UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Egypt

Emergency Response Update

October 2025

37% funded

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

Global Goodwill Ambassador Cate Blanchett meets with Duha, a Sudanese refugee studying at the German Hotel School in El Gouna.
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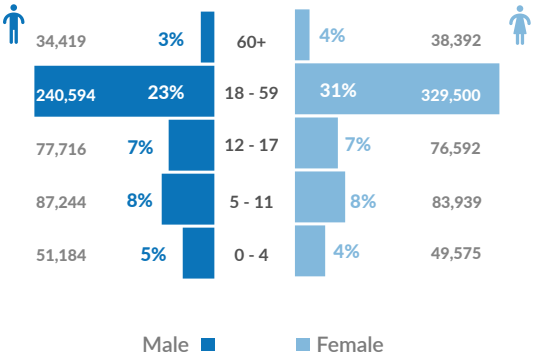
1,069,155
Registered population

427,867
Registered households

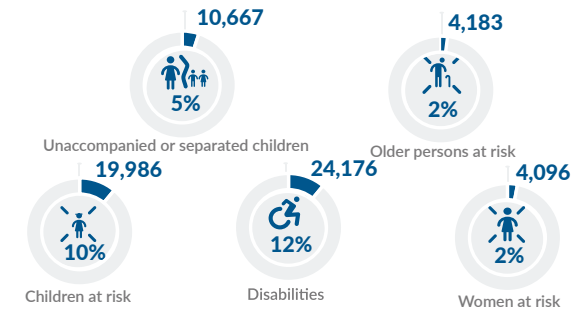
74.3%
Women and children

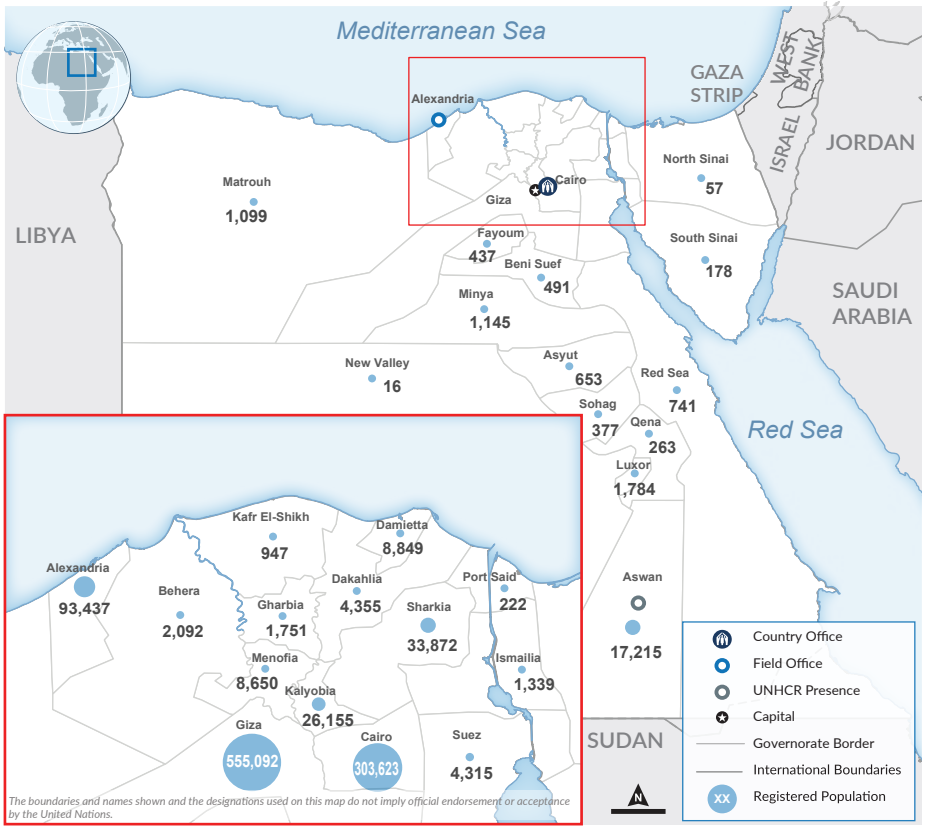
19.14%
Persons with specific needs

Gender of registered population



Persons with specific needs





LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR Global Goodwill Ambassador Cate Blanchett mobilizes support for refugees in Egypt. The actress visited Egypt to attend the El Gouna Film Festival on 16 October in her UNHCR role, using the occasion to draw international attention to the ongoing crisis in Sudan. She emphasized that the Sudan conflict, now in its third year, has triggered the world's largest displacement crisis, yet remains severely underreported. Egypt, as the primary host country for Sudanese refugees, continues to bear the brunt of this humanitarian emergency. During her visit, Blanchett met with Sudanese refugees at a German hotel school funded by the Sawiris Foundation. She listened to their stories and read aloud their letters, which she later referenced in a panel discussion with fellow Goodwill Ambassador Raya Abirached. Her engagements underscored the human impact of the crisis and the urgent need for increased funding and support. In Blanchett's presence, UNHCR signed a MoU with the El Gouna Film Festival and the Sawiris Foundation to strengthen collaboration over the next five years. The visit mobilized significant financial support for Sudanese refugees in Egypt. The Sawiris Foundation pledged USD 500,000 for cash assistance and education grants. Arafa Holding committed an additional USD 250,000 in Zakat for health and education in 2026. Furthermore, Abou Ghaly Motors signed a cooperation agreement with UNHCR to provide USD 230,000 worth of training and capacity-building for 200 refugees, enhancing their employability and self-reliance. In total, Blanchett's mission helped raise USD 980,000 and opened the door to further fundraising opportunities, reinforcing the critical role of private sector partnerships in supporting displaced Sudanese communities.

- On 23 October, the Canadian Ambassador to Egypt visited UNHCR in Alexandria for a one day mission led by UNHCR Representative. The visit began at Rouh Center, a refugee-led initiative founded by Sudanese refugee and Nansen Award Winner for the MENA region in 2024, Nada Fadol, showcasing vocational training for refugee women. The delegation then toured a UNHCR-supported community center run by Terre des Hommes, engaging with refugees in programmes like digital literacy and psychosocial support. A focus group with refugees from Sudan, Syria, Yemen, and Iraq highlighted the impact of UNHCR's work and raised concerns, especially about the closure of the North Coast registration center due to funding cuts. This has hindered access to residency permits, affecting education and increasing protection risks such as child labour and gender-based violence.

