

# Annual Results Report

**2023**

**Egypt**

## Acknowledgements

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# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2023, several regional crises affected the context in Egypt. In April, the Sudan conflict resulted in over 400,000 forcibly displaced Sudanese into Egypt, which prompted the need for a Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) with a chapter/an appeal for inside Egypt response of USD 125.5 million for 2023. Later in October, the Gaza situation placed Egypt at center of the international efforts to secure humanitarian aid and assistance into Gaza. Despite being surrounded by several conflicts, the situation in the country remains stable in terms of security. Such stability continued to allow considerable operational access.

Egypt is a signatory to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol as well as the 1969 OAU Convention. A 1954 Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Egypt (GoE) accords UNHCR functional responsibilities for, inter alia, all aspects of registration, asylum documentation, refugee status determination. In 2019, the GoE announced the initiation of draft asylum law, which is expected to be adopted some time in 2024.

By 2023's end, UNHCR registered some 473,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, of which 138,000 individuals (70%) newly arrived from Sudan, with two main groups, Sudanese (~208,000, 44%) and Syrians (~154,000, 33%), as well as a significant number of other nationalities from sub-Saharan African and Middle Eastern countries.

Egypt's socio-economic environment remains challenging, given the regional landscape with escalation in both Sudan and Gaza. The ongoing conflicts does not allow the country's economy to recover from the faced challenges. Key economic challenges facing Egypt includes the rising inflation and cost of living, which critically impact services offered to refugees and asylum particularly health services. The increasing needs coupled with the shortfall in global funding trends, have affected UNHCR's ability to provide support to the most vulnerable.

The main funding frameworks for the refugee response in Egypt are the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for Syrians (3RP), and Regional Refugee Response Plan for Sudanese (RRP) launched in May 2023. Starting in 2024, Egypt will adopt a One-Refugee Approach with one integrated appeal as part of the GoE's sustained efforts to support FDPs from all nationalities in the country.

## 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.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.03%	92.99%

The protection environment in Egypt is generally tolerant towards forcibly displaced persons. With the outbreak of conflict in Sudan and the large wave of new arrivals, the Office observed a narrowing of the protection space possibly dictated by security considerations, while Egypt’s border with Gaza remains closed for Palestinians, except for authorized medical evacuations.

In a context of socio-economic hardship, limited Government funding, and in the absence of a national asylum system, forcibly displaced persons in Egypt currently face substantial protection challenges, including legal and physical risks, especially for vulnerable children and women. In particular, new arrivals from Sudan have shown high needs in terms of child protection (CP) and gender-based violence (GBV) services. Overall, the national protection system needs strengthening, and a survivor-centered approach and child-friendly procedures are yet to be put in place by relevant government entities. The engagement with the refugee and host communities remains a priority, especially given the urban context, to support peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

In this context, UNHCR’s role, as well as that of other protection partners, remains essential. UNHCR continues to advocate for streamlined access to the legal right to stay, access to fair asylum procedures, including identification and protection of persons seeking asylum, and civil documentation. Forcibly displaced persons holding UNHCR documentation benefit from GoE residence permits valid for six months and renewable. However, undocumented asylum seekers are not able to access residence permits until they are recognized as refugees. Moreover, current waiting times to obtain an appointment to request/renew a residency permit of approx. 300 days, hampers the effective access to legal stay in the country. Obtaining and renewing residence permits remains cumbersome, resulting in a precarious legal status for many refugees and asylum-seekers, placing them at risk of arrest and detention. The Office continues to advocate for regular access to persons detained for immigration purposes pending removal proceedings, as many may be in need of international protection. Importantly, UNHCR’s forward-looking objectives are to continue its advocacy for ensuring protection-sensitive entry mechanisms, systematic case referral pathways of asylum cases, the adoption of a consistent and predictable “one refugee approach” to be applied across all asylum nationalities, and the overall goal to achieve the realization of rights and the inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees in national social programmes on same footing as nationals.

In line with global international protection standards and policy, Egypt has upheld and maintains an out-of-camp policy for all forcibly displaced persons who live in urban settings alongside and within host communities. The majority have access to birth documentation, although access to other civil documentation such as marriage and divorce is challenging. Legal aid support through UNHCR partners, as well as national judicial mechanisms are accessible to refugees and asylum-seekers, albeit with challenges. With regards to the draft asylum law, UNHCR continued to offer its expertise in the form of discussion and capacity building, as organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### 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.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85.57%	80.35%

In order to support forcibly displaced persons to meet their basic needs, UNHCR continued to work and build upon the progress made with WFP on the various phases of the assistance programme cycle. In 2023, UNHCR engaged with the UNHCR-WFP Joint Program Excellence and Targeting Hub to revise the cash targeting approach and the cash assistance cycle in general, including on a joint targeting and redress mechanism, post-distribution monitoring, common delivery mechanisms and accountability to affected population. The quantitative research will be done under the umbrella of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WFP and the Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) with collaboration between both agencies, UNHCR, and the joint hub.

UNHCR supported essential health care services to complement those of the Ministry of Health and Population. The Office advocated with relevant authorities for the inclusion of refugees into the Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) and. It has strengthened its collaboration with potential health actors to promote the inclusion of refugees into the available health services. Until forcibly displaced persons gain access to the UHIS, UNHCR will need to continue to provide health care support.

In 2023, UNHCR successfully advocated with the Ministry of Education for the continuation of the Ministerial Decree allowing Syrian and Yemeni refugee and asylum-seeker children to enroll in Egyptian public schools in the academic year 2023-2024, on an equal footing to nationals. In total, UNHCR provided some approximately 56,226 education grants to school-age refugee children, allowing them to enroll in all types of schools in the academic year 2022-2023 and approximately 73,000 of grants to date for the 2023-2024 academic year. The Office also provided tertiary education opportunities and vocational training for specific sectors while taking a more proactive approach on economic inclusion interventions, focusing on women and youth.

The promotion of livelihoods and economic inclusion for forcibly displaced persons in Egypt was enhanced through wage (592 individuals) and self-employment (624 individuals) support and by identifying new sectors of activities and partnerships.

