

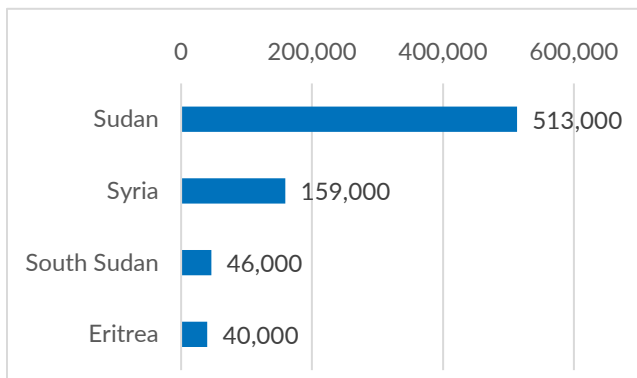
Egypt

October 2024

There are 800,000 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Egypt since 1954. Since then, UNHCR has provided protection, including registration, documentation, refugee status determination, and resettlement to people forced to flee. More than 760,000 people have approached UNHCR Egypt after fleeing the conflict in Sudan. UNHCR is scaling up the delivery of cash assistance and registration to address the most urgent needs of new arrivals. Sudanese are the largest group, followed by Syrians. Most refugees live in Greater Cairo and Alexandria.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS REGISTERED WITH UNHCR IN EGYPT, AS OF 08 OCTOBER 2024

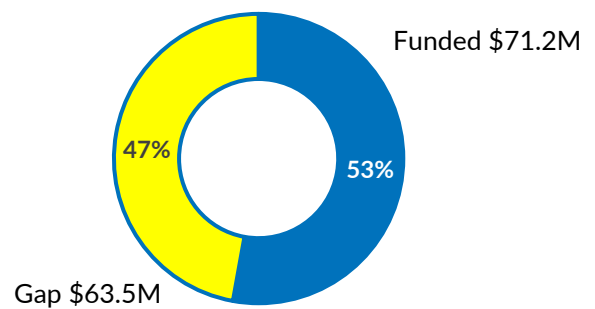
Top 4 Countries of Origin



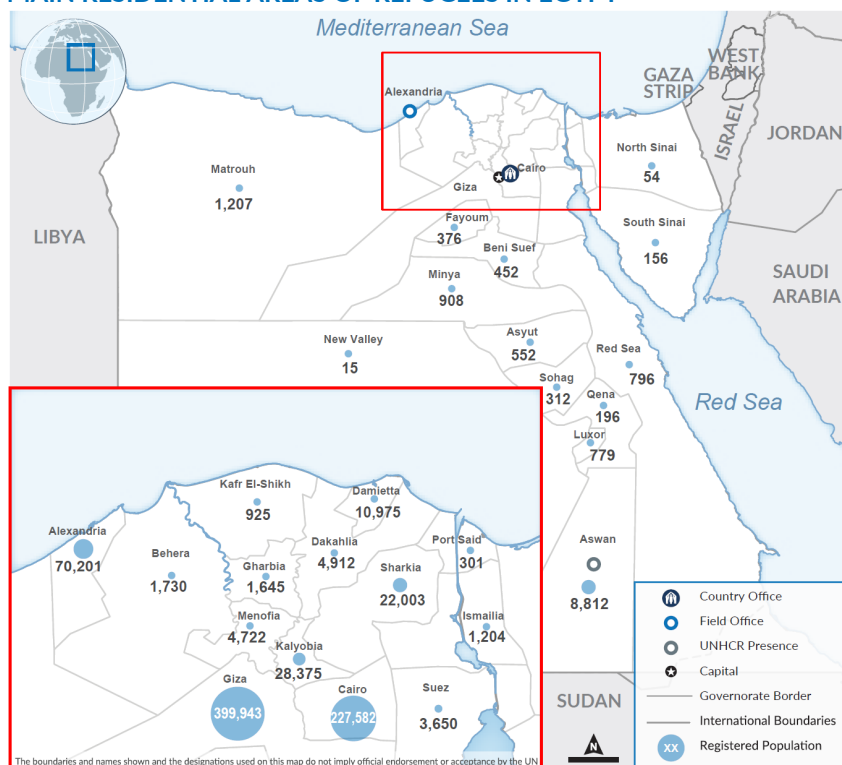
FUNDING (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2024)

USD 134.7 million

requested for the Egypt Operation



MAIN RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF REFUGEES IN EGYPT



UNHCR PRESENCE

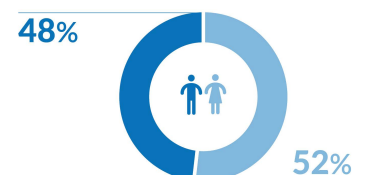
Staff:

