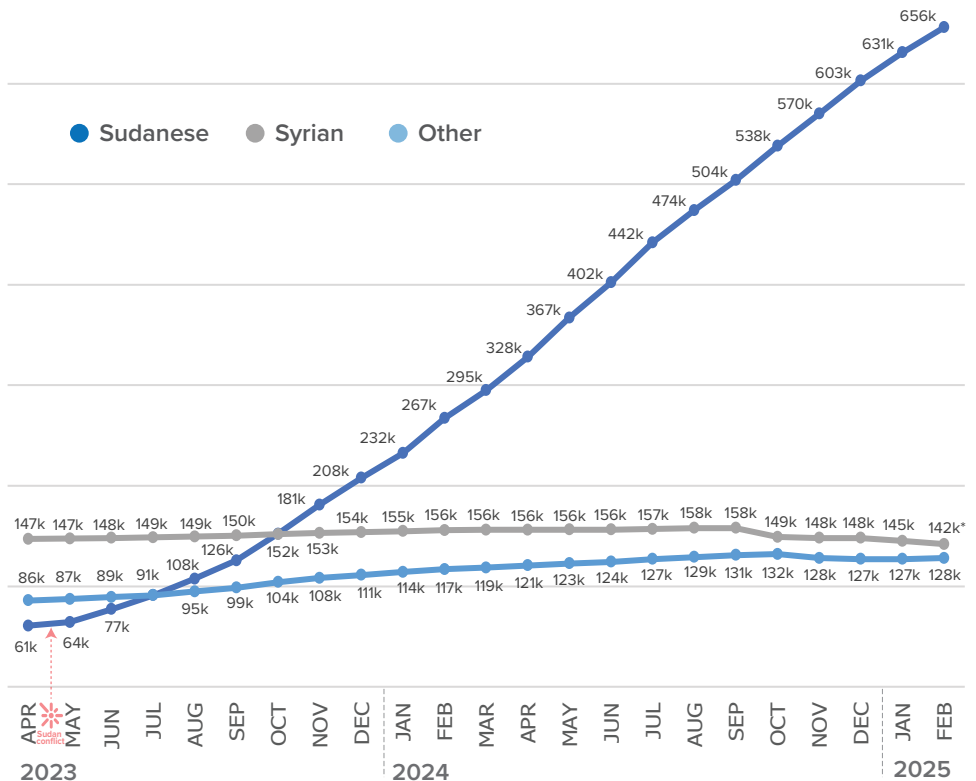
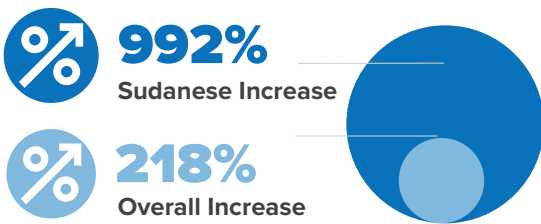
of the \$137.7 million required by UNHCR for the refugee response in Egypt in 2025



Egypt is the largest host country for Sudanese fleeing conflict

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

As of February 2025, UNHCR had registered more than 656,000 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers.



*Syrian and Other nationalities refugee numbers dropped since October 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

- A [report](#) released by UNHCR Egypt's Cash team in the last week of February presented overwhelming evidence of the positive impact of cash support on some of Egypt's most vulnerable refugees, including allowing 20% to cover most or all their needs. The 2024 Post-Distribution Monitoring Report also showed how beneficiaries mainly used the cash for essential needs, with food being the top spending category (cited by 83 per cent of beneficiaries), followed by rent (75 per cent), health-related items and services (22 per cent), while utilities and bills, and education were each reported by 16 per cent. Its critical importance highlights the risks posed by funding shortfalls, which threaten cash assistance programmes and could severely affect the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt.
- Between 13 and 28 February, 22 refugee artisans presented and sold their products in the 67th edition of the Diarna Exhibition for Handicrafts in Cairo. Organized by the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the event featured over 400 exhibitors presenting a diverse range of crafts. With support from UNHCR and its partner, Plan International, refugee artisans were able to exhibit their work. Additionally, UNHCR organized musical performances and cultural activities led by refugees from Sudan and other nationalities, enriching the exhibition experience for both participants and visitors.
- On 27 February, [PROSPECTS](#) partners met with Ambassador Wael Badawi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Migration, Refugees and Combating Human Trafficking, to brief him on the second phase of the Dutch-supported partnership. As part of the discussions, the Assistant Minister requested a presentation on proposed models to improve refugees' access to work, including regional examples from UNHCR, particularly from Lebanon and Jordan. The presentation is expected after Ramadan, as part of broader discussions on Egypt's asylum transition from UNHCR to the State.

