



Abdallah is a retired Sudanese engineer who fled violence in Khartoum and arrived in Egypt in search of safety | © UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

EGYPT

By the end of August, the crisis in Sudan had displaced more than 280,000 people to Egypt. This influx is intensifying the strain on already scarce resources and public services. Most new arrivals have experienced trauma due to the conflict and violence. Family separation has resulted in a significant number of unaccompanied and separated children, as well as an increased number of female-headed households, all of whom require protection and assistance.

Prior to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, Egypt hosted more than 350,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, approximately half of whom are Syrian nationals, mostly living in urban Cairo and Alexandria. Since 2019, UNHCR has provided technical expertise and support to the Government for establishing a national asylum law – a critical step towards the protection of forcibly displaced people.

Those reaching southern Egypt from Sudan have taken arduous journeys, arriving with few belongings and often exhibiting signs of trauma. UNHCR is working with government authorities, the Egyptian Red Crescent, and coordinates with NGOs, community-based organizations and the UN overall to respond to critical needs. As the conflict in Sudan drags on, support for those fleeing and the communities hosting them will be critical to meet basic needs and identify and address protection risks, particularly for women, children, and older persons who are the majority of arrivals from Sudan.

The depreciation of the Egyptian pound coupled with the increasing inflation rate has significantly impacted the economy, resulting in skyrocketing prices of commodities and services. Challenges to absorbing refugees into communities and national systems have been observed, for example with an exponential increase in rental rates leading to the risk of homelessness and with refugees now having to pay an unprecedented registration fee for universities of \$2,000, as opposed to Egyptian nationals.

Emergency and multi-purpose cash grants are among UNHCR's main interventions. The amount currently distributed to new arrivals will not be enough to meet their entire needs, as the purchase value has reduced. Furthermore, registration of new arrivals will continue to be key to UNHCR's protection response.

Protection mechanisms are established to ensure that people at risk are supported by protection prevention and response activities. Lack of access to services and registration may compel refugees to move onward through perilous journeys towards Europe. In addition to new arrivals from Sudan, many Sudanese who used to live and work in Egypt never registered as refugees but now face issues renewing their residencies. At the same time, they cannot go back to Sudan due to fear of persecution and since they would in this case no longer be allowed to re-enter into Egypt. They thus become sur-place refugees. Many of them therefore decide to register with UNHCR to be able to continue legally staying in Egypt, adding to the overall population in need.

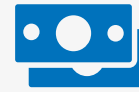


POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

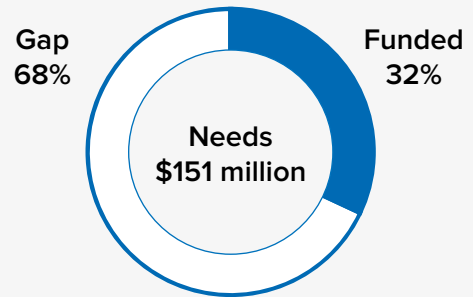
At 31 December 2022: **359,016**

Largest population group: Refugees - **294,638 / 82%**

Current displacement figures - **299,167** refugees and asylum-seekers and **210,000** newly-arrived refugees from Sudan.



FUNDING

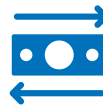


AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



Education: some 22,000 children will not receive their education grants due to the reduction of the budget. In pre-inflation times, 50-60% of overall education costs

could be covered by UNHCR's education grants; in 2023, only about 15-25% is being covered. Despite some additional support for additional education needs for refugees arriving from Sudan, some 11,000 families would be affected by the non-provision of education grants if no additional funding is forthcoming. This increases the likelihood of school dropouts as families will no longer be able to pay for the education of their children which will in turn increase negative coping mechanisms.



Cash assistance: winter-related cash assistance risks not being paid to some 160,000 people.



Health: UNHCR had to make the criteria for health assistance stricter, which renders fewer refugees and asylum-seekers eligible.



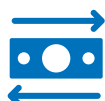
Registration: shortfalls against the funding needs for registration should be avoided as it is the entry door for refugees' access to protection, durable third-country solutions and service delivery.



Gender-based violence (GBV): in July, UNHCR expanded the delivery of GBV safety and recovery packages, including cash assistance, to prioritize newly arrived female GBV survivors

from Sudan. UNHCR has since finalized the recommendation of about 200 survivors for this type of assistance. To date, UNHCR has been using resources under its regular programme for this response, with extra funding urgently needed.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



Cash assistance - \$14.3 million: funding here will allow for assistance to some 16,000 vulnerable families with multi-purpose cash, and to provide 115,000 new arrivals from Sudan with emergency cash.

Underfunding means UNHCR will not be able to support some 160,000 people with winter grants, leaving them exposed to harsh winter conditions, and leaving people in precarious housing conditions or at risk of homelessness.



Health - \$2.4 million: UNHCR will not be able to support some 8,000 refugee patients suffering with chronic diseases with their monthly medications, as a result of which their lives may be at risk.

Medical needs as a result of arrivals from Sudan are rising. Underfunding means UNHCR will not be able to provide the Ministry of Health or other partners with the budget needed to support new and increased medical needs.



Registration - \$1 million: additional funds are required for the processing capacity to match the sheer number of those wanting to register with UNHCR. 71,674 individuals have approached UNHCR for international protection since the start of the crisis in mid-April, out of which 44,188 or 62% have been registered so far.



Child Protection – \$600,000: Egypt hosts some 3,500 at-risk minors who receive Best Interest Assessments, case management services and cash assistance. Underfunding here risks cutting them off from assistance, and creating or increasing child protection needs.



Education - \$1.8 million: 11,400 families with school age children will no longer receive their education grants which may result in an increased number of out-of-school children and a lack of perspectives for children.

UNHCR will not be able to provide the Ministry of Education with the necessary support to be able to respond to the increased needs related to the increased number of new arrivals fleeing Sudan, in particular children needing schooling.



Gender-based violence – \$400,000: without additional support, 400 GBV survivors will not be assisted with critically needed survival and recovery packages, which is a central part of the GBV response. The safety and recovery packages are designed to support GBV survivors and individuals at risk of GBV through provision of the financial assistance as part of a holistic case plan and individual needs assessments.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$57.53 million, if not more.