UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Egypt

Emergency Response Update

09 April 2025

Sara and her two-year-old son, who suffers from anemia and calcium deficiency, received medical care at a UNHCR partner clinic in Cairo. They fled Sudan after the conflict began two years ago and found safety in Egypt. However, funding cuts now put her son's ongoing treatment at risk. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

942,000
refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Egypt

21% funded
of the $137.7 million required by UNHCR for the refugee response in Egypt in 2025

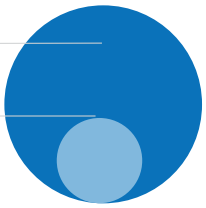
Egypt is the largest host country for Sudanese fleeing conflict

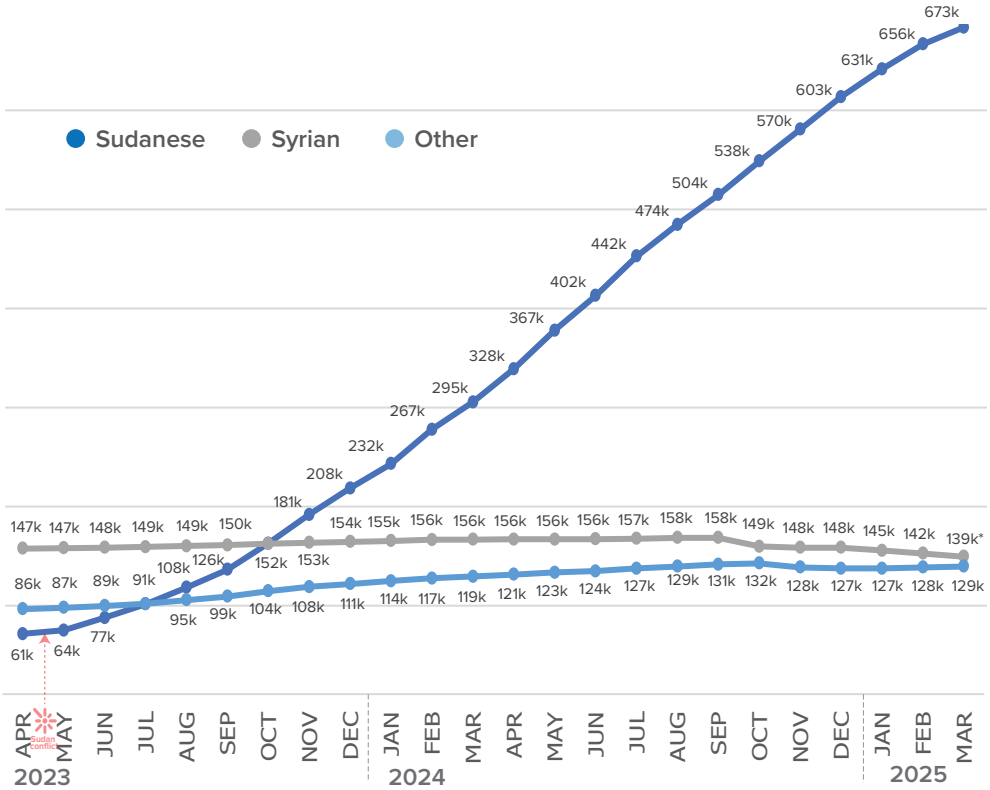
1.5 million Sudanese have fled to Egypt since the onset of the Sudan conflict, according to the Government of Egypt.

As of March 2025, UNHCR had registered 673,000 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers.

1000%
Sudanese Increase

220%
Overall Increase





*Syrian and Other nationalities refugee numbers dropped since October 2024 as UNHCR resumed inactivating cases of those who did not renew their documents. This process had been paused earlier due to the registration upscaling measures due to the Sudan response. Additionally, following political developments in Syria in December 2024, there has been a significant increase in asylum closure requests from Syrian refugees in Egypt.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- The Egyptian Ministry of Interior decided to extend the validity of asylum-based residence permits from six months to one year, starting on 12 April. The Ministry also increased the daily processing capacity at the immigration office from 600 to 1,000 individuals. UNHCR has consistently advocated for this extension and welcomes the decision. Valid residency is essential for refugees in Egypt. These important measures will greatly enhance the protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers by promoting greater stability, easing administrative burdens, and improving access to essential services such as healthcare, education, livelihoods, and birth registration.

