

Annual Results Report

2024

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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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2024, Egypt faced significant impacts from the crises in Sudan and Gaza. Despite these challenges, Egypt maintained its projected stability, with low security risks enabling substantial access and community acceptance to conduct UNHCR activities. However, the overall socio-economic environment remains challenging, particularly for vulnerable refugee families. Lack of income-generating opportunities and limited access to public services have exacerbated vulnerabilities. The large influx of refugees from Sudan has further strained the protection space, exposing refugees and asylum-seekers to increased protection risks. The issue was compounded by the June 2024 instruction from the Government of Egypt, which required valid residency to access public services.

Towards the end of 2024, several key developments emerged, influencing the prioritization process of the operation while presenting new opportunities. These include the government's adoption of a new asylum legislation, the forthcoming transition of responsibilities from UNHCR to newly established national entities under this legislation, and the fall of the former Government in Syria, which has led some Syrians to consider returning home.

As of December 2024, over 877,000 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR in Egypt. Sudanese now represent the largest population group seeking safety, with 602,000 (69%) registered individuals by the end of 2024, and over 335,000 individuals pending registration. Syrians constitute the second largest population group, with 147,000 (17%) individuals registered at the end of 2024.

Developments in late 2024 suggest a decrease in the Syrian refugee population, with projections estimating 25,000 returns in 2025, 50,000 in 2026, and an additional 30,000 in 2027. In contrast, the Sudanese refugee population is expected to increase due to continuous arrivals seeking safety and asylum. However, this growth is expected to be slower compared to current trends, and largely dependent on the political and security situation in Sudan. Projections estimate some 400,000 new Sudanese arrivals will be registered in 2025, followed by some 200,000 in 2026, and fewer than 100,000 in 2027, all of which are dependent on the conflict and violence in Sudan as well as the Protection environment in Egypt.

Egypt's socio-economic environment remains challenging, with key issues such as rising inflation and living costs, critically impacting services available to refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly healthcare. Increasing needs, coupled with the shortfall in global funding trends, have hindered UNHCR's ability to support the most vulnerable populations. These circumstances may push refugees to return prematurely. The external environment in the region is expected to remain challenging, with persistent external shocks. The ongoing war in Sudan has triggered a significant influx of refugees, while trade disruptions in the Red Sea since December 2023 reduced foreign exchange inflows from the Suez Canal by an estimated \$6 billion in 2024.

In 2024, the Egypt operation continued to address the growing needs of registered refugees facing severe vulnerabilities and protection risks. Given limited available resources, in 2024 the Office prioritized core protection activities while strengthening engagement with development actors. This approach aims to gradually transition to a nexus approach, leveraging large-scale development programmes to advance social protection and include forcibly displaced persons in national assistance schemes.

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.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	54.16%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.99%	93.12%

The 1954 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) continues to be the formal bilateral agreement defining cooperation between the Government of Egypt (GoE) and UNHCR, delegating functional responsibilities to the Office for all aspects of refugees and asylum-seeker registration and documentation. In 2024, the GoE continued issuing residency permits based on UNHCR's registration, while the Office provided new and continuous registration services to refugees and asylum-seekers in 6th of October, Zamalek and Alexandria. Registration appointments, including for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), were scheduled via multiple channels: the Infoline, in-person visits to UNHCR Offices, an online platform specifically developed for Sudanese new arrivals, and internal and external referrals.

In the context of socio-economic hardship, limited State capacity to absorb the increased number of forcibly displaced persons, particularly from Sudan, and the State's attempts to manage irregular migration, refugees and asylum-seekers face substantial protection challenges, including legal and physical risks. In April 2024, when GoE consular services in Sudan indefinitely halted the issuance of tourist visas, which has been the primary form of legal entry since June 2023, it became more challenging for Sudanese to access safety and seek asylum. The GoE also applied measures to regulate irregular migration and access to state-based services, including, inter alia, increased arrests, and issued instructions on 30 June to limit access to services for foreigners unless they hold valid residence permits. The centralized procedures for asylum-based residency and the relatively limited capacity of the Immigration authorities resulted in an increasing waiting time to obtain asylum-based residence - reaching 902 days by the end of the year – in comparison to the 256 days as of 1 January 2024, thus hampering effective access to legal stay. These factors have placed refugees and asylum-seekers at an increased risk of arrest, detention, and deportation and severely hampered access to State services, including access to education, health and birth registration.

The Office has continued to advocate for regular access to persons detained for immigration purposes pending removal proceedings, as many may be in need international protection. With the adoption of the national Asylum Law, UNHCR is advocating for decentralized national asylum procedures, protection-sensitive entry mechanisms, effective right to legal stay, and access to State-based services. Importantly, the Office is also advocating for the harmonization of national laws and regulations to ensure a protection-sensitive legal framework for effective access to asylum, procedural guarantees, and safeguards against removal procedures/refoulement.

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.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80.35%	88.84%

In 2024, efforts to target the most vulnerable among forcibly displaced persons have made a tangible impact despite growing challenges. Rising costs of living, economic instability, and a growing displaced population in Egypt have heightened needs, resulting in cash assistance being a critical lifeline for many.

The new asylum law will affect refugees' ability to access employment in the formal labor market and entrepreneurship opportunities including access to finance. Prior to the new law, various obstacles existed for refugees to secure a work permit with refugee status despite the fact that the Government of Egypt didn't have a reservation on the right to work at 1951 convention. Yet, the reservation was on social benefits associated with the right to work. e in the past had highly restrictive criteria, the result is that most refugees work in the informal sector. UNHCR undertook the following efforts to improve the economic inclusion of refugees; mainly expanding in partnerships in 2024 with diversified actors aiming at promoting refugee cause and prove that refugees can be considered as added value and contributors to the local economy Also, several discussions with national entities were conducted and possible partnerships with them are going to be pursued in 2025.

The multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) program provided vital support to over 80,000 individuals on a bimonthly basis, while a total of 93,077 unique individuals received MPCA throughout the year. This assistance was crucial in helping refugee families, both new arrivals and protracted, meet their essential needs. To inform strategic programming and assess the impact of cash assistance on refugees' lives, UNHCR conducted an end-year post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey covering 393 MPCA beneficiary households. Findings revealed that 73% of MPCA beneficiaries were able to cover at least half of their basic needs. 95% of respondents reported an improvement in their living conditions, while 94% said it reduced their stress levels. Additionally, 99% of beneficiaries were able to afford items and services they previously could not, including purchasing more food (70%), paying rent to avoid eviction (71%), meeting healthcare needs (13%), and sending children to primary school (10%).

In addition, emergency cash assistance (ECA) for new arrivals and winter support provided crucial relief, enabling vulnerable households to manage seasonal hardships and financial shocks. While funding limitations mean that more than 54,000 families remain on the waiting list, the positive impact of cash assistance demonstrates the importance of continued investment in support mechanisms that empower refugees and asylum-seekers to meet their basic needs and help households manage during shocks.

The health situation among refugees and asylum-seekers has been affected by the dramatic increase of the registered population since the onset of the Sudan situation. Newly arrived refugees are less aware of how the Egyptian health system works and about available health services. A higher proportion of elderly has affected the needs and proportion of persons with chronic illnesses, while traumatic experiences have increased the risk of mental health issues. Simultaneously, the Egyptian health system has shown signs of strain due to the high pressure and demand for services.

The gradual roll-out of the Universal Health Insurance (UHI) has continued, including in Aswan Governorate which is reducing available health services for refugees since they are not included in the new system. Long waiting times for residency permits has resulted in refugees being denied care in some public facilities.

UNHCR continued to support health service provision to refugees and asylum-seekers who cannot afford national care and services. However, with funds not matching the population increase, assistance has had to be increasingly prioritized towards the most critical conditions, leaving many medical needs unmet. Other actors have also delivered health services to refugees, notably WHO with a programme targeting Sudanese in Aswan.

Moreover, the Gaza situation has led to increased support to the Egyptian Ministry of Health from a variety of actors. UNHCR received additional funding to procure two MRI machines which will be donated to governmental hospitals involved in treating medical evacuees from Gaza. This is in line with the Global

Compact for Refugees and UNHCR sustainable response to reinforce national systems to help meet the demand of inclusion of refugees.