- At the fifth Aswan Forum on 19 and 20 October, Egyptian Foreign Minister H.E. Ambassador Dr. Badr Abdelatty reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to supporting refugees and promoting regional stability, especially amid Sudan's crisis. UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi was part of a high-level panel on Sudan, the panel was chaired by Egypt Foreign Minister and panellists included Mohieddin Salem. Minister Abdelatty emphasized Egypt's dual focus: aiding Sudan's peace process and securing international support for nearly 10 million foreigners in Egypt. He commended UNHCR's efforts and called for the development of a comprehensive Refugee Response Plan to sustain essential services for refugees and host communities. On the second day, the UNHCR Representative to Egypt served as a key speaker in a side event dedicated to enhancing refugee access to health-care services, particularly within the framework of the Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees. The event, chaired by the Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security, Ambassador Amr El-Sherbini, brought together senior representatives from the Government of Egypt. Discussions focused on progress achieved under the EU-funded Joint UN Programme (under the Joint Platform), highlighting its positive impact on refugees' access to public health services. In her remarks, the UNHCR Representative described the Joint Platform as an exemplary model that demonstrates Egypt's strong leadership and vision for a whole-of-Government and whole-of-UN approach, effectively bridging humanitarian and development efforts.

- On 28 October UNHCR received a mission from Vodafone Group Foundation Board of Trustees. UNHCR organized a field visit to an Instant Network School (INS) in 6th of October area, Giza Governorate, to highlight the program's impact in enhancing digital learning for both refugees and host community students.

The visit showcased how the INS program is digitizing classrooms, building teachers' digital skills, and creating inclusive, technology-enabled learning environments. Key attendees included the Chairman and the Secretary-General of Vodafone Egypt Foundation, as well as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the CEO Vodafone Group Foundation. Following the field visits, the Vodafone delegation and UNHCR met with the Vice Minister Dr. Ahmed Daher, Head of Technological Infrastructure at the Ministry of Education. Dr. Daher expressed his gratitude towards the support coming from UNHCR and Vodafone Foundation, and the Ministry of Education commended the work and support provided by UNHCR to capacitate public schools hosting refugees. This visit underscored the strong partnership between UNHCR, the Ministry of Education, and Vodafone in advancing digital inclusion and quality education for refugees and host communities across Egypt. Worth noting, to date, the INS project is implemented in 70 schools distributed between Giza, Alexandria, Damietta and Sharqiya governorates with 27 INS schools now powered by solar energy in Sharqiya and Giza, benefitting over 101,000 students.

Population movements (internal and/or external) and Registration

In October 2025, UNHCR Egypt registered around 20,833 new refugees and asylum-seekers, 87% of whom were Sudanese nationals. Smaller numbers include other nationalities (12%) and Syrians (1%).

Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, UNHCR Egypt has provided registration appointments to 992,746 individuals who fled the country. Of these, 770,852 people (78%) have been fully registered to receive protection and assistance.

As of 31 October, the total registered population is 1,069,155 individuals, including those who arrived in Egypt before the conflict, with the following breakdown: 806,946 Sudanese (76%), 141,617 of other nationalities (13%), and 120,592 Syrians (11%). Women make up 54% of the registered population.

A Sudanese family sits together during their registration interview at UNHCR reception center. ©UNHCR/ Basma Fathy

Protection

Community-Based Protection (CBP):

In October, 23,948 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 7,045 individuals, out of whom 61 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 83 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance.

On 1 October, the CBP team hosted the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) delegation in the UNHCR Main building. The visit included a facility tour and productive debrief session where the Council offered concrete support including disability inclusion training for non-specialized staff, sign language interpretation services for UNHCR videos, and accessibility audit checks for hospitals and public facilities in refugee-populated areas. On 5 October, UNHCR held a meeting with the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) Secretary General who noted that the recent briefing at the Main Building had deepened his understanding of refugee issues and reinforced the Council's commitment to protecting refugee rights. The following areas of collaboration were discussed: capacity development for NCHR staff; joint workshops and training for the Bar Association and journalists; joint advocacy to promote international refugee law among government stakeholders and civil society; support for the transition of NCHR's "illegal migration" unit into a full department; and strengthening NCHR's helpline services.

On 7 and 8 October, a Multi-Functional Team (MFT) committee composed of representatives from UNHCR (Community-Based Protection and Project Control) and Tdh (CEP Project and procurement) was held in
On 20 October UNHCR Egypt issued its 2025 Mid-Year Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MCPA) post-distribution monitoring survey based on representative random sample of 430 households from all refugee nationalities, receiving MPCA who were randomly selected and interviewed. In September, Egypt provided multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to 19,677 refugee and asylum seeker households (HH) from all nationalities to support them in covering their priority needs. Only a small fraction of beneficiaries could meet all or most of their priority needs, though 63 per cent managed to cover about half. Cash assistance had a strong positive impact, with nearly all recipients reporting improved living conditions and reduced stress. The funds were mainly spent on essentials—especially food and rent—and enabled access to previously unaffordable items and services. Most beneficiaries found needed goods locally and of acceptable quality, though many noticed rising prices. Despite the support, nearly all had to use negative coping strategies recently. Satisfaction with the distribution process was high, and most felt safe and well-informed, with many aware of how to provide feedback or lodge complaints.

On 7 October 2025, a joint reception was organized by the CBP unit at the TDH Maadi MPCC. UNHCR staff from GBV, LPP, CBP, and complementary pathways, Registration and integrity along with implementing partners, CARE international, TDH PSN Project, PSTIC (housing, PSS), Mersal (Health) and EFRR were present. 62 forcibly displaced individuals, including Sudanese, South Sudanese, ETH, and Eritrean nationals, approached the joint reception. Specifically, 53 individuals requested protection services and counselling, while 9 were supported with registration services.

On 9 October, UNHCR participated in a World Mental Health Day event held at the AUC Greek Campus. The event brought together over 300 asylum seekers and refugees who took part in a full day of activities, including theater performances, psychotherapy sessions, and mind–body connection exercises.

Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Girls:

On 2 October, the GBV team attended the UNCT Women and Girls Results Group meeting (chaired by UNFPA and UN Women), which reviewed 2024 achievements, 2025 planning, and the impact of funding cuts. In the

discussion on emerging needs, members highlighted the importance of livelihoods and PSS support for refugee women and girls, particularly GBV survivors, as critical to strengthening resilience and ensuring the sustainability of the GBV response. The group also discussed preparations for UN80 Thematic Days, where each Results Group will host an event featuring a youth dialogue. Pending UNRCO's confirmation on modality, date, and venue, there may be a request to facilitate refugee youth's participation.

The UNHCR Cairo GBV Unit successfully organized a four-day in-person GBVIMS+ training from 19 to 22 October 2025 as part of the official GBVIMS+ rollout process. This workshop aimed to strengthen the standardization of GBV case management and information management systems among GBV partners in Egypt. A total of 22 participants from Data Gathering Organisations (DGOs) in refugee settings attended the training, with coordination support from UNHCR and UNFPA. Partners endorsed for this rollout included CARE, Future Eve, Balqees, and Etijah, while StARS, and Save the Children joined as additional invitees to learn more about the system and explore participation in future rollout phases. The workshop concluded with one-on-one technical consultation sessions to provide support to rollout organisations and ensure effective implementation of the GBVIMS+ system.

