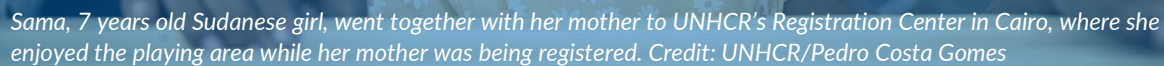


7 August 2023



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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- Many of the newly arrived Sudanese are struggling to find affordable housing in Cairo due to the exponential +400% increase in rental rates. To mitigate the risks of homelessness, UNHCR is providing housing grants and capacity-building training to three refugee-led organizations (RLOs) under its community empowerment programme. RLOs are often the first to respond to the shelter needs of the new arrivals, resulting in many RLOs depleting their resources fast and being at risk of collapse. The three RLOs are expected to provide housing solutions for more than 100 newly arrived families in the next three months. Additionally, the Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC)-Terre des hommes (TdH) has joined UNHCR as a part of the Registration-Protection Reception process to enhance identification and support to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers regarding housing and other urgent services.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR are entitled to a six-month residence based on their asylum status in the country. However, for new arrivals and the existing Sudan population who present themselves to Immigration to renew residency, there are increasing cases of 3-month renewal periods. Moreover, for refugees, residency procedures are centralised in one location in Cairo, for which registered refugees and asylum-seekers residing elsewhere in the country must travel to; refugees find it often difficult to pay for the required transportation fees and accommodation. 600 individual slots per day are allocated for the asylum-based residence, which in turn has created a waiting period of 66 days in average as of 3 August 2023. The current waiting-time period marks an increase from 47 days on 30 June and 36 days on 30 May 2023. The increased waiting period also corresponds to the increase in new registration due to the Sudan Situation and the increased demand due to the start of the academic year in September. UNHCR is in discussion with the Egyptian authorities on possible solutions to the above challenges.
- The Information Management Working Group (IMWG) in Egypt has been established, co-led by UNHCR and UNICEF. The IMWG aims to: 1) Coordinate IM activities including 3W and 5Ws, conduct population trend analysis, manage data portals, 2) Support in assessment activities using solid data collection tools, such the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) and new-arrival profiling, 3) Coordinate IM activities at the inter-agency level between partners within the context of the sector coordination groups in Egypt.
- A Sudan-Egypt Cross Border meeting was held on 7 August 2023 to coordinate cross-border aspects of the response and to ensure an aligned and consistent planning process, also taking into account the situation in Wadi Halfa where UNHCR Sudan has recently established presence.
- 272,000 Sudanese and 7,230 individuals of other nationalities (total of 279,230 new arrivals) have crossed into Egypt since the start of the crisis in Sudan on 15 April, according to the latest data received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Seeking to ensure increased engagement of the refugee community in coordination, the Community-Based Protection (CBP) Sub-Working Group, led by UNHCR and co-led by TDH, has identified representatives from three refugee-led coalitions to join the CBP sub-working group. Preparatory meetings have been conducted and they will attend the next meeting.

Sector highlights

Protection overview

UNHCR continues to provide protection services to Sudanese in vulnerable situations arriving in Egypt. Among other activities, UNHCR addresses cases of gender-based violence by safeguarding survivors and striving to mitigate the risks faced by women and girls in particular having to undertake perilous journeys to seek safety in Egypt. UNHCR also focuses on the protection of unaccompanied children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, as they build a new life in their host country.

According to UNHCR data, 20% of the registered new arrivals from Sudan presented specific needs, including (in order of prevalence) persons without documentation, single parents, persons with disabilities, unaccompanied and separated children, and persons with serious medical conditions. Furthermore, around 44% of the registered new arrivals said they want to stay in Egypt, while 6% intend to travel abroad, 2% are willing to return to Sudan, and 48% have not yet decided where to go.

Registration

As of 6 August, UNHCR has provided pre-registration appointments to 24,746 newly arrived households (52,196 individuals), of whom 13,660 households (28,927 individuals) have already been registered. Of the total pre-registered households, over 83% are Sudanese, followed by South Sudanese and Eritreans, while 57% are women. 94% of the total registered Sudanese new arrivals originate from Khartoum. UNHCR data indicates that 72% have government-issued identity documentation, while some 27% are undocumented.

