UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Egypt

Monthly Operational Update

February 2026

1,038,544 individuals

were provided with registration appointments since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023.

Halima arrived from Sudan with her daughter in 2024. Today, she accompanies her one-year-old twin granddaughters for medical checkups.

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1,098,750
Registered population

440,946
Registered households

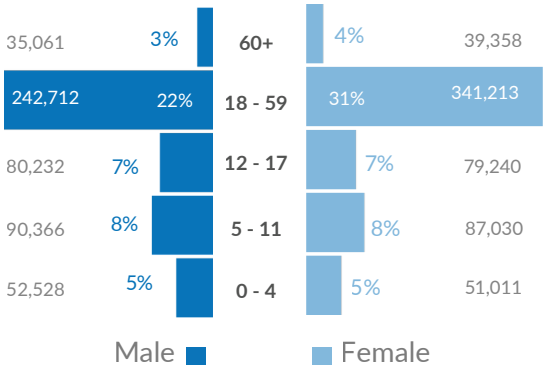
74.7%
Women and children

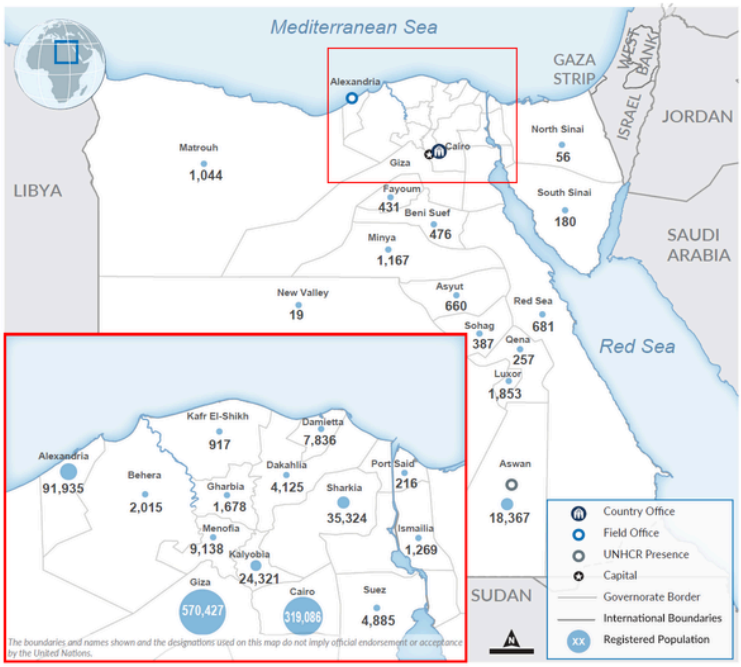
19.6%
Persons with specific needs

Gender and age of registered population

500,899
45.6%

597,851
54.4%





LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- On 9 February, UNHCR and WFP held a briefing with participation from the UN Resident Coordinator, and many key stakeholders. The agencies noted the increasing humanitarian needs among Egypt's 1.1 million registered refugees in the context of resources and socioeconomic conditions. They underscored growing vulnerabilities across varying sectors. Both agencies called for additional support to sustain essential programmes and emphasized the importance of continued investment in long-term inclusion efforts as Egypt advances toward implementing its first asylum law.

- On 8 February, UNHCR engaged with the Sudanese Embassy to identify areas for strengthened coordination. In the meeting with the Sudanese Ambassador, discussions covered access to public services, voluntary return initiatives, and ongoing support programmes, including medical assistance delivered with partners and efforts to streamline documentation processes. On 11 and 24 February, in response to issues raised by EFRR and the Refugee Advocacy Group in their respective meetings, UNHCR Representative outlined ongoing efforts to expand registration capacity, including through digital tools such as the MyUNHCR platform, and reiterated continued engagement with the Government of Egypt as part of the transition to the new asylum law. Both engagements underscored the importance of improved information-sharing, regular coordination, and the need to support timely follow-up for individuals with specific protection needs.

- On 16 February, UNHCR donated two Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machines to Egypt's Ministry of Health and Population to support public health services amid increasing humanitarian and medical needs linked to the Sudan crisis and the ongoing Gaza emergency. The machines are being installed at Al Zeitun and Al Qanater public hospitals, serving both Egyptian citizens and refugee communities. This contribution will enhance diagnostic capacity and improve access to advanced imaging services. UNHCR's Representative, Dr. Hanan Hamdan, reaffirmed the organization's commitment to supporting national systems, promoting refugee inclusion, and building community resilience in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.

- On 17 February, a U.S. Congressional delegation visited UNHCR's registration centre in Cairo to gain an overview of the humanitarian situation and recent population movements. UNHCR, together with WFP, facilitated a field visit that provided insight into key aspects of the response during the Sudan emergency. The delegation appreciated the opportunity to observe the work on the ground and noted areas of interest related to broader protection and asylum considerations. UNHCR also briefed the delegation on its collaboration with national institutions and engagement with the U.S. Embassy.