Despite the above challenges, findings from the annual health access and utilization survey (HAUS) do not show large negative changes in the over-all access to care for refugees and asylum-seekers. However, there is a worrying trend of a greater reliance on pharmacies rather than health facilities as service providers, and the median cost of services generally increased.

Now more than ever, it is critical to move from short-term subsistence and parallel systems to more comprehensive approaches that leverage the humanitarian-development partnership to enable inclusion in national systems and economies. This shift is essential to reducing dependency and fostering resilience and self-reliance among affected communities, refugees, and their hosts alike.

UNHCR Egypt, together with WFP and Egypt's national statistics office, CAPMAS, have collaborated on a vulnerability assessment that surveyed 3,600 household representative of both Syrian and Sudanese refugee groups. The survey sample frame was drawn from the UNHCR proGres database. This data is being used to redesign the targeting approach for coordinated cash assistance by WFP and UNHCR.

UNHCR's aim with this data is to align our cash assistance targeting approach with that of the Government of Egypt's main social protection program, Takaful. While inclusion into social protection is not currently an option, by aligning approaches in cash targeting, UNHCR facilitates the transition from parallel approaches to a common targeting approach across vulnerable populations for Egyptians and refugees alike. Furthermore, should UNHCR's advocacy efforts succeed in including refugees in national social protection programs, a common targeting approach will facilitate this transition.

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.

Indicator		
Population Type	Baseline	Actual (2024)
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.00%	60.00%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	78.00%	40.00%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	58.93%	33.92%

In 2024, education interventions by UNHCR and partner were delivered in adherence with AGD principles and in an equitable manner. Approximately 81,837 refugee and asylum-seeking school-age boys and girls, in the age bracket between 6-20 years, were provided with education cash grants allowing them to enroll in formal and non-formal education. Of those, 40,820 were females and 41,017 males, while 935 children lived with a disability (290 females and 645 males). Additionally, 2,359 UASC (1,171 females and 1,088 males) were supported for their placement in special educational institutes. To improve the general protection environment for children in schools, UNHCR and partners put in place safeguarding mechanisms in non-formal education institutes, with mitigation and preventative measures and training for violence against women and girls, were delivered in 60 Community Learning Centers (CLC). Additionally, 500 female students in secondary education were provided with menstrual care kits, improving their attendance and retention in education. The operation supported 488 refugee youth (278 female and 210 males) to enroll in private and public universities under the DAFI Scholarship scheme. In 2024, 135 scholars (83 females and 52 males) successfully graduated from university. In addition, 33 Sudanese newly arrived students were

selected to benefit from the DAFI Scholarship scheme for the 2024/2025 academic year and are now enrolled in universities.

However, the large influx of refugees from Sudan, and school-age children being registered by UNHCR Egypt at a rate of 7,000 children per month, obtaining a GoE asylum-based residency needed to access public education became extremely lengthy, with a wait period of over two years with the local Immigration office. As a result, many Sudanese and other refugee children, have not been able to enroll in schools as they have either missed the deadline for enrollment, or have no residency or money to pay tuition fee. In addition to the above, MoE schools did not accept refugees who have arrived and registered with UNHCR between January and August of the same year since they missed the 31st of December annual deadline for enrollment. This resulted in many refugees leaving public schools and often out of education since the Community Learning Centres (CLC) could not absorb them. Worth noting that, an additional contributing factor to many refugee and asylum seeker children being out of schools, is the fact that in 2024, local authorities closed down approximately 325 CLC due to lack of operating licenses leaving a substantial number of children, mainly Sudanese, with no option to access or attend education.

In 2024, UNHCR and its partners significantly contributed to the resilience and empowerment of the refugee communities. This year, the operation shifted from a one-time participatory assessment exercise to ongoing dialogues throughout the year, engaging refugee and asylum-seekers in decision making processes. UNHCR and partners conducted 231 dialogues with 3,389 refugees, asylum-seekers, and new arrivals in Cairo, Giza, North Coast, and Aswan. This represents a significant increase when compared to the 89 dialogues with 589 refugees and asylum-seekers in 2023. In 2024, participants dialogues included 65% Sudanese nationals – including new arrivals, and 20% Syrians. Amongst all participants, almost half were females, 37% males, and 13% represented refugees with diverse SOGIESC. Representation of refugee structures within the national refugee coordination models was reinforced in 2024, with the inclusion of three refugee-led organizations as members of the Protection Working Group (PWG), the CBP, GBV, and CP sub-working groups, and their relevant task forces. This has amplified the voices of refugees in advocacy and coordination efforts.

Despite efforts to empower community structures, a survey conducted with 2,090 refugees and asylum-seekers in 2024 revealed that only 34% of respondents reported felt “fairly to very safe in Egypt”, compared to 58% in 2023. Some 62% reported “feeling a bit-very unsafe”, and just above 4% reported “do not know”. Accordingly, lack of safety is caused by a combination of factors, the rise of social tensions being the most prominent, but the prolonged waiting period for asylum-based residence permits, and stricter access to state-based services without valid residence permits, including education.

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 (2024)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,542	3,408
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,359	3,021
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,717	2,060
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5	5

During the reporting period, third country solutions for refugees have significantly expanded based on the increased resettlement opportunities out of Egypt. Ensuring that resettlement is available to the most vulnerable of the refugee population, third country solutions continued to play an important role as a long-term protection intervention and a viable durable solution. Enhanced advocacy for expansion of third country solutions, coupled with the shrinking protection space in the host country, resulted in a sharp increase in the resettlement quota allocation for Egypt. This in turn allowed for a sharp increase in the number of resettlement submissions, totaling 5,253 individual submissions to 11 resettlement countries, including new and returning resettlement states. Additionally, prioritization of complementary pathways by UNHCR Egypt allowed also for setting up systems, streamlining, and steadily expanding other third country solutions such as education pathways and labor mobility initiatives, in addition to family reunification and sponsorship programs. In terms of other durable solutions, towards the end of 2024, UNHCR Egypt began to actively engage in the planning for potential voluntary returns to Syria based on the change in the security situation in the country of origin (COO). Accordingly, UNHCR Egypt engaged in communication with the Syrian community through undertaking two surveys focusing on the intention and perception to return. Despite the changing conditions in Syria, in 2024, the conditions in the refugees' countries of origin were not considered as safe nor conducive for return.

Finally, refugees and asylum-seekers can be naturalized if they meet the eligibility criteria to acquire eligible the Egyptian nationality as per Egyptian Law on Nationality No. 36 for 1975 and its amendment No. 154 for 2004. In 2024, 5 persons obtained the Egyptian nationality by descent (Egyptian parents) or due to marriage (Egyptian wife).

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The Sudan conflict resulted in many Sudanese persons seeking safety in Egypt. With many new arrivals seeking international protection, the Office continued to expand its processing capacity to meet the registration needs. However, despite the increase in registration staff and the launching of the online registration appointment tool in August 2024, the high rate of new arrivals (January to December respectively: 118,218 - 93,607 - 71,686 - 53,968 - 76,471 - 80,215 - 69,501 - 57,427 - 50,357 - 47,957 - 54,215 - 55,400) resulted in unmet registration needs. In this context, forcibly displaced persons faced increased challenges in 2024, including the renewal of expired UNHCR documents, greater need to address continuous registration needs (i.e., newborns and marriages) and pending requests for new registration, impacting their access to legal status/residency in the country. Despite maintaining a new registration monthly average that is 9-10 times higher than before the Sudan conflict, the needs exceed UNHCR's capacity. Additionally, in the absence of an asylum framework, refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt fall under the category of foreigners and related legal provisions, which are not considerate of their needs. The lengthy wait period to obtain an asylum-based residency which stood at over two years at the end of 2024, and the short validity and centralized processing of residency permits continued to pose significant challenges. With regards to access to fair asylum procedures, including identification and protection of persons seeking asylum, UNHCR's regular access to persons detained remains the key challenge. The Provision of protection services is increasingly challenging, given the increasing needs. The number of Gender-based cases management for incidents of violence against women and girls in 2024 remained high, and increased by some 13% compared to 2023, with Sudanese nationals consistently reporting the highest rate of cases disclosures over the year (68%). The Office also witnessed a considerable increase in the numbers of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), recorded. While UNHCR and partners continue to offer frontline protection services, the needs far outweigh the response available, particularly in relation to case management, alternative care, as applicable, and cash assistance. The Office is also aware of the difficulties with information dissemination given the high dispersion of the refugee population in Egypt, the multiplicity of spoken languages, and the low internet connectivity.

