

Egypt

April 2024

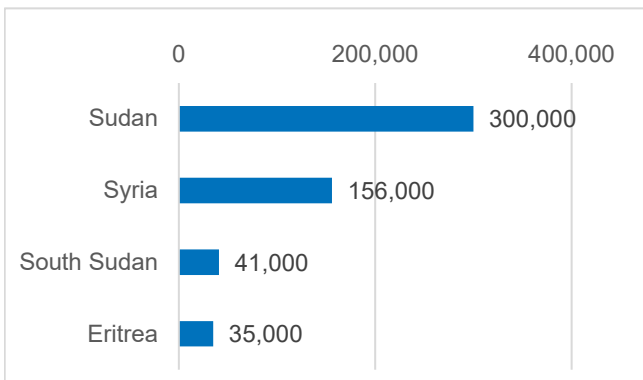
Egypt hosts 575,000 registered refugees and asylum-seekers from 61 countries. Sudanese are now the largest group. Most refugees live in urban areas of Cairo and the North Coast.

UNHCR helps the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) to deliver much-needed humanitarian aid to Gaza and supports medical evacuees in Egypt through the Ministry of Health.

More than 500,000 people forced to flee the Sudan crisis have entered Egypt since April 2023. UNHCR is scaling up the delivery of cash assistance and registration to address the most urgent needs of the most vulnerable.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS REGISTERED WITH UNHCR IN EGYPT, AS OF 07 APRIL 2024

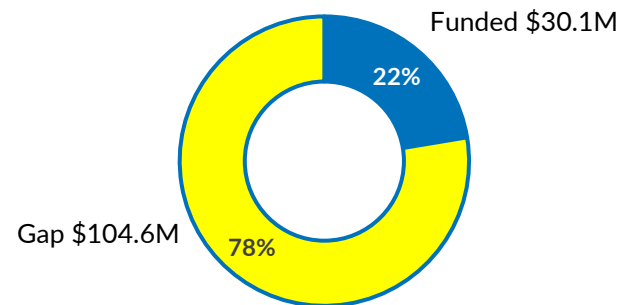
Top 4 Countries of Origin



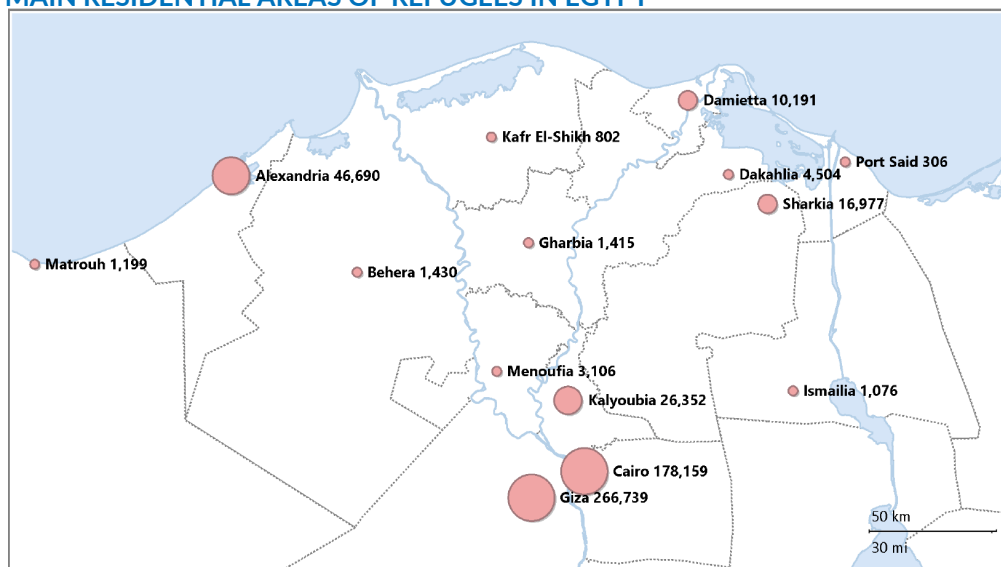
FUNDING (AS OF 31 MARCH 2024)