Child Protection:

On 2 October, UNHCR attended a presentation of a study on "Migrant Children on the Sudan-Egypt Route" conducted by Save the Children in collaboration with the Mixed Migration Center at the Dutch Embassy. The study aimed to understand the experiences, vulnerabilities and protection needs of migrant children fleeing conflict in Sudan and travelling to Egypt. MMC presented the risks reportedly faced by refugee children during their journey, such as exposure to violence, exploitation, trafficking and abuse during transit and in host communities. Limited access to education and healthcare was a key concern. A panel discussion with two refugee children expressed concerns about the security situation in their neighbourhood (Ain Al Shams) and stressed their wish to access education and labour opportunities. They mentioned that their goal was to move abroad. UNHCR asked for more information on service gaps along the route and stressed the need to rephrase one of the recommendations, considering UNHCR's non-return advisory for Sudan. Questions were also asked to the children on the potential solutions they envisaged, particularly related to the security situation, which could be supported by international actors.

On 8 October, child protection facilitated a session at the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) for senior officials from judicial and social services authorities from different countries in Africa. The session focused on UNHCR's approach to children at risk, and children on the move. CP also discussed successful coordination mechanisms in Egypt.

Legal and Physical Protection (LPP):

On 6 and 7 October, UNHCR participated in a two-day workshop organized by the National Council for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights, titled "The Asylum Law from a Human Rights Approach: A National Vision and Regional Experiences.". As part of an ongoing collaboration with DIHR and NCHR, UNHCR contributed to the workshop by presenting recommendations for the executive regulations, aligned with international standards, and sharing best practices from Türkiye's transition from a UNCHR to Government-led Asylum system. The workshop provided a valuable platform to engage key ministries on the content of the executive regulations, and UNHCR's contributions were also covered in Egyptian media. Additional recommendations will be submitted in writing to NCHR over the coming week. According to discussions with NCHR, an expert meeting may be convened in November with stakeholders involved in drafting the executive regulations, where UNHCR will be invited to contribute.

Between 6 - 8 October, UNHCR's Protection team (GBV, CP, CBP) joined a three-day PROSPECTS workshop to review 2025 achievements and set 2026 priorities. Group discussions centered on the four PROSPECTS

pillars—Education, Economic Inclusion, Protection, and Infrastructure—highlighting progress, challenges, and strategic planning. Presentations included the World Bank's socio-economic overview, UNHCR's update on Egypt's refugee situation and new asylum law, and ILO's insights on the new labour law. Key outcomes emphasized stronger inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in national systems, improved stakeholder coordination, gender and diversity sensitivity, localisation, mental health integration, and the impact of Egypt's evolving legal landscape on refugee protection.

On 15 October, UNHCR joined a consultation convened by the Danish Institute for Human Rights on the human rights-based approach to AI and digitization in migration governance, where representatives from IOM and UNHCR North Africa shared regional experiences and ethical considerations. UNHCR Egypt emphasised the role of technology in managing the growing refugee population, highlighting safeguards around iris scans, facial recognition, and a new contact centre.

Iman (right) and Lina (left), both eight years old, met at the child-friendly space in UNHCR's registration center while their families awaited registration after fleeing the war in Sudan. © UNHCR/Basma Fathy

Infoline:

In October, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline responded to 35,046 inquiries. Additionally, 2,913 individuals fleeing the conflict in Sudan secured registration appointments through the Infoline. Since the crisis began, a total of 632,003 people has successfully been scheduled with appointments using this system.

Cash Assistance:

On 20 October UNHCR Egypt issued its 2025 Mid-Year Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MCPA) post-distribution monitoring survey based on representative random sample of 430 households from all refugee nationalities, receiving MPCA who were randomly selected and interviewed. In September, Egypt provided multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to 19,677 refugee and asylum seeker households from all nationalities to support them in covering their priority needs. Only a small fraction of beneficiaries could meet all or most of their priority needs, though 63 per cent managed to cover about half. Cash assistance had a strong positive impact, with nearly all recipients reporting improved living conditions and reduced stress. The funds were mainly spent on essentials—especially food and rent—and enabled access to previously unaffordable items and services. Most beneficiaries found needed goods locally and of acceptable quality, though many noticed rising prices. Despite the support, nearly all had to use negative coping strategies recently. Satisfaction with the distribution process was high, and most felt safe and well-informed, with many aware of how to provide feedback or lodge complaints.

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, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, MENA, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, UK, and the USA

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