Moreover, the Government of Egypt is working towards inclusion of refugees in national systems which is increasingly putting pressure on national structures, and, for it to succeed, a more equitable sharing of international responsibility is required.

UNHCR prioritized support to reinforce both the health and education sectors, in light of the Government of Egypt's inclusion of refugees and our joint commitment to mainstream refugees into national systems. This aligns with UNHCR commitment to sustainable responses to forced displacement, which upholds the principles of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). However, changes in visa procedures for Sudanese refugees and the lengthy wait period to obtain an asylum-based residency hinder refugees' access to education and health services. Additionally, Syrian refugees' access to employment remain primarily in the informal sector, and for Sudanese they lack the formal right to work. Refugees from African countries also face linguistic barriers, harassment, and discrimination. These challenges further limit their access to formal education and contribute to their marginalization. For Syrian refugees, fragile peace in Syria and the possibility to return to Syria is growing, though a better understanding of the skills needed for rebuilding Syria is necessary to help inform UNHCR advocacy with both development and private sector partnerships to increase the skill base of Syrian refugees for return and/or to obtain a better livelihood in Egypt. For Sudanese refugees an increased understanding of the skills profile of this refugee group is needed to better link to nationally accredited skills training programs to improve self-reliance.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR's response in 2024 relied on partnerships and a collaborative approach with the government, international and local NGOs, community-based organizations, refugee-led organizations, and UN agencies, to protect and extend services to refugees and asylum-seekers forcibly displaced persons. In line with SDG 17 - Partnership for the Goals, UNHCR signed 18 partnership agreements to implement interventions as part of the UNHCR Response in Egypt. A total of seven calls for expression of interest were launched in 2024 for the following sectors: Child Protection, Community Based Protection, Livelihood and Economic Inclusion, Primary Health Care, Secondary Health Care, CBI Vulnerability Assessment, and CBI AAP-Documentation and Residence Support, resulting in the selection of eight partners. In 2024, UNHCR collaborated with 10 NGOs (3 International including Plan International, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, and seven national including; All Saints Cathedral, CARE-Egypt, Caritas-Egypt, Don Bosco Salesian Institute and Monastery, Egyptian Foundation for Refugees Rights, Egyptian Red Crescent), one UN agency and four national ministers and Government agencies including; Ministry of Education, Al-Ahram Center for Political & Strategic Studies (ACPSS), Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding-CCCPA, and Bibliotheca Alexandria (BA). Two agreements were suspended by the end of the year because partners were unable to obtain Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) approval to receive funds from UNHCR.

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR and its partners worked towards UNHCR's strategic objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, and 16. In 2024 the refugee response was substantially strengthened to face the Sudan situation's needs and was coordinated through the Inter-Agency Working Group, chaired by the UNHCR Representative. UNHCR led the development of the Egypt country chapter of the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Sudan situation, which established the pre-eminence of the Refugee Coordination Model, endorsed by the Government of Egypt, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which remains the main UNHCR counterpart for policy and coordination. The ministries of Education, Health and Population, the Immigration Department, the National Security under the Ministry of Interior, remain key partners for achieving the Office's protection and solutions strategy. Within the United Nations Partnership Development Framework, UNHCR worked with development partners to advance humanitarian and resilience components of protection.

The Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees launched by UNHCR, IOM, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, and the Government of Egypt, gained momentum in 2024 as the first joint program was signed under UNHCR's leadership and implementation started. Furthermore, the Egypt Cash Working Group (CWG), under the leadership of UNHCR, WFP, and ERC, embraced the new cash coordination model aimed at ensuring a coordinated approach for the cash component of the Sudan emergency response.

Additionally, three task forces were established within this framework: the SMEB (Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket), PDM (Post Distribution Monitoring), and Deduplication Task Forces, each playing a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the emergency response efforts.

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			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	59.54%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.18%	95.00%	88.41%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	448,468
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	701,124

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

As of 31 December 2024, UNHCR Egypt continued to be affected by the conflict in neighboring Sudan, and the Level 3 Emergency, initially declared in July 2023, has been further extended until the end of 2024. To respond to the high demands for registration and documentation, UNHCR has continued to operate on a reduced dataset focusing on resilience from the start and operated on extended working hours to respond to contingencies. Almost all emergency registration staff were extended until the end of 2024, while the office infrastructure was further expanded to accommodate new interview rooms and enhance accessibility for persons with disabilities. During the reporting period, between 35,000 and 40,000 individuals were newly registered each month. Further to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, UNHCR Egypt strengthened the screening process at registration interview stage. In 2024, UNHCR registered and provided government-recognized documentation to 448,468 new refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority of whom were new arrivals from Sudan. At year-end 2023, UNHCR Egypt recorded a marked surge in individuals seeking new registration, which continued in 2024. This surge is—likely as a result of the Government of Egypt's (GoE) Foreigners Decree issued in September 2023, requiring all foreigners in Egypt to regularize their stay. The implementation of the decree resulted in large numbers of arrests of foreigners without legal right to stay, increased returns, and driving many individuals towards UNHCR

Egypt in order to obtain asylum-based residency. Waiting periods across all population groups increased from 2023 to 2024, as UNHCR Egypt has continued to face heightened demand for registration services, including from the in-situ population of Sudanese who resided in Egypt pre-conflict. However, vulnerable individuals with urgent or emergency needs are prioritized and fast tracked for registration. The operation has continued to focus on ensuring that registered refugees and asylum-seekers could seamlessly renew their UNHCR documents and has instituted a system to proactively issue registration renewal appointments. As a result, UNHCR Egypt provided continuous registration services to 252,656 refugees and asylum-seekers, including the renewal of UNHCR documentation and registration of new-born children. By 31 December 2024, the operation had processed 60% of the total individuals with appointments seeking international protection.

Due to the GoE's recognition of UNHCR documentation, UNHCR-registered refugees and asylum seekers are generally protected against deportation and refoulement. UNHCR-registered refugees and asylum seekers are eligible for six-month renewable asylum-based residence. Amid a reported increase in arrest incidents in 2024, approximately 90% of UNHCR-registered refugees and asylum seekers are generally released.

As of 31 December 2024, the active population of refugees and asylum-seekers registered by UNHCR Egypt was 877,012 individuals, with the following top four nationalities: 602,702 (69%) Sudanese, 147,797 (17%) Syrian, 46,171 (5%) South Sudanese and 39,260 (5%) Eritrean.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

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

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	454.00	600.00	475.00
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

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
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 2024, UNHCR Egypt continued to enhance the strategic use of mandate RSD by developing and carrying out different processing strategies for specific caseloads, curtailed to focus on achieving maximum protection dividends, including durable solutions, efficiency of processing, as well as safeguarding the integrity of the asylum system. From January to December 2024, UNHCR finalized 12,648 RSD decisions

(including 720 decisions for Syrians processed under merged RSD-Resettlement), surpassing the annual target by 105%.

