



PROSPECTS Partnership

Egypt: Expanding Hope and Opportunity

Country Context

Egypt is facing unprecedented pressures as a major host and transit country for refugees and asylum seekers. Since 2023, more than 1.5 million Sudanese have arrived, alongside large Syrian, South Sudanese, and other refugee populations. The Sudan conflict — now the largest displacement crisis in the world with more than 12 million forcibly displaced — has made Egypt both the top host for Sudanese refugees globally and the second country worldwide in receiving new asylum applications.

In September 2025, just over one million refugees and asylum seekers from 62 nationalities were formally registered in Egypt — a dramatic increase from around 280,000 before the Sudan crisis. Most live in Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta in non-camp, urban settings. While this makes their presence less visible, it places enormous pressure on already overstretched schools, hospitals, and local communities. Inflation, unemployment, and currency depreciation have sharply raised the cost of living, deepening vulnerabilities for both refugees and Egyptians

Despite these pressures, Egypt has continued to demonstrate leadership in refugee inclusion. Refugees and asylum seekers can access public education and health systems, although overcrowding and resource gaps limit quality. Recent reforms in labour, education, and social protection present opportunities to strengthen resilience — but require sustained investment and international support.



Eman, her husband Mohamad and their two children, Zayad and Ola, arrived in Egypt after fleeing war in Sudan. They are now living in Cairo where they have been able to fully register as refugees. © UNHCR/Christina Rizk

PROSPECTS in Egypt

The PROSPECTS Partnership plays a critical role in linking humanitarian and development responses, addressing systemic gaps and ensuring that both refugees and vulnerable Egyptians can benefit from expanded education, access to decent work, protection, and infrastructure. work of PROSPECTS is organized across four interconnected pillars:



Strengthening Protection and Social Protection: PROSPECTS ensures that refugees and vulnerable Egyptians can access essential protection and social protection systems. This includes civil documentation, psychosocial support, and gender-based violence services, while also expanding inclusion in national social protection schemes so that no family is left behind.



Promoting Employment and Livelihoods: In an economy strained by inflation and high unemployment, PROSPECTS supports wage employment and self-employment opportunities, private-sector engagement, and skills development aligned with labour market demand. By opening pathways to formal employment and income generation, PROSPECTS fosters resilience and reduces dependency.



Expanding Education and Training: With tens of thousands of refugee and Egyptian children at risk of losing out on learning, PROSPECTS strengthens schools and training institutions across Greater Cairo, Alexandria, and Damietta. The partnership supports teachers, expands vocational and digital skills development, and creates opportunities for young people to transition from education to decent work opportunities.



Investing in Critical Infrastructure: To meet urgent needs and build long-term resilience, PROSPECTS invests in essential infrastructure such as water and sanitation facilities in schools, shelter solutions, and information systems. These investments strengthen national systems that serve both refugees and Egyptians.

Outcomes and Impact

PROSPECTS focuses on maximizing the potential when humanitarian and development actors join forces. As PROSPECTS-supported initiatives expand in Egypt, outcomes will continue to strengthen resilience, expand access to decent work and reinforce national systems.

Protection and Social Protection

- **701, 124 people** documented by UNHCR
- **322,258 people** have accessed mental health, psychosocial support and case management
- More than **90,000 youth** have voiced their recommendations and concerns through consultations

Education and Training

- **462,454 children** have completed formal and non-formal education programmes
- **464,411 youth** have completed professional or skills training programmes
- **68,153 children** have received school support through cash and in-kind aid

Economic Inclusion

- **33,045 people** have received career counseling and employability training
- **148,407 individuals** gained entrepreneurship and business skills
- **4,297 new jobs** supported through wage and self-employment opportunities

Critical Infrastructure

- **31 school water and sanitation facilities** will reach 5,000 children

These numbers reflect more than outputs – they represent opportunities restored, futures unlocked and communities strengthened. As Egypt continues to face rising challenges, PROSPECTS stands as a vital investment in stability, resilience and long-term perspectives.

Note: Some activities have relied on multi-donor contributions.

“When (refugees) arrive, they are extremely vulnerable. They need immediate humanitarian support. But then you need to think long term. You need to think about integration in the host communities. You need to think about their resilience. You need to invest. I think this is where we are aiming.”

– Elena Panova, UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt

Marwa's Story



“The staff are really brothers and sisters to me; we all complement each other. With every passing day, I become happier with the production of my shop.”

Marwa and her family were forced to flee conflict in Syria more than a decade ago and had to start over in a new country – Egypt. Through PROSPECTS, Marwa has participated in business training and received other support to help grow her tailoring shop, which now employs several people. Her experience illustrates how support for entrepreneurship and formal self-employment can strengthen resilience and create employment opportunities.