60 International Staff
 366 National Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Cairo
 1 Reception Centre in Giza
 1 RSD/RST Building in Giza
 1 Field Office in Alexandria

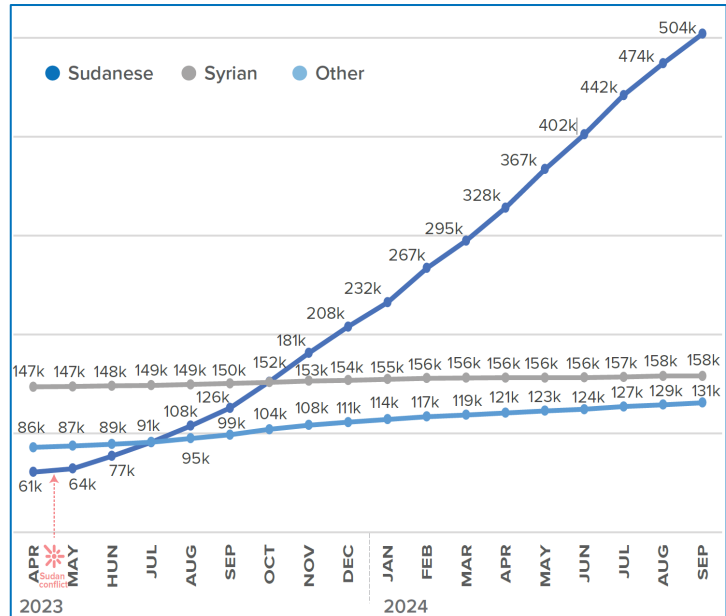
Gender breakdown of refugees registered in Egypt:



Context

There are 800,000 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Egypt, nearly three times the number from a year ago with major conflicts across its borders. Refugees in Egypt live in urban settings across the major cities, with most new arrivals coming from Sudan.

Since the onset of the conflict in Sudan, UNHCR has observed an eightfold increase in Sudanese individuals registering as refugees, mainly women and children. In response to the Gaza crisis, UNHCR has delivered water, clothes, blankets, jerry cans, and sleeping mats to Gaza, and cash assistance to medical evacuees from Gaza in Egypt – both through the ERC.



Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR Egypt (April 2023-September 2024)

UNHCR works through ten partners in Greater Cairo, North Coast, Aswan and North Sinai: CARE Egypt, Caritas, Catholic Relief Service, Don Bosco, Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights, the Egyptian Red Crescent, Plan International, All Saints/ Refuge Egypt, Save the Children, and Terre des Hommes.



A group of seven Sudanese women participated in the 4th edition of the She Arts festival in Cairo on 27 September 2024. They performed a traditional bridal dance from Sudan. ©UNHCR/Karim Hany

Main Activities

Protection

UNHCR is currently working with the GoE in the transition to a government-led national asylum system. With this goal, UNHCR and the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs held an Asylum Management Workshop in Cairo in early October to bring together key government officials involved in refugee protection. This joint workshop, organized with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, was the fourth in a series of capacity-building activities to support the development of a national asylum framework. UNHCR emphasized the importance of adopting an asylum law and provided capacity building to the government as part of the transition.

- **Reception, counselling, and legal assistance**

UNHCR Egypt receives some four thousand refugees at its offices every working day. The first points of contact with UNHCR are the reception areas in Greater Cairo and Alexandria. There, protection staff counsel refugees and asylum-seekers entering the premises on a walk-in basis.

Apart from the reception areas, refugees have several other access avenues to UNHCR including its recently expanded and revamped helpline in Cairo and Alexandria to respond to the surge in people seeking UNHCR's assistance and protection since the outbreak of violence in Sudan. Infoline operators provide information-sharing and counselling and schedule registration appointments for asylum-seekers and refugees in Egypt in seven languages. Furthermore, refugees and asylum-seekers have access to legal remedies and representation through lawyers of NGO partners.



Diala, a Syrian refugee mother of three, carries her daughter while receiving information at the UNHCR premises in Alexandria, Egypt. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa

- **Community-based protection**

UNHCR and partners provide targeted support to persons with specific needs through individual case management, psychosocial support, and emergency response. UNHCR also organizes community activities to promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities.

- **Communication with Communities**

UNHCR maintains an active outreach programme for Communication with Communities (CwC), providing refugees and asylum-seekers with information about UNHCR and partners' services. UNHCR uses different communication channels, including social media, to reach persons forced to flee and capture their feedback. This includes UNHCR Egypt's [Help website](#), the most visited globally so far in 2024. Since the start of the Sudan crisis, UNHCR has provided information on protection, assistance and procedures for reporting fraud to some 170,000 individuals.