UNHCR Egypt continued to carry out differentiated case processing modalities considering the specific attributes of country-specific asylum population and specific types of claims. Vulnerable new arrivals are prioritized for accelerated RSD processing to address their urgent protection needs. As the L3 emergency for Sudan situation was extended into 2024, UNHCR Egypt continued to process Sudanese asylum-seekers based on referrals. From the onset of the conflict until the end of 2024, the Office has issued 4,247 recognitions for Sudanese. At the end of October 2024, and in line with the 2023 UNHCR Position on Returns to Sudan, the Office designed and piloted a simplified RSD procedure to recognize Sudanese asylum-seekers either under the 1951 Convention or under the UNHCR Broader Mandate. 761 Sudanese national are recognized under the simplified procedure. In the meantime, cases with particular vulnerabilities or complexities continued to be referred and adjudicated with the Regular RSD to ensure the specific situations were properly addressed. In 2024, UNHCR Egypt reopened 2,385 and reactivated 431 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers based on a vulnerability prioritization scale, corresponding to over 97% of the requests made to the office. Further, UNHCR Egypt continued to conduct Merged Registration-RSD and Simplified RSD procedures for Eritrean nationals and South Sudanese nationals, including Unaccompanied Children (UAC). This approach strengthened the link with registration process and focused RSD for protection dividends, maximizing efficiency, minimizing waiting times and eliminating the additional burden and expenses of travel for vulnerable persons.

To ensure integrity and efficiency, UNHCR Egypt continued to conduct Manifested Unfounded Claims (MUC) processing in a simplified and accelerated manner for asylum-seekers from Nigeria and Guinea. This process was developed in 2023 to address a sudden substantial increase in the number of individuals from the two countries presenting economic-based claims seeking registration. By the end of 2024, 829 decisions were issued for cases undergoing MUC processing. This approach has proven effective, as throughout Q2 to Q4 2024, the Office observed a decrease (by over 85%) in the number of asylum seekers who fall under the above-mentioned criteria and with no international protection needs approaching for registration. In total, 1,013 negative decisions were issued for rejections at the First Instance, and 579 negative decisions were issued for rejections at the Appeal stage.

UNHCR Egypt continued to closely work with Saint Andrews' Refugee Services (StARS), who provides information, counselling, referral, representation, and advocacy for asylum seekers and refugees in Egypt free of charge during the entire RSD processes.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Not yet aligned	Broadly aligned	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	Broadly aligned	Progressing toward alignment

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
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 2024, UNHCR continued to enhance refugees' access to information and sensitize public attitude. UNHCR produced 42 public information products, including written and audio-visual material, to raise awareness about the hardships and challenges faced by refugees. Content was regularly published on UNHCR Egypt's social media platforms, which now have a combined total of around 180k followers on X, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. In addition, UNHCR Egypt responded to over 55 interview and information requests and promoted content featuring stories of resilient refugees. To ensure awareness of services provided by UNHCR and its partners, UNHCR Egypt updated and distributed its service brochure in six languages. In 2024, the Office disseminated more than 70 information posters covering 15 different topics. UNHCR continued to maintain two social media pages targeting refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt, with content made available in Arabic, English, Amharic, Somali, Tigrinya, and Oromo, reaching almost 240k followers. Additionally, UNHCR continued to regularly update the Egypt section on the Help website, which ranked the first visited globally.

On 16 December 2024, Egypt adopted a national asylum law, yet it has further to develop a comprehensive domestic normative and institutional asylum framework. Prior to the adoption of the law, UNHCR offered support and guidance towards the drafting of a national asylum law and is currently engaged in discussions and capacity-building efforts with authorities to advocate for the law and its Executive Regulations to be in line with international standards. In 2024, UNHCR carried out capacity building on international protection, refugee law and statelessness for 470 government counterparts from several line ministries and national institutions. The Office provided specialized sessions for Ministry of Defense on its role, mandate, and protection principles in the context of mixed movements. Trainings were provided through UNHCR's partnership with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo and the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges. In 2024, UNHCR's forward-looking objective was to build the national capacity of the State authorities to enable a gradual and safe transition of the asylum operational functions that is currently undertaken by UNHCR to the State.

For the League of Arab States, the region's protracted humanitarian crises and political and security challenges continued in 2024. The latest developments include the wars in Gaza and Lebanon, the regime change in Syria, and the escalation of the war in Sudan that has driven refugees into Egypt, another country with a fragile economy. With the above-mentioned situation in mind, UNHCR elaborated advocacy positions through many regional forums, including the Arab League and intensified bilateral cooperation to enhance the protection space available for refugees in the region.

UNHCR used coordination mechanisms to strengthen dialogue on protection issues and to ensure materialization of policies and strategies, with notable cooperation through the Arab Network for Women Peace Mediators. UNHCR and LAS were aware of the importance of implementing Women, Security and

Peace Agenda and United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1325 (2000) and a workshop took place to explore the role of members of the Arab Network for Women Peace Mediators in the context of asylum and displacement. UNHCR launched a social media campaign “Protect Her” to commemorate World Refugee Day, 21st June 2024. On statelessness and strengthened access to civil documentation, UNHCR worked on the implementation of the Arab Declaration on Belonging and Legal Identity, which provides a strong normative framework for addressing these issues, including by supporting LAS in organizing a launch event for the Declaration. Following that, LAS with the support of UNHCR, organized a regional meeting to finalize the plan of action to ensure the implementation of the Arab Declaration.

UNHCR also focused on advocacy to enhance the protection space and ensure assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and returnees in accordance with international law in the Arab region.

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

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.83%	90.00%	77.14%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10,540

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR played a critical role in supporting survivors of violence against women and girls across Egypt in 2024. Of the total incidents that were reported and assisted by UNHCR and partner CARE in Cairo, Alexandria, and Aswan, 86% were women and 19% were children. Sudanese survivors disclosed the highest number of incidents (68%), followed by South Sudanese and Eritreans. In 2024, 4% of reported survivors received emergency cash assistance.

UNHCR also implemented the Safety Package (SP), a cash programme to support survivors of violence against women and girls, in improving their safety and overcoming challenges, benefiting 1,669 survivors across different governorates. Most recipients were Sudanese, followed by South Sudanese and Eritreans.

Additionally, 8.5% of reported survivors were assisted with individual psychosocial support (PSS) and 23% received emergency safe housing support through CARE. In total, some 11% of cases were provided with legal assistance through legal partners. UNHCR referred approximately 10% of reported survivors for resettlement consideration.

UNHCR and partners, organized eight community engagement sessions for newly arrived Sudanese refugees to raise awareness about violence against women and girls, and available services with an

attendance of 228 women.

UNHCR continued to co-chair the relevant Sub-Working Group with UNFPA as key platform for coordination and response. In 2024, discussions focused on refining referral pathways, analyzing trends, addressing residency challenges in access services, and improving information management. The SWG aligned strategies, addressed operational gaps, and prioritized the survivor-centered approach within case management. Two donor roundtables were organized to raise awareness on main trends and underfunded priorities, engaging embassies, refugee-led organizations, and other stakeholders.

In 2024, UNHCR led efforts to promote violence against women risk mitigation across seven sectoral WGs, resulting in an action plan for 2025. Safety audits were conducted in Cairo, Aswan, Alexandria, and Damietta, focusing on risks within the livelihood sector. Capacity-building activities were conducted actors, including UNHCR teams, national NGOs, CBOs, and RLOs.

UNHCR fostered engagement, psychosocial support and solidarity among diverse refugee communities through the 16 Days of Activism campaign, which featured community activities such as family events, art sessions, Zumba classes, cultural fashion shows, and group therapy sessions. Women and Girls Safe Spaces hosted awareness-raising and celebratory events. The campaign concluded with a closing event attended by 150 refugees from different nationalities.

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

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	45.01%	95.00%	27.46%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32.74%	60.00%	21.23%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,558

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

As of end of 2024, Egypt hosted 342,797 registered refugee and asylum-seeking children, making up 38% of the total refugee population. A total of 28,124 were children at risk, including 8,791 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). Of those, 4,389 were unaccompanied (50%) and 4,402 were separated (50%). In 2024, 5,526 UASC were newly registered, compared to the 3,059 figure of 2023, an 81% increase. The increase reflects the significant influx of new arrivals from Sudan and expanded registration processing response to cover the ever-increasing needs of the Sudan emergency. All identified children at risk, including UASC, underwent screening with UNHCR following their registration and were referred to relevant child protection services, in line with their best interests. Given resource constraints and current response capacity, only 40% of registered UASC at heightened risk have been prioritized by partners for case

management in Greater Cairo, Alexandria, and the North Coast. Throughout 2024 and together with Caritas, Save the Children and Plan International Egypt, UNHCR ensured that Best Interest Procedures (BIP), including Best Interest Assessments (BIA) and Best Interest determination (BIDs) were maintained for timely identification, assessment of protection risks, adequate referral to services, case planning and follow up. A total of 2,058 BIAs and 233 BIDs were carried out by UNHCR and child protection partners for children at risk, including UASC and children facing abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation. UNHCR and child protection partners continue to coordinate to extend case management to as many UASC as possible in light of increased protection needs. By December 2024, a total of 3,227 UASC were eligible to receive best interest-based monthly cash assistance from UNHCR.