### 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.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85.00%	89.00%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	79.00%	78.00%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	58.93%

In 2023, UNHCR increased the inclusion of refugees in planning, programmatic and monitoring systems of the refugee response in Egypt by conducting two Participatory Assessments, one in March, and another in November, targeting new arrivals from Sudan. The exercise contributed positively to the monitoring of the protection environment, while also allowing different AGD groups to provide their inputs. Overall,

participants reported their forcibly displaced persons concern on the risks of arrest and deportation linked to the lack of residency. Discrimination and bullying in the communities was also mentioned by many, while female participants across all age groups and nationalities expressed feeling unwelcome, unsafe, and at risk of exploitation and gender-based violence. Housing remains a key issue for new arrivals where the risk of exploitation is high, while the lack of access to work permits, limited job opportunities, and low-paying, child labour and exploitive working conditions were highlighted across different nationalities.

Communication with communities remains central to the response in Egypt, and the Office enhance communication channels such as the UNHCR Infoline, social media platforms, and regular community meetings and the creation of additional community centres. The Office also increased community outreach and awareness sensitization campaigns on key topics such as the protection of women and children, access to basic needs and legal status amongst others. Continued engagement community activities, including for women and children, will remain essential to strengthen resilience, foster social cohesion, promote inclusion, and ensure the long-term empowerment of refugee forcibly displaced communities.

UNHCR continued to provide cash assistance in 2023, reaching almost 199,707 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers. The cash assistance post-distribution monitoring exercise confirmed the positive impact of the program in relation to broader protection outcomes. In addition, with WFP was essential to ensure that vulnerable and food insecure refugees and asylum-seekers, were not left behind.

The Office continued identifying suitable refugee profiles to be linked to income-generating activities and employment opportunities in order to increase their resilience and their ability to meet basic needs. In this regard, the Office developed a Five-Year Road Map for Livelihood and Economic Inclusion, linking this sector to Social Protection and aiming to achieve better socio-economic data.

## 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.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24	1,542
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,101	4,359
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	891	1,717
4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed	None	0	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2	5

Refugees do not have immediate prospects for local integration in Egypt. Accordingly, resettlement and complementary legal pathways to third countries continue to be the main solutions available to forcibly displaced persons in Egypt. In Egypt, resettlement is utilized strategically as a key protection tool, a tangible expression of solidarity, and a means to foster international responsibility-sharing, particularly to reduce the strain on basic social services provided by the Government of Egypt and the host community. Thus, resettlement is meant to benefit those departing to resettlement countries, those and refugees remaining in Egypt improving the protection space. To that end, the Office focused on resettling the most vulnerable refugees in Egypt who require a third-country solution, such as refugees with serious medical conditions and disabilities who cannot access services to meet their daily needs, women and girls facing with legal and practical obstacles to employment, gender-based violence survivors, refugee children, especially unaccompanied and separated children, at risk. To ensure that resettlement is used efficiently

and effectively, the Office has enhanced the resettlement identification referral pathways, including to strengthen integrity measures. Equally, expanding and promoting complementary pathways for forcibly displaced persons in Egypt remained the Office's priority. In line with this, the Office also focused on ensuring the quality of reporting and statistics of departures under complementary pathways, which resulted in more accurate data. Education pathways and family reunification programs were of particular importance during the year. Voluntary repatriation is not a foreseeable option for most refugees among the main population groups due to conditions in their respective countries of origin—as UNHCR only facilitates the return of certain nationalities guided by the global guidance on returns and the circumstances in the areas of return of individual cases. Following the outbreak of the conflict in Sudan, voluntary returns that were previously feasible have not been possible.

Refugees or asylum seekers can be naturalized if they are eligible for Egyptian nationality as per Egyptian Law on Nationality No. 36 for 1975 and its amendment No. 154 for 2004. This year, a father who was born to an Egyptian mother was able to obtain Egyptian nationality and confer his nationality to his four children.

## 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The Sudan crisis resulted in a large number of forcibly displaced Sudanese persons ( ) seeking safety in Egypt. With many new arrivals seeking international protection, the Office projected that by the end of 2024, some 640,000 individuals will be registered with UNHCR in Egypt. Despite the increase in registration staff, the high rate of new arrivals resulted in unmet registration needs. In this context, forcibly displaced persons face increased challenges with the renewal of UNHCR expired documents and pending requests for new registration, consequently impacting their access to legal status/residency in the country. Despite the deployment of emergency staff to support the Sudan response, the needs exceed UNHCR's capacity. In the absence of an asylum framework, forcibly displaced persons in Egypt fall under the category of foreigners and related legal provisions, which are not sensitive or adequate to their needs. The short validity and centralized processing of residency permits 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 cases under Gender-based violence case management in 2023 remained high, with Sudanese nationals consistently reporting the highest rate of cases disclosures over the year. The Office also witnessed a considerable increase in the numbers of unaccompanied and separated children, recorded at 17.5% per cent higher than in 2022. 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.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR's response in 2023 relied on partnerships and a collaborative approach with the government, international and local NGOs, community-based organizations, refugee-led organizations, and UN agencies, in order to protect and extend services to refugees and asylum-seekers forcibly displaced



persons. In line with SDG 17 - Partnership for the Goals, UNHCR signed 12 partnership agreements to implement interventions on protection, livelihood, health care, education, and assistance programmes. UNHCR selected ten NGOs (four international and six national), one UN agency and the Ministry of Education to assist in implementing its programs in 2023. 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 2023, 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 preeminence of the Refugee Coordination Model and was 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 2023 as the first joint program was signed under UNHCR's leadership. Furthermore, the Egypt Cash Working Group (CWG), under the leadership of UNHCR, WFP, and ERC, joined by 18 active members, 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

**New arrivals from Sudan are able to access registration and are provided protection against arbitrary arrest, detention, and refoulement**

**Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to timely and effective registration, reception and documentation in line with UNHCR Protection standards**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.32%	95.00%	92.18%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The 1954 Memorandum of Understanding continues to be the formal bilateral agreement governing cooperation between the Government of Egypt (GoE) and UNHCR, delegating to the Office the functional responsibilities for all aspects related to registration and documentation for refugees and asylum-seekers. In 2023, the GoE continued issuing residency permits to forcibly displaced persons based on registration with UNHCR the wait time increased from 25 days to over 300 due to the sharp increase in the registered population.

UNHCR continued to provide new and continuous registration services to forcibly displaced persons in the 6 October, Zamalek and Alexandria offices. Registration appointments, including for new registration and renewals, are granted through the Infoline, in-person at UNHCR Offices, and through internal and external referrals. Furthermore, persons with specific needs are systematically identified and prioritized for registration following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

In 2023, in the wake of the eruption of hostilities in neighboring Sudan in mid-April, there was a significant increase in demand for critical UNHCR registration services. To respond to the emergency demand, registration activities were carried out six days a week for extended working hours, with over 70 new staff members recruited and onboarded. Infrastructure was significantly expanded, and the data set was minimized to the extent possible—capturing information to focus on resilience from the start of forced displacement. Additional measures were undertaken to improve the queueing and screening system, streamline security and integrity mechanisms, including biometrics, mitigate fraud, and allow for prioritization of persons with specific needs to access reception and registration, in particular persons with disabilities. As a result of these enhancements, in 2023, UNHCR was able to significantly upscale and newly register 200,015 forcibly displaced persons – a four-fold increase from 2022 – and provide continuous registration services to 118,185 individuals, for a total of 318,200 persons.

