

Annual Results Report

2025

Egypt

Acknowledgements

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Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2025, Egypt continued to face spillover effects of the Sudan and Gaza crises and adjusted operations following political changes in Syria after December 2024. It became the largest host of Sudanese refugees and the top recipient of asylum claims globally. While security conditions remained stable and UNHCR retained protection space, worsening socioeconomic conditions and a global funding decline resulted in a USD 14M budget reduction (end 2024–2025) and a 30% reduction in UNHCR Egypt staffing.

Refugee vulnerabilities deepened due to limited livelihood opportunities and continued restrictions on access to public services under the June 2024 residency instruction. Despite increased Government capacity, asylum-based residency processing times reached 19 months by end-2025, and arrests for residency violations continued to rise. Large-scale Sudanese arrivals persisted, with the Government reporting 1.5M arrivals since the conflict began. By mid-2025, UNHCR had registered over 1M refugees, 74% of whom were Sudanese, placing severe pressure on protection systems.

As of 31 December 2025, Egypt hosted 1,098,311 registered refugees and asylum seekers from 62 nationalities. Of the 299,527 registered in 2025, 88% were Sudanese. Sudanese remained the largest group (834,201; 75.95%), followed by Syrians (117,364; 10.69%). The Syrian population declined by 30,500 in 2025 and is projected to fall by a further 35,000 in 2026, while Sudanese registrations are expected to continue, with 200,000 projected in 2026.

Following the December 2024 asylum law, the Government advanced executive regulations, expected to be finalized in early 2026, and initiated the National Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs. UNHCR supported implementation through protection training. Funding shortages constrained assistance to vulnerable refugees and risked premature returns. UNHCR prioritized core protection and strengthened engagement with development actors to promote inclusion in national systems.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By end of 2027, access to asylum, physical and legal protection of refugees and asylum-seekers is improved, and those forcibly displaced are increasingly able to access their rights and national services.

Indicator		
Population Type	Baseline	Actual (2025)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	54.16%	88.95%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	93.12%	88.46%

In 2025, UNHCR Egypt received 155,000 new asylum applications representing 347,800 individuals seeking international protection, of whom 299,527 successfully registered. By December 2025, a backlog of 37,200 asylum applications, corresponding to 74,300 individuals seeking international protection, remained pending registration and to be processed in 2026. In the context of socio-economic hardship, limited State capacity to absorb the increasing refugee numbers, particularly from Sudan, and the State's attempts to regulate access to State-based services, they faced substantial protection challenges, including legal and physical risks.

The GoE continued to condition State-based services with having a valid residence permit, which hampered effective access to essential state services, including birth registration and justice. In April 2024, the GoE introduced an improvement to the asylum-based residence permit procedures by increasing the daily immigration capacity by 60% (from 600 individuals to 1,000) and extending the residence duration from 6 months to one year. This reduced the waiting time for the residence appointment by 51%-- from 1,151 days to 594 days. However, the procedures remain centralized, while the waiting time continues to hamper effective access to asylum-based residence, for which there is an increased risk of detention and deportation. The Office continues with donor partners to advocate for upholding the principle of non-refoulement and for regular access to persons detained, as many may need international protection. With the adoption of the national Asylum Law in late 2024, UNHCR advocates for decentralized national asylum procedures, protection-sensitive entry mechanisms, effective right to legal stay with registration, and access to State-based services. For this, the Office is advocating for executive regulations, harmonizing national laws and a protection-sensitive legal framework for effective access to asylum, procedural guarantees.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

By 2027, more forcibly displaced persons live above poverty line with greater access to basic assistance and health services.

Indicator		
Population Type	Baseline	Actual (2025)
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88.84%	82.32%

In 2025, assistance to the most vulnerable forcibly displaced people continued despite worsening socioeconomic conditions, rising living costs, and declining humanitarian funding. These pressures increased needs across refugee communities, making cash assistance essential. The multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) programme supported 24,599 families (102,308 individuals), covering about 23% of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket for a family of four and helping households meet basic needs such as rent, food, and healthcare.

The 2025 post-distribution monitoring survey of 403 households showed that 4.2% of beneficiaries met most or all needs and 61.5% met half of their needs, indicating MPCA's mitigating effect despite ongoing economic strain. In addition, 14,681 families (68,347 individuals) received winter cash assistance, covering an average of 17.36% of the winter Minimum Expenditure Basket.

The Asylum Law for Foreigners No. 164 of 2024 established Egypt's first national asylum framework and affirmed refugees' access to basic services. However, as of end-March 2026, the National Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs had not been appointed and Executive Regulations remained pending, limiting implementation.

The 2025 Egypt Vulnerability Assessment for Refugees (EVAR) confirmed high vulnerability levels: 65% of refugees are highly or extremely vulnerable and 58% are food insecure, despite 69% engaging in largely informal income-generating activities. By December 2025, 46,836 eligible families (153,235 individuals) remained on assistance waiting lists due to funding shortages.

Health access also declined after the large influx since April 2023. In 2025, reported health needs rose to 38% while access to care fell to 82%, mainly due to financial barriers and exclusion from national health insurance.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Refugees and asylum seekers have access to education, safety and are more resilient, empowered and engaged in their communities.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60.00%	50.00%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.00%	46.00%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33.92%	48.93%

In 2025, refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt experienced some improved access to livelihood opportunities, enabling more households to generate income, meet basic needs, and strengthen confidence, participation, and social cohesion with host communities.