UNHCR has closely coordinated with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) on case management for cases requiring legal intervention, as well as on a strategic level, in close coordination with the Children on the Move Taskforce (co-chaired with IOM and UNICEF) to jointly advocate for inclusion of children into national protection services as well as alternatives to detention.

UNHCR and UNICEF continued to co-chair the Child Protection Sub-Working Group, which has established standard operating procedures and referral pathways among all partners. Additionally, UNHCR has continued to chair the Child Protection Inter-Agency Case Conference to coordinate protection actions for individual cases among implementing and operational partners. In 2024, the Child Protection Unit provided several trainings and workshops in its continuous efforts to strengthen the capacity of specialized child protection actors, non-specialized actors, and governmental actors. A total of 37 capacity-building events were conducted in 2024 for 671 individuals. Of those training, ten sessions were conducted for national stakeholders, namely the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) case workers and hotline operators, the National Council for Women (NCW) hotline operators, and other governmental officials.

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 (2024)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,864

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR provided legal aid to 3,864 individuals to facilitate access to justice and ensure that the principle of due process before law enforcement institutions was applied. In addition, a total of 3,737 persons benefited from legal counselling as part of the provision of legal aid services provided by UNHCR and its legal partners. Legal outreach activities were strengthened through mobile legal clinics that ensured comprehensive geographical coverage, leading to enhanced access to legal counseling for asylum-seekers, refugees, and the in-situ Sudanese unregistered population. Legal assistance was equally essential to enhance access to birth registration for undocumented children and access to those in detention who required assistance. Counseling on physical protection concerns and identifying compelling protection needs for onward referrals to UNHCR assistance was extended to 3,964 persons. In 2024, the reception unit supported 9,790 refugees and asylum-seekers, providing a total of 16,394 counseling sessions. Of

these, 6,430 cases addressed legal and physical protection (LPP) issues such as physical assault, abuse, arrest, detention, deportation, kidnapping, legal aid, robbery, gang violence, and other high-risk concerns. Additionally, 3,966 cases involved reports of violence against women and girls, and 462 cases involving child protection (CP) cases, while 2,702 cases focused on socio-economic vulnerabilities, including specific needs, homelessness, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and cash-based intervention (CBI) concerns. The remaining 2,834 counseling sessions covered a wide range of topics, including durable solutions, education, family tracing, health, integrity, livelihood, registration, refugee status determination (RSD), suicide prevention, and issues related to warnings and sanctions. Despite significant challenges, the reception team, with the support of the Protection Multi-Functional Team (MFT), overcame obstacles and maintained service delivery.

The Office received reports from the community as well as from the authorities on the detention of some 3,600 registered refugees and asylum-seekers and holders of registration appointment. The detention was related to irregular movements and lack of residency permits. A noted increase in the overall number of arrests was recorded in 2024 compared to 2023, with arrests on grounds of breach in residence procedures, ranking the top second, as compared to the third place in 2023. Forcibly displaced Sudanese were the most affected population, followed by South Sudanese, Syrians, Eritreans, and Ethiopians. UNHCR also received reports about some 8,400 unregistered Sudanese who were arrested in relation to irregular movements and residence violations. The Office strengthened its advocacy interventions with the authorities, by inter alia, requesting access to fair and effective asylum procedures for individuals seeking asylum, including for those in detention expressing a fear to return to their country of origin, securing the release of registered refugees and asylum-seekers and promoting alternatives to detention, particularly for children.

UNHCR continued to enhance access to legal aid and services through the UNHCR Infoline, reception protection desk, and legal partner's hotlines dedicated to detention and legal aid emergencies.

At year's end, the waiting time for processing a six-month asylum-based residency permits was 902 days, a 250% increase when compared to the 256 days as of 1 January. Delays in asylum-based residency processing are mainly due to the increasing numbers of newly registered individuals, while the processing capacity of immigration authorities has remained the same. UNHCR continued its advocacy for the extension of residency permit duration and the increase of the GoE's capacity in processing asylum-based residency applications, including by decentralizing procedures. The inability to timely access asylum-based residence permits has affected access to State-based services, leading many refugees and asylum seekers to approach UNHCR to request assistance and counseling. In the context of the new Asylum Law, UNHCR is advocating to an effective legal stay in the country without geographical limitations.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
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	86.88%	84.00%	68.80%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	38.61%	44.00%	44.78%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,389
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	514,297
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	701,198

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

To empower refugee communities and increase gender representation in community consultations and community structures, UNHCR doubled the number of and information sessions on protection, prevention and response services, reaching out a total of 245,973 refugees and asylum-seekers (81% new arrivals). UNHCR, partners, and refugee outreach workers, facilitated sessions , particularly for new arrivals, older persons, persons with disabilities and members of the LGTBIQ+ community.

514,279 refugees and asylum seekers were able to access the UNHCR Infoline, Protection Reception and the confidential complaints mechanism to voice concern, request a service, or receive feedback. The Infoline unit responded to a significant increased number of inquiries compared to previous years, standing at 504,401 compared to 333,750 in 2023. Most inquiries concerned registration, followed by assistance. In August 2024 UNHCR introduced the enhanced IVR system, allowing for information sharing on a 24-hour basis through recorded messages. In addition, as part of enhancing feedback and response, the UNHCR Protection Reception desks provided 16,394 instances of detailed counselling and feedback to 9,790 refugees and asylum-seekers .

UNHCR and partners jointly led a mapping exercise of 267 refugee-led organizations (RLOs) across Egypt. Of those, 81 RLOs underwent training to bolster community-based protection networks and received material support grants. Such support empowered many refugees to offer frontline assistance to new arrivals during the emergency response. RLOs that received rent support provided shelter to 307 vulnerable and newly arrived refugees, while those that benefited from material support, in turn provided a range of peer support to 2,022 community members, including psychosocial support (PPS), digital access, basic soft skills training, and awareness and case referrals. Capacity building activities focused on establishing community complaints and feedback mechanisms, among other topics. Noteworthy progress was observed in Cairo where the proportion of women leaders in RLOs increased from 38% in 2023 to 45% in 2024.

In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), UNHCR supported 812 refugees and 74 Egyptian youths to access digital training and enhance their integration into the digital economy. Additionally, through the Sports for Protection program, 41 young Egyptians and refugees underwent training, subsequently leading to eight sports initiatives benefitting 151 refugees and 72 Egyptian youths in Cairo, and 121 refugees in Alexandria. Through the TDH's and Caritas' community centers, 10,321 individuals attended recreational and social events and accessed digital services in efforts to enhance their connectivity and digital awareness.

Protection mechanisms were reinforced through comprehensive case management for 5,199 refugees and asylum-seekers, including women and older persons at risk, and persons with disabilities. TDH and Caritas in the North Coast provided PSS to 2,479 individuals. Additionally, some 1,954 persons with specific needs attended social activities, and community support groups in the North Coast, while 1,085 persons with disabilities received materials assistance, including assistive devices to enhance their well-being, participation, and inclusion, and 627 received rehabilitation services.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	42.24%	49.00%	31.41%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	275,497

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR Egypt expanded its cash assistance programs to help refugees and asylum-seekers meet their basic needs. A total of 24,335 families (93,077 individuals) received regular multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) on a bimonthly basis. To address inflation, UNHCR increased the MPCA transfer value three times, totaling a 32 percent rise compared to January 2024. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) showed that 73% of recipients could cover at least half of their basic needs, reducing reliance on negative coping strategies. UNHCR also renewed its bilateral agreement with the Egypt Post Office (EPO), ensuring continued access to over 4,000 branches. Biometric verification expanded through collaboration with IrisGuard and EPO, with 85% of MPCA recipients now verified via iris recognition.