Protection

Registration

As of 12 March 2025, UNHCR Egypt provided registration appointments to 900,000 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, UNHCR has now registered 604,000 individuals for assistance and protection (67%). Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (96%), followed by Eritrean (1.7%), and South Sudanese (1.5%). The great majority originate from Khartoum (83%). Over half (55%) are female and 42% 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 March 10, more than 13,300 Syrians have submitted such requests, signaling their intention to return to Syria.

However, UNHCR observed a slowdown in February and early March compared to the peak in January, suggesting a possible stabilization of the trend. The notable decline in March may also be influenced by the start of Ramadan. According to the findings of the [Flash Regional Survey](#) conducted in January, UNHCR anticipates an increase in returns from Egypt after Ramadan and the end of the academic school year. Meanwhile, the number of new asylum applications from Syrians in Egypt has dropped to one-third of the levels recorded before the new regime took power in Syria.

Child Protection

On 23 February, UNHCR conducted a training session on child labor and children at risk for ten case workers and members of the psychosocial teams from Save the Children, CARE, and the community-led organization Khair w Baraka in Aswan. This session was organized in response to feedback indicating an increasing trend of Sudanese children working in shops in southern Egypt.

Community-Based Protection

Over the last two weeks, 8,620 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 4,900 individuals, out of whom 133 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 200 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance. Additionally, UNHCR provided CBP case management for 210 refugees.

On 6 March, Amal Rahal, a Sudanese female leader living in Egypt, participated in the virtual launch of the Coordination Platform for Women-led Organizations (WLO) focused on the Sudan refugee response. Mrs. Rahal, who is part of the refugee-led organization Future Hopes, spoke about her work in supporting Sudanese refugees and host communities in Egypt. The event was organized by UNHCR and UN Women and included WLOs from the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda.

On 5 March, UNHCR held a community meeting in Cairo with 29 asylum-seekers and refugees from various nationalities. The discussion focused on key concerns, including refugee status determination, legal and physical protection, and cash assistance. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and receive direct responses from UNHCR staff.

Legal and Physical Protection

During the reporting period, 740 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 170 refugees



On 27 February, a group of Sudanese refugees carried out a musical performance in the 67th edition of the Diarna Exhibition for Handicrafts in Cairo. ©UNHCR/Shery Sidhom

 **Infoline**

In the past two weeks, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled 24,000 inquiries and booked registration appointments for an average of 420 people daily fleeing the Sudan conflict. Since the Sudan crisis began, a total of 604,250 individuals have scheduled appointments through the system.

 **Cash Assistance**

Between 21 February and 8 March, UNHCR partner Mindset conducted vulnerability assessments for 2,000 Sudanese individuals in Cairo. Since the Sudan crisis began in April 2023, UNHCR has assessed the vulnerability of 179,900 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers, including both new arrivals and those already in Egypt before the crisis. In January and February 2025, some 79,500 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 47,300 Sudanese, were supported with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA). Due to funding shortages, more than 112,000 Sudanese refugees with high poverty levels remained on the MPCA waiting list. This means they met the eligibility criteria for cash assistance as they struggle to survive, but remain unassisted due to the scarcity of funds, nonetheless.

Funding information

UNHCR is grateful for the crucial and generous contributions from its donors, who provide both earmarked and unearmarked funding to support refugees in Egypt.



UNHCR Egypt is also grateful for the crucial support of private donors from Canada.

DONATE NOW**CONTACT:** UNHCR External Relations and Public Information Unit – arecapi@unhcr.org**LINKS:** [UNHCR Global Focus](#) | [UNHCR Egypt Website](#) | [UNHCR Sudan Emergency Website](#) | [UNHCR Egypt Twitter](#) | [UNHCR Data Portal](#)