UNHCR and partners supported empowerment through 161 two-way dialogues involving 2,318 refugees and asylum-seekers, 48% of them women. Sudanese made up 43% of participants, followed by Syrians (18%), Eritreans (10%), Yemenis (10%), South Sudanese (9%), and smaller groups from Ethiopia, Somalia, and others. Conducted through community meetings, FGDs, and KIIs, these dialogues informed programming and strengthened refugee representation through two refugee-led coalitions in the Protection Working Group.

Perceptions of safety improved. A survey of 1,443 refugees showed that 49% felt fairly to very safe walking

alone after dark, compared to 34% in 2024. UNHCR conducted a GBV safety audit in Cairo, Alexandria, Damietta, and Aswan, identifying risks linked to unsafe locations, exploitation, and discriminatory practices, and continued its relocation programme for GBV survivors and others at imminent risk.

Education interventions reached 98,855 individuals. Cash grants were provided to 88,565 school-age children and youth (6–20 years), including 44,339 females, 44,226 males, 1,422 children with disabilities, and 3,627 unaccompanied and separated children. Changes in methodology explain the increase in reported secondary enrolment between 2024 and 2025. At tertiary level, 341 refugee youth enrolled through DAFI, with 28 receiving internships and 128 career coaching.

Child protection measures were implemented in non-formal education through safeguarding, GBV mitigation, MHPSS, and sessions for 300 parents and teachers in 47 centres, alongside dignity kits for 500 female students. However, 50% of refugee children could not enroll for the 2025–2026 school year due to rising registrations, residency delays, and funding constraints.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Between 2023 and 2027, more refugees with compelling protection needs would benefit from a wider range of solutions including resettlement, voluntary return, and legal pathways of admission to third countries.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,408	27,538
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,021	1,932
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,060	2,305
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5	387,728

In 2025, access to a wider range of solutions were availed to forcibly displaced persons in Egypt. Third country solutions were availed to the most vulnerable persons with 2,390 refugees submitted for resettlement consideration to 14 resettlement countries, and with 1,932 refugees departing on resettlement and 2,305 through complementary pathways respectively.

At the same time, following the changes in the political climate in Syria, in 2025, 27,537 refugees returned to Syria through voluntary, informed returns, reflecting gradual improvements in areas of origin and enhanced assistance from UNHCR relating to logistics of returns.

These developments—while influenced by many external factors beyond UNHCR—align with impact level indicators showing increased access to solutions. Despite lack of improvement in conditions for return in countries of origin of refugees with other nationalities, UNHCR was able to assist one refugee returning to her country of origin based on her request.

Refugees or asylum seekers can be naturalized if they are eligible for Egyptian nationality as per Egyptian Law on Nationality No. 36 for 1975 and its amendment No. 154 for 2004. This year, one stateless person born to an Egyptian mother obtained the Egyptian nationality through legal aid.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The protracted Sudan conflict continued to drive largescale arrivals into Egypt throughout 2025, heavily straining registration, protection, and service systems. Arrivals still outpaced processing, creating backlogs and delaying documentation, for which fast-tracking procedures were critical. With no national asylum framework, refugees fall under general foreigner regulations, and asylum-based residency takes nearly two years, limiting access to services and heightening protection risks.

Protection concerns intensified. GBV cases rose by 6% compared to 2024, with Sudanese women and girls most affected, and the number of unaccompanied and separated children increased. Limited resources required prioritizing lifesaving interventions, reducing coverage in case management, alternative care, and cash assistance. Restricted detention access further constrained outreach.

In 2025, conditions in Sudan worsened sharply, particularly after the fall of El Fasher in late October following an 18month RSF siege. Reports described atrocities, severe food insecurity, and collapsing services, pushing thousands to flee, increasing displacement within Darfur and toward neighboring countries, and heightening onward movement and protection risks.

Financial and staffing constraints in 2025 further limited UNHCR's response. Recruitment delays and funding gaps reduced cash assistance, psychosocial support, and alternative care. High operational costs required prioritizing lifesaving activities, leaving gaps in education, health, and livelihoods.

Government efforts to include refugees in national systems align with the Global Compact on Refugees, but fiscal pressures, restrictive residency procedures, limited formal work opportunities—especially for Sudanese and non-Arabic speakers, continue to impede inclusion.

Regarding Syrians, return discussions increased, but conditions for safe and sustainable return remain uncertain, with vulnerability and protection risks shaping intentions.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2025, UNHCR's response in Egypt continued to rely on strong partnerships with the Government of Egypt, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and community-based and refugee-led organizations to protect and expand services for refugees, asylum-seekers, and other forcibly displaced persons. In line with SDG 17 on Partnerships for the Goals, UNHCR signed 15 partnership agreements to support response implementation nationwide.

UNHCR collaborated with 11 NGOs—four international (Plan International, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, and Terre des Hommes) and seven national (All Saints Cathedral, CARE Egypt, MERSAL, Life Makers, Etijah, the Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Support, and the Egyptian Red Crescent)—as well as two UN agencies (UNRWA and WFP) and two government entities, the Ministry of Education and the Arab Academy for Science and Technology. In addition, three Calls for Expression of Interest were launched in legal assistance, gender-based violence, and education, with a focus on refugee-led and community-based organizations.