In response to the Sudan emergency, UNHCR provided emergency cash assistance (ECA) to 893 families (2,752 individuals) in Aswan to address immediate needs. ECA was disbursed via FAWRY prepaid cards, enabling access for new arrivals without valid residency or UNHCR registration. Additionally, 32,790 individuals (12,559 families) on the registration waiting list received ECA for the first time. To help vulnerable households manage winter-related needs, UNHCR provided one-time winter cash assistance to 63,517 families (220,431 individuals), covering electricity, clothing, blankets, and heaters. New arrivals received assistance covering 95% of the winter Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), while protracted cases received up to 84.5 of the said MEB.

UNHCR strengthened coordination with partners through the Cash Working Group (CWG), co-chaired with WFP and the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC). In 2024, the CWG updated its terms of reference and operational guidelines, enhancing collaboration on outreach, deduplication, and post-distribution monitoring. Three task forces under the CWG focused on updating the Survival MEB, standardizing PDM tools, and improving data-sharing. UNHCR's data management unit facilitated deduplication by integrating partner data into the RAIS platform.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88%	96%	89%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90%	96%	89%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94,466
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9,952

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt are granted access to national health services provided by the Ministry of Health. However, refugees and asylum-seekers are not included in any of the national financial protection schemes that enable Egyptian citizens to obtain support to access more costly health services.

UNHCR health programmes are aimed at supporting access for refugees and asylum-seekers for more costly health services. UNHCR provides primary health care services in 12 clinics run by implementing partners, and access to secondary/tertiary health care services through a network of hospitals contracted with another implementing partner. The programmes focus on Alexandria, Damietta, Greater Cairo and Aswan. Prioritized primary care services include consultations, prescriptions and investigations for non-communicable diseases, mental health, complicated pregnancies and HIV and TB infections. Secondary and tertiary health care services are mainly provided to persons with urgent critical conditions and medical

emergencies.

In 2024, the primary care programme provided 94,466 consultations. Beneficiaries included 12,954 persons with non-communicable diseases, 1,388 persons with mental diseases, 385 women with complicated pregnancies, 569 persons living with HIV and 155 persons with TB. In addition, 857 mothers who recently delivered received a one-off cash grant. UNHCR's secondary health care programme supported 8,577 secondary and tertiary health care interventions to 5,298 individuals.

The UNHCR health care programme also supported the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in 2024, through the procurement of 2 MRI machines donated to governmental hospitals involved in receiving medical evacuees from Gaza, as well as the procurement of medical supplies. In addition, the Office supported 20 primary care units under the MoHP through training of staff. In total, 345 health staff were trained, while the supported facilities provided 33,260 consultations to refugees and asylum-seekers.

UNHCR continued to work together with ILO towards the future inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in the universal health insurance system currently under implementation in Egypt. Two workshops were organized in 2024 for concerned stake holders. Through follow-up meetings, a detailed plan for piloting refugee inclusion in the scheme in two peripheral governorates has been developed for implementation in 2025. A preparatory survey was carried out among refugee households in the two concerned governorates, probing health needs, existing knowledge about the scheme and willingness to be empaneled.

UNHCR co-led the health working group together with WHO, coordinating among other things, the continuous health-sector response to the Sudan situation.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51.65%	70.00%	30.02%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	22,128

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The operation continued working on its Education capacity building program to support the MoE staff, as well as with the expansion of schools, in line with the spirit of the GCR and GRF, and in order to facilitate the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers into the GoE public education system. In 2024 the operation built 28 new classrooms, refurbished WASH facilities in five public schools, provided IT equipment and stationery, and established five playgrounds in five schools to advance social cohesion and peaceful

coexistence through sports. To improve the quality of education for both refugee and host community learners, UNHCR Egypt refurbished and equipped 22 additional digital education schools under its Instant Network Schools (INS) project implemented in partnership with Vodafone Foundation and MoE. This brought the total number of INS-supported schools in Egypt to 70, benefiting approximately 71,075 children (35,012 males and 36,063 females) and their teachers.

In 2024, all education interventions by UNHCR and partner were delivered in adherence with AGD principles and in an equitable manner. Approximately 81,837 refugee and asylum-seeking school-age boys and girls, in the age bracket between 6-20 years, were provided with education cash grants allowing them to get enrolled in formal and non-formal education. Of those, 40,820 were females and 41,017 males, while 935 children lived with a disability (290 females and 645 males). Additionally, 2,359 UASC (1,171 females and 1,088 males) were supported for their enrollment in special educational institutes. To improve the general protection environment for children in schools, UNHCR and partners put in place safeguarding mechanisms in non-formal education institutes. Mitigation and preventative measures and training for violence against women were delivered in 60 Community Learning Centers. Additionally, 500 female students in secondary education were provided with menstrual care kits, improving their attendance and retention in education. The operation supported 488 refugee youth (278 female and 210 males) to enroll in private and public universities under the DAFI Scholarship scheme. In 2024, 135 scholars (83 females and 52 males) successfully graduated from university. In addition, additional 33 newly arrived Sudanese students were selected to benefit from the DAFI Scholarship scheme for the 2024/2025 academic year and are now enrolled in universities.

In 2024 UNHCR and UNICEF established the UN Task Team on Inclusion (UN-TTI) comprising WFP, UNESCO, IOM, UN Women and Save the Children. The overall goal of the UN-TTI is to unify efforts to advance the inclusion of refugee and asylum-seeking school-age children in the national educational system through a joint advocacy strategy and a school level support package. This package allows UN-TTI members to consolidate its advocacy efforts and capacity building interventions in schools hosting refugee and asylum-seeking children in close coordination with the MoE.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.73%	1.00%	0.50%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,052

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR worked to improve economic and livelihoods opportunities for refugees and asylum-

seekers, with the aim of supporting them become more self-reliant and improve their overall wellbeing. UNHCR is co-leading the Livelihood Working Group with UNDP, bringing together different organizations to coordinate efforts, share information, and plan interventions effectively. In 2024 UNHCR focused on facilitating job opportunities, monitoring progress, and engaging directly with refugee communities. To improve tracking and reporting, a database was developed to facilitate collection and analysis of information related to livelihood activities.

The Office further strengthened its efforts to support refugees and host communities by pursuing new partnerships with three new stakeholders to respond to the Sudan situation. These partnerships helped expand access to vocational training, business development programs, and financial support, allowing more people to benefit from livelihood opportunities. As a result, in 2024 there was a noticeable increase in the number of refugees and host community members supported by UNHCR to gain skills and resources to improve their economic independence.

The Office also strengthened its localization approach through a capacity-building training for Community Development Associations (CDAs) in 2024. Through this training, the Office intends to further capacitate local NGOs to implement economic inclusion interventions, and additional training enabling them to increase their capacity to implement livelihood projects in 2025. As of end of 2024, a total of 2,052 persons benefited from livelihood support such as skills development, job placement, starting and/or expanding businesses, equipped with entrepreneurship skills and engaged in different marketing avenues, show case events and art forum.

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 (2024)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,408

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Voluntary repatriation in Egypt remained stagnant in 2024 mainly because of the conditions in the countries of origin remaining unsafe and not conducive for returns, therefore continuing to be unattainable to refugees in Egypt. Coupled with the ongoing war in Sudan, for the Sudanese refugee population representing 70% of the total registered refugee population by year end, voluntary repatriation has not been considered as a viable durable solution since April 2023. Yet, UNHCR Egypt stood ready to support the return of refugees and asylum-seekers by providing information, counseling, registration, and facilitating exit formalities, as well as by offering a multi-purpose cash grant to assist with the return and post-arrival needs of those refugees who expressed their wish to return and for whom the conditions in the countries of origin have been considered as safe.