- On 27 March, Egypt's Assistant Minister of Local Development (MoLD) participated in the Partnership and Coordination Service (PCS) Panel at the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) 2025 supported by UNHCR. Ambassador Hossam Alkaweesh highlighted MoLD's ongoing collaboration with UNHCR and partners to integrate displaced populations into national and local development programs. This cooperation ensures effective coordination and information sharing under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) through multi-stakeholder engagements, such as Inter-Agency meetings. MoLD also aligns national and local development plans with strategies for managing displaced populations, reinforcing resilience and advancing social and economic objectives. Key areas of intervention include education, health, and employment, with a strong focus on fostering inclusion and social cohesion with host communities. Operating across Egypt's 27 governorates, MoLD plays a crucial role in implementing policies related to displaced populations in coordination with other ministries.

Protection

Registration

As of 7 April 2025, UNHCR Egypt provided registration appointments to 910,000 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, UNHCR has now registered 620,000 individuals for assistance and protection (68%). Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (96%), followed by Eritrean (1.7%), and South Sudanese (1.6%). The great majority originate from Khartoum (83%). Over half (55%) are female and 42% are children.

Due to funding constraints, UNHCR has been forced to suspend registration activities in Damietta (North Coast). This will affect refugees living on Egypt's North Coast by limiting their access to protection and basic services, as well as hindering the identification of children at risk and other refugees in vulnerable situations.

Since the regime change in Syria in December 2024, the number of Syrians approaching UNHCR in Cairo and Alexandria to request the closure of their asylum cases has risen significantly. As of 7 April, more than 15,300 Syrians have submitted such requests, signaling their intention to return to Syria. Following the end of Ramadan, a significant spike in case closure requests has been observed, aligning with UNHCR projections. This surge is likely a spillover effect from a backlog accumulated during Ramadan, when service demand typically decreases. In response to the increased demand and restored post-Ramadan capacity, UNHCR has now implemented on-the-spot closure processing, alongside the previous system that involved a one-week appointment wait, enabling faster and more efficient service delivery.

Infoline

In the past two weeks, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled 7,300 inquiries and booked registration appointments for an average of 350 people daily fleeing the Sudan conflict. Since the Sudan crisis began, a total of 609,800 individuals have scheduled appointments through the system.

Legal and Physical Protection (LPP)

Over the past two weeks, 630 individuals received legal assistance and counselling through UNHCR and partners, concerning early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation. Additionally, UNHCR provided LPP case management for 70 refugees.

