UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Egypt

Monthly Operational Update

January 2026

UNHCR launched its new online self verification service, marking a significant step toward digitizing refugee documentation procedures.

Abdelhadi Saleh, a Sudanese refugee, was able to open his workshop after receiving a self-employment grant and business training support.

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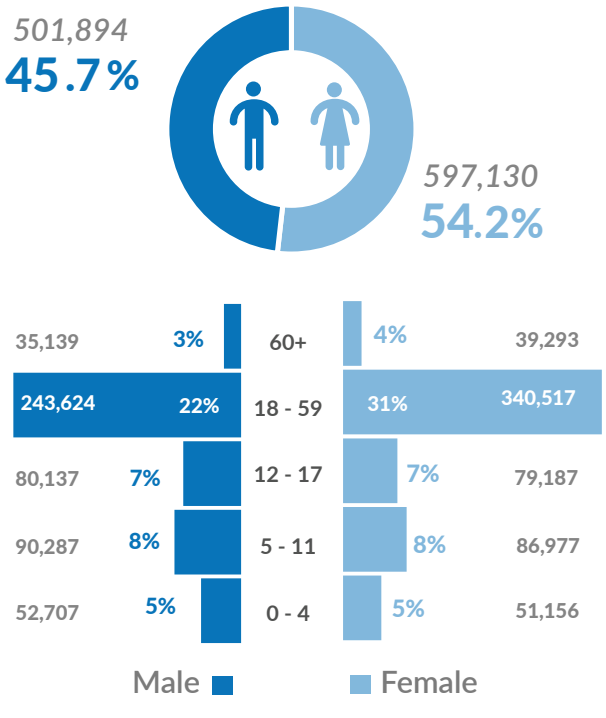
1,099,024
Registered population

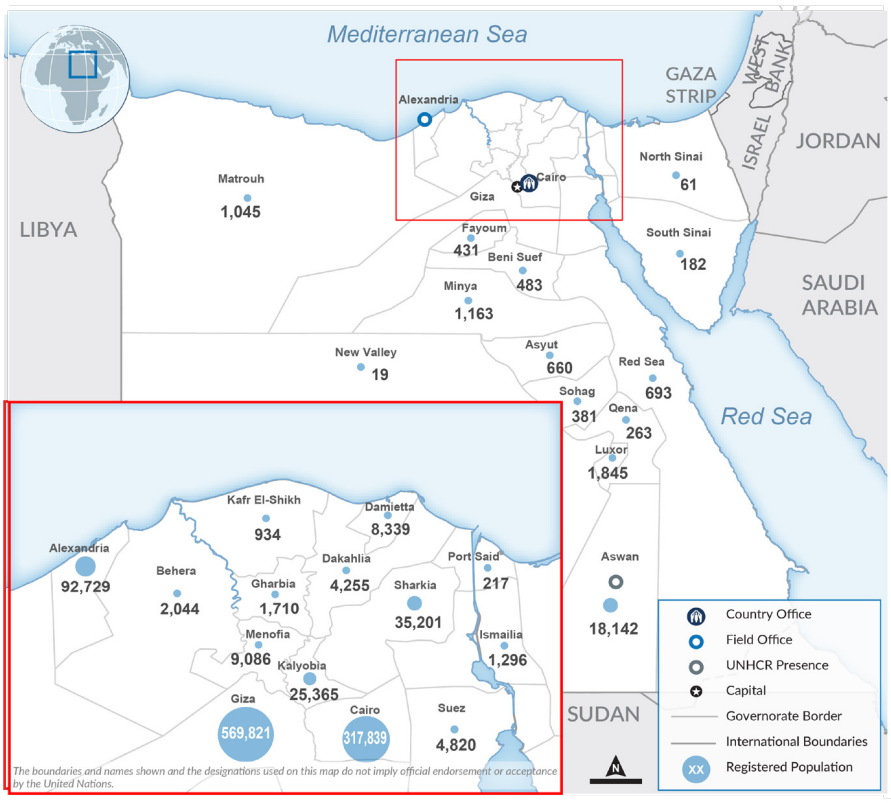
439,979
Registered households

74.6%
Women and children

19.36%
Persons with specific needs

Gender and age of registered population





LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- On 29 January, Mastercard Foundation visited UNHCR Egypt to reinforce its partnership and learn about opportunities and challenges. Discussions highlighted shared priority in secondary education, pathways to work (from learning to earning), disability inclusion, and engagement with Refugee-led Organizations (RLOs) and Community-based Organizations (CBOs).