USD 134.7 million

requested for the Egypt Operation



MAIN RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF REFUGEES IN EGYPT



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

59 International Staff
364 National Staff

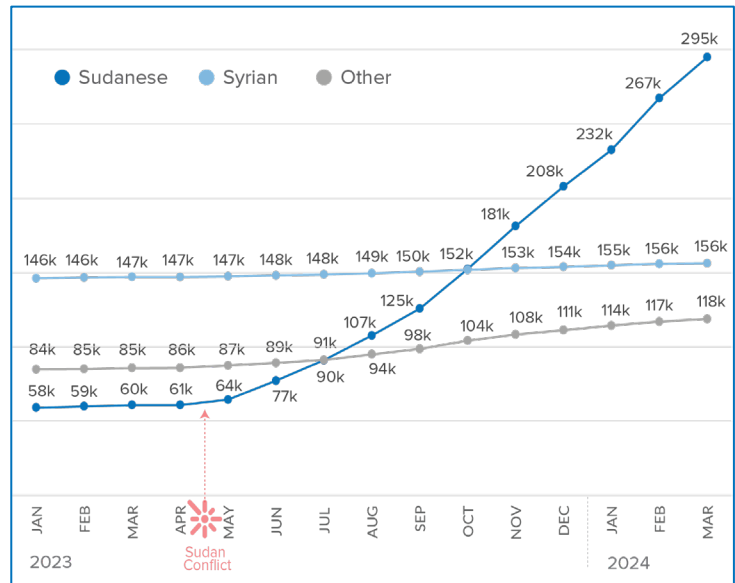
Offices:

1 Country office in Cairo
1 Reception centre in Giza
1 RSD/RST building in Giza
1 Field office in Alexandria

Context

There are 575,000 registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt, nearly double the number from a year ago with major conflicts across its borders. Refugees in Egypt live in urban settings across the major cities, with most new arrivals coming from Sudan.

Since the onset of the conflict in Sudan in April 2023, UNHCR has observed a fivefold increase in Sudanese individuals registering as refugees, mainly women and children. In response to the Gaza situation, UNHCR has delivered water, clothes, blankets, jerry cans, and sleeping mats to Gaza through the ERC, and cash assistance to medical evacuees from Gaza into Egypt.



Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR Egypt (January 2023-April 2024)

UNHCR has been operational in Egypt since 1954 after the Government of Egypt and UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Since then, UNHCR has provided protection services including all aspects of registration, documentation, refugee status determination and resettlement to those who are forcibly displaced. UNHCR works through ten partners in Greater Cairo, North Coast, Aswan and North Sinai: CARE Egypt, Caritas, Catholic Relief Service, Don Bosco, Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights, the Egyptian Red Crescent, Plan International, All Saints/ Refuge Egypt, Save the Children, and Terre des Hommes.



Nagla, Hawa and Eqbel are three Sudanese women who fled the conflict in their country last year and now live in Aswan (southern Egypt). They shared their hopes and concerns during a community meeting organized by UNHCR in late February. ©UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Main Activities

Protection

- **Reception, counselling, and legal assistance**

UNHCR Egypt receives between one and two thousand refugees at its offices every working day. One of the first points of contact with UNHCR are the reception areas in Greater Cairo and Alexandria. There, protection staff counsel refugees and asylum-seekers entering the premises on a walk-in basis.

Apart from the reception areas, refugees have several other access avenues to UNHCR including its recently expanded and revamped helpline in Cairo and Alexandria to respond to the surge in people seeking UNHCR's assistance and protection since the outbreak of violence in Sudan. Infoline operators

provide information-sharing and counselling and schedule registration appointments for asylum-seekers and refugees in Egypt in seven languages (Arabic, Tigrinya, Amharic, French, Oromo, English and Somali). Furthermore, refugees and asylum-seekers have access to legal remedies and representation through lawyers of NGO partners.

- **Community-based protection (CBP)**

UNHCR and partners provide targeted support to persons with specific needs through individual case management, psychosocial support, and emergency response. UNHCR also organizes community activities to promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities.

- **CBP – Communication with Communities**

UNHCR maintains an active outreach programme for Communication with Communities (CwC), providing refugees and asylum-seekers with information about UNHCR and partners' services. UNHCR uses different communication channels, including social media, to reach persons forced to flee and capture their feedback. This includes the [Help website](#), where UNHCR shares vital information for refugees in the country. A confidential complaint and feedback mechanism is in place for refugees and asylum-seekers to report misconduct, including corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse by staff and NGO partners, as a key component of UNHCR's accountability to affected communities. Since the start of the crisis, UNHCR has provided information on protection, assistance and procedures for reporting fraud to some 100,000 new arrivals.



UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, and UNHCR Representative to Egypt, Hanan Hamdan, broke the Ramadan fast sharing an Iftar meal with 15 Sudanese refugees in Cairo on 23 March. ©UNHCR/Sebastian Herwig

- **Child protection**

UNHCR Child Protection (CP) programming focuses on children at risk of abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation. Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) remain one of the key vulnerable groups of refugee children. UNHCR conducts best-interest assessments and prioritizes protection and assistance to UASC and other children at-risk across all programmes through prevention and response activities and specialized services. In addition to direct CP service provision, UNHCR engages with national counterparts to advocate for inclusion of refugee children into national CP services.

- **Gender-based violence**

In Egypt, UNHCR gender-based violence (GBV) prevention activities encompass innovative multi-sectoral approaches including community-based activities, legal awareness sessions, women empowerment initiatives, and art therapy. UNHCR and partners provide tailored assistance and psychosocial support to survivors of GBV and those who have experienced or witnessed conflict, violence or trauma.

- **Registration**

As the Government of Egypt delegated to UNHCR the registration process with the 1954 MoU, registration of the population in need of international protection is a central activity of UNHCR. The crisis in Sudan has prompted UNHCR to significantly expand its registration capabilities, aiming to protect as many individuals as possible who have arrived in Egypt. In addition to facilitating access to services, biometric registration allows refugees and asylum-seekers to regularize their stay in Egypt and obtain a renewable residence permit which grants them freedom of movement across the country.

Among the people forced to flee Sudan, more than 475,000 new arrivals have approached UNHCR for registration as of 8 April 2024. Of them, 48% (more than 227,000 people) were prioritized and registered while the remaining ones have been issued registration appointments. UNHCR is enhancing Infoline and

registration processes to accommodate the needs of new arrivals as well as the pre-existing community. UNHCR is also exploring online appointment issuance modalities to enhance accessibility. In response to the increasing numbers, UNHCR has scaled up its overall registration processing since the start of the Sudan crisis by increasing staffing, carrying out registration over weekends, improving infrastructure, and expanding the Infoline as well as communication channels.

- **Refugee Status Determination**

UNHCR conducts Refugee Status Determination (RSD) on behalf of the Government and facilitates access to protection, basic needs, and essential services, such as health and education. UNHCR Egypt strategically utilizes RSD to maximize protection benefits for many asylum-seekers while maintaining the integrity of the asylum system. In 2023, UNHCR Egypt finalized 12,600 RSD decisions extending the operation's status as the most productive RSD mandate operation globally. UNHCR strives to finalize decisions on refugee status promptly, enabling individuals to make informed choices about their future, whether as refugees or through alternative avenues like the International Organization for Migration's Assisted Voluntary Return and Repatriation program.

- **Durable solutions**

Due to its location, Egypt is part of the Syrian and Central Mediterranean resettlement initiatives. In 2023, 3,247 refugees were submitted for resettlement consideration to Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, the UK and the USA, while 4,359 refugees departed for resettlement countries. UNHCR Egypt continues to prioritize Complementary Pathways as a means of a long-lasting solution for refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt. In 2023, 864 refugees and asylum seekers departed the country after accessing such pathways, including family reunification, labour mobility, education, and private sponsorship programs. Among this, three successfully selected students proceeded to complete their master's degrees at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, through an Education Pathways pilot project.

- **Education**

UNHCR advocates for enrolling refugees and asylum-seekers in public schools on the same footing as Egyptians. In 2023, UNHCR provided education cash grants to more than 73,000 children to support the enrolment of refugee students in public schools and refugee community learning centres and enable their access to safe transportation to school and buy needed stationery. Furthermore, based on the needs identified by the GoE, UNHCR provides teacher training, supports the refurbishment of schools, and supplies equipment, computers, furniture, and other necessities to assist the Egyptian facilities in absorbing the refugee population.



Jalina, from Sudan, was one of some 100 refugee children who participated in a series of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) camps organized by UNHCR and Al Alfi Foundation in Cairo in February 2024. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

Health

UNHCR supports national efforts to improve the quality of health services to refugees and asylum-seekers and the host population in areas with high concentrations of refugees. In 2023, UNHCR partner Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) provided medical services to more than 32,000 refugees who had fled the Sudan crisis. The services were provided at border crossings and included treatment for ailments related to the journey to Egypt (dehydration, heat stroke, insect bites, infection) and unattended chronic diseases (diabetes, heart failure). In severe cases, ERC stabilized patients and referred them for care in hospitals in Abu Simbel or Aswan. Additionally, more than 4,500 people received primary health services, and more than 900 received hospital care in Alexandria, Cairo and Aswan in 2023.

