



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 significant Syrian, South Sudanese, and other refugee populations. The conflict in Sudan — now the largest displacement crisis in the world with more than 12 million forcibly displaced — has made Egypt the largest host country for Sudanese refugees globally.

As of 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 non-camp urban settings in Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. While this makes their presence less visible, this 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 affect the quality of services. Recent reforms in labour, education, and social protection present opportunities to strengthen resilience but require sustained investment and international support.



Hammad, a Sudanese refugee, waits to renew his Asylum ID at UNHCR Egypt's registration centre in Cairo. © UNHCR/Adeeba Amiry

This fact sheet covers cumulative results from March 2019-April 2026.

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. The work of PROSPECTS is organized across four interconnected pillars:



Strengthening Protection and Social Protection: PROSPECTS helps ensure that refugees and hosts can access essential protection and social protection systems. This includes support for 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 access to 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 the 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 benefits of humanitarian and development actors working together. As PROSPECTS-supported initiatives continue to expand in Egypt, outcomes will continue to strengthen resilience, expand access to decent work and reinforce national systems.

Protection and Social Protection

- **1,163,680 individuals** processed through UNHCR mandate registration
- **574,929 people** benefited from legal support and case management services, including mental health and psychosocial support

Education and Training

- **513,439 children** completed primary or secondary education programs
- **464,977 individuals** completed technical or vocational education or skills training programs
- **84,482 children** received school support through cash and in-kind aid
- **13,217 teachers, facilitators, and TVET trainers** completed professional development training programmes

Economic Inclusion

- **96,333 individuals** benefitted from employability training, career counselling, employment and job matching services
- **165,452 people** gained entrepreneurship, financial and business skills
- **7,646 new jobs** and/or self-employment opportunities

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 prospects.

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

Osama's Story



Osama, a Sudanese refugee at UNHCR's Registration Centre in Cairo, Egypt. © UNHCR/Adeeba Amiry

"UNHCR's Registration Centre can feel a bit overwhelming for someone like me, but the communication chart has made it easier for people who use sign language to express their needs."

Osama is a Sudanese refugee who is hard of hearing and relies on sign language to communicate his needs. To make UNHCR's services more accessible and inclusive to refugees with communication disabilities, the Community-Based Protection Unit developed a Communication Chart in consultation with refugees with communication barriers, including Osama.

The chart is now placed in various areas of UNHCR's Registration Centre, facilitating communication between UNHCR staff and refugees who may be unable to verbally express their needs.