Community-Based Protection

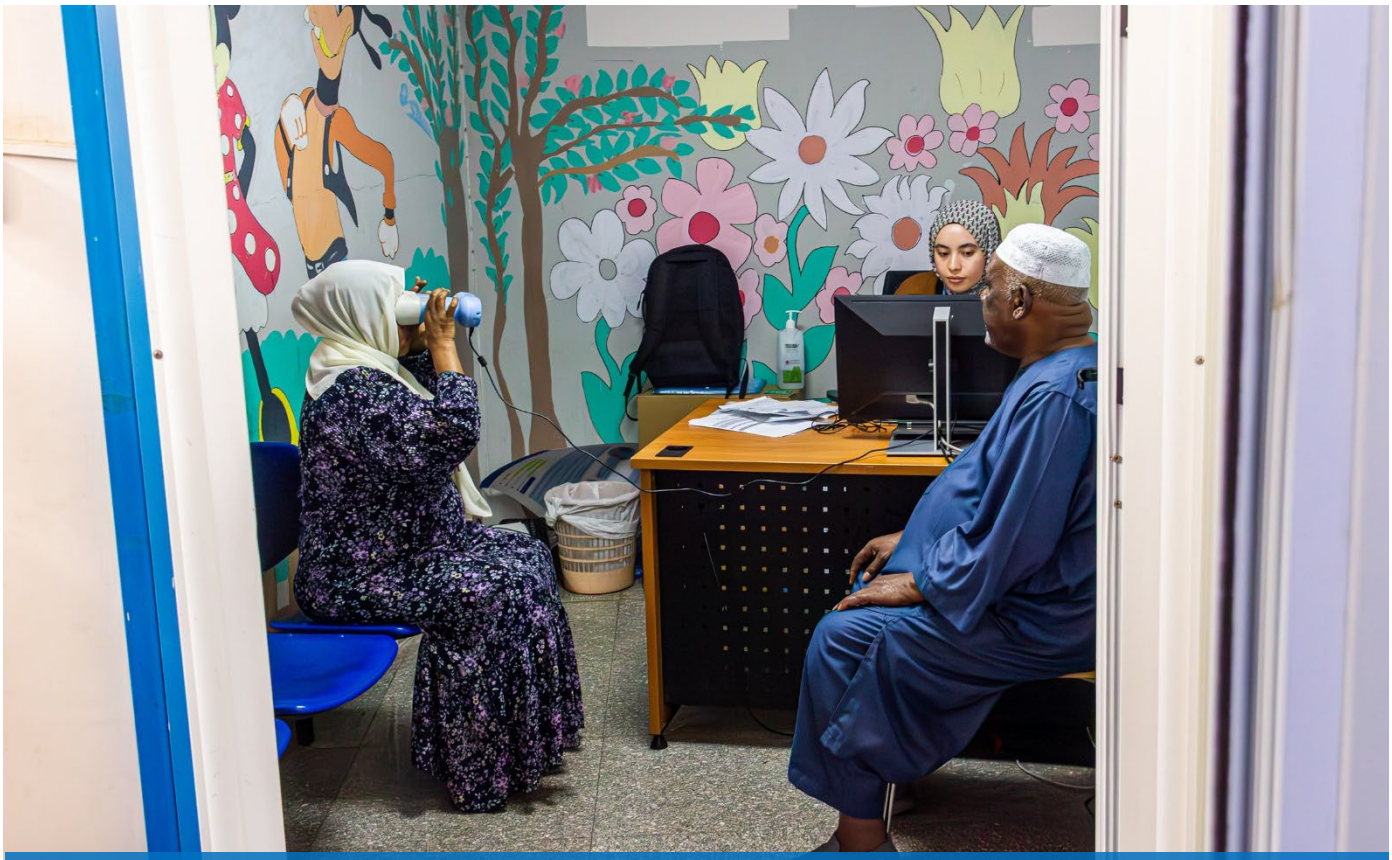
Over the last two weeks, 6,600 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly new arrivals from Sudan, attended information sessions on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints at the UNHCR Reception Centre in Greater Cairo. Additionally, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 3,300 individuals, out of whom 27 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 143 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance. Additionally, UNHCR provided CBP case management for 93 refugees.

UNHCR and its partners provide targeted support to persons with specific needs through individual case management, community-based psychosocial support, and emergency response. Specifically, over 4,700 Sudanese refugees received housing support in 2024, including through refugee-led organizations.

Durable Solutions

UNHCR Egypt actively monitors major social media pages and community groups to better understand refugees' priorities and interests regarding available services provided by UNHCR and its partners. Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in online discussions among Syrian refugees in Egypt about returning to Syria. These conversations focus on practical concerns such as the best routes to take, steps to follow upon return, and whether any fees are required at the airport. The surge in such posts reflects a growing interest in voluntary repatriation and provides valuable insight into the information needs and intentions of the Syrian community.

In 2024, UNHCR Egypt submitted 2,230 Sudanese refugees for resettlement consideration. Moreover, more than 800 Sudanese refugees departed for resettlement countries. Additionally, more than 300 Sudanese were assisted with Complementary Pathways as a means of a long-lasting solution.



An elderly Sudanese couple registered with UNHCR in Cairo on 8 April 2025. Registration is the first step toward accessing public services like healthcare and education through an asylum-based residency permit. ©UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Cash Assistance

Since mid-March, UNHCR has stopped conducting vulnerability assessments due to funding shortfalls. As a result, UNHCR is unable to add more vulnerable individuals to its list of Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) recipients.

Since the Sudan crisis began in April 2023, UNHCR has assessed the vulnerability of 181,100 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers, including both new arrivals and those already in Egypt before the crisis. In March and April 2025, some 80,800 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 48,300 Sudanese, were supported with MPCA. Due to funding shortages, more than 106,000 Sudanese refugees with high poverty levels remained on the MPCA waiting list. This means they met the eligibility criteria for cash assistance as they struggle to survive but remain unassisted due to the scarcity of funds.

Funding information

UNHCR is grateful for the crucial and generous contributions from its donors, who provide both earmarked and unearmarked funding to support its operations in Egypt in 2025, including for the Sudan and Syria responses.

UNHCR Egypt is also grateful for the crucial support of private donors from Canada.

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