Livelihoods and economic inclusion

UNHCR helps refugees and asylum-seekers to support themselves and their families by offering them training and assisting them in finding a market for their skills and goods. UNHCR also works to promote economic inclusion of those forced to flee their homes by advocating for their right to work and building their livelihoods through market-oriented programmes. In 2023, UNHCR provided livelihoods support to 5,842 people. This support included guidance on the Egyptian labour market and matching employers with potential employees while ensuring minimum standards are met. In total, with the support provided, 477 individuals found a job after taking part in UNHCR programmes in 2023. Moreover, UNHCR supported 407 entrepreneurs with cash grants and mentoring to establish businesses. All these efforts helped refugees to navigate a challenging labour market.



15 refugee women participated in a baking training in a Cairo community kitchen in February 2024. The event, co-organized by UNHCR, aimed to enhance refugees' skills for starting and expanding their businesses. ©UNHCR/Lamis Soliman

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Cash-based interventions

UNHCR delivers monthly unconditional cash grants to extremely vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers to provide protection and assistance and prevent refugees from resorting to harmful coping mechanisms. Furthermore, the influx of refugees and asylum-seekers after the onset of the Sudan conflict in mid-April led UNHCR to a reorientation of its cash assistance program to also include recently arrived individuals if they meet the eligibility criteria. Adapting to the new emergency context, UNHCR began delivering assistance in the southern part of the country through its temporarily based team in the south (Aswan). Since the onset of the Sudan conflict, UNHCR has assisted some 50,000 people with emergency cash. Meanwhile, 67,000 people were assisted with the bimonthly Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in March 2024, out of whom 15,774 were newly arrived people from Sudan. Cash is deemed the most efficient and dignified way to enable vulnerable refugees to cover their basic needs, while at the same time supporting and boosting local markets.

Coordination and partnerships

Following the onset of the crisis, in line with the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR led the development of a Regional Sudan Situation Refugee Response Plan (RRP), to coordinate the interagency response as well as associated advocacy and resource mobilization in the five countries most affected by the potential outflows of refugees from Sudan, including Egypt. As of 8 April 2024, the Egypt chapter of the 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) was 7 per cent funded.

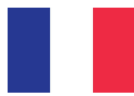
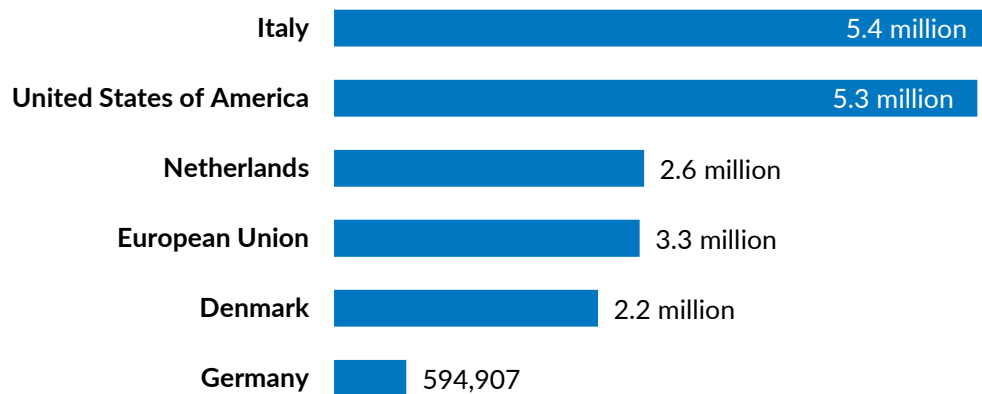
Under the umbrella of the Refugee and Resilience Plan specific to Egypt, co-led by UNHCR and UNDP, we join forces with the government, UN and international and national NGO partners (28) to mobilize funds for all refugee populations as well as local host communities. To this effect, the 2024 joint planning workshop in Cairo in late 2023 brought together senior government officials, donors, the UN system, the World Bank, and NGO representatives.

In the objective of bridging the nexus to development, UNHCR supports the Government of Egypt with its pledges for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). The latest GRF took place in December 2023 in Geneva and provided the opportunity to build on the progress made towards the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), and of initiatives announced since the first GRF in 2019. Egypt's pledges focus on inclusion into the national health and education systems, peacebuilding and climate.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Egypt Operation, including the Sudan Situation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS AS OF 31 MARCH 2024 | USD



UNHCR Egypt is also grateful for the crucial support of private donors, including those from Australia, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the USA.

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LINKS: UNHCR Global Focus | UNHCR Egypt Website | UNHCR Sudan Situation Site | UNHCR Egypt Twitter | UNHCR Data Portal