During registration appointments, UNHCR and its partner provided forcibly displaced persons with residency appointments before immigration authorities to lodge asylum-based residency permit applications in Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta, hence easing access to residence procedures.

UNHCR also strengthened the identification of those facing challenges in birth registration through outreach

and legal activities while ensuring comprehensive geographical coverage, increasing the counselling through physical reception, partner's hotlines, and awareness-raising sessions to refugee communities. Identification continued at the registration level, particularly for the new arrivals from Sudan leading to timely access to early birth registration procedures, which is more efficient in addressing the situation of undocumented children.

## 2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

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

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	775.00	454.00	454.00
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%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR in Egypt remains the largest mandated refugee status determination (RSD) operation globally, and in 2023 delivered 12,595 RSD decisions and reopened 1,717 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers cases.

In 2023, and in the wake of the eruption of hostilities in neighboring Sudan, the Office tailored its RSD activities to enhance the emergency response. To that end, the Office paused issuance of final rejection notification on 16 April 2023 for Sudanese nationals, suspended Merged Registration-RSD of the South Sudanese and Eritrean population groups for several months, and seconded multiple RSD staff to the Registration Unit to support the upscale of registration activities while recruitment for emergency registration staffing was undertaken. UNHCR Egypt also focused on the reopening of Sudanese persons previously finally rejected or abandoned/withdrawn as the Office recorded a surge in reopening requests post conflict and streamlined reopening processes based on a vulnerability prioritization scale.

In 2023, UNHCR Egypt was able to effectively allocate available human resources and further enhance the strategic use of mandate RSD by developing and continuing to carry out different processing strategies for specific caseloads, curtailed to focus on achieving maximum protection dividends, efficiency of processing, as well as safeguarding the integrity of the asylum system. The Merged Registration-RSD procedure and Simplified RSD procedure for Eritrean and South Sudanese nationals, are examples of the application of appropriate strategies of resource allocation to these procedures despite the evident constraints. Furthermore, in 2023 UNHCR Egypt established a Manifestly Unfounded Claims process in a simplified and accelerated manner for asylum-seekers from certain countries of origin which generally present non-refugee related and primarily economic-based claims.

UNHCR Egypt focused on Regular RSD processes for cases that present complexities, and for example, require probing with regards to credibility or present exclusion concerns, including those referred from the Merged Registration-RSD and Simplified RSD processes. Also in 2023, UNHCR Egypt standard operating procedures UNHCR continued to process Sudanese asylum-seekers using Regular RSD procedures taking into consideration the rapidly evolving situation and responding to existing protection needs. In addition, and post-Sudan conflict, the Office focused on maintaining the integrity of the asylum process and the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum and has carried out pre-registration screening of all males from Sudan above a specific age, to ensure that individuals being registered are civilians. To that end, RSD staff with the requisite expertise have carried out multiple trainings on screening techniques. Moreover, integrity

measures were enhanced, and biometrics captured during all RSD interviews.

### 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**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol	None	Not yet aligned: ≤69 points	Not yet aligned: =69 points	Not yet aligned: ≤69 points
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness	Statelessness Persons	Not yet aligned: ≤69 points	Not yet aligned: =69 points	Not yet aligned: ≤69 points

#### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Egypt currently does not have a comprehensive domestic normative or institutional asylum framework. In 2019, the Government of Egypt announced its decision to initiate the drafting of a national asylum law. Although UNHCR has not had access to the law, it continues to offer support and guidance towards the drafting of a national asylum law and is engaged in discussions and capacity-building efforts with authorities to advocate for a law in line with international standards and the indicator relates to the national law in Egypt. In 2023, UNHCR carried out capacity building on refugee law and statelessness for 202 government counterparts from several line ministries and national institutions. The Office provided specialized sessions for Ministry of Defense border guards, military judges, navy forces, moral affairs and the liaison unit on its role and mandate. Trainings were provided through UNHCR's partnership with the National Council of Human Rights as well as the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo.

UNHCR works closely with the League of Arab States (LAS) and its Member States to enhance the protection space for stateless persons, refugees, and asylum-seekers in the Arab region. For example, UNHCR and the LAS jointly advocated with member states for access to safety and protection from refoulement, thus reinforcing national responsibilities, promoting regional legal instruments on statelessness and internally displaced persons, addressing and preventing the risks of statelessness, ensuring security from violence and exploitation, as well as assuring alignment with the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Throughout 2023, UNHCR worked to enhance refugees' access to information and sensitizes public attitudes. The Office produced 37 different public information products, including written and audio-visual material, to raise awareness about the hardship and challenges refugees face. Content was published on UNHCR Egypt's social media platforms which have some 164.3k followers in total. In addition, UNHCR responded to some 50 interview and information requests and promoted content, including stories of resilient refugees. UNHCR regularly updates its service brochure in six languages to ensure that under its mandate are aware of the different services offered by UNHCR and its partners. In 2023, UNHCR disseminated more than 66 information posters covering 13 different topics. In 2023, the Office hosted a monthly live Q&A session in Arabic that responded to queries raised by refugees reaching a total of 220.5k users.

### 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.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83.33%	1.00%	0.59%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.66%	90.00%	89.83%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR aimed to enhance the protection of vulnerable groups through the direct implementation of activities and the support of CARE Egypt and other national partners. During the year, the total number of survivors who were assisted with intake and case management by UNHCR and CARE reached 2,787 survivors, out of whom 774 were assisted with safe relocation grants, 1,152 with safety and recovery package and 314 with PSS. Urgent cases were normally referred for relocation and PEP kits. The less urgent ones accessed services based on their identified needs, either PSS, vocational training, legal assistance, other health issues. Most disclosures were from women and girls (87 per cent), with children amounting to about 17% per cent of total reports. More than two-thirds of survivors were Sudanese (68%), followed by South Sudanese (10%) and Eritrean (7.5%). The most reported incidents were rape and sexual assaults, followed by female genital mutilation, intimate partner violence, denial of resources and child marriage.

