



# Egypt

## Sudan Emergency Response Update

04 September 2024



Elham and her four children arrived in Egypt in May 2024 after fleeing fighting in Sudan. They approached UNHCR's Reception Centre in 6th of October City (Greater Cairo) in search of protection. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes



### 405,000

individuals forced to flee Sudan have been registered by UNHCR Egypt since the onset of the conflict

### 49% funded

of the \$57.7 million required by UNHCR for the Sudan emergency response in Egypt in 2024



## Sudanese refugees have increased nearly eightfold since April 2023

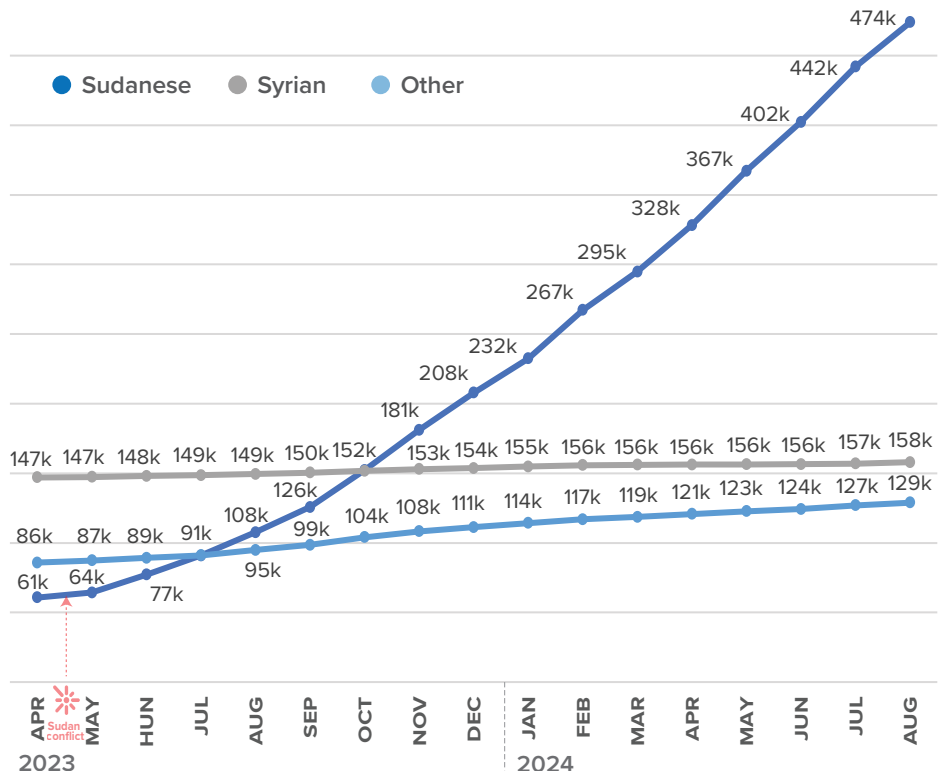
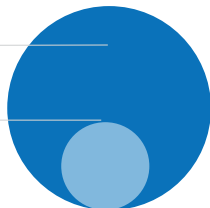
The number of **Sudanese** refugees and asylum-seekers fully registered with UNHCR Egypt **increased almost eightfold** between the onset of the Sudan conflict and the end of August 2024.



