

UNHCR EGYPT

SUDAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE

22 August 2023



Abdallah, 79, is a retired Sudanese engineer who fled violence in Khartoum and arrived in Egypt in search of safety. This week he approached UNHCR's refugee registration centre in Cairo seeking protection and assistance. ©UNHCR/Jaime Gimenez

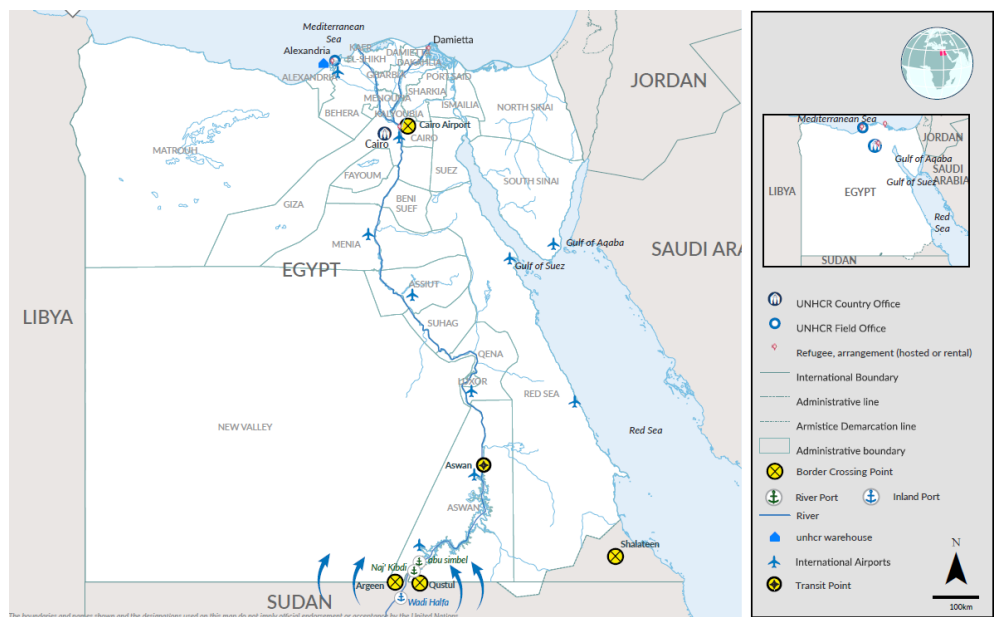
 **>280,000**

Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt

Since 15 April according to the latest update provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to UNHCR on 20 August

 **32% funded**

of the \$25.2 million required by UNHCR for the [Sudan emergency response](#) in Egypt.



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- Some 280,000 Sudanese and 7,230 individuals of other nationalities, totalling more than 287,000 people, have crossed into Egypt since the start of the crisis according to the latest received by UNHCR from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (20 August). The daily number of entries into Egypt from Sudan remains stable with an average of some 300 daily entries through Qustol and some 150 through Arqeen border crossing. UNHCR understands that the Egyptian authorities no longer require security clearance for individuals wishing to enter from Sudan. It is now only necessary to present a visa, which may be obtained from Egyptian consulates in Wadi Halfa and Port Sudan. Over 60% of Sudanese surveyed by UNHCR at the border waited between one and three months to obtain their visa.
- UNHCR received increased reports of persons, including children, arrested and detained on grounds of attempted irregular entry into Libya. Within the Children on the Move Taskforce, IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF are monitoring such reports and are developing advocacy messages beyond individual case management given existing SOPs signed with the GoE.
- The heat wave combined with lack of water and medicine at the Egypt-Sudan border have reportedly led to the death of some 15 truck drivers (exact number cannot be verified). The Egyptian authorities have since requested that the Egyptian Red Crescent provide food and medicine to drivers stranded at the border, as well as water in addition to the 200 bottles already provided to the truck drivers. Arqeen and Qustol, the two main border crossings on the 1200km Egypt-Sudan border, have recently experienced long tailbacks consisting of hundreds of commercial trucks carrying food and hygiene products waiting to cross into Sudan. Transit delays for cargo into Sudan from Egypt have regularly been reported by UNHCR since the start of the crisis for reasons ranging from lack of capacity to the time it takes to inspect the cargo during customs clearance by the Sudanese authorities. However, the delays have steadily become longer with greater humanitarian consequences, including the delay of essential goods reaching Wadi Halfa and other places in Sudan affected by the war.
- More than four months into the Sudan crisis, UNHCR Egypt continues to increase its registration capacity through the hiring of 29 new staff and the expansion of the registration centre facilities in Cairo. This week, UNHCR has registered more than 3,700 persons newly arrived from Sudan, the highest weekly number since the start of the crisis. In total, 62,799 new arrivals have approached UNHCR for registration appointments and other protection services, with 59% of those fully registered (36,955 individuals) since 15 April. The trend continues to remain disproportionately high for new female arrivals (56%) as well as female heads of household (65%). Nearly all new arrivals originate from Khartoum (94%) and 30% of those registered with high levels of vulnerability are processed for emergency cash assistance.