UNHCR chairs the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Working Group with UNFPA to coordinate prevention, risk mitigation and multisectoral GBV response. Training and capacity building was organized for its members to expand their capacity to respond to survivors' needs. The sessions included the annual workshop covering topics identified as relevant for the Sudan emergency, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies. Additionally, UNHCR and UNFPA delivered a refresher on Gender-Based Violence Case Management, and the Safety and Recovery Package, and held the GBV SWG 2024 Planning workshop which covered reflections by sectors and setting priorities for 2024. Finally, a workshop on Case Management Intake Form was organized to work with all partners in the field, to standardize and harmonize the data collection at case management level.

UNFPA and UNHCR also built on the successful partnership in offering capacity development for medical service providers based in UNFPA Safe Women Clinics and established in coordination with the National Council for Women. UNHCR provided awareness-raising to refugee women in Egypt on gender-based violence risks, protection services and the right to access national response programmes. In 2023, UNHCR provided sessions in Alexandria, Aswan and Tanta, after establishing new safe clinics there. UNHCR and UNFPA also worked together to develop a virtual training curriculum to be incorporated under "LearnUNFPA" platform focusing on health-care response for refugee and migrant GBV survivors. Finally, UNHCR operated two safe spaces on October and Faisal through its partner CARE, where 2,775 refugees participated in awareness-raising and capacity-building activities.

To commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, UNHCR and UNFPA organized several community events. In Cairo, UNHCR and UNFPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and partners, organized an event aimed at raising awareness about GBV, with an emphasis on FGM/C and the importance of livelihoods to empower women to reduce the risk of being exposed to GBV. Parallel events took place in Aswan and Alexandria as well. Overall, the 16 Days of Activism campaign reached some 791 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 250 children.

## 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**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.50%	90.00%	45.01%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	56.49%	58.00%	32.74%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

By the end of 2023, a total of 180,679 refugee and asylum-seeking children were registered with UNHCR, of whom 85,183 were Sudanese, 56,977 Syrian, and 38,519 of other nationalities. Of these, 5,717 unaccompanied and Separated children (UASC) were registered with UNHCR, with 68% per cent unaccompanied (3,609) and 32 per cent separated (1,881), while 55% per cent are male and 45% per cent female.

In 2023, a total of 3,059 UASC (1,097 Sudanese, 258 Syrian, and 1,703 from other nationalities) were newly registered given their protection needs or heightened vulnerabilities. This represents a 17.5% per cent increase compared to 2022, also thanks to the expanded registration processing that occurred to cover the increased needs with the Sudan emergency. All identified children at risk, including UASC, underwent a screening with UNHCR following their registration, and were referred to relevant child protection services in line with their best interest.

Throughout 2023 and together with UNHCR's partners Caritas, Save the Children and Plan International, UNHCR Egypt ensured that Best Interest Procedures (BIP) and Best Interest Assessments (BIA) were maintained for timely identification, assessment of protection risks, adequate referral to services, case planning and follow up. A total of 1,818 BIAs and 186 BIDs were carried out by UNHCR and child protection (CP) partners for children at risk, including UASC and children facing abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation. At the end of 2023, 2,314 children (40% per cent of the total UASC) were receiving case management services. UNHCR and child protection partners continue to coordinate to extend case management to as many UASC as possible. A total of 3,132 UASC have received monthly cash assistance from UNHCR after their BIA.

UNHCR coordinates closely with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood 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, 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 which aims to coordinate protection actions for individual cases among implementing and operational partners.

## 6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

**Refugees and asylum-seekers have effective access to safety, legal remedies and protection counselling**



## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR provided legal aid to 2,301 individuals to facilitate access to justice and due process of law before law enforcement institutions. In addition, a total of 3,760 persons benefited from legal counselling as part of the provision of legal aid services, provided by UNHCR and its legal partners, including sessions for gender-based violence survivors. 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 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. Additionally, enhanced access to justice for gender-based violence survivors was provided through proper identification and timely access to legal aid, resulting in several criminal convictions against gender-based violence perpetrators. At UNHCR's premises, 6,831 individuals had access to protection counselling through UNHCR's Reception. This process was further enhanced in September 2023 to strengthen counselling quality and referrals, resulting in an 86% per cent increase in the number of persons who were received protection counselling at Protection Reception between January 2023 and December 2023.

In 2023, the Office received reports from the community and the authorities on the detention of 1,763 registered refugees and asylum-seekers related to irregular movements and lack of residency permits. A noted increase in the overall number of arrests was recorded in 2023 compared to 2022; however, the increase is seen within the overall increase of the registered population in 2023 compared to 2022. Forcibly displaced Sudanese are to be the most affected population, followed by South Sudanese, Syrians, Eritreans, and Ethiopians. UNHCR also received reports about 2,538 unregistered Sudanese who were arrested in relation to irregular movements and residence violations. UNHCR strengthened its advocacy interventions with the authorities, by inter alia, for 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, for 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 desk and legal partner's hotlines dedicated to detention and legal aid emergencies.

In 2023, the waiting time for processing asylum-based six-month residency permits has drastically increased, mainly due to the increase in the number of newly registered individuals, while the processing capacity of immigration authorities remained the same. UNHCR continued its advocacy for the extension of residency permit duration and the increase of the Government of Egypt's capacity in processing asylum-based residency applications, including by decentralizing the process.

## 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 persons at risk, survivors of gender-based violence and persons with specific needs who are fleeing Sudan with protection prevention and response activities**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	82.36%	84.00%	86.88%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	28.13%	44.00%	38.61%
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	Extensive: ≥70 points	Extensive: ≥70 points

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

As a cornerstone of the operation's commitment to realizing age, gender and diversity and equal participation in community consultations, two participatory assessments were conducted by UNHCR and partners in Greater Cairo and the North Coast, and 17 focus group discussions were held with new arrivals from Sudan to understand key concerns, proposed solutions, and capacities within refugee communities. Two-way communication with communities was assured through continuous dialogue, and a total of 83 community meetings and 2,738 community awareness sessions facilitated by UNHCR and partners, including refugee outreach workers. These sessions were attended by 48,963 forcibly displaced persons including new arrivals, persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ persons who accessed information on protection prevention and response services, including gender-based violence. In addition, 249 Refugee Led Organizations (RLO) were mapped jointly by UNHCR, Caritas and Terres des Hommes (TDH) across Egypt. Of these, 119 RLOs received training to strengthen community-based protection networks, and material support which enabled many refugees themselves to provide frontline response to new arrivals during the emergency. Notably, the impact of capacity building to promote gender equality among RLOs was observed in Cairo where female representation increased to 38% per cent in 2023 compared to 28% per cent in 2022. Furthermore, through the PROSPECTS partnership and in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS), a total of 1,004 refugees and 139 Egyptian youth accessed digital training in support of their inclusion in the digital economy. Additionally, through the sports for protection program, a total of 60 youth were trained, leading to 20 sports initiatives for 411 refugees and 30 Egyptian youth in the spirit of promoting social cohesion.