In April 2024, UNHCR Egypt conducted the 9th Annual Regional Survey on Syrian Refugees' Perceptions and Intentions on Return to Syria (RPIS) among Syrian refugees in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq, aimed at ensuring the centrality of refugee voices. The survey results - comparable to those in previous years, indicated that 94% of the whole Syrian refugee population did not consider returning to Syria in the coming 12 months, while 57% of the target population indicated their intention to return either within the following five years or in general terms, in the future. By year's end, UNHCR Egypt undertook another Syrian Refugees' Perceptions and Intentions on Returns to Syria Survey, initially with the notion of

understanding potential changes vis-à-vis returns resulting from the new directive of the Government of Egypt concerning the visa and residency regime for Syrian nationals. The date of the survey roll-out coincided with the fall of the Assad Government and thus, provided valuable information concerning the changing perceptions on returns to Syria. The findings of the survey which ran into January 2025, revealed that 17% of respondents were willing to return to Syria in the coming 12 months. Albeit the unstable conditions in Syria, the survey results allowed for a solid initial basis for planning of possible facilitation of voluntary returns from Egypt to Syria, which the operation prioritized towards the end of the reporting period. Between January 1, 2024, and December 7, 2024, i.e. prior to the fall of the Assad government, a total of 2,386 Syrians closed their UNHCR cases with the intention of returning to Syria, while following the fall of the Assad government and throughout the complete calendar year, this number stood at 3,408 representing a 121% increase from 2023.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,247	8,000	5,253

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR Egypt continued to avail resettlement to the most vulnerable of refugees as a meaningful and permanent durable solution, and often as a life saving measure. Refugees identified for resettlement consideration fell within the following heightened vulnerability profiles: unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), survivors of gender-based violence, individuals of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, women and girls at risk, refugees with serious life-threatening medical conditions, and those with legal and physical protection needs in Egypt. As in previous years, resettlement remained the only viable durable solution for refugees in Egypt during the reporting period. In 2024, Egypt received a significant increase in the resettlement quota allocation primarily for USRAP resulting in a yearly quota of 4,830 individual submissions. By year end, the operation submitted a total of 5,253 individuals for resettlement consideration meeting all its deadlines – against an allocated total resettlement quota of 4,830 and representing 109% of progress against target. Additionally, and based on the achieved highest quality of casework, submissions from Egypt no longer required additional review at the Regional Bureau which reduced the timeframe of the case processing pre-submission. In 2024 a total of 3,021 individuals departed on resettlement, while an additional 2,060 departed on complementary pathways, which remained a top priority for the Office in 2024. Labour mobility and education programs paved the way for expansion and scalability of the said programs in the years to come, while scaled-up assistance was provided to refugees' requiring assistance with family reunification applications and processing. During the reporting year, UNHCR Egypt laid the groundwork for the rollout of complementary pathways through adequate

coordination, implementation, and mapping. A significant milestone was the completion of the first study focused on complementary pathways and the knowledge gaps within the refugee community. The 45-page report detailed findings and analysis, paving the way to address communication gaps and enhance refugees' knowledge of third-country programs. The study led to the creation of a complementary pathways' strategy centered on community communication. This strategy was implemented during the reporting period, resulting in increased engagement of the complementary pathways unit in community outreach activities and enhanced training and capacity building for partners. Emphasis was placed on disseminating information about complementary pathways to promote self-reliance in application processes and spread awareness of various programs.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2024, UNHCR data collection was disaggregated by age, gender, and diversity consideration, including disability. In 2023, the Office introduced the AGD compliant results-based framework to reinforce the ten core actions as per the UNHCR AGD policy. UNHCR has promoted inclusive programming and direct services and assistance support covering persons with specific needs .

UNHCR continues to utilize proGres V4 for capturing registration data. This platform incorporates features that are fully compliant with AGD principles. Notably, enables the identification of unique characteristics and vulnerabilities of registered individuals by applying specific needs codes.

UNHCR has utilized participatory methodologies at each stage of the operations management cycle. In total, 231 community dialogues, comprising community meetings, focus-group discussions, individual-level discussion, and key informant interviews have been conducted with 3,389 refugees, asylum-seekers, and new arrivals from nine different nationalities. Of those, 49.5% were females, and 13.5% of diverse SOGIECS.

In 2024 the operation maintained a community-based approach and constant communication with refugees and asylum-seekers through different channels tailored to the needs of women, men, boys, and girls of different genders, age, nationality, and other diversity consideration. Moreover, UNHCR used social media channels to disseminate information, including the help website (the most viewed country website globally in 2024, with nearly 2.8M pages viewed in 2024) and a WhatsApp group with 125 community leaders. UNHCR Egypt also managing two Facebook pages in six languages that reached more than 3 million views in 2024. Furthermore, the operation has 18 functional e-mail addresses receive and respond to inquiries and referrals from refugees and asylum-seekers.

In 2024, 20,639 submissions were received through the dedicated complaint and feedback mechanism. Of them, 88 complaints were recorded as sensitive related to possible misconduct.

Section 3: Resources

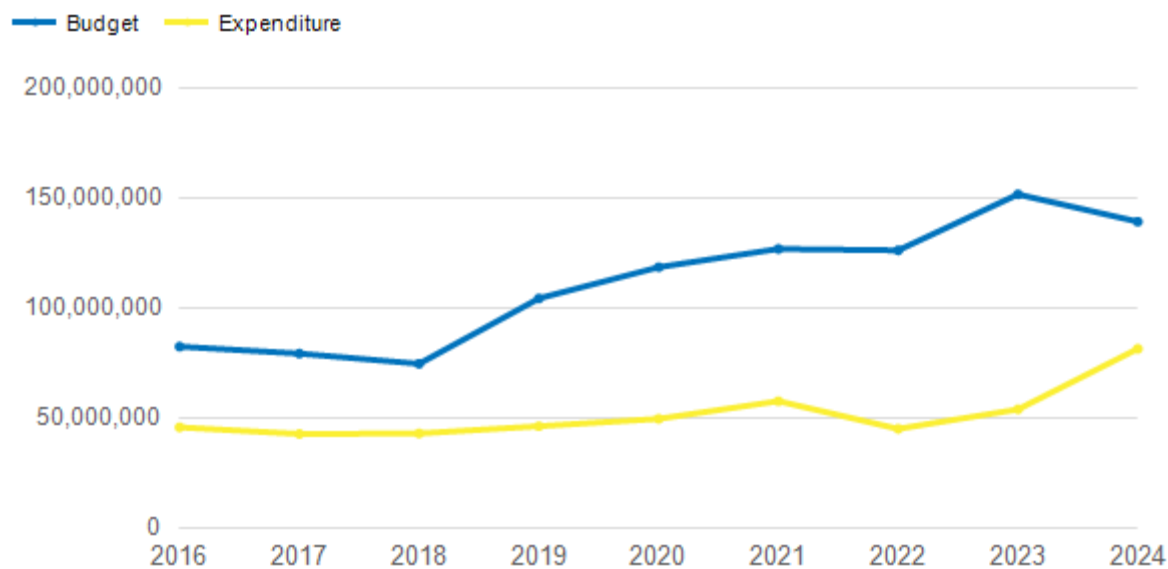
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