In parallel, UNHCR advanced localization efforts to strengthen sustainable, community-driven responses. Capacity-building programmes were launched with Community Development Associations in Damietta, followed by grant allocations and close monitoring. Job training and institutional capacity-building were also rolled out for partners engaged in 2025. These efforts aim to strengthen accountability, resilience, and inclusion, and align with commitments under the Global Compact on Refugees and the Sustainable Development Goals by bringing decision-making closer to affected communities.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to timely and effective registration, reception and documentation in line with UNHCR Protection standards.

Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers are able to access registration and are provided with protection against arbitrary arrest, detention, and refoulement.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator		Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
Population Type				
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis				
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		59.54%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority				
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		88.41%	96.00%	85.26%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials				
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		Actual (2025)
Population Type		
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		299,527
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		438,195

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

By the end of 2025, UNHCR Egypt had a registered population of 1,098,311 refugees and asylum-seekers. During the year, UNHCR individually registered 299,527 newly arrived individuals and processed 438,000 people for document renewal and other continuous registration services. Following funding reductions, the Zamalek and Alexandria reception centers closed by June 2025, and all registration activities were centralized at the 6th of October Reception Centre. Services continued without interruption, including for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).

Registration remained accessible through multiple channels, including the Infoline, in-person services, digital appointment tools, and referral mechanisms, supporting equitable access for diverse population groups. Throughout the reporting period, persons with specific needs were systematically identified and prioritized in line with established procedures, improving protection-sensitive access for individuals with disabilities, serious medical conditions, pregnant women, children at risk, and older persons.

The continued use of biometrics and identity management systems strengthened data quality, registration

integrity, and onward movement tracking. UNHCR Egypt also advanced the transition toward digital and online service delivery, including technical preparations and coordination for the rollout of the My UNHCR platform and the Digital Gateway. These efforts aim to increase processing efficiency, expand access to asylum and services, and reduce physical presence requirements, with further implementation planned for 2026.

Complementary reception management measures improved safety and integrity, mitigating risks related to fraud, overcrowding, and security incidents, while reinforcing accountability and protection outcomes

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Asylum-seekers have access to a fair, efficient, and adaptable RSD system

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	475.00	600.00	625.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, in light of the Asylum Law and the transition of asylum management to the Government of Egypt, including registration, documentation, and RSD, UNHCR Egypt strengthened the strategic use of RSD through tailored processing approaches. These aimed to maximize protection outcomes, enhance efficiency, and preserve the integrity of the asylum system. Asylum-seekers with heightened vulnerabilities were systematically prioritized for timely access to protection, while individuals from non-refugee-producing countries, including those with manifestly unfounded claims (MUC), were prioritized for timely decisions to safeguard limited assistance and system integrity.

Following the UNHCR Guidance Note on the International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Sudan (April 2025) and RSD Procedural Standards, UNHCR Egypt developed and implemented a simplified RSD modality for Sudanese cases with a high presumption of inclusion. Merged registration and RSD, as well as simplified procedures, were also applied for asylum-seekers with specific needs from countries such as South Sudan and Eritrea to improve processing efficiency. For non-refugee-producing countries and MUC cases, accelerated and simplified modalities were further strengthened to balance efficiency with procedural safeguards.

UNHCR Egypt also reinforced the appeal process, prioritizing cases where RSD outcomes would provide meaningful protection, including post-conflict Sudanese cases. Throughout the RSD process, counselling included information on legal representation and the availability of free services, supported by close coordination with legal aid partners. By the end of 2025, UNHCR Egypt finalized 17,054 RSD decisions, exceeding the annual operational target by 10%.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

Knowledge of refugee law and statelessness for targeted regional and national counterparts enhanced

Refugees and asylum-seeker’s access to information and public attitude towards them enhanced

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Not yet aligned	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness			
None	Not yet aligned	Not yet aligned	Not yet aligned

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In December 2024, Egypt adopted a national asylum law, marking a major milestone while highlighting the need to further develop a comprehensive domestic normative and institutional asylum framework. Following adoption, UNHCR issued a detailed commentary on the law and presented a transition plan to the Government, outlining gradual transfer of asylum responsibilities and extensive capacity-development support. In a positive development in April 2025, the Government extended the validity of asylum-based residence permits from six months to one year, addressing a long-standing UNHCR advocacy priority and mitigating the impact of lengthy waiting periods.

In parallel, UNHCR trained 635 government officials from multiple entities on refugee law, international protection principles, and state roles in asylum management. Specialized sessions were delivered to the Ministry of Defense and other ministries, including trainings conducted with EUAA, DIHR, and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo. Strong engagement by government counterparts reflected growing ownership and readiness to assume asylum responsibilities, while training enabled technical and strategic dialogue on asylum standards.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Risks of gender-based violence (GBV) are reduced, prevention programming effectively addresses root causes of GBV, and quality response services are provided for all survivors, with eventual inclusion in national response systems.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83%	85.00%	27.69%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	77.14%	93.00%	51.04%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13,439

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR expanded access to comprehensive, survivor-centered GBV services grounded in informed consent, confidentiality, voluntary disclosure, and safety planning, while strengthening prevention and awareness. GBV disclosures increased by 6.09% compared to 2024, reflecting improved access, stronger referral pathways, and increased trust in services rather than higher incidence.