Protection mechanisms were strengthened through comprehensive case management for 5,439 refugees and asylum-seekers forcibly displaced persons, including women and older persons at risk and persons with disabilities. Housing assistance was provided to persons with serious legal and physical protection concerns. Targeted psycho-social support was also provided to 2,267 individuals to help them cope with trauma and challenges, while an additional 1,000 individuals benefitted from the emergency response for health and mental health and psychosocial support needs. Community support groups and socialization activities led by Terres des Hommes (TDH) and the Psycho-social services and Training in Cairo (PSTIC) refugee workers targeting persons with special needs reached 2,784 forcibly displaced persons, while 1,798 persons with disabilities were provided with assistance devices in support of their well-being, participation, and inclusion in their communities.

## 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**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32.87%	55.00%	42.24%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR Egypt continued to support to the most vulnerable forcibly displaced persons through multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA). This assistance aims to address their basic needs and mitigate protection risks. A total of 20,944 unique families, comprising 75,917 individuals, received regular MPCA bimonthly through the Egypt Post Office. This figure exceeded initial targets due to currency devaluation and gains in exchange rates, as well as the Sudan crisis, prompting additional funds for the emergency response. The targeting process for MPCA utilises socioeconomic data from the Vulnerability assessment interviews conducted by Caritas, in addition to UNHCR registration data which offers a comprehensive overview of demographic, geographic, and specific needs. Caritas UNHCR's partner,



conducted vulnerability assessments with 34,106 families throughout the year.

To enhance the impact of MPCA, UNHCR increased the assistance transfer value by 20% per cent as of July 2023. Additionally, UNHCR renewed the bilateral agreement with the Egypt Post Office (EPO) which will enable the use of over 4,000 branches of the EPO to serve the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers across the country. Furthermore, collaboration forcibly displaced persons with IrisGuard and the EPO facilitated the expansion of biometric verification technology, increasing the number of iris-enabled post offices and the number of iris-cameras available and resolving the technical root causes reported by beneficiaries.

In response to the Sudan emergency, UNHCR provided one-off Emergency Cash Assistance (ECA) to 16,445 vulnerable families (47,359 individuals). The primary objective of this program was to address the immediate needs of the affected population, mitigate potential protection risks, and reduce the adoption of negative coping strategies. This assistance was extended to all new arrivals registered with UNHCR, and unregistered new arrivals in Aswan. Since May 2023, assessments were conducted in Cairo, Alexandria, and Damietta. As of and mid-October, rapid needs assessments were conducted only in Aswan. Vulnerable cases identified in Cairo and the North Coast are referred for fast-tracked registration, allowing them to receive ECA through the post office. The disbursement of cash assistance is delivered through Egypt Post Office and corresponds to the value of two months' worth of the regular multipurpose cash assistance. Additionally, UNHCR has maintained close collaboration with partners through the Cash Working Group. This collaboration aims to enhance outreach methodologies and information-sharing on beneficiaries, identifying the most urgent needs, and addressing gaps across different sectors.

In December, UNHCR also supported 17,626 vulnerable families (59,932 individuals) with a one-off MPCA grant. Beneficiaries were selected from the MPCA waiting list and unregistered new arrivals from Sudan residing in Aswan who were eligible for One-off ECA. Furthermore, UNHCR partnered with UNICEF to support an additional 4,000 families on the waiting list with four months' worth of multipurpose cash assistance. By leveraging such partnerships and implementing tailored interventions, UNHCR remains committed to navigating the challenging economic circumstances and delivering support to those forcibly displaced persons who are most in need within the refugee and asylum-seeker community.

## 10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

### Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to national health services

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.45%	96.00%	87.60%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.45%	96.00%	89.74%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) continued to provide refugees and asylum-seekers access to its primary, secondary, and tertiary care facilities on par with Egyptian citizens. UNHCR, through implementing its partners, ensured the availability of health services deemed to have unaffordable fees for refugees. Refugees still do not have access to national financial protection mechanisms, which is the recourse for uninsured and vulnerable Egyptians in need of expensive health care. In parallel, UNHCR continued advocating for refugee inclusion in the Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS), under roll-out since 2018.

Responding to the influx of persons fleeing the violence in Sudan, UNHCR started providing medical services at the border posts of Argeen and Qustul through an agreement with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), the only actor, aside from the MOHP, allowed to do so. Furthermore, UNHCR's partner Caritas established a clinic in Aswan through which refugees could access services similar services to those

available to refugees in Greater Cairo and the North Coast. In addition, the UNHCR public health unit, together with WHO, lead the coordination of the health sector response through which other actors, notably UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA and Save the Children (SCI), supported the MOHP through in-kind donations and capacity building of staff, to ensure availability of health services to the growing refugee population.

During 2023, UNHCR partners Caritas and Refugee Egypt provided 71,241 primary health care consultations in Cairo and Alexandria. A total of 8,616 refugees and asylum-seekers received support for chronic medication, 1,256 received mental health care, 477 women received ante-natal care, 784 received cash assistance for hospital delivery, 390 received anti-retroviral treatment and 85 started tuberculosis treatment. In addition, MOHP provided 26,507 primary health care consultations to refugees and asylum-seekers in 20 clinics supported by implementing partner SCI. Under implementing partner SCI's regular secondary health care programme, 7,675 persons got support for secondary and tertiary health care in public and private hospitals.

Furthermore, as part of the Sudan refugee response, the ERC provided medical services at the border crossings to 31,925 individuals, while Caritas provided primary health care to 2,279 individuals, and SCI supported hospital care for 985, and Refugee Egypt provided HIV- and tuberculosis care to 30 new arrivals from Sudan.

## 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**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	42.38%	67.00%	51.65%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During the reporting period, UNHCR advocated with the Minister of Education (MoE) for broader access to Ministry-run schools for school age refugee children and youth. As a result, the Minister of Education issued a Ministerial Decree, and instructions were sent to all local offices across the country allowing refugee children to enroll and continue their education in the national education system.