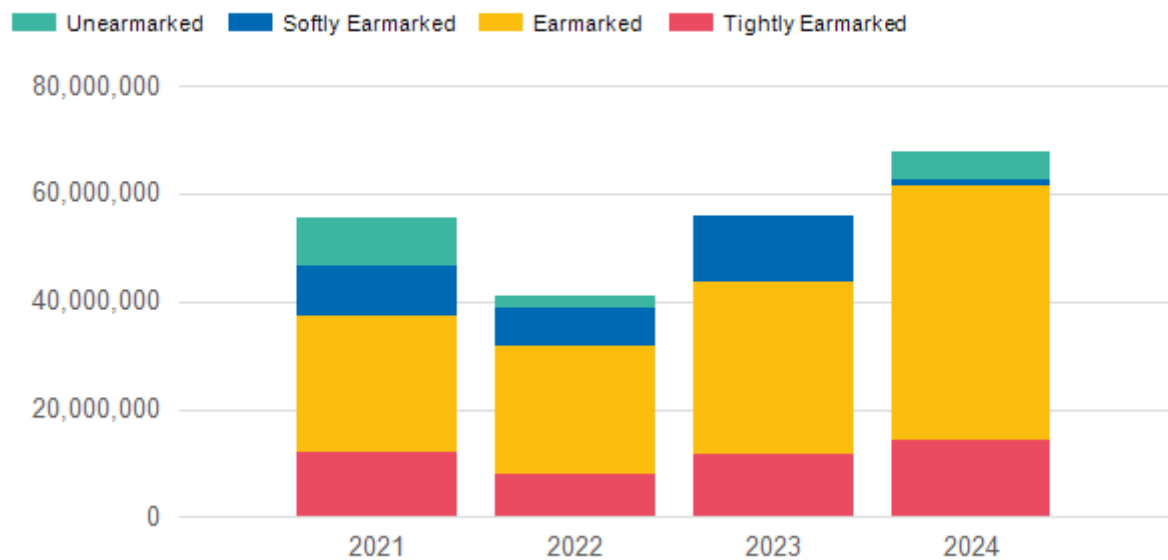
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	76,785,108	26,677,783	34.74%	26,677,783	100.00%
IA2: Assist	38,739,092	41,371,256	106.79%	41,371,256	100.00%
IA3: Empower	19,790,930	11,814,492	59.70%	11,814,492	100.00%
IA4: Solve	3,683,540	1,408,132	38.23%	1,408,132	100.00%
All Impact Areas		1,394,672			
Total	138,998,670	82,666,335	59.47%	81,271,663	98.31%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	8,827,292	6,231,840	70.60%	6,231,840	100.00%
OA2: Status	2,415,807	2,386,555	98.79%	2,386,555	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	3,179,715	2,257,406	70.99%	2,257,406	100.00%
OA4: GBV	2,026,576	1,604,446	79.17%	1,604,446	100.00%
OA5: Children	5,665,049	2,952,841	52.12%	2,952,841	100.00%
OA6: Justice	2,828,855	1,429,454	50.53%	1,429,454	100.00%
OA7: Community	11,937,225	2,874,105	24.08%	2,874,105	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	75,363,104	33,383,162	44.30%	33,383,162	100.00%
OA10: Health	7,703,351	7,988,094	103.70%	7,988,094	100.00%
OA11: Education	10,808,424	5,721,505	52.94%	5,721,505	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	2,770,406	1,634,222	58.99%	1,634,222	100.00%
OA14: Return	2,855,081	386,319	13.53%	386,319	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	828,459	1,021,813	123.34%	1,021,813	100.00%
EA17: Systems	1,789,326	11,399,900	637.11%	11,399,900	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		1,394,672			
Total	138,998,670	82,666,335	59.47%	81,271,663	98.31%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

Since 2023, UNHCR’s operations in Egypt have been heavily influenced by regional crises, most notably the conflict in Sudan, the evolving situation in Gaza, and shifting dynamics in Syria. These crises, combined with the implementation of Egypt’s new asylum law and the ongoing transition plan, have shaped both the scale of humanitarian needs and the prioritization of resources.

The Sudan crisis in 2023 had a profound impact on Egypt, with over half a million Sudanese refugees registering in the country due to the violence and instability. In response, UNHCR quickly mobilized resources, prioritizing the provision of emergency core relief items (CRIs), healthcare, education, cash

assistance, and protection services. The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) was activated to provide both immediate assistance and long-term support. This large influx of refugees placed significant strain on Egypt's resources, requiring increased international funding and close collaboration with the Egyptian government and local and International NGOs partners to manage the crisis effectively.

Alongside the Sudan crisis, the situation in Gaza also became a major focus for UNHCR's operations in 2024. The ongoing conflict in Gaza has resulted in large displacement inside Gaza and some people fleeing to Egypt. UNHCR responded by providing emergency relief items through the ERC inside Gaza, as well as offering cash assistance to medical evacuees who crossed into Egypt for treatment. The scale of this displacement required immediate action, placing additional pressure on Egypt's resources and prompting swift international responses.

The prioritization of funds for UNHCR's operations in Egypt has been driven by several key factors. The scale and nature of refugee needs have been central, with crises like the Sudan influx triggering immediate funding to meet urgent humanitarian needs, including healthcare, education, and protection services. Government partnerships have also played a critical role. UNHCR's collaboration with Egyptian authorities, particularly the line ministries and national NGOs, has been crucial for the effective delivery of services and the protection of refugees' rights. The availability of resources within UNHCR itself has also been a determining factor, as financial and logistical resources are shaped by global funding trends, emergency appeals, and the overall budget of the organization. The broader global trends in refugee and migration movements have also influenced funding priorities, with donor countries increasing contributions to Egypt as conflicts in Sudan and Gaza intensified.

Additionally, policy shifts, such as the adoption of Egypt's new asylum law in 2024, have impacted funding allocation. The law introduced more formalized processes for asylum seekers, which has influenced the scope of UNHCR's support and increased the focus on durable solutions through economic empowerment and social protection. Refugee populations' specific needs, particularly vulnerable groups like women, children, and unaccompanied minors have also been key in determining funding priorities.

Finally, the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024 marked a significant shift in the Syrian conflict, leading to a sense of renewed hope for peace and stability in Syria. This has prompted some Syrian refugees to begin returning voluntarily, driven by the desire to rebuild their lives in a more secure environment. However, challenges such as reconstruction, security concerns, and economic instability in Syria remain. UNHCR continues to monitor the situation closely, ensuring that returns are voluntary, safe, and dignified, with the necessary support for reintegration.

These developments, coupled with Egypt's evolving asylum framework, highlight the complex and dynamic environment in which UNHCR operates, underscoring the importance of flexible and responsive approaches to address the needs of refugees in the country.

In 2024, UNHCR Egypt built on the strategic groundwork established in previous years, strengthening its resource mobilization efforts amid ongoing Sudan and Gaza emergencies. Funding grew by 63%, rising from \$40 million to \$65 million, with multi-year commitments secured from strategic partners. Although the United States, Germany, the European Union, the Netherlands, and Italy remained the top five donors, their combined share of total funding decreased from 96% in 2022 to 85% in 2023 and 74% in 2024. This shift reflects a broader diversification of funding sources driven by enhanced engagement with non-traditional donors and development actors.

In 2024, UNHCR Egypt successfully added new donors to its portfolio, including Denmark, France, Mastercard Foundation, and private donors from Canada, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait. At the same time, UNHCR Egypt increasingly designed and enhanced UNHCR-led, multi-agency, multi-year initiatives, including the EU-funded Joint Programme until 2026 with UNHCR in the administrative lead, alongside project partners UNICEF, WHO, and IOM. Another key project is the Dutch-funded PROSPECTS project until 2027, with UNHCR Egypt as the largest recipient of Dutch funding out of all five project partners.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The annual review highlighted key lessons that will shape the 2025 strategy. Strengthening partnerships with community-based organizations and local NGOs is crucial to enhance access to service and reduce reliance on direct assistance. Advocacy efforts with the Government of Egypt remains essential for the promoting refugee inclusion in national services and removal of legal and administrative barriers to access to healthcare, education, and livelihoods.

Sustainable programming, social cohesion, and development are critical focus areas for 2025the coming year. Collaborating with UNDP and other agencies will help meet immediate needs while fostering long-term resilience. Regular reviews and data-driven analysis will enhance evidence-based decision-making ,ensuring strategic reorientations and improving operational efficiency. Key adjustments for 2025 include expanding service mapping, structured government dialogues, and creating a MFT on Sustainable Programming.

Strengthening awareness o available services and increasing evidence-based decision-making will further enhance access to services and effectiveness of the response.

The review process involved a Strategic Moment of Reflection with 11 thematic discussions. UN agencies, donors, and government partners provided inputs and ideas on ways to improve efficiency and align priorities.

In light of the newly adopted asylum law, a structured transition plan agreed between UNHCR and the GoE, with a clear costing model is in development, involving discussions with donors. A new MoU framework following the transition will replace the 1954 MoU signed between UNHCR and the GoE, which will prioritize a structured and continuous GoE refugee registration system, within ongoing involvement and support by UNHCR. . Donor engagement and private sector partnerships will be strengthened to diversify funding sources and improve sustainability. The 2024 experiences will guide efforts to create an inclusive, efficient, and durable response, empowering refugees and host communities while aligning with the multi-year strategy



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