Protection overview

People fleeing the conflict in Sudan continue to arrive in Egypt in search of safety. Most of them reach the country after long and perilous journeys in Sudan, facing risks such as human trafficking, gender-based violence (GBV) or lack of water and food. 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.

UNHCR Egypt remains highly committed to preventing and responding to GBV and to providing comprehensive support to survivors, including new arrivals from Sudan. In July, UNHCR decided to expand the delivery of GBV safety and recovery packages, including cash assistance, to prioritize newly arrived female GBV survivors. UNHCR has since finalized the recommendation of more than 230 survivors for this type of assistance which is being processed. The safety and recovery package is designed to support GBV survivors and individuals at risk of GBV through provision of the financial assistance as part of a holistic case plan and individual needs assessments. With the additional funding available, a total of 600 individuals are expected to benefit from safety and recovery packages by the end of 2023.



UNHCR Registration Assistant with a Sudanese child after completing a registration process in Cairo. The family, a single mother and three children, was forced to flee due to fighting in Khartoum, and found safety in Egypt. ©UNHCR/Jaime Gimenez

Education

Concerns have been raised by the Sudanese refugee community regarding the recent announcement from the Ministry of Higher Education that all foreign students must pay the equivalent of \$2,000 for first-time university registration. It comes on top of significant increases in the cost of university education in recent years and marks the end of a long-standing policy that saw Sudanese nationals treated equally to Egyptian nationals with regards to access to university education. School children are also experiencing barriers to accessing education with delays to obtaining residency permits affecting school registration for both new arrivals and in-situ refugees. Currently, with the increased demand for UNHCR registration and protection services, the families of students who are required to provide valid UNHCR cards and residency permits are unable to do so, due to difficulties in obtaining timely renewal appointments with UNHCR.

On 14 August, UNHCR supported two refugee youth-led initiatives assisted by UNHCR under its Community Empowerment project in attending the International Youth Day celebration in Cairo. The event - under the theme "green skills for youth towards sustainable world" - served as a platform to recognize the remarkable achievements and talents of the refugee youth in the digital field, as well as providing the opportunity to network with other stakeholders and fellow Egyptian youth. The refugees received digital learning certification in PROSPECTS-funded Community learning centres. Those also offer trainings on language and social skills, sports activities and drive the youth away from negative coping mechanisms. Approximately 2,000 young refugees representing eight different nationalities enrolled in the digital courses in the community learning centres and engaged in community activities together with fellow refugees and Egyptian youth.



Registration

As of 21 August, UNHCR has provided pre-registration appointments to 62,799 newly arrived individuals (29,973 households), of whom 36,955 individuals (17,702 households) have already been registered. The majority are Sudanese nationals (92%), while the top three third country nationals registered are South Sudanese (3%), Eritrean (2%) and Syrian (1%). The vast majority of Sudanese (94%) originate from Khartoum, while 3% are from Omdurman, 1% from South Darfur and 1% from North Darfur. In Egypt, around 90% reside in Greater Cairo, 8% in Alexandria, and 2% are scattered around the country.



Cash assistance

In the past week, there was a significant 45% increase in the number of people to whom UNHCR has provided emergency cash assistance. The total number has now surpassed 15,600 individuals newly arrived from Sudan, as UNHCR continues to work towards bringing assistance to more people in need.

To date, a total of 29,175 registered and unregistered individuals (9,875 households) have been identified by UNHCR as eligible for the emergency cash assistance. Of those, some 15,658 individuals (5,321 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 (72%), and the vast majority (80%) being between 18-59 years of age.

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



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 1,000 blankets, 50 mattresses, 1,000 floor mats, nine commercial fridges, 15 family tents, 10 tablets, four freezers, four logistic trolleys, 10 laptops, 20 smart phones, 30 fire extinguishers, 250 waiting benches, one sound system, one multi-function printer, one office fridge, 40 fans, 50 office chairs, and 20 tables to UNHCR's partner, the Egyptian Red Crescent.

Main needs and gaps

Homelessness continues to be an acute concern, especially for women at risk. Since conflict began in Sudan, UNHCR has seen a significant increase in the number of homeless persons among the cases managed by UNHCR and partners, with most cases relating to highly vulnerable single mothers, facing housing risks due to the socio-economic situation and dramatic rent increases. UNHCR is working to refer such cases for community support. However, community solutions, and the identification of appropriate accommodation, remains a challenge.

Financial information

UNHCR is grateful for the crucial and generous contributions from its public and private donors, who have provided both earmarked and unearmarked funding to support its operations in Egypt, including in response to the Sudan situation. The overall Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) involves five countries and is currently funded at 35%. While this update focuses on UNHCR's activities, a separate RRP update provides details on the holistic inter-agency and inter-sector response.



DONATE NOW

CONTACT: UNHCR Public Information and External Relations Unit – arecapi@unhcr.org

LINKS: [UNHCR Global Focus](#) | [UNHCR Egypt Website](#) | [UNHCR Sudan Emergency Website](#) | [UNHCR Egypt Twitter \(@UNHCREgypt\)](#)