**680%**  
Sudanese Increase



**159%**  
Overall Increase



## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- Over the last fortnight, the Government of Egypt (GoE) intensified its diplomatic efforts to promote a ceasefire in Sudan to coincide with its participation in peace talks in Geneva between 14 and 23 August. On 20 August, Egyptian President El-Sisi reaffirmed his commitment to ending the conflict in the neighboring country during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, who visited Egypt as part of his Middle East tour amidst rising tensions due to the war in Gaza and escalating violence in Lebanon. During the meeting, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty emphasized the importance of addressing the humanitarian consequences of the conflict and facilitating humanitarian efforts in Sudan. He urged donor countries to honor their previous commitments to assist Sudan and neighboring countries in managing the crisis.
- On 20 August, President El-Sisi met with UN Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) Amina Mohammed to discuss the situations in Gaza and Sudan. El-Sisi affirmed Egypt's commitment to achieving a ceasefire, safeguarding Sudan's resources and people, and preserving the country's institutions and sovereignty. He called for strong international and regional efforts to support the resolution of Sudan's political crisis and to address the humanitarian tragedy that the Sudanese people have faced since April 2023. The UN DSG, who was in Egypt to attend the World Scout Conference, praised the country's efforts towards regional peace and stability and to prevent a wider regional conflict with global repercussions. The DSG also highlighted the UN's appreciation for Egypt's significant humanitarian contributions, especially in managing recent rising refugee numbers.
- On 28 and 29 August, the UNHCR Representative to Egypt and the League of Arab States (LAS), Dr Hanan Hamdan, attended a High-Level Global Forum on Youth, Peace, and Security in Amman organized by LAS in coordination with the Jordanian government. During the forum, LAS launched the Arab Strategy for Youth, Peace and Security (2023-2028), aiming to enhance youth participation in international peace and security and urging member states to consider ways to involve youth purposefully in shaping a sustainable global peace system. In this vein, the issue of including climate considerations in refugee solutions was also discussed. Youth ministries of the Arab states and relevant regional and international organizations have been involved in the design of this strategy, which is the first of its kind in the Arab region. Follow-up discussions will be held with the Cairo Center for Conflict Prevention and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA), which also attended.
- On 18 August, the GoE urged foreign residents in the country to regularize their status by renewing their residency permits and obtaining the new "smart residency card." In an [official statement](#), the GoE emphasized that "this initiative is designed to ensure that foreign residents continue to enjoy full access to the services provided by the country's administrative system." Additionally, it announced the launching of the 'Hurry to Regularize Your Status in Egypt' campaign, encouraging foreign residents, particularly those exempt from paying residency fees, to visit the Immigration offices to update their information and secure their residency status. This directive follows a decision by the Prime Minister, which established a deadline of 30 June, for obtaining the exemption card. After this date, services for those without the card were suspended. A final grace period has been granted, ending on 30 September, during which services for exempt foreign residents who have not obtained their exemption cards will remain suspended. After the deadline, legal action will be taken against those who fail to comply, and they will be considered in violation of Egypt's residency regulations.
- In an [official statement](#) on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day, the GoE emphasized that Egypt continues to serve as a central hub for humanitarian efforts. The country remains committed to addressing humanitarian needs arising from crises and disasters and acknowledges the vital role of civil society organizations in mobilizing and delivering urgent relief aid. Egypt also values the significant contributions of international and UN agencies in this field and reaffirms its support for their work. "Egypt has not forgotten its Sudanese brothers and sisters. Since the crisis in Sudan began in April 2023, Egypt has welcomed over 500,000 Sudanese refugees, providing them with essential support and care. This is in addition to the 5 million Sudanese who were already living in Egypt, reflecting the deep humanitarian solidarity of the Egyptian people with their neighbors in Sudan," the MFA stated. The statement also underscored the importance of integrating humanitarian work with development and peace initiatives.



UNHCR staff provide information on protection and assistance to Sudanese women in Greater Cairo.  
 ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

## Protection

### Registration

As of 3 September 2024, UNHCR Egypt had provided registration appointments to 729,000 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, UNHCR has now registered 405,000 individuals for assistance and protection, just over half (55%). Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (95%), followed by South Sudanese (2%), and Eritrean (2%). Over half - 54% - are female and the great majority originate from Khartoum (86%). A fifth of those provided with registration appointments have one or more specific needs, including lack of legal documentation, children at risk of not attending school, people with disabilities, or serious medical conditions.