- **Child protection**

UNHCR Child Protection (CP) programming focuses on children at risk of abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation. Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) remain one of the key vulnerable groups of refugee children. UNHCR conducts best-interest assessments and prioritizes protection and assistance to UASC and other children at risk across all programmes through prevention and response activities and specialized services.

- **Prevention and response to gender-based violence**

In Egypt, UNHCR gender-based violence (GBV) prevention activities encompass innovative multi-sectoral approaches including community-based activities, legal awareness sessions, women empowerment initiatives, and art therapy. UNHCR and partners provide tailored assistance and psychosocial support to survivors of GBV and those who have experienced or witnessed conflict, violence, or trauma.

- **Registration**

Registration of the population in need of international protection is a central activity of UNHCR, as the Government of Egypt delegated this task with a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1954. The crisis in Sudan has prompted UNHCR to significantly expand its registration capabilities, aiming to protect as many individuals as possible. In addition to facilitating access to services, biometric registration allows refugees and asylum-seekers to regularize their stay in Egypt and obtain a renewable residence permit.

As of 8 October, some 765,000 people forced to flee Sudan have approached UNHCR for registration. Of them, 58% (more than 440,000 people) were prioritized and registered while the remaining ones have been issued registration appointments. In response to the increasing numbers, UNHCR has scaled up its overall registration processing since the start of the Sudan crisis by increasing staffing, improving infrastructure, and expanding the Infoline as well as communication channels. In August 2024, UNHCR Egypt launched its online registration appointment tool for Sudanese individuals to expedite their access to appointments and to reduce the pressures on UNHCR's main registration centre in Greater Cairo.

- **Refugee Status Determination**

UNHCR conducts Refugee Status Determination (RSD) on behalf of the Government and facilitates access to protection, basic needs, and essential services, such as health and education. UNHCR Egypt strategically utilizes RSD to maximize protection benefits for many asylum-seekers while maintaining the integrity of the asylum system. Before and after the Sudan crisis, UNHCR Egypt has been the largest and most productive RSD mandate operation globally. So far in 2024, 9,000 RSD decisions have been finalized.

- **Durable solutions**

Due to its location, Egypt is part of the Syrian and Central Mediterranean resettlement initiatives. So far in 2024, some 3,630 refugees were submitted for resettlement consideration to the USA, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, Norway, Australia, Portugal and the UK. Moreover, some 1,300 refugees departed for resettlement countries. UNHCR Egypt continues to prioritize Complementary Pathways as a means of a long-lasting solution for refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt. In 2023, 864 refugees and asylum seekers departed the country after accessing such pathways, including family reunification, labour mobility, education, and private sponsorship programs.

- **Education**

UNHCR advocates for enrolling refugees and asylum-seekers in public schools on the same footing as Egyptians. So far in 2024, UNHCR has provided education cash grants to more than 60,000 children. Furthermore, based on the needs identified by the Ministry of Education, UNHCR provides bridging classes, and teacher training, supports the refurbishment of schools, and supplies equipment, and other necessities to assist the Egyptian facilities in absorbing the refugee children.

Health

UNHCR supports national efforts to improve the quality of health services to refugees and asylum-seekers and the host population in areas with high concentrations of refugees. Through its partners, UNHCR provides treatments for chronic and mental disorders and supports secondary and tertiary health care interventions in hospitals. In recent years, a series of memoranda of understanding (MoU) have been signed with the Ministry of Health and Population to grant refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities access to public healthcare. New challenges regarding access to public healthcare for refugees have arisen in areas where the new Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) has been rolled out, including Aswan, Ismailia, Luxor and Port Said. So far in 2024, UNHCR Egypt provided some 50,000 primary care consultations to refugees and supported specialized healthcare, including hospital care, to 4,100 individuals.



Mohammed, a 10-year-old refugee from Sudan, attends English classes at the Hope for Refugees community centre in Alexandria.
©UNHCR/Pedro Costa

Livelihoods and economic inclusion

UNHCR helps refugees and asylum-seekers become self-sufficient by providing training and helping them find markets for their skills and products. It also promotes their economic inclusion by advocating for their right to work and developing their livelihoods through market-based programs. In 2023, UNHCR provided livelihoods support to 5,842 people. This support included guidance on the Egyptian labour market and matching employers with potential employees while ensuring minimum standards are met.