In 2023, UNHCR supported some 65,816 (49% female and 51% male) school-age children with education cash grants allowing them to buy their school uniform, pay their tuition fee and safe transportation to and from schools. In addition, approximately 662 children with disabilities were supported with tuition fees to enrol in schools with education and care suitable to their specific needs. Unaccompanied and separated children were also supported during 2023 to enrol in all types of schools and this support included education grants for approximately 1,905 children (982 female and 923 male).

Following the outbreak of hostilities in Sudan in April 2023, a new influx of Sudanese families with school-age children arrived to the Aswan area in Egypt. UNHCR and the MoE jointly assessed the needs of public schools expected to receive newly arrived Sudanese children in Aswan and the surrounding areas such as Idfu, Daraw, Nasr El Nuba and Kom Ombo. As a result, UNHCR established 15 computer laboratories benefiting three schools in each of the assessed towns, in addition to constructing four playgrounds in four schools to promote sport for protection activities and social cohesion with hosting communities. Additional classroom construction and enhancing the physical infrastructure of targeted public schools is planned for 2024 to address overcrowded classrooms, while, promoting adequate access for refugee and asylum-seeking children and mitigating the negative impact on the enrolment of hosting-community children. During the reporting period, UNHCR continued to operate 18 Instant Network Schools (INS) that were established in previous years in partnership with the Vodafone Foundation and the MoE. In addition, UNHCR established 30 new INS schools in 30 public schools hosting refugees in Giza, Damietta, and Alexandria governorates. The 48 INS digital education projects benefited approximately 70,000 students, including 4,000 refugees, as well as to 1,517 MoE teachers, all of whom were trained in Digital Education methodologies. This support resulted in an enrolment rate of almost 89 per cent for both early childhood

and basic education stages and 78 per cent for secondary education among all registered refugee school-age children within the 3 to 17 age bracket.

In 2023, UNHCR supported refugee youth enrolment in universities and higher education institutes across Egypt through DAFI scholarships. In total, 591 refugee youth (332 female and 259 male) benefited from the scholarship scheme. In addition, 108 students graduated in 2023 in Science, Medicine, Engineering, Computer Science and Social Science. During this reporting period, three refugee graduates were supported through Complementary Pathways to Belgium, and they are now studying for various master's degrees at KU-Levin university and are well-settled in their studies and new communities.

## 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**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	1.00%	0.73%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.01%	11.00%	11.00%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, the Office used a proactive approach to economic inclusion interventions. UNHCR enhanced the promotion of economic inclusion for forcibly displaced persons in Egypt through wage and self-employment support and new sectors of activities and partnerships. The complex socio-economic situation, coupled with the economic and financial crisis in the hosting country, led UNHCR to increase its outreach towards other agencies and national and international institutions. The influx of Sudanese also led to the adaptation of interventions to specifically target Sudanese newly arrivals and Sudanese households hosting newly arrived Sudanese.

Wage employment support matched refugees' and asylum-seekers' educational backgrounds and professional expertise with seek employment opportunities available in the labour market. Skills development was crucial in meeting employers' demands. For self-employment, livelihood cash grants were given to a total of 624 individuals who submitted business plans for start-up businesses (435) or to expand existing small (139) and medium enterprises (50).

Those interventions were carried out in Cairo and the North Coast, while in Aswan, no interventions were established due to lack of fundings.

The Office finalized a socio-economic profiling report together with the ILO, which provided an overview of the opportunities and challenges faced by refugees in their efforts to achieve economic inclusion. A broader assessment was planned with other UN Agencies and will possibly take place in 2024. Socio-economic data collected in the previous years were consolidated and merged with existing information for economic inclusion, social protection, Labour Mobility and advocacy purposes.

The Office worked closely with other UN Agencies to contribute to the debate on the potential inclusion of refugees into national social protection schemes.

The Office was joined by UNDP in chairing the Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Working Group to ensure better coordination and a higher impact of livelihood interventions across stakeholders. The corporate monitoring framework was fully implemented at the national level.

For individual artisans and artists, UNHCR ensured the participation in events where refugees were already taking part in the previous years while adding new ones where, in addition to visibility, international marketing opportunities were also possible. UNHCR expanded the MADE 51 model to Alexandria and Damietta, complemented by training courses to improve product quality and design.

New partners were also approached (the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)) around the financial inclusion of refugees and support to small and micro enterprises. UNHCR maintained a dialogue with IFC to promote the access for forcibly displaced persons to financial services in Egypt.

Overall, the efforts were mainly focused on coordination and cooperation with stakeholders at all levels, as well as data collection to produce the highest possible impact.

## 14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

**Return counselling, monitoring, and confirmation of voluntariness are provided to refugees**

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, voluntary repatriation remained by large unattainable for refugees and asylum-seekers forcibly displaced persons in Egypt, who expressed their wish to return to their countries of origin. Despite voluntary repatriation becoming a priority for UNHCR at the start of the year, the outbreak of the conflict in Sudan significantly dwarfed the efforts of facilitating those returns, noting that most of those expressing interest in returning hailed from Sudan. UNHCR supports the return of refugees and asylum seekers forcibly displaced persons by providing information, counselling, registration, and by facilitating exit formalities. Those returning to their countries of origin, considered as safe to return to, are provided with a multi-purpose cash grant to facilitate the return and assist post-arrival. Based on the non-conducive conditions for returns to countries of origin of most of the refugee nationalities in Egypt, and following the start of the conflict in Sudan, UNHCR was able to facilitate only one voluntary return in the reporting period. As a result, the Office focused on strengthening and establishing a referral mechanism for voluntary repatriation and paving the way for establishing communication with operations in the countries of return.

Similarly to the years prior, UNHCR carried out the Regional Survey on Syrian Refugees' Perceptions and Intentions on Return to Syria (RPIS) among Syrian refugees in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq since 2017 to ensure the centrality of refugee voices. The results of the Eighth RPIS conducted in February 2023 are broadly comparable to previous iterations. Overall, it was observed that most refugees still hope to return home to Syria one day. This year's survey also highlighted the declining socio-economic conditions in the region, much like the sixth and seventh RPIS conducted in 2021 and 2022, respectively. Compared to the findings of last year's survey, an increasing percentage of respondents who do not intend to return to Syria in the next 12 months indicated a hope to move to a third country. The intention to return in the next 12 months remains low (93.5% per cent of participants) and has decreased slightly compared to last year's survey. A quarter of the respondents expressed their hope to return within five years and a sizeable number mentioned a hope of returning to Syria one day. It was also reported that in 2023, 1,541 Syrians returned to Syria.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

**Opportunities for resettlement and complementary pathways of vulnerable refugees are expended**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,834	3,250	3,247
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,282.00	850.00	850.00

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In line with its protection and solutions strategy, UNHCR continued to prioritize protection responses, including identification for resettlement of groups at heightened protection risk, such as unaccompanied and separated children, 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 faced with legal and physical protection needs in Egypt. In 2023, resettlement remained the only viable durable solution for refugees, while prospects of voluntary repatriation and local integration continued to be unattainable. In 2023, UNHCR identified, processed, and submitted, 3,247 individuals for resettlement consideration to 11 resettlement countries, with Germany and USA receiving the largest submissions throughout the year. This represented 125 per cent of progress against the year's target.