Quality response remained central. Through CARE Egypt, about 38% of reported cases received relocation support to address immediate safety risks, and 26% accessed specialized psychosocial services. UNHCR also continued the Safety Package cash programme, supporting 1,733 survivors across governorates. CARE expanded outreach through three community-based organizations, and service capacity stabilized over the year despite early constraints.

Prevention and risk mitigation complemented response efforts. Awareness activities reached 5,900 refugees on child marriage, intimate partner violence, sexual and reproductive health, and legal awareness. In addition, 3,920 women accessed Women and Girls Friendly Spaces in Cairo and Alexandria, providing safe environments for resilience-building and information sharing.

UNHCR reinforced coordination and localization by co-chairing the national and Alexandria GBV Sub-Working Groups, improving referrals and trend analysis. A donor field visit increased visibility of refugee-led organizations and promoted community-based GBV action. Despite regulatory constraints, UNHCR supported refugee-led GBV response through in-kind assistance to one partner.

System strengthening advanced through the phased rollout of GBVIMS+ with UNFPA. Four national GBV service providers were endorsed and trained, promoting ethical, secure, and standardized GBV information management and strengthening accountability, data protection, and evidence-based decision-making.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Refugee children at risk receive appropriate case management and alternative care services and are gradually included into quality national child protection systems

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.46%	96.00%	60.37%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	21.23%	65.00%	48.46%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,646

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

As of December 2025, UNHCR Egypt registered 438,931 refugee and asylum-seeker children, representing 40% of the population. Among them, 33,500 were children-at-risk, including 11,155 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), a 27% increase from December 2024. Of these, 41% were unaccompanied and 59% separated. In 2025, 4,650 UASC were newly registered under child-friendly procedures. Due to rising caseloads, only 38% of children at risk were prioritized for case management in Greater Cairo, Alexandria, Damietta, and Aswan.

UNHCR, with Save the Children and Plan International Egypt, maintained Best Interest Procedures to support timely identification and protection. A total of 3,064 Best Interest Assessments and 339 Best Interest Determinations were completed for children exposed to abuse, violence, exploitation, neglect, or separation. In 2025, 60.37% of registered children at risk received a BIA, BID, or case management intervention, up from 27.46% in 2024, reflecting improved identification and prioritization. Case management was extended to as many UASC as possible through coordination with operational and community-based partners.

Through Best Interest cash assistance, UNHCR supported 4,901 unique UASC in 2025, with a monthly average of about 3,000 beneficiaries due to ongoing identification and age-out. This assistance helped meet basic needs and reduce protection risks.

Engagement with national systems remained central. UNHCR coordinated with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood on high-risk cases requiring legal or emergency action and continued co-chairing the Child Protection Sub-Working Group with UNICEF. In 2025, 40 child protection training reached 775 participants, including partners, NCCM staff, and Child Protection Committees.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Refugees and asylum-seekers have effective access to safety, legal remedies and protection counselling

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,800

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR provided legal aid to 4,800 individuals to facilitate access to due process before law-enforcement and judicial institutions. An additional 2,471 individuals were assisted through legal partners' own funding, bringing total legal aid support to 7,271 people, including 2,234 cases related to birth registration. A further 15,257 individuals benefited from legal counselling provided by UNHCR and partners, including tailored sessions for GBV survivors.

Legal outreach was strengthened through mobile clinics, while access to emergency legal assistance was provided via the UNHCR Infoline, reception services, and dedicated emails and hotlines run by legal partners. At UNHCR premises, 7,922 individuals accessed protection counselling through the Reception Unit. Legal assistance remained critical for enabling access to birth registration for undocumented children and addressing detention-related needs. UNHCR's legal interventions contributed to improved and timely access to justice, particularly for GBV survivors.

Detention-related protection incidents continued to pose serious concerns. UNHCR received reports of the detention of 2,304 registered refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly due to lack of valid residence permits or irregular movement. In addition, 5,984 unregistered individuals were reportedly arrested. Arrests of UNHCR-registered refugees and asylum-seekers for residence-related violations increased in 2025, with Sudanese most affected, followed by South Sudanese, Eritreans, Syrians, and Ethiopians.

UNHCR reinforced advocacy with Government counterparts to promote fair and effective asylum procedures for all persons seeking international protection, including those in detention expressing fear of return. In parallel, UNHCR intervened to secure the release of registered refugees and asylum-seekers and identify protection-based solutions where release was not feasible.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Ensuring equal participation in community consultations leads to increased gender representation in community structures and support to person with specific needs (PSWN)

Protection mechanisms are established and strengthened to support individuals and children at risk, survivors of gender-based violence, people with specific needs, and support of education enrollment among Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	68.80%	85.00%	38.05%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	44.78%	45.00%	42.59%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,318
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	149,090
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	738,062

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Women's participation in UNHCR participatory assessments strengthened in 2025, with 48% female, 47% male, and 5% diverse SOGIESC representation. Community empowerment efforts included mapping 301 refugee-led organizations (RLOs) and training 92 RLOs and Community Development Associations (CDAs) in Cairo, Alexandria, and Aswan on disability inclusion, feedback mechanisms, proposal writing, fundraising, social cohesion, and PSEA. Support to 34 RLOs/CDAs contributed to women-led organizations representing 43% of decision-making structures, compared to 45% in 2024 and 38% in 2023. Engagement through the Protection Working Group and the work of 107 outreach volunteers further advanced Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP).