UNHCR Egypt is focusing on improving its reception facilities and securing an additional site to expand registration activities. With summer temperatures reaching forty-plus degrees Celsius, the Office has made available additional mist fans in waiting areas and has purchased more wheelchairs. Additional work is underway on critical infrastructure expansions and disability-friendly improvements. A new rubble hall is also under construction in the external plot adjacent to the UNHCR Office, which will be utilized to solely issue registration appointments and serve an estimate of 700-900 appointments per day.



After fleeing violence in Sudan, Teklit and his family, originally from Eritrea, were registered and assisted by UNHCR in Cairo. ©UNHCR/Jaime Gimenez

Cash assistance

People fleeing Sudan continue to arrive in Egypt daily, facing significant vulnerabilities. To help them meet their basic needs in a dignified manner, UNHCR continues to provide them with one-off emergency cash assistance.

To date, a total of 26,180 registered and unregistered individuals (9,033 households) have been identified by UNHCR as eligible for the emergency cash assistance. Of those, some 10,823 individuals (3,874 households) have already been assisted since the start of the Sudan conflict. Age and gender trends remain consistent, with the majority of assessed families being female headed (73%), and the vast majority (80%) being between 18-59 years of age.

A slightly higher prevalence of vulnerability continues to be noticed in Aswan compared to Alexandria and Cairo, as 67% of those assessed in Aswan are found to be eligible, compared to 62 % and 61% of those assessed in Greater Cairo & North Coast respectively. Vulnerable cases include, among others, lactating women, elderly, people with disabilities and single parents with children.



Health

On 30 July, UNHCR trained medical staff in Alexandria in protection and gender-based violence to facilitate the roll-out of Safe Women Clinics and ensure the inclusion of new arrivals. UNHCR conducted a training session for the medical staff of Alexandria University Medical Hospital as part of a two-day training programme being delivered by UNFPA and the National Council of Women to facilitate the roll-out of Safe Women Clinics in different university hospitals around Egypt. The session included sensitization on general protection, GBV risks facing women in Egypt, and the different forms of support provided by the authorities in coordination with UNHCR. The session also specifically covered the status and context of newly arriving refugees from Sudan, including the need for new arrivals to have access to services, and UNHCR's role in providing support through registration, referrals and assistance.



Core relief items

Items distributed to newly arrived individuals:



634,180
Bottles of water



150,000
hygiene kits



80,000
Sanitary items

To date, UNHCR installed three rubb halls at the border crossings between Egypt and Sudan, and a fourth rubb hall has been installed in the registration centre in Cairo. The rubb halls have facilitated the scale up of the response and provided shaded areas for asylum-seekers to rest. In addition, UNHCR delivered nine commercial fridges, 15 family tents, 50 office chairs, 10 tablets, 20 smartphones and 250 waiting benches to UNHCR's partner, the Egyptian Red Crescent.

Main needs and gaps

Access to territory under the latest admission restrictions implemented as of June remains a major concern and is a factor in slowing the rate of new arrivals. Once admitted to Egypt, Sudanese nationals can continue to apply for a residency subject to the presentation of a notarized rent contract and further approval by State security. With these changes in place, an increase in the number of people who approach UNHCR protection services has been noticed and is projected to continue as is or rise even further. This is due to the reality of the fast-approaching 6-month mark of the Sudan crisis (which started on 15 October), when the first new arrivals may now have financial and documentation limitations to renew their initial 6-month entry visa.

The Sudanese community has also reported challenges in registering their children in public schools in Egypt. Many Sudanese reported that there was an expectation from some school administrations that parents would pay a contribution or donation, in the form of material support, to ensure the admission of their children. Many members of the Sudanese community lack the resources to pay for such a contribution or donation, while Egyptian nationals are not required to make such donations or contributions according to the information received. UNHCR is in discussion with the Egyptian authorities on possible solutions to the above challenges.

Financial information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical and generous contributions of its public and private donors who have contributed with earmarked and unearmarked funding to its operation in Egypt, including in response to the Sudan situation. The overall Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) is currently funded at 31%, while the Egypt chapter of the same is funded at 29%.



DONATE NOW

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