

REGISTRATION AND REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION

NOVEMBER 2022

The registration of refugees and asylum seekers and the determination of their status (RSD) is **delegated to UNHCR by the Government of Egypt** based on an MoU signed in 1954.

UNHCR in Egypt conducts registration, documentation, and RSD for **ever-increasing numbers**. Egypt currently hosts almost 290,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers.

UNHCR in Egypt is the largest RSD operation globally. So far in 2022, over 9,300 individuals have been interviewed for RSD, almost at a rate of 35 individuals a day.

Overview

In Egypt, the registration, documentation, and RSD processes for refugees and asylum seekers are solely conducted by UNHCR, based on a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Government of Egypt and UNHCR in 1954**. It is costly and resource intensive work (currently there are 73 positions in Registration and 52 positions in RSD) with numbers constantly rising in reflection of Egypt's location as a reception and transit point. Refugees are received at the Zamalek and 6th October UNHCR offices for all three processes.

In addition to facilitating access to services, registration allows refugees and asylum-seekers to regularize their stay in Egypt. Once registered, they are issued UNHCR documentation and can obtain a renewable residence permit which grants them freedom of movement across the country. Asylum seekers with no identity documentation can only be issued 6-month asylum certificates, however, and therefore need to approach the registration centres twice a year until they undergo RSD, further placing a burden on asylum seekers to approach the office and processing capacity.

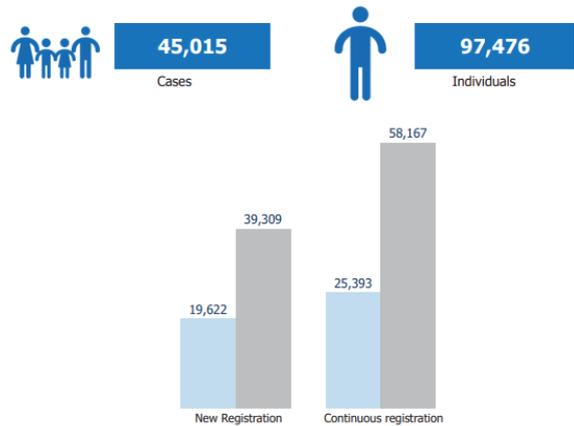
Syrians, who account for half of all registered refugees in Egypt, continue to arrive regularly. The reasons include the relatively relaxed entry requirements compared to other countries neighbouring Syria but also socio-economic and family reunification reasons. Sudanese asylum seekers have also continued to arrive in high numbers in 2022, likely due to the deteriorating socio-economic situation in Sudan.



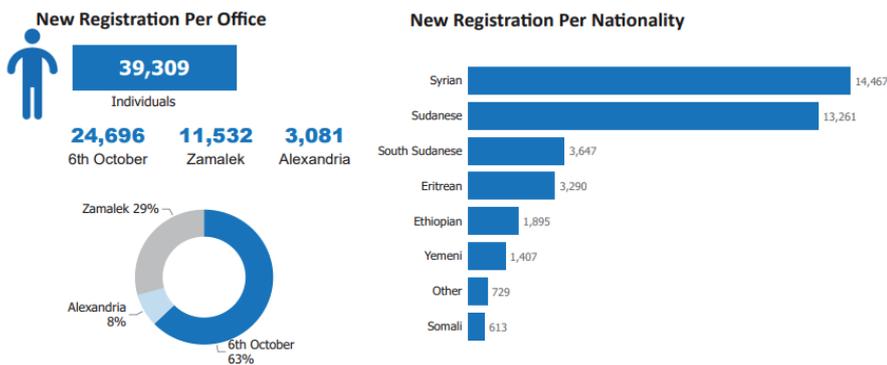
Registration

Registration activities for refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt are carried out in UNHCR's Zamalek and 6th October offices in Cairo and in UNHCR's Alexandria office. Registration activities including reception, admission, appointment issuance, new and continuous registration including merged process, filing and digitisation. UNHCR Egypt follows a Country of Origin Based Approach to conduct registration strategically and best utilise resources to meet the evolving needs of persons we serve (PwS). UNHCR has active identification and referral mechanisms internally and externally to ensure the persons with heightened protection risks and urgent assistance needs are timely identified and served. The Biometrics and Identity Management System has been rolled out to strengthen the digital identity of PwS and enhance integrity measures across operations.

Total Processed Population



New Registration



Refugee Status Determination

The steady increase in RSD numbers in 2022 illustrates UNHCR Egypt's strategic use of RSD as a protection tool that facilitates solutions, such as resettlement, but also access to residency documents in the country of asylum, and protection and assistance for individuals at risk and with specific needs. UNHCR works to finalize decisions on individuals refugee status as soon as possible to ensure that they can make informed decisions about their lives, either as refugees or as individuals not of concern to UNHCR, who may access other avenues, such as the IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Repatriation programme.