Through Terre des hommes, 10,243 newly arrived refugees participated in 385 awareness sessions, while 45,948 refugees attended 2,354 sessions on safety, services, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). At registration centers, PSS workers interacted with 384,202 individuals.

Despite funding constraints, feedback and complaint channels were maintained. A total of 149,090 refugees accessed feedback mechanisms, including the Infoline, counselling, complaint channels, and inquiry desks. The Infoline handled 291,715 calls, a decline from previous years due to reduced staffing. Protection reception services provided 15,058 counselling instances to 10,201 refugees; inquiry desks assisted 1,235 individuals, and 80 confidential complaints were addressed. Reduced capacity contributed to lower reported safe access to feedback mechanisms in 2025 (38%), compared to 69% in 2024.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

- People fleeing Sudan are supported with cash assistance, health, education and livelihood opportunities that will contribute to their protection and well-being

By 2027, refugees and asylum-seekers below the national poverty line can meet their basic needs

Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers are supported with cash assistance, health, and livelihood opportunities that will enhance to their protection and well-being

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	31.41%	37.00%	20.34%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	223,434

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR Egypt provided multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to 24,599 families, reaching 102,308 refugees and asylum-seekers nationwide. MPCA supported households in meeting essential needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare, covering about 23% of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket for an average family of four. Year-end post-distribution monitoring showed that 4.2% of beneficiaries met all or most basic needs, 61.5% met half, and 34.2% met less than half, reflecting sustained economic pressure. At the same time, 19.1% of households avoided crisis or emergency coping strategies, and the average reduced coping strategy index was 20.1, indicating a mitigating effect on negative coping.

Beneficiaries reported high satisfaction with cash delivery. Nearly all felt well informed (99%), could identify a complaints channel (96%), and reported that assistance was delivered safely, accessibly, and accountably (92%). In addition, 98% reported feeling safe while receiving, keeping, and using cash, and most stated the assistance enabled them to afford previously unaffordable goods or services.

Winter cash assistance was provided to 14,681 families (68,328 individuals), with transfers covering an average of 17.36% of the winter Minimum Expenditure Basket across household sizes.

UNHCR continued to provide strategic leadership in cash coordination as co-chair of the Cash Working Group with WFP. Through this platform, UNHCR strengthened collaboration among government counterparts, UN agencies, NGOs, and local partners to harmonize cash programming, share evidence, and jointly address challenges. Task forces on the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket, post-distribution monitoring, and deduplication were established, improving operational effectiveness, standardizing tools, and supporting better targeting of highly vulnerable households.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Refugees and asylum seekers have access to health services on par with national citizens

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88.85%	96.00%	80.08%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.44%	96.00%	86.14%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator	
	Actual (2025)	
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	52,508	
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5,564	

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During the reporting period, progress continued toward ensuring refugees' and asylum-seekers' access to Egypt's national health system, driven by sustained commitment from the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP). Refugees and asylum-seekers remained entitled to access public health services on par with Egyptian citizens, and national facilities continued to absorb a large share of refugee health demand. Preliminary findings from the 2025 HAUS survey showed that 60% of refugee women delivered in public facilities, an increase from previous years, reflecting continued reliance on the national system for maternal care. However, access remained uneven, with measles vaccination coverage declining from 87% in 2024 to 80% in 2025, mainly due to lack of information on available services.

Within this context, UNHCR's health programme was essential in maintaining access to care for the most vulnerable amid an overstretched health system and funding constraints. Despite significant budget reductions, UNHCR ensured continuity of care for more than 12,000 patients, including individuals with chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, medically vulnerable children, and women with complicated pregnancies. Beneficiaries received consultations, diagnostic services, and subsidized medications through implementing partners. Lifesaving and emergency care was preserved through prioritization measures, with over 8,000 referrals made, while elective care was reduced.

UNHCR also strengthened the medical response to GBV incidents by supporting clinical management of rape and working with UNFPA to ensure availability of post-rape kits. In addition, UNHCR facilitated early identification and referral of people living with HIV and TB to national programmes, ensuring sustained treatment and improved public health outcomes.

In 2025, UNHCR further supported MOHP through donations of medicines, medical supplies, and two MRI machines valued at nearly USD 2.5 million, strengthening national health system capacity in response to the Sudan and Gaza crises.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Promote equitable and sustainable inclusion in national education systems for refugees and asylum seekers and foster safe enabling environment that support all learners to use their education towards a sustainable future

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.02%	70.00%	20.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	98,855

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR continued supporting the Ministry of Education to strengthen public school infrastructure and facilitate the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt's national education system. Eight new classrooms were constructed, improving learning conditions for both refugee and host-community students. In parallel, UNHCR refurbished and equipped 38 digital classrooms under the Instant Network Schools (INS) project, implemented with the Vodafone Foundation and the MoE, increasing the total number of INS-supported schools to 108 nationwide.