- Throughout February, UNHCR continued its high-level engagement with diplomatic missions to provide briefings on the refugee situation in Egypt and ongoing programmatic and funding priorities. On 3 February, the UNHCR Representative met with the Ambassadors of Norway and Saudi Arabia to provide updates on UNHCR's work and current areas of cooperation. Additional engagements included meetings with the Ambassador of Ireland on 9 February and the Ambassador of Spain on 11 February to discuss current programming, partnership opportunities, and Spain's continued support through the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). UNHCR also expressed appreciation for Italy's sustained partnership during a separate meeting earlier in the month, particularly in areas related to protection, development, and labour pathways. UNHCR further held a constructive discussion with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) on the refugee context in Egypt and the importance of sustained international support.

Protection

Registration

In February 2026, UNHCR Egypt registered around 10,200 new refugees and asylum-seekers, 78% of whom were Sudanese nationals. Smaller numbers include other nationalities (22%) and Syrians (0%).

Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, UNHCR Egypt has provided registration appointments to 1,038,544 individuals who fled the country. Of these, 822,177 people (79%) have been fully registered to receive protection and assistance.

Since the fall of the former Government of Syria, Syrians have approached UNHCR to request the closure of their asylum cases which is a prerequisite before leaving Egypt to return to Syria. Between 8 December 2024 and 28 February 2026, 15,057 closure requests involving around 35,151 individuals were submitted, including on-the-spot closures.

As of 28 February, the active population of refugees and asylum-seekers registered in Egypt is now 1,098,750 individuals, including those who arrived in Egypt before the conflict, with the following breakdown: 841,477 Sudanese (77%), 149,297 of other nationalities (14%), and Syrians 107,976 (10%). Women make up 54% of the registered population.

Community-Based Protection

In February, 15,606 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 3,700 individuals, out of whom 91 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 83 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance. Additionally, UNHCR provided counselling to 419 refugees, including 210 who received in-person counselling, while the rest were assisted through remote sessions.

Between 1 to 12 February, UNHCR and its partners organized 12 recreational shows for 420 refugee children at the UNHCR Main Building, along with an additional performance for 70 children with disabilities at a refugee-led organization (RLO) in Ard Ellewa and Faisal. These activities provided moments of joy, emotional relief, and positive engagement for refugee children and their families.

On 1 February, UNHCR participated in the launch of the "*English for Empowerment*" research initiative in Egypt, organized by the British Council. The event brought together refugee educators, government officials, youth-focused organizations and international partners. Discussions highlighted how English language skills can strengthen access to services, support inclusion, and expand opportunities for both refugee and Egyptian youth.

Legal and Physical Protection (LPP)

In February, 1,371 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 134 refugees.

Refugee children in Cairo attend a performance organized by Clowns Without Borders Spain in collaboration with UNHCR and Refugee-Led Organizations, as part of activities supporting children's wellbeing and psychosocial recovery. UNHCR/Adeeba Amiry.

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

In February, UNHCR carried out a rapid satisfaction survey to better understand refugees' experiences with case management services in 2025. While most participants of interviews reported feeling treated with respect, the findings highlighted areas where service delivery could be strengthened, including follow-up, information-sharing, and access to available support. UNHCR will use these insights to improve timeliness, information-sharing, and the overall quality of support for survivors.

On 24 February, UNHCR visited a Women-Friendly Space in 6th of October City where an awareness session on VAWG was held. The session was highly engaging and used interactive discussions, icebreakers, and activities to encourage participation. Despite the visit taking place during Ramadan, attendance was notably high, demonstrating the strong interest among women in accessing support, information, and community activities.

On 26 February, UNHCR held a three-day henna drawing workshop. The workshop was led by an instructor who had previously taken part in similar activities and has since become a trainer, demonstrating a meaningful example of skills development and empowerment. The atmosphere was active and welcoming, with participants learning new skills and forming connections.

Child Protection

On 17 February, UNHCR participated in a national roundtable on legal and policy measures to prevent child marriage in Egypt. The event, organized by Plan International Egypt with national civil society partners, brought together stakeholders to discuss efforts to strengthen protections for girls. UNHCR highlighted the importance of ensuring that refugee girls are included in national prevention and protection initiatives, given their unique circumstances and specific vulnerabilities.

Infoline

In February, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline responded to 13,357 inquiries. Additionally, 1,798 individuals fleeing the conflict in Sudan secured registration appointments through the Infoline. Since the crisis began, a total of 613,057 people have successfully been scheduled with appointments using this system.

Education

On 12 February, as part of the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship complementary activities, UNHCR's career-coaching service provider delivered an information session to DAFI scholars on an internship programme for engineering students interested in gaining experience in technology, artificial intelligence, and coding. The session was attended by 11 current and former DAFI scholars.

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, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, and the USA.

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