During the reporting period, UNHCR Egypt received an increase in the quota allocation for the last quarter of the year, which in addition to the initial quota allocation, was also successfully met. With enhanced identification and strengthened cooperation, the Office ensured the strategic use of resettlement with 40% per cent of all cases submitted in the reporting period, processed under urgent submission priority and with the main resettlement categories representing cases with: legal and physical protection needs (34%), per cent women and girls at risk (26%) per cent and survivors of violence and / or torture (26%); per cent individuals identified as being diagnosed with serious and or life threatening medical conditions represented 9% per cent of all submissions. Of significant importance in 2023, also became the unallocated quotas, in particular the Urgent Protection Program for Canada, which allowed for the submission of emergency cases, particularly those at imminent threat to life and / or deportation, which represented 2% per cent of all submissions.

Simultaneously, in 2023, UNHCR focused on the expansion of complementary pathways programs. As such, in addition to assistance provided to cases considered under family reunification programs, of which 117 persons successfully departed, the unit engaged in the roll out of an education pathway pilot program. The program resulted in the selection and departure of three refugee students to Belgium, where they embarked on completing their master's programs. The success of the pilot program resulted in its confirmed continuation in 2024. Finally, UNHCR ensured to establish and strengthen the network of stakeholders engaged in complementary pathways, including the diplomatic representations in Egypt, through the creation of the Contact Group on Complementary Pathways; the focus of the group thus far has been the expansion of labour mobility programs.

## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2023, UNHCR conducted two participatory assessments as part of its commitment to realizing the age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach by ensuring each refugee and asylum seeker's forcibly displaced persons unique needs, priorities and strengths are considered in decision-making processes. In 2023, persons with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics were included for the first time. Following the declaration of the Sudan emergency, a second exercise was conducted to ensure that the voices of new arrivals were also included to inform the operational management cycle. Data and information collected from 89 dialogues with 589 participants were disaggregated by age, sex, disability, and other diversity considerations. Participants included unaccompanied and separated children, women, men, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ persons and represented eight nationalities, of which 51% per cent were males and 49% per cent were females.

A total of 2,738 refugee community sessions were held throughout the year. Many minority ethnolinguistic groups, persons with disabilities, and women at risk continued to report that they faced multiple barriers to accessing services and assistance and frequently experienced stigma, discrimination, and social exclusion from their communities. In response, UNHCR and partners conducted capacity-building activities to address physical, attitudinal, and structural barriers faced by these groups with UNHCR staff, partners, and refugee communities to support stronger AGD inclusive programming. At community level, UNHCR and TDH facilitated trainings for 75 refugee-led organisations (RLOs) to support their empowerment and understanding of AGD and gender equality, and 45 RLOs received material support for community led initiatives, many of which promoted social cohesion and self-reliance. A notable impact of capacity building to promote gender equality among RLOs was observed in Cairo where female representation increased to 38% per cent in 2023 compared to 28% per cent in 2022.

In 2023, UNHCR Egypt also drafted and implemented gender-based violence (GBV SOPs) standard operating procedures for response, carried out prevention activities and led efforts to establish the interagency multisectoral GBV referral pathway.



## Section 3: Resources

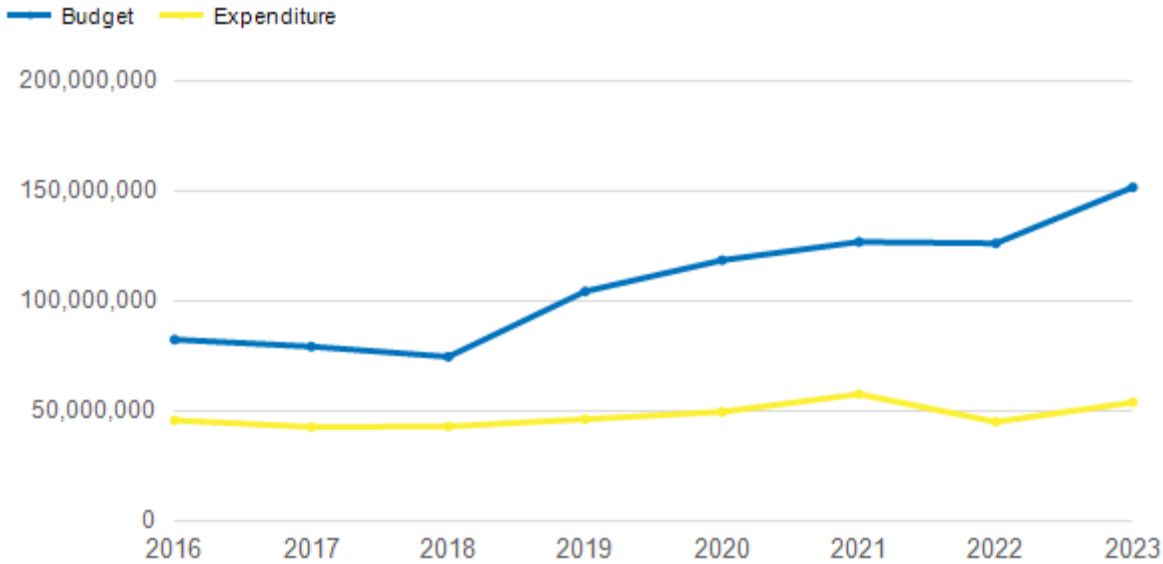
### 3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