Advocacy for inclusive education continued through the UN Task Team on Inclusion (UN-TTI), co-chaired by UNHCR and UNICEF and involving WFP, UNESCO, IOM, UN Women, and Save the Children. The UN-TTI works to harmonize inter-agency advocacy and capacity-building efforts to support the inclusion of refugee and asylum-seeking children in public schools through coordinated school-level support, in close collaboration with the MoE.

At policy level, Egypt's new asylum law marked an important step toward formalizing refugees' right to education. Article 20 affirms access to primary education through the public system. While this represents progress, effective implementation remains dependent on the issuance of executive regulations. UNHCR continues advocacy with government counterparts to ensure the provision facilitates access to primary, secondary, and higher education within the national system.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Refugees and asylum seekers have access to adequate socio economic, Livelihood opportunities and contribute to their own well being

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.50%	1.00%	0.39%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,184

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, refugees and asylum-seekers made measurable progress toward economic inclusion, with improved access to income-generating opportunities and livelihood pathways. Outcome indicators showed increased participation in market-driven skills development, self-employment, and productive activities compared to previous years, across key refugee-hosting locations and among women, men, youth, and working-age adults.

UNHCR supported these gains through advocacy and programming with the Government of Egypt, notably the Ministry of Local Development. In total, 3,184 individuals benefited from livelihood and economic inclusion interventions, of whom 70% were women and around 75% Sudanese. Support included employability skills, vocational training, toolkits, and cash grants for business start-up and expansion. In parallel, 138 government officials were trained on project management to support refugee and host-community economic inclusion through municipalities.

As part of efforts to advance financial inclusion, UNHCR facilitated the opening of post office accounts for selected participants, enabling access to formal financial services such as secure savings, domestic and international transfers, and interest on deposits. This marked an important step toward financial inclusion, with expansion planned for 2026. In addition, 369 artisans and artists were supported with marketing opportunities to strengthen livelihoods.

The Livelihood Working Group remained the main coordination platform for sector stakeholders, endorsing a Market Systems Development approach. Finally, with support from the Regional Bureau, UNHCR Egypt secured multi-year funding through a Mastercard Foundation proposal, enabling continued investment over the next five years in entrepreneurship, skills development, language training, and financial inclusion for refugees and asylum-seekers.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Return counselling, monitoring, and confirmation of voluntariness are provided to refugees

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27,538

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, voluntary returns of Syrians increased across the region and from Egypt following political developments in December 2024. UNHCR Egypt maintained a non-promotional approach while facilitating voluntary, informed returns in line with organizational policy and issued country-level guidance to support internal coordination. Egypt remained a key host country, with 117,364 registered Syrians as of December 2025.

UNHCR supported individuals opting to return through counselling, information provision, file closure, exit procedures, and, from November 2025, financial assistance. During the year, 27,537 Syrians expressed intent to return and closed their UNHCR files, exceeding the planned target of 25,000 by 10%. Community engagement and information dissemination were strengthened to support informed decision-making. Fifteen focus group discussions were conducted with Syrian leaders, youth, families seeking file closure, and minority groups to identify concerns and information gaps related to return. Communication was reinforced through regular updates on the UNHCR Help page, covering file-closure steps, exit visa requirements, border regulations, and eligibility for one-time cash assistance, complemented by continued engagement with community leaders.

To improve internal coordination, UNHCR established a multifunctional team to streamline Syria-related information across units. In parallel, a Durable Solutions Taskforce—led by UNHCR and co-chaired by IOM under the Refugee Coordination Model—was created to harmonize messaging and strengthen referral pathways so that assistance reached the most vulnerable. Voluntary repatriation for other nationalities remained minimal in 2025 due to non-conducive conditions, with only one individual returning.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Opportunities for resettlement and complementary pathways of vulnerable refugees are expended

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5,253	10,000	2,390

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite Syrian returns from Egypt exceeding the 2025 planning figure by 2,537 individuals, obstacles continued to undermine progress toward durable return outcomes. The high cost of return remained a key barrier, as the absence of a land border and direct flights forced refugees to rely on expensive indirect air travel. Minority communities, including Christian, Alawite, and Druze groups, expressed no intention to return due to targeted violence, contributing to declining willingness to return, which fell from 41% in January 2025 to 29% by mid-2025.

Conditions inside Syria further discouraged return. Ongoing insecurity, explosive remnants of war, destroyed infrastructure, and limited access to services reduced confidence in the feasibility of reintegration. Economic collapse and lack of livelihoods, alongside legal and administrative barriers such as documentation issues and lengthy exit procedures, added to uncertainty.

Cross-border movements of Sudanese refugees were also observed in 2025, but tracking was limited as many crossed informally without completing procedures or closing UNHCR files. Given continued instability in Sudan, these movements were categorized as adverse returns and not reported as voluntary repatriation. Despite constraints, progress in resettlement and complementary pathways was significant. In 2025, UNHCR completed 2,390 resettlement submissions, exceeding the annual target by 11%, supported by strengthened prioritization, improved processing, and engagement from third countries despite programme suspensions elsewhere. New opportunities, particularly with Ireland, helped offset reduced quotas in traditional resettlement countries.

Complementary pathways expanded, with 2,305 departures through education, family reunification, and labour mobility programmes. Labor mobility to Italy advanced through new partnerships and the establishment of a skilled candidate pool, reflecting a shift toward diversified and more sustainable solutions.