- On 28 January, UNHCR launched its new online self verification service on the MyUNHCR platform, marking a significant step toward digitizing and streamlining refugee documentation procedures. Since its launch, over 1,000 individuals have completed self verification and will be scheduled for document collection. Two accompanying informational videos, which have garnered more than 186K views, received positive user feedback.

- On 11 January, a delegation from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) undertook a visit to UNHCR's protection and assistance interventions in Egypt. The visit focused on UNHCR's response in key areas such as cash assistance, prevention and response to violence against women and girls (VAWG), and legal protection. The delegation visited UNHCR's registration centre and partner organizations delivering frontline services. Discussions highlighted UNHCR's efforts to prioritize and streamline interventions amid ongoing funding constraints.

- A Rapid Needs Assessment on child protection by UNHCR Egypt was completed at the end of December with 312 interviews and released on 12 January. The highest nationality contacted was Sudanese (77%). The most requested services were education, cash assistance and case management for children at risk. Around 86% of the interviewees stated that they are not planning to return to their countries at this time, due to instability in their countries of origin.

Protection and Solutions

Registration

In January 2026, UNHCR Egypt registered around 10,700 new refugees and asylum-seekers, 71% of whom were Sudanese nationals. Smaller numbers include other nationalities (28%) and Syrians (1%).

Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, UNHCR Egypt has provided registration appointments to 1,027,543 individuals who fled the country. Of these, 814,449 people (79%) have been fully registered to receive protection and assistance.

Since the fall of the former Government of Syria, Syrians started approaching UNHCR in greater numbers to request the closure of their asylum cases. Between 8 December 2024 and 29 January 2026, 13, 366 closure requests involving around 30,033 individuals were submitted, including on-the-spot closures. Among applicants who closed their files, 62% were male. In terms of origin, 40% came from Damascus, 27% from Rural Damascus, 13% from Homs, 8% from Aleppo, and 12% from other Syrian locations.

As of 31 January, the active population of refugees and asylum-seekers registered in Egypt is now 1,099,024 individuals, including those who arrived in Egypt before the conflict, with the following breakdown: 836,954 Sudanese (76%), 147,999 of other nationalities (14%), and Syrians 114,071 (10%). Women make up 54% of the registered population.

Community-Based Protection (CBP)

In January, 15,044 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 4,776 individuals, out of whom 60 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 90 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance. Additionally, UNHCR provided counselling to 327 refugees, including 151 who received in-person counselling, while the rest were assisted through remote sessions.

Legal and Physical Protection (LPP)

In January, 458 individuals received legal counselling sessions 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 551 refugees.

Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

On 11 January, UNHCR received a delegation from ECHO at the Women-Friendly Space (WFS) run by UNHCR's NGO partner. During the visit, the WFS hosted two simultaneous activities, an awareness-raising session for women and a crochet skills session for Sudanese women interested in learning new crafts. The crochet session was facilitated by a Sudanese refugee and former WFS beneficiary who originally learned crochet through WFS activities, significantly developed her skills, and now leads sessions to support and empower other women.

El-Amir Ahmed, a Sudanese refugee and owner of a mobile maintenance workshop, applied for the self-employment track and received training and a grant to start his business. ©UNHCR/Mahmoud Kamal

Infoline

In January, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline responded to 10,867 inquiries. Additionally, 1,353 individuals fleeing the conflict in Sudan secured registration appointments through the Infoline. Since the crisis began, a total of 611,294 people have successfully been scheduled with appointments using this system.

Livelihood and Economic Inclusion

From 13 to 15 January, UNHCR held a handicraft workshop through Egyptian initiative Tadreeb Masr to deliver a handicraft workshop supporting women's economic empowerment. Tadreeb Masr focuses on advancing vocational skills and economic inclusion by transforming traditional crafts—such as crochet and sewing—into marketable products. More than 30 women, primarily Sudanese refugees alongside some Syrian participants, took part in the workshop and received advanced crochet training. The initiative targets vulnerable women seeking self-employment opportunities, equipping them with practical, income-generating skills. Beyond the training, the initiative will continue to support participants by facilitating market access and helping them sell their products, promoting pathways toward greater self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods.

Capacity-sharing

On 20 January, UNHCR delivered a session for health assistance partner's frontline staff to reinforce the commitments of all humanitarian actors to the principles of Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The session included practical examples and interactive discussions on real-life scenarios.

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

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