In total, with the support provided, 477 individuals found a job after taking part in UNHCR programmes. Moreover, UNHCR supported 407 entrepreneurs with cash grants and mentoring to establish businesses. UNHCR Egypt also supports more than 100 refugees who craft handmade products within the [MADE51](#) initiative, which aims to highlight their skills, [bring them hope](#), and promote the sale of their creations in global markets. All these efforts helped refugees to navigate a challenging labour market.



Nahed and Afaf, from Sudan, are two of the 16 refugee artisans who sold their handmade creations at the She Arts festival's bazaar in Cairo on 27 September. ©UNHCR/Karim Hany

Cash-based interventions

UNHCR delivers monthly unconditional cash grants to extremely vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers to provide protection and assistance and prevent refugees from resorting to harmful coping mechanisms. Furthermore, the influx of refugees and asylum-seekers after the onset of the Sudan conflict in mid-April led UNHCR to a reorientation of its cash assistance program to also include recently arrived individuals if they meet the eligibility criteria. Adapting to the new emergency context, UNHCR began delivering assistance in Aswan, the capital of the border region with Sudan. Since the onset of the conflict in the neighbouring country, UNHCR has assisted some 50,000 people with emergency cash. Meanwhile, 80,000 people were assisted with the bimonthly Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in September 2024 only, out of whom 31,000 were newly arrived people from Sudan. Cash is deemed the most efficient and dignified way to enable vulnerable refugees to cover their basic needs, while at the same time supporting and boosting local markets.

Coordination and partnerships

Following the onset of the crisis, in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR led the development of a Regional Sudan Situation Refugee Response Plan (RRP), to coordinate the interagency response as well as associated advocacy and resource mobilization in the seven countries most affected by the potential outflows of refugees from Sudan, including Egypt. As of 8 October 2024, the Egypt chapter of the 2024 Regional RRP was 32 per cent funded.

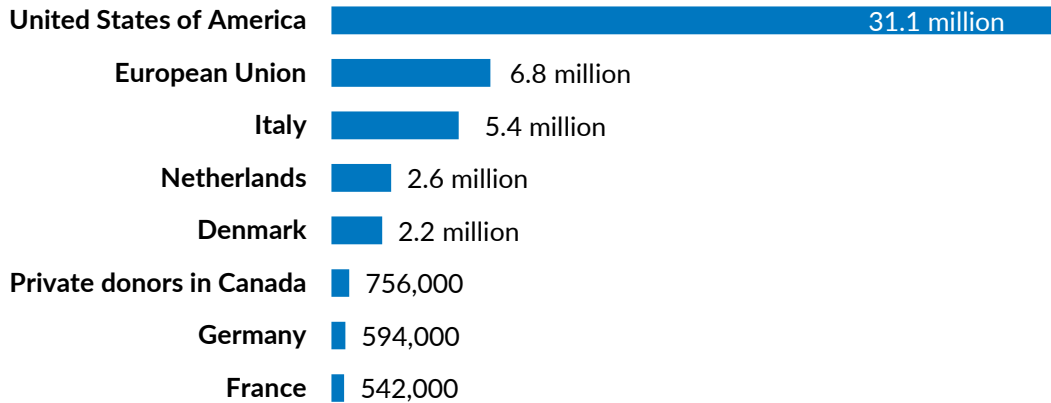
Under the umbrella of the Refugee and Resilience Plan specific to Egypt, co-led by UNHCR and UNDP, a workshop was organized on 2 October to prepare the 2025 Egypt RRP. It was attended by 31 partners, including UN agencies, national and international NGOs and refugee-led organizations. During the workshop, UNHCR introduced the revamped Egypt's RCM structure and presented the 2025 Egypt strategic objectives, country population projected figures, and the RRP planning process.

In the objective of bridging the nexus to development, UNHCR supports the Government of Egypt with its pledges for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). The latest GRF took place in December 2023 in Geneva and provided the opportunity to build on the progress made towards the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, and of initiatives announced since the first GRF in 2019. Egypt's pledges focus on inclusion into the national health and education systems, peacebuilding and climate.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Egypt Operation, including the Sudan and Syria Situations, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 | USD



With funding from
 Austrian Development Cooperation



Belgium
 partner in development



**EDUCATION
 CANNOT
 WAIT**

The global fund for education in emergencies



European Union



german humanitarian assistance
 DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
 Department of Foreign Affairs



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
 Confédération suisse
 Confederazione Svizzera
 Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation



UKaid
 from the British people



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

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LINKS: [UNHCR Global Focus](#) | [UNHCR Egypt Website](#) | [UNHCR Egypt Twitter](#) | [UNHCR Data Portal](#)