

UNHCR EGYPT

SUDAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE

11 May 2023

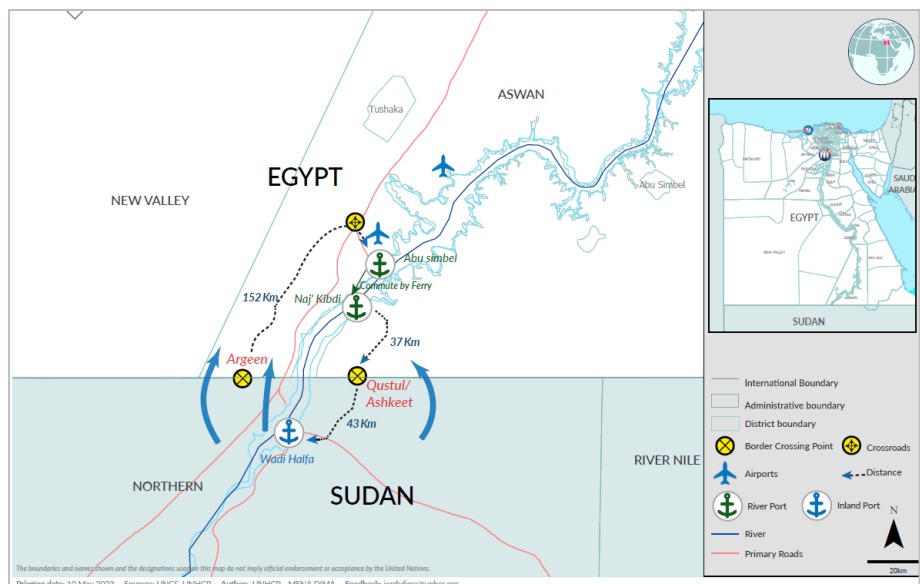


Buses carrying people forced to flee Sudan approach the Qustul border point in southern Egypt.
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81,172

People have crossed into Egypt from Sudan, including **76,135** Sudanese and **5,037** third-country national according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

UNHCR has so far provided **40,800** bottles of water, **10,000** hygiene kits and **5,000** packs of sanitary napkins to be distributed to newly arrived people at the border.



OVERVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS

- On 15 April 2023, heavy shooting broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in Khartoum, affecting many parts of the city. Fighting was also reported in other areas of the country, including Merowe in the Northern State, as well as Darfur, leading to many Sudanese attempting to flee the country or being internally displaced.
- The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has reiterated its commitment to keeping the border open and to not implementing an encampment policy. They have also highlighted the support required for host communities across Egypt, who are receiving the large number of recent arrivals. As of 10 May, **81,172** people have crossed into Egypt, including **76,135** Sudanese and **5,037** third-country nationals, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- UNHCR has emphasized that Sudanese fleeing in the wake of hostilities erupting need international protection. While Egypt is applying the Four Freedoms Agreement for Sudanese in Egypt, some people fleeing are unable to meet the entry requirements and therefore cannot cross to Egypt, despite their need for international protection.
- The MFA initial clearance for UN staff to be at the two entry points at the border is currently valid for one month, until end of May. There is a need to formalize the presence of UNHCR in Aswan for the assessment and provision of an adequate response, which includes the need for registration and data collection to enable proper planning and the provision of assistance.

UNHCR Emergency Response

UNHCR is leading interagency coordination and response in close collaboration with the government of Egypt and UN agencies. UNHCR has sent an assessment mission to Aswan to best operationalize the response plan.

Between 28 April and 1 May, the UN Country Team, in consultation with the Government of Egypt, sent a scoping mission led by UNHCR to Aswan and Abu Simbel. The UN Country Team assessed the situation on the ground through several discussions with newly entered Sudanese individuals and met with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC). The mission identified the most pressing needs and gaps for the provision of assistance, particularly in the first phase for those who recently entered and/or are still present on the Sudanese side of the border.



UNHCR's Egypt Representative meets with Sudanese new arrivals in Aswan, Egypt as part an interagency needs assessment exercise to respond to the new influx from Sudan. ©UNHCR/Sebastian Herwig

On 4 and 5 May, UN agencies in Egypt, led by UNHCR, conducted an inter-agency mission to the land ports of Argeen and Qustul, located at the border between Egypt and Sudan. Additionally, on 8 May, two UN teams, composed of UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, UNDP, UNRCO, WFP, and WHO, returned to the Qustul border together with the MFA. The Qustul crossing is near Wadi Halfa, a small town inside Sudan where the Egyptian consulate is located and which remains overwhelmed with people, including war wounded individuals, who are in urgent need of water, food, shelter, and medical care. The team also assessed the health capacity at the border, interviewed newly arrived Sudanese individuals and met with staff from the ERC.

On 10 May, a joint UNHCR and MFA mission visited Karkar and Aswan to identify areas of support for the host community and to meet with new arrivals.

Sector highlights

Protection

Families continue to cross the border to find safety in Egypt. While the number of daily arrivals has slightly slowed down since 3 May, the ERC noted approximately **4,700-4,800** new arrivals per day at the peak of last week. New arrivals indicated that their journey took between 1-15 days. The main reason for longer journeys was the issuance of visas for boys and men at Wadi Halfa and limited processing capacity.

Over 2,587 newly arrived asylum-seekers, the vast majority of whom are Sudanese nationals, have approached UNHCR Egypt reception center and call center in Cairo, seeking international protection between 18 April and 10 May. UNHCR is providing registration and pre-registration services based on their vulnerability profiles and will carry out a surge registration exercise starting from 12 May. During this exercise, the operation will extend working hours during the week and on Fridays. Almost all new arrivals interviewed by UNHCR had family members or strong community links in Cairo, and a few already had flats rented through their family or friends. All new arrivals indicated that they were planning to stay in Cairo for the time being.

Core relief items

UNHCR, through the ERC, is providing emergency assistance at the border. This includes supporting the ERC to scale up the range of services they can offer at the border, including the distribution of water and hygiene items. As of 10 May, a total of **40,800** bottles of water, **10,000** hygiene kits¹, and **5,000** packs of sanitary napkins have been delivered to the ERC for distribution at the border. 85% of the stocks have so far been distributed so far with replenishment on the way for an additional 100,000 bottles of water.

Main needs and gaps

The situation at the on the Sudanese side of the border remains the key concern at present, as conditions are deteriorating, and numbers are increasing rapidly. Major needs such as water, food, medication, and WASH facilities are growing by the day, while delays are observed at the border for processing new arrivals. UNHCR has received unconfirmed reports indicating that the Sudanese side of the border is particularly concerning, with large numbers of people awaiting processing and minimal or no available services. Key humanitarian concerns are also reported on the Sudanese side of the border. This calls for urgent cross-border coordination and delivery of assistance, requiring the necessary access to both the Egyptian border and the Sudanese side. The need for cash has been highlighted and is recommended to be used as a response modality across sectors, including for transportation, to the extent that the market allows.

Financial information

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to its operations in Egypt, including in response to the Sudan situation. Ongoing support is critical to help families rebuild their lives. UNHCR is urgently appealing for **\$151.4 million** to support its response across Egypt, of which only 8.2% is currently funded.

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¹ A kit contains a small towel, soap, tissues, wipes, a razor, medical alcohol, and toothbrush with toothpaste.