As of 28 August, over 1,900 new registration appointments have been requested for more than 4,000 Sudanese individuals seeking to register with UNHCR using the online tool. To promote the tool, multiple information sessions were held with refugee-led organizations and community representatives in Cairo, Alexandria, and Aswan. Instructional videos in [English](#) and [Arabic](#) were published on UNHCR's Help Egypt site to support refugees in navigating the tool that was launched on 12 August to expedite Sudanese refugees' access to appointments and to reduce the pressures on UNHCR's main reception centre. In collaboration with TdH, plans are underway to expand digital hubs for free and safe internet access and to increase volunteer support with the overall aim of enhancing connectivity of the forcibly displaced.

Over the past two weeks, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled some 20,200 inquiries (a 6% decrease compared to the previous fortnight). Of those, 4,750 new registration appointments were allocated to 11,850 individuals who had fled Sudan. The proportion of callers from Greater Cairo was 87%, Aswan 5%, and Alexandria 5%. Since the start of the conflict to date, 493,750 new arrivals from Sudan, comprising 184,150 households, have received appointments via Infoline.

 **Community-based protection**

Over the last two weeks, some 13,100 refugees and asylum-seekers attended information sessions at the UNHCR registration centre in Greater Cairo and were provided with details on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints. This represents a 3% increase compared to the previous two weeks. During the same period, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 7,100 new arrivals, from which 105 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment.

 **Legal and physical protection**

During the reporting period, 636 individuals received legal counselling through UNHCR and legal partners, meaning a 26% increase compared to the previous fortnight. Additionally, 116 cases were referred to UNHCR legal partners, the Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR), and United Lawyers (UL) for legal aid, related to early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation.

 **Education**

UNHCR hosted the Director of Education Cannot Wait (ECW), Yasmin Sherif, on a mission to Cairo on 22 August. During her visit, she met with the UNHCR, UNICEF and UNDP representatives and participated in focus group discussions with refugee students who have benefited from ECW funding. She also attended an inter-agency meeting on inclusion, a donor reception, and a press conference, where she promoted education for refugees and asked the international community to provide more funding. A [press release](#) – with extensive media coverage – and [social media content](#) were jointly published by ECW, UNHCR, and UNICEF.



A group of refugee students attended a focus group discussion during the Education Cannot Wait high-level mission to Cairo on 22 August. ©ECW/Fouad Choufany


**Capacity-building**

On 28 and 29 August, UNHCR carried out a protection workshop for UNHCR staff and partners in Alexandria to create a common protection strategy for Egypt's North Coast and enhance the link with the national Protection structure. The workshop mainly focused on agreeing on common response priorities, advocacy, and awareness raising, ensuring quality protection services and inclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers, and others of concern in government programmes/services within the current protection environment and as part of the Sudan Situation strategic response. MENA Bureau connected from Amman to guide discussions on mixed movements and the route-based approach, while UNHCR Libya also participated online in the workshop to enhance mutual understanding.

From August 27 to 29, UNHCR conducted a workshop on international refugee protection for 22 officers of the Egyptian Army in Cairo. In 2024, UNHCR has organized 10 activities with the Ministry of Defense, engaging various military branches and institutions.


**Cash assistance**

As of 31 August, the total number of newly arrived Sudanese households assessed by UNHCR to receive Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) since the beginning of the crisis is 34,150. Of them, 6,724 households (30,380 individuals) have received the MPCA, representing 34% of the total 20,000 assisted households. During the last two weeks, 47 families were assessed for emergency cash assistance (ECA) in Aswan. Since the start of the crisis, a total of 20,935 registered and unregistered households (57,074 individuals) have been identified as eligible for one-off ECA, out of whom 16,938 families (48,839 individuals) have successfully received their assistance.

**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, including the response to the Sudan situation.



UNHCR Egypt is also grateful for the crucial support of private donors, including those from Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Spain.

**DONATE NOW**

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