Other Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Actual (2025)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,000
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Not at all

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2025, UNHCR advanced Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)-inclusive programming, supported by systematic data disaggregation by age, gender, diversity, and disability. The AGD-compliant results-based framework, introduced in 2023, guided implementation and partnerships to ensure support for persons with specific needs, including persons with disabilities, older persons, women at risk, GBV survivors, unaccompanied and separated children, and youth. The proGres V4 registration system remained central, aligned with AGD principles and integrating the Washington Group Short Set to identify disabilities and specific needs.

Participatory approaches were applied throughout the operational cycle. A total of 161 community dialogues engaged 2,318 refugees from nine nationalities, including 48% women, 47% men, and 5% individuals with diverse SOGIESC profiles. UNHCR maintained tailored communication initiatives, including sign language videos and a child-friendly comic on protection.

Information sharing continued through community meetings, outreach workers, and digital platforms. The UNHCR Help website was the second most viewed globally, recording 3.6 million page views in 2025. The Arabic WhatsApp channel reached 23,000 followers and engaged 133 community leaders, while two UNHCR Facebook pages were viewed 13.4 million times. Despite reduced staffing, the Infoline responded to 291,715 queries, mostly on registration and assistance, and Protection Reception services provided 15,058 counselling sessions to 10,201 refugees.

Community feedback informed several programmatic adjustments. UNHCR launched the My UNHCR platform to facilitate access to digital services and residency appointment information. The Sudanese Self-Onboarding Tool was enhanced through digital support spaces in Aswan, Cairo, and Alexandria. A resettlement portal enabled case tracking, and an offline tool for persons with communication disabilities was introduced, with frontline staff trained to support its use.

Section 3: Resources

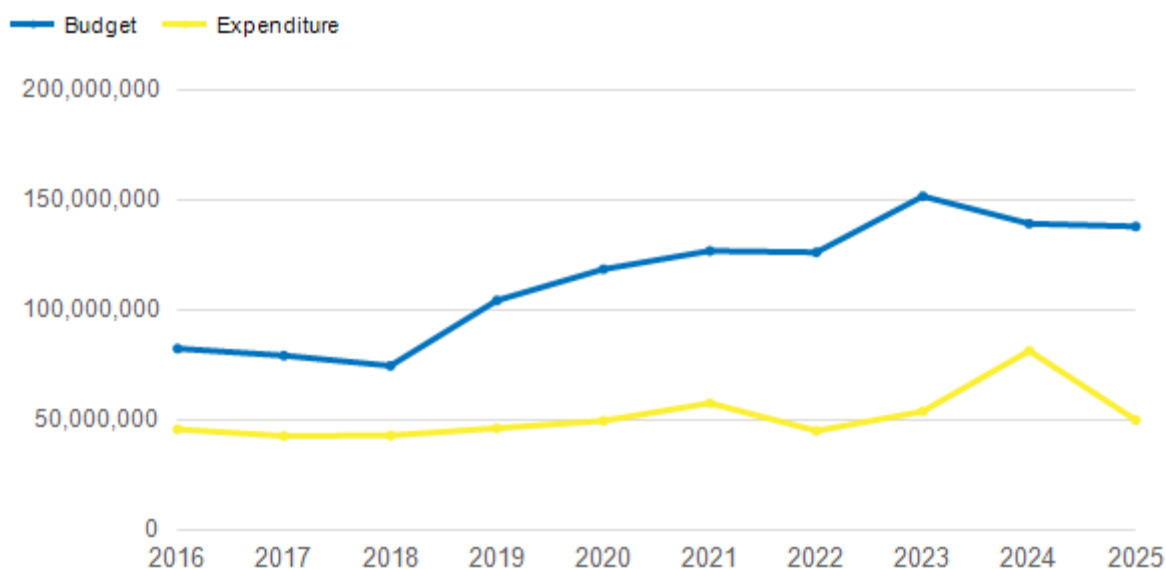
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