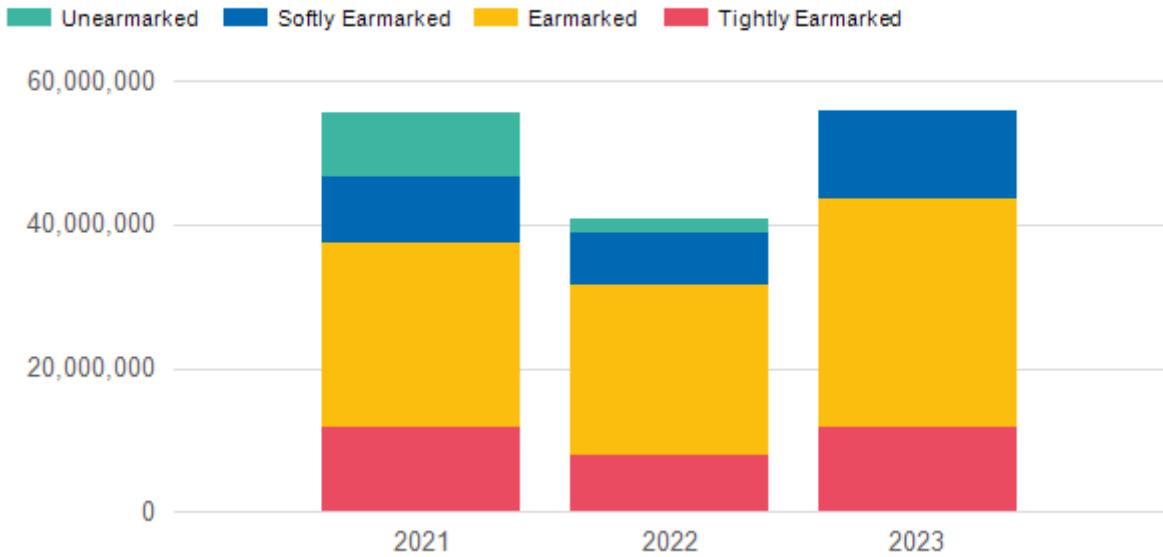
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	52,399,789	26,788,670	51.12%	26,439,589	98.70%
IA2: Assist	65,614,429	16,676,610	25.42%	16,676,610	100.00%
IA3: Empower	29,901,651	9,928,648	33.20%	9,928,648	100.00%
IA4: Solve	3,496,306	718,155	20.54%	718,155	100.00%
All Impact Areas		2,936,927			
<b>Total</b>	<b>151,412,176</b>	<b>57,049,010</b>	<b>37.68%</b>	<b>53,763,001</b>	<b>94.24%</b>

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	9,528,246	6,683,046	70.14%	6,683,046	100.00%
OA2: Status	2,075,414	1,207,852	58.20%	1,207,852	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	3,439,990	1,828,847	53.16%	1,828,847	100.00%
OA4: GBV	2,869,565	1,419,666	49.47%	1,419,666	100.00%
OA5: Children	7,821,926	2,948,276	37.69%	2,948,276	100.00%
OA6: Justice	2,837,118	1,405,266	49.53%	1,405,266	100.00%
OA7: Community	12,437,405	4,796,939	38.57%	4,796,939	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	72,935,569	18,962,654	26.00%	18,962,654	100.00%
OA10: Health	11,000,877	4,763,222	43.30%	4,763,222	100.00%
OA11: Education	17,097,702	4,186,253	24.48%	4,186,253	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	3,317,929	1,218,384	36.72%	1,218,384	100.00%
OA14: Return	2,708,057	286,974	10.60%	286,974	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	788,249	431,180	54.70%	431,180	100.00%
EA17: Systems	2,554,129	3,624,442	141.91%	3,624,442	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		3,286,008			
<b>Total</b>	<b>151,412,176</b>	<b>57,049,010</b>	<b>37.68%</b>	<b>53,763,001</b>	<b>94.24%</b>

**Budget and Expenditure Trend**



**Contributions Trend by Type**



### 3.2. Resources Overview

In 2023, an amount of USD 54.5 Million was made available for UNHCR out of a total amount of USD 151.5 million, equivalent to 36 per cent of the total needs. By the end of 2023, Egypt has the best-funded country chapter among all five operations covered by the inter-agency UNHCR-led Sudan Refugee Response Plan (RRP) - USD 60.9 M has been received in total out of the combined appeal of USD 125.5M (49 Per cent). implemented among the agencies.

To diversify the donor base, the development of new proposals included non-traditional donors, such as multilateral development finance institutions. In 2023, UNHCR strengthened its strategic partnerships on mixed movements in Egypt. A renewed tailored meeting format for donor engagement was developed, including discussions on joint advocacy and visits to frontline sites. The operations’ visibility has been



increased through effective reporting, communication, and new information management tools. The operation successfully engaged celebrities (e.g. Kinda Alloush with the film “The Swimmers”) and digital influencers to “tell the story”.

UNHCR Egypt, successfully implemented mitigation measures and efficiently utilizes existing resources to prioritize the most pressing needs and protection priority areas. Effective and efficient use of the available resources was applied and advocacy to the HQ level with regards to using the gain of exchange rate to cater for unmet needs was in place. Efforts have been intensified to mobilize extra-budgetary resources to bridge the funding gap.

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The discussions in this year's Strategic Moment of Reflection (SMR) revolved around generic and thematic topics, focusing on challenges and mitigation measures. Following the outbreak of the Sudan Emergency, the Office's response capacity faced a significant challenge due to a notable influx of new arrivals from Sudan, and the evolving situation on the Gaza border. The need for a collaborative approach in both emergency responses emerged as a crucial area for strengthening. The importance of interagency coordination and the role of partners was found to be key for a harmonized and effective response. The prioritization of activities, in light of continuous budget reductions was identified as a critical action for the operation in 2024 and beyond. Given the significant required increase in AWF staff, the need to explore new staffing modalities was discussed during the session. Diversification of the donor base was highlighted as a strategic priority to enhance funding sources. Adequate operationalization of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus was also emphasized as a priority to ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to the crises, and promote sustainable solutions. Addressing the limitation of cash assistance and exploring alternative modalities for CBI assistance was identified as an essential steps to improve the effectiveness and impact of assistance delivery.

Operations should aim to include joint vulnerability assessment and targeting with the WFP, in coordination with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), the official statistical agency in Egypt, to identify vulnerable refugees in need of cash assistance and to optimize resources to target those most in need effectively.

The experience in Egypt has underscored the critical importance of effective collaboration and coordination with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) and other stakeholders in ensuring the social inclusion and protection of refugees. This collaboration necessitates strategic alignment, capacity building, and data-driven decision-making to effectively address the diverse and evolving needs of refugees in Egypt. By strengthening our partnerships, we aim to create synergies that will enable us to better address the complex challenges facing refugees and enhance their social inclusion and protection in Egypt.



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