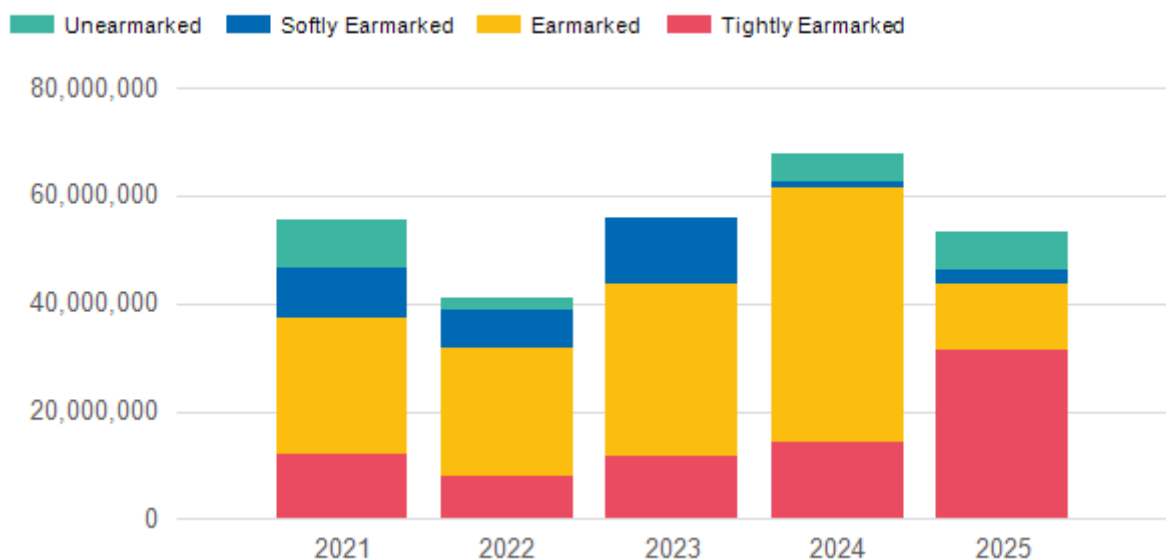
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	102,205,528	30,652,643	29.99%	29,214,364	95.31%
IA2: Respond	20,210,992	11,420,843	56.51%	11,420,843	100.00%
IA3: Empower	9,863,467	6,625,474	67.17%	6,241,087	94.20%
IA4: Solve	5,434,039	2,908,438	53.52%	2,908,438	100.00%
All Impact Areas		999,482			
Total	137,714,025	52,606,879	38.20%	49,784,732	94.64%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	7,033,118	6,255,599	88.94%	4,841,044	77.39%
OA2: Status	1,870,977	1,880,570	100.51%	1,725,983	91.78%
OA3: Policy/Law	3,073,995	1,227,293	39.93%	1,227,293	100.00%
OA4: GBV	1,173,960	1,240,084	105.63%	1,240,084	100.00%
OA5: Children	2,475,487	2,392,476	96.65%	2,392,476	100.00%
OA6: Justice	2,541,464	1,012,410	39.84%	1,012,410	100.00%
OA7: Community	13,990,763	7,323,065	52.34%	7,323,065	100.00%
OA8: Wellbeing	86,392,996	20,475,805	23.70%	19,874,513	97.06%
OA10: Health	5,495,341	2,159,186	39.29%	2,159,186	100.00%
OA11: Education	4,926,708	2,522,982	51.21%	2,522,982	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	1,148,195	1,494,387	130.15%	842,673	56.39%
OA14: Return	4,642,549	2,154,802	46.41%	2,154,802	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	791,490	753,635	95.22%	753,635	100.00%
EA17: Systems	2,156,982	1,714,584	79.49%	1,714,584	100.00%
Total	137,714,025	52,606,879	38.20%	49,784,732	94.64%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

In 2025, UNHCR Egypt operated amid severe funding constraints driven by the continued Sudan crisis and global funding cuts. While overall needs increased, available funding declined, leaving only 37 per cent of requirements covered by year-end—USD 14 million less than in 2024. Resource prioritization focused on the scale of Sudanese arrivals, high urban vulnerability, and rising socio-economic pressures linked to inflation and limited access to national safety nets. Joint vulnerability analysis showed that over half of refugees were food insecure, access to health care remained constrained, and education exclusion increased, particularly among newly arrived children. To mitigate shortfalls, UNHCR intensified donor diversification, expanding the donor base from 10 in 2022

to 24 by end-2025. Multi-year and multi-agency partnerships, including the Joint UN Programme under UNHCR's administrative leadership, were strengthened to provide more predictable financing and advance refugee inclusion, self-reliance, and alignment with national systems. These partnerships became key funding channels, enabling limited resources to be prioritized toward life-saving protection, cash assistance, and essential health and education services.

Flexible funding supported operational innovation, notably the January 2025 launch of the MyUNHCR online self-verification service, allowing refugees to renew documentation remotely and easing pressure on registration systems. Additional investment in digital communication tools improved efficiency, reduced waiting times, mitigated protection risks linked to documentation gaps, and freed resources for priority needs.

Despite constraints, partnership-based delivery remained central. In 2025, 26 per cent of expenditure was implemented through partners, with 43 per cent channelled through national organizations and 55 per cent through international partners. Egypt also had the highest regional participation under the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan, with 10 national NGOs and 2 refugee-led organizations engaged

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The annual review highlighted lessons shaping the 2026 strategic direction. Strengthening partnerships—particularly with national NGOs, community-based organizations, and refugee-led groups—remains essential to sustain access to services, reduce reliance on direct assistance, and advance localization. Engagement with the Ministry of Social Solidarity remains central, alongside coordination with other ministries to address legal and administrative barriers affecting access to health, education, and livelihoods. Experience in 2025 reaffirmed the importance of sustainable programming, enhanced social cohesion interventions, and deeper implementation of the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus to balance immediate protection needs with longer-term resilience. Continued collaboration with UNDP and other development actors is critical to align humanitarian action with national development priorities. The review also emphasized the need for more systematic, evidence-based decision making, including improved service mapping, regular operational reviews, and the establishment of a Multi-Functional Team focused on sustainability. Strengthening community awareness of available services was identified as a key enabler of equitable access and effective programme uptake. The Strategic Moment of Reflection demonstrated the value of inclusive engagement with partners, government counterparts, UN agencies, and UNHCR teams. The adoption of new asylum legislation underscored the urgency of early, transparent transition planning, supported by a clearly costed model and defined roles for UNHCR and the Government of Egypt. Donor engagement and private-sector partnerships were identified as critical for diversifying funding and